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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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POACHING INCIDENTS GET
1989 OFF TO POOR START

AUSTIN -- The accidental shooting of an endangered whooping crane in Aransas County and the intentional slaughter of a penned deer at LBJ State Historical Park got the year 1989 off to a regretablely poor start from a sportsman's point of view, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said

A goose hunter shot a mature female whooping crane while hunting geese on the morning of Jan 3, claiming he mistook the bird for a snow goose. The man was in a party of six hunters hunting adjacent to San Jose Island, just across Aransas Bay from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge where the endangered birds spend each winter, according to Capt Frank Dickerson, TPWD regional law enforcement supervisor at Corpus Christi

Wildlife officials consider the shooting an isolated incident in that the last known illegal shooting of a whooping crane occurred 21 years ago in Texas

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Nevertheless, the shot may have been the most expensive ever fired by a Texas sportsman. If found guilty, the hunter may face penalties under the federal Endangered Species Act along with possible state charges, plus possible civil restitution fees of \$4,000 to \$11,000.

The hunter turned himself in to the department's law enforcement office in Corpus Christi after the incident. The crane was shipped to a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service laboratory at Madison, Wis., for examination.

Less than 24 hours after the whooping crane incident, two men entered LBJ State Recreation Area in the early morning hours of Jan. 4 and shot a 10-point buck that was kept in a two-acre enclosure at the park.

One of the suspects dragged the deer through a fence and across U.S. Highway 290 to a culvert where his partner met him. The pair loaded the buck into the truck and took it to one of the men's residence where they skinned it and processed the meat.

Park employees who had seen the pickup truck cruising through the park the previous day told investigating game wardens the name of the truck's owner.

State game wardens apprehended the truck owner at his home. The second suspect, who had taken the deer meat and antlers to Bastrop County, was notified that his partner had been arrested. He quickly volunteered to return to Gillespie County with the deer to face charges of criminal mischief and other game violation charges.

The two were fined \$1,000 each on the game cases and were freed on bond in the criminal mischief charges, according to law enforcement officials

State parks officials said this was the fourth incident in the past four years in which deer have been killed in the park's fenced pastures

Steve Hall, hunter education coordinator for the TPWD, said these kinds of incidents downgrade sport hunting. "Though education may not have prevented poachers from intentionally shooting a penned deer, it may have motivated the goose hunter to properly identify his target before pointing at and shooting an endangered species," Hall said

The hunter education course is now mandatory for young Texas hunters and should pave the way for more responsible actions afield. For more information about the program, call the TPWD's Hunter Education Section at (512) 389-4999

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LAKE WACO PRODUCING GOOD
LARGEMOUTH BASS CROP

WACO -- Lake Waco, long known by Central Texas fishermen as a fine catfish lake, may develop a reputation for bass fishing as well

Biologist Kenneth Sellers of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said recent electrofishing samples at the 7,200-acre lake located just west of Waco showed respectable numbers of largemouths

"We collected three times as many bass during the fall 1988 surveys as we picked up in the fall 1986 survey," Sellers said. "Size distribution also was improved in 1988 over 1986."

Sellers noted that largemouths apparently had an excellent spawn and survival in 1988, as about 50 percent of the bass collected were spawned that year. "About 92 percent of the collection were less than 14 inches long, and eight percent were legal (14-inch) size," Sellers said.

Florida-strain largemouth bass were stocked at Lake Waco in 1981 through 1984, Sellers said, and analyses in 1986 showed about 16 percent of the sample had Florida bass genetic characteristics.

Improvements in size and numbers of bass since 1986 may be partially due to the 14-inch minimum length limit and five per day bag limit in effect since 1985," Sellers said.

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TYPE II MULE DEER HUNT
SUCCESSFUL AT BLACK GAP

ALPINE -- Hunters harvested 14 buck mule deer during public hunts at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Black Gap Wildlife Management Area during December.

Biologist Mike Hobson said 113 hunters participated, for a success rate of 12 percent. The largest deer taken during the bucks-only hunt weighed 180 pounds field dressed and was seven and a half years old. Three other

bucks also exceeded 140 pounds dressed weight, Hobson said

Hunt participants were selected from holders of Type II hunting permits who submitted their names for a drawing. Holders of Type II permits can hunt on any of the Type II public hunting lands leased by the department

Hobson said the longer 16-day mule deer season authorized by the Parks and Wildlife Commission for 1988 apparently had little effect on hunter numbers and mule deer harvest in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas

Final totals are not yet in, but Hobson said field observations indicate most mule deer hunters bagged their bucks during the first week of the season. He added that antler measurements and body weights of Trans-Pecos mule deer were somewhat down from the 1987 season

JC 1/11/89

GAME THIEF SIGNS HELP
LANDOWNERS STOP POACHING

AUSTIN -- Texas landowners can combat poaching in a special way by posting their lands with Operation Game Thