

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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TPWD ACQUIRES DOLAN CREEK RANCH IN WEST TEXAS

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have announced acquisition of the 11,000-acre Dolan Creek Ranch and adjoining properties beside the Devils River in Val Verde County, forming a new state natural area of almost 20,000 acres.

Called the Devils River State Natural Area, the site includes a mile of frontage on the Devils River which flows into Amistad Reservoir 30 river miles to the south.

The Val Verde County tract is the second major natural area acquisition announced by the department in the past month. During July, the Parks and Wildlife Commission authorized purchase of the 215,000-acre Big Bend Ranch in Brewster and Presidio Counties just west of Big Bend National Park. It also is designated as a state natural area.

The Devils River site is located on the western edge of the Edwards Plateau and is considered a transitional zone between that ecological region on the east, the Trans-Pecos to the west, and the South Texas Plains

to the south

Officials said archeological evidence suggests that cultural influences from the Trans-Pecos and Central Texas met at the Devils River, making it a crossroads of human prehistory. The site also contains significant resources to interest the botanist and zoologist.

The site was bought from the Finegan, Fawcett and Whitehead families of Del Rio. It remains closed to the public pending studies by the TPWD staff.

JC 8/3/88

MOST TEXAS WILDLIFE
UNHARMED BY DRY WEATHER

AUSTIN -- Texas wildlife is progressing through the dry summer period with minimal losses, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Sporadic summer rains revitalized the habitat in some areas, although East Texas and portions of South Texas remain drier than normal.

Quail production has varied widely from area to area because of the spotty nature of spring and summer rains, according to Don Wilson, quail program leader. "Some areas, such as parts of eastern South Texas and the Rolling Plains of West Texas, may have pretty good quail crops this year," Wilson said, "but areas that the rain skipped may have very few birds."

Turkeys generally are having a poor production year because of the dry spring, but statewide populations remain fairly high because of holdovers.

from the good 1987 nesting season

Deer hunters can expect little if any dropoff from the excellent hunting season of 1987, according to Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader "Fawn production and antler development are probably down, but not enough that hunters in the field will notice any difference," he said

Hunters likely will find less than lush vegetative cover in the field this fall, he added This should have the dual effect of making deer easier to see as well as causing the animals to be more active during daylight hours in search of food

"During the spring it was beginning to look like a more severe drought was developing," Gore said, "but now it appears that enough moisture has fallen to sustain wildlife and have at least an average hunting season, if not an excellent one "

JC 8/3/88

POACHER KILLS WILD TURKEY
IN RESTORATION AREA

TRINITY -- Poachers recently shot an eastern wild turkey gobbler from a vehicle on a Trinity County park road, then left it to spoil

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said the 20-pound bird was one of a flock of eastern-strain turkeys trapped from a restoration area and stocked near Trinity in late 1986 and early 1987

Biologist Joe Campo asked Trinity County and East Texas citizens to help in preventing this kind of needless waste of a valuable resource. "Any known or suspected illegal turkey hunting should be reported," Campo said, adding that callers to the state's toll-free Operation Game Thief number, 1-800-792-GAME, may be eligible for cash rewards if their information leads to arrest and conviction of game law violators.

Campo said the released flock, consisting of eight gobblers and 13 hens, had good reproductive success during summer 1987 and their numbers appear to be increasing.

The eastern-strain turkey, once abundant throughout East Texas, was largely wiped out by overhunting shortly after the turn of the century. The department's stocking programs have restored eastern turkey populations to huntable levels in several East Texas counties, but thousands of acres of habitat remain to be stocked, Campo said.

JC 8/3/88

C C C REUNION SET FOR
CLEBURNE STATE PARK

CLEBURNE -- Cleburne State Park will be the site of the Texas reunion of Civilian Conservation Corps alumni, to be held Oct 29-30.

Organization officials said participants planning to camp in the park during the reunion should call or write Cleburne State Recreation Area, Rt 2, Box 90, Cleburne, TX 76031, (817) 645-4215. For further information, write NACCA Chapter 123, 5808 Trigg, Fort Worth, TX 76114.

The CCC, a depression-era government program set up under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, was active in construction of facilities in many Texas state parks. Most of these facilities are still in use today.

JC 8/3/88

HOGG FAMILY COMMEMORATED
AT THREE STATE PARKS

AUSTIN -- Three historic sites in the Texas state park system commemorate the strong men and women of Gov. James Stephen Hogg's family, and recognize the contributions of early Anglo settlers who were not Indian fighters or cattlemen.

Hogg (1851-1906), the first native Texan to hold the state's highest office, was governor from 1890 to 1894.

The Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park protects the site of an early Texas sugarcane plantation that Hogg later purchased for a family residence. Martin Varner settled the site in 1824 when he claimed land grant number 19 from Stephen F. Austin, placing him among the "old 300" Anglo settlers. Varner successfully grew sugarcane and was the first Texan to produce commercial rum but he sold out after 10 years.

Meanwhile the new Republic of Texas was attracting streams of settlers. Among them was a lawyer named Joseph Lewis Hogg. Hogg settled his wife and family near Rusk in 1839 and established a plantation called Mountain Home.

Jim Hogg was born at Mountain Home in 1851. The property is now the

site of the Jim Hogg State Historical Park At the age of 12 this youngster who was to become governor one day was orphaned and left in the care of an older sister

Rough and tumble frontier life fashioned him through several years while he worked as a newspaper apprentice, student of law and farm hand While still a teenager, he was shot in the back and left for dead No longer able to perform heavy labor, young Hogg returned to the life of a newspaperman and became a crusader against monopolies of large corporations

In 1874 Jim Hogg married Sarah Ann Stinson and moved to Wood County The Stinson Home and Honeymoon Cottage at the Governor Hogg Shrine State Park commemorate those early years of marriage

Friends and neighbors grew to trust his deep commitment and interest in the public welfare and persuaded him to begin a life of public service Later, as governor of Texas he continued to champion causes of individuals against monopolies Under his guidance the Texas Railroad Commission was established to oversee the growth of the rail industry

After leaving office, Hogg continued in public life and began supporting the oil industry In 1902 he was part of the group that formed the Texas Company (Texaco) Then, owing to demands of his business life, he moved his family to the Houston area where he bought the old Varner farm

With four growing children and successful business concerns, Gov Hogg was enjoying a happy period in his life It was cut short by his death in

1906 as a result of the side effects from an accident. However, he had left an important legacy to his family: a strong sense of responsibility in handling business affairs and support for the new oil industry of Texas.

In 1919 an oil gusher burst forth on the Varner-Hogg property making the Hogg children instant multi-millionaires. In their father's tradition they used their new wealth to help enrich Texas by supporting music, the arts, museums and the three Hogg sites within the state park system.

The Governor Hogg Shrine is located in Quitman, east of Lake Tawakoni. It includes the Honeymoon Cottage, the Miss Ima Hogg Museum, the Stinson Home and the Old Settler's Tabernacle as well as a playground and a beautifully wooded picnic area. Tours of the Honeymoon Cottage and Stinson Home are available hourly Wednesday through Sunday. Group tours can be arranged by calling (214) 763-2701.

The Jim Hogg State Historical Park is located two miles northeast of Rusk off U.S. Highway 84, (214) 683-4850. It is the site of Gov. Hogg's birth and contains a structure representative of early pioneer homes, the Hogg family cemetery and a lovely wooded setting for the playground, picnic area and hiking trail. The park is open seven days a week from 8-5 at no charge.

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park is located southeast of Houston near West Columbia off State Highway 35 (409) 345-4656. The plantation house, Gov. Hogg's last home, has survived since the late 1830s, weathering hurricanes, renovations and the effects of time. It is furnished with a collection of beautiful antiques and personal items from

the Hogg family

Visitors may tour the house Friday, Saturday and Sunday Fees are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children six to 12; children under six are admitted free Current repairs being made to the roof and other areas of the house may disrupt tour schedules, and visitors are urged to call the park in advance A pleasant picnic area is located on the grounds

SC 7/27/88

ALLIGATOR HUNTING AREAS
LISTED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department can assist prospective alligator hunters in locating a place to hunt during the upcoming Sept 2-18 gator hunting season

The department has prepared a list of contacts for possible alligator hunts available to the public The contacts on the list voluntarily have expressed interest in making tags available for either guided or unguided hunts

This September marks the fifth consecutive alligator season since statewide alligator management planning was initiated in 1984 Harvest quotas have continued to increase as the alligator populations are better understood and more areas are surveyed and included for quota calculations

Copies of the list may be obtained by writing to the TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or by calling 1-800-792-1112

JC 8/3/88

ALLIGATOR TAG ISSUANCE
BOUNDARIES AND RATES SET

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have announced general boundaries within which alligators may be legally hunted during the Sept 2-18, 1988, hunting season

Alligator tags for the 1988 season will be issued on a quota basis to landowners or their authorized agents. Agents of landowners must present a notarized letter from the landowner(s) verifying their selection and specifying the acreage represented. Tag quotas are based on estimated alligator populations. Some 1,885 tags will be available for issuance in 1988, a slight increase from 1987 when 1,760 were available.

"The quotas have stabilized for most areas now because of multi-year averaging of population estimates and full implementation of allowable quota rates under the management plan," said Bruce Thompson, TPWD alligator program director.

The areas to be hunted and numbers of permits in each are as follows

BRAZORIA COUNTY: Manor-Eagle Nest Lake Complex (29), Brazos River Club (12), Big Slough (10), Harris Reservoir (5), W. H. Black Lake Reservoir and Slough (8), Bar X Lakes and Slough, (5), Tennecot Hunting Club (8), Mallard Lake (4), Austin Bayou Reservoirs (2), Bell Lake (2), Halls Bayou (1), Stubbfield Lake (1), Lake Mojo (5), Columbia Lakes (5), Chocolate Bayou, Caral Co (6)

CALHOUN COUNTY: Guadalupe Delta Marsh (10), NW of Powderhorn Lake (8), Black & Jones Bayou (5), Coloma Creek (3)

COLORADO COUNTY Eagle Lake (21), Eagle Lake Gravel Pits (4)

FORT BEND COUNTY Dry Creek (7), Worthington Lake (7), Pecan Bend Subdivision Lake (7), Harrison and Anderson Oxbow Lakes (7), Lake Olympia (15), Meyers Lake (2)

HENDERSON COUNTY Koon Creek area (11)

MATAGORDA COUNTY Donaldson Lake (5)
Big Boggy (3), Peyton Creek (5), Canoe Bayou Lakes (9), Mad Island Slough (16), Robbins Slough (27), Caney Creek (5), Little Boggy (11), Texas Gulf (2), Oyster Lake (3), Matthews Lake (3), Franzine (2), Runnels (5), Yellderman (3), Vineyard (1), South Texas Project (5), Mad Island WMA (8)

McMULLEN COUNTY Jambers-Morrill Ranches (7)

REFUGIO COUNTY Negley (3)

VICTORIA COUNTY Adler Lake (2), Linn Lake-McDonald Bayou (2), McFaddin Marsh (3), Bass Lake (2), Fordyce Gravel Pits (2)

Additional areas in Chambers, Jefferson, Galveston, Liberty and Orange Counties will be eligible for tag issuance and hunting (see map)

Thompson said tag quotas are established based on summer survey data, and they may vary among different types of habitat and possibly within single-ownership tracts "These quotas will determine the number of tags available for all tracts of alligator habitat within the issuance areas," said Thompson

Applications for tags may be made at times and places as follows J D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area, Aug 18-19 and Sept 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Aug 18, 7-9 p.m.; Sept 3-8, 2-3 p.m.; Chambers Co (White Park), Aug 17, 7-9 p.m.; Matagorda County Courthouse, Aug 18-19 and Sept 2, 8 a.m. to 12 noon; Victoria TPWD Office, Aug 18, 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Other limited areas also may be considered by the department for

alligator tag issuance if additional information substantiates the presence of harvestable populations of alligators, Thompson said

Alligators must be taken from the area for which specific tags are issued. Thompson said the quota of 1,885 tags for 1988 is calculated as a percentage of the estimated population of alligators four feet and longer within the designated hunting areas.

The alligator harvest is designed as a sustained yield harvest rather than a control program. Although alligators are numerous in much of Texas' habitat, alligators four feet and longer (legal harvest size) represent only an estimated 13.5 percent of the alligator population.

Thompson reminds hunters that alligators must be taken and retrieved only with devices that have line of at least 300-pound-test strength, attached to help retrieval. Legal devices include hook and line, harpoon, gig, archery tackle and handheld snare. Firearms may not be used except to dispatch the animals after being secured.

Regulations and substantial explanatory information will be provided to hunters at the time licenses are issued.

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AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for August 3

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level black bass good to 3 pounds on dark worms in 10 feet of water crappie fair on minnows at night in 8 feet of water catfish good to 5 pounds on juglines with live perch.

BELTON: Water clear, 86 degrees, 5 foot low; black bass good to 5 pounds on black and chartreuse Sensations in 5-20 feet of water, night fishing best; hybrid striper good from 9 p.m. to midnight on topwaters and deep diving cranks. crappie good in the midlake area on minnows in 5-12 feet of water; white bass good from 9 p.m. to midnight on small topwaters; channel catfish excellent to 12 pounds in the Leon River on rod and reel baited with bloodbait and dough bait.

BROWNWOOD Water clear, lake full black bass good to 5 3/4 pounds on black worms striper good to 5 pounds on Tad's Roadrunner jigs and Southport Slammers in 18 feet of water; crappie good with limits on minnows in 20 feet of water white bass good early and late on Little Cleo's, L'il Georges and Bomber slabs; catfish fair to 3 pounds on minnows and shrimp.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 83 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on yellow Foxee Jigs in 8-10 feet of water; striper good to 12 pounds on Pencil Poppers; crappie slow; white bass good to 45 fish per string on chrome Timber Spoons catfish good in the 2-6 pound range on Chunky dog food spiked with crawfish scent.

COLORADO BEND Water muddy, normal level black bass and all fishing slow. Fair numbers of fishermen

FAYETTE: Water clear, 97 degrees normal level black bass fairly good to 9 pounds along with a couple of 8 pounders on Rat-L-Traps, dark worms and Fat Getzits or tube worms in 18-20 feet of water; crappie slow; catfish slow.

LBJ: Water murky, 83 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 3 pounds on black Jig and Eel in 6-8 feet of water; striper fair to 6 pounds on Pencil Poppers; crappie poor; white bass good to 35 fish per string on Johnson's Silver Minnows. catfish good to 1 3/4 pounds on cutbait with trotline.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 87 degrees 8 inches low; black bass slow and small, keepers hard to find; striper fair around Snake Island in the late evening when the winds lay; crappie fairly good on minnows; white bass fairly good on the hump on silver spoons and L'il Georges; catfish slow this week. one lady catfisherman pulled in 2 5-foot water snakes while fishing for catfish using crappie intestines for bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 11 feet low black bass good in number, mostly in the 14-15 inch range on minnows, nightcrawlers and medium diving Bombers in 3-6 feet of water; hybrid striper fairly slow white bass fairly good in 10 feet of water on minnows and jigs; crappie fairly good to 20 fish per string on jigs and minnows 10-15 feet of water; catfish good to 4 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with cutbait, liver and shrimp.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 10 1/2 feet below normal level; black bass fairly good to 3 pounds most in the 12-14 inch range on Crazy Shad and Tiny Torpedoes early; 4-inch Firecracker worms and Firecracker grubs good midday; white bass have been surfacing with strings to 50 fish mid morning, no schooling early, in the river channels and mid lake area between Hurst and Bee Creeks. crappie slow; catfish fairly good on live crawfish in 40 feet of water midday.

WHITNEY Water clear, 72 degrees, 9 1/2 feet low; black bass poor; striper fairly good to 14 pounds on live bait and downriggers; crappie good to 2 pounds to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 80 fish per string on spoons. catfish good in the 2-6 pound range on shrimp, bloodbait and nightcrawlers with a trotline.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS Water clear, 85 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass poor; second cross hybrid and white bass fair trolling Hellbenders at 15 feet, some surface feeding between 4 p.m. and dark. crappie

good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 20-25 feet of water over brush piles day and night; catfish slow. Bluegill and redear sunfish excellent on gray crickets and red worms in 10 feet of water, just over the bottom moss

CADDO: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass and all fishing fairly slow due to lack of fishermen.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 26 inches low; black bass slow, but good numbers of undersized fish caught early on topwaters, best fish coming from 16 to 20 feet around drop offs; hybrid striper fair drifting live sunfish or trolling Magnum Hellbenders in 20 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass fair trolling deep divers with chartreuse Rooster Tail trailers. catfish good drifting bream, shrimp, stinkbait; yellow catfish good to 47 pounds on trotline with live bait.

CYPRESS SPRINGS Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level black bass fairly good to 5 3/4 pounds late and at night on black worms crappie good in 25 feet of water on minnows between 9 and 11 a.m. catfish fair in 15 to 18 feet of water.

FORK: Water clear, 88 degrees, 5 inches low; black bass good to 10 pounds, 5 ounces on cranapple worms in 18 feet of water; crappie good to 25 fish on jigs and minnows in 16 feet of water; catfish good to 7 1/2 pounds on cutbait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 feet below summer level black bass fairly good to 6 pounds on dark worms in 4 to 10 feet of water around the moss, good numbers of undersized bass on Tiny Torpedoes; crappie slow; white bass fair schooling mid lake on jigs and cranks. catfish slow; bream excellent on crickets and worms to 3/4 pounds each to 75 fish per string.

LAVON Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass slow; crappie very good to 1 1/4 pounds with limits on minnows; white bass very good with some surfacing on slabs with strings to 30 fish. catfish very good to 19 pounds on trotline with live sunfish and shad.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass slow, some off points with deep diving baits hybrid striper fair and running with white bass; crappie slow; white bass schooling early and late on topwaters to 25 fish per string; catfish slow.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear 2 inches low; black bass fair to 18 inches on worms spinners; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows; catfish good on liver and spinners.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 110 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 pounds but few fishermen due to hot weather crappie slow; catfish fairly good to 8 pounds on shrimp and Canadian Crawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 88 degrees, 1 foot low black bass slow; crappie poor; white bass good in number but small in size on Sassy Shad and minnows, white bass surfacing early and late around the points; catfish good to 10 pounds on rod and reel baited with home made cheese bait and shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 85 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 6 pounds, 10 ounces on topwaters and worms. crappie slow, a few caught under the bridge; channel catfish fair to 4 pounds on trotline baited with cut shad

PALESTINE: Water clear, 1 foot low black bass fairly slow some early and late, rumors are flying about a 11 pound bass caught at night on dark worms striper fair around 155 bridge with cranks. white bass fair around 155 bridge to Henderson Point, some schooling but fish not staying on the surface long; crappie slow; catfish fairly good on trotlines to 8 1/2 pounds

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass fair early to 4 pounds on topwaters and spinners. striper slow to 12 pounds on live bait trolling large jigs and Hellbenders in 25 feet of water crappie slow off docks and barges to 5 fish per string on minnows white bass erratic on slabs, some under bridge at night. catfish good around the riprap and causeways of the dam on shrimp, and trolling some artificials.

TAWAKONI Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 4 3/4 pounds over and around moss beds on spinners; hybrid striper excellent to 13 pounds on large shiner and shad and trolling artificials; crappie good early and late on minnows; white bass fairly good in 28-30 feet of water catfish excellent in 32 feet of water on bloodbait and shrimp; flathead catfish good to 63 pounds on the upper end of the lake on

trotline with live bait.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 81 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds, 2 ounces on dark plastic worms in 15 feet of water. Striper good to 16 1/2 pounds on silver slabs and live bait while trolling in 35 feet of water. Crappie fair on live bait to 10 fish per string. White bass fair to 1 pound to 12 fish per string on topwater poppers. Catfish good to 8 pounds on stinkbait, cutbait and shrimp.

WELSH Water mostly clear, 103 degrees surface, 2 feet low; black bass fair to 7 1/2 pounds on 12 inch Fire and Ice worms; crappie picking up some on jigs and minnows in the deeper end of the lake in 12-18 feet of water, fish not large. Catfish good to 8 1/2 pounds on cut shad and frozen shad on rod and reel.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 87 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to slow to 6.14 pounds on dark worms and smoke bluetailed worms, and DB#3 in 6-30 feet of water; crappie slow; crappie slow; white bass fair on minnows at night; catfish very good in numbers in baited areas. Bream are excellent in numbers. White amur not doing well most are undersized and in poor condition. Deer and doves are in good condition, tick populations are high in woody areas.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 90 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 11 1/4 pounds on 8-inch black worms, some schooling with some limits good numbers of undersized fish; crappie fairly good to 16 fish per string on minnows. White bass fairly slow. Catfish fairly slow to 22 pounds on trotline baited with live perch.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass fairly good to 7 1/2 pounds on black worms in 2-4 feet of water. Striper good to 8 pounds early and during the night on slabs or trolling Tony Accetta spoons during the day, striper prefer minnows at night; crappie fairly good in 25 feet of water or more. White bass good in the 2 pound range early and during mid afternoon, some at night; catfish good on rod and reel to 6 1/2 pounds.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 78 degrees, 3 1/2 feet below pool level. Black bass good early and late to 5 1/2 pounds on topwaters and buzz baits; striper slow; crappie good on minnows around 18 feet in 25 feet of water on minnows, few full strings; white bass fair off points, some breaking surface but not hitting very well; catfish fairly good to 5 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch; no yellow catfish activity.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass fairly good just over keeper size, best baits are topwaters and worms. Stripers improving to 18 1/2 pounds on jigs and deep running Redfins; crappie slow and small. White bass slow; catfish slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, normal level. Black bass fairly good to 3 pounds early and late on topwaters and worms in 10-20 feet of water. Striper good in the 5-15 pound range in 20 feet of water on Bananahead Jigs and green and white bucktail jigs. Large striper slow in 90 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish excellent in 40-50 feet of water or about 17 feet off bottom with cheese stinkbait, shrimp and worms.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level. Black bass slow; striper fair to 4 pounds on tilapia. Crappie slow; catfish good to 3 pounds on shad. Redfish fair to 16 pounds on shad and tilapia. Corvina slow.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 92 degrees, normal level. Black bass slow to 4 pounds on dark plastic worms. Striper excellent to 6 pounds on slab spoons in 15 feet of water at the power lines; crappie slow; catfish fair to 6 pounds on cutbait with trotlines and juglines; redfish slow; corvina excellent with a new lake record of 11 1/4 pounds caught downrigging Tony Accetta Pet spoon in 15 feet of water near the dam.

CHOKO: Water clear, lake full. Keeper sized black bass slow, many undersized fish on worms in 18-20 feet of water around points and dropoffs. Striper slow. Crappie good with some limits on minnows day and night, fish sometime hard to find; white bass slow; catfish excellent to 4 pounds on rod and reel baited with Roger's and Bob's catfish bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 feet low. Black bass

fair in number to 5 pounds, few keeper sized fish; striper slow to 5 pounds on downriggers in 15 feet of water; crappie fair but weigh less than 1 pound at night; white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 pounds on minnows from the bank in baited areas.

FALCON: Water clear, 9 1/2 feet low; black bass good with most in the 3-6 pound range, a few 7s and 8s, on dark worms in 9 to 12 feet of water; striper very good around the dam on Knocker Spoons; crappie good in number but small in size around docks on minnows; good numbers of white bass in the state park area on Knocker spoons; catfish very good to 3 pounds on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 85 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 17 inches early on surface lures; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 2 pounds on a wide variety of baits.

TEXANA: Water clear, 87 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners and buzz baits around moss beds early; striper and white bass slow; crappie fairly good on minnows with a few limits from Sandies Creek; blue catfish excellent to 30 pounds on trotlines baited with cutbait.

WEST

GRANBURY: Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow to 4 1/4 pounds on black worms; striper fair to 9 pounds, 12 ounces on live bait; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows in 15-18 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 pounds on trotline baited with chicken livers and shrimp.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; largemouth black bass good to 6 pounds on minnows; no smallmouth caught during the week; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds to 15 fish per string in front of the dam; white bass good to 2 pounds to 20 fish per string; catfish good to 13 1/2 pounds on a large minnows

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 79 degree, normal level; black bass slow; striper good to 7 pounds on red Hotspots; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 7 1/2 pounds on live perch baited trotline.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; largemouth black bass fair to 5 pounds on live bait in 1-5 feet of water; smallmouth bass fairly good to 5 1/4 pounds on live bait, nightcrawlers and minnows; crappie fair but in 40-50 feet of water; white bass good and schooling and breaking the surface, on live bait and jigs; catfish very good on trotline to 48 pounds; walleye good to 7 1/2 pounds, no limits, on live minnows and large nightcrawler worms in 50-60 feet of water.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 8 pounds on plastic worms in 4-8 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass fairly good at night; catfish good to 11 pounds, 6 ounces on trotline baited with shrimp.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 84 degrees, 12 feet low; black bass fairly good on topwaters early and late and worms midday; striper slowing; a few small fish along with white bass; crappie spotty in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass spotty, slabbing produces most fish; catfish slow

SPENCE: Water clear, 78 degrees, 24 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on dark worms; striper good to 17 pounds trolling Hellbenders and jigs; crappie good to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on minnows

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, normal level; black bass good to 6 pounds on purple worms; striper slow; crappie good to near 2 pounds on minnows; white bass good to 20 fish per string on minnows; blue catfish good to 7 pounds on a trotline baited with goldfish and frozen shrimp.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 82 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on spinners; crappie good in the shallows on minnows to 13 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 1/2 pounds with limits on stinkbait.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Speckled trout very good to 4 pounds, a few larger, on shrimp in the Barrel Channel, with good numbers of limits; redfish fairly good in some of the same areas, and near Coffee Ground Cove; a 13 pound amberjack landed in the mouth of the Neches River; live bait available; some flounder land along with good numbers of croakers and sandtrout.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Speck fishing has been good at the jetties to 6 pounds on blood minnows; flounder fishing has been good in the ship channel and in the lake over the shell reefs early; a few redfish on shrimp but most are throwbacks good sized croaker caught off Blue Buck Point water clear live bait shrimp available on the weekends.

GALVESTON A few oversized redfish at the jetties scattered keeper redfish in the bays and coves in the 22-24 inch range on live piggy perch; trout fishing fair but about half are 12-13 inches long some trout to 7 pounds on live shrimp; best fishing in West Bay is around San Luis Pass some scattered trout, redfish, trout and croaker around the causeways; East Bay also producing a few specks and sandtrout mainly around Hanna Reef and along the south shoreline; speck fishing has been picking up at the jetties to 5 pounds on live shrimp; fair number of specks along the beachfront when the water is clear piers producing sandtrout; good numbers of tarpon rolling along the beachfront, at the end of the jetties and at San Luis Pass Live bait shrimp are available, but most are white shrimp and small Offshore fair for snapper.

PALACIOS: Redfish are fair to 30 inches in the rivers and along grassy shore lines with fresh dead shrimp, gold spoons and mullet trout good with some limits at Matagorda Peninsula, around the wells in Matagorda Bay, Coon Island and off piers and wading in shallow bays on live shrimp and various artificials; only half of trout are keeper sized live bait plentiful a few flounder along with reds and trout; few gig fishermen during full moon. While redfishing in the middle of Carancahua Bay Ivan Ulen of Cape Carancahua caught a 6-foot alligator. Gator towed the boat a good while, got tangled in the anchor chain and finally broke the 12 pound test line. Fishing companion Bill Redwine enjoyed the trip.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish good in the 7-8 pound range on croakers and piggy perch in the bays; trout fairly good in the same area wade fishermen having the best luck with redfish; a few flounder to 4 pounds caught on rod and reel live bait shrimp scarce Offshore producing kingfish, ling snapper and Spanish mackerel

ROCKPORT: Redfish fairly good to 30 inches in Redfish Bay, along Traylor Island, and along Corpus Christi Bayou; some trout around California Hole and some along Mud Island trout fairly good in Carlos Bay; a few trout caught off the causeway bridge at night; flounder slowing. Live bait shrimp available. a Mrs Miller of Austin was reeling in a small trout in Carlos Bay which was nabbed by a 6 foot tarpon. She fought the tarpon for 2 1/2 hours until the 12 pound test line broke

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish fairly slow since last Saturday trout good to 4 pounds on live shrimp and piggy perch; some kingfish from the Gulf live bait shrimp available Caldwell Pier producing trout to 25 inches on speck rigs; blacktip shark good Tuesday night to 38 inches in good numbers on shrimp and squid.

CORPUS CHRISTI Good numbers of redfish and trout in the Laguna Madre along the Intracoastal redfish good to 30 inches and above, trout to 6 pounds in large numbers fish are found all the way from Corpus Christi to the Landcut; live bait shrimp scarce but should be plentiful about the middle of August. No flounder activity Oso Pier fishermen catching a few nice trout to 3 1/2 pounds and a lot of throwbacks; live bait shrimp available in the area but none at the pier. Bob Hall Pier fishermen good numbers of specks to 28 inches at night on live shrimp; during the day fishermen are catching sandtrout, Spanish mackerel, pompano, small shark; a couple of kingfish caught from the pier Tuesday; a few whiting, several tarpon hooked but none landed; a few redfish to 23 inches.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish have been fair to good south of the East Cut channel and south of Port Mansfield along shorelines, and south of the target area specks have been slow; fishermen have to work hard to catch a limit of trout which seem to bite better in the afternoon. Live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. Good numbers of wade fishermen at night at the East Cut. Waders are limited on trout at night in the dark with artificials. Offshore, kingfish are plentiful to 53 pounds while fishing for snapper Four sailfish landed while trolling ribbon fish near

the gas wells

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish good in numbers to 30 inches, most average 27-28 inches, limits possible but many fish have lockjaw, on live shrimp under popping corks, red Chubbies with white tails, some Redfins and Mir-O-Lures trout and flounder plentiful along Intracoastal from Marker 57 North to the Arroyo on live shrimp and touts some sailfish offshore, good number of bonito to 9 pounds some kingfish to 30 pounds, wahoo, sailfish; live bait shrimp plentiful

PH 8/3/88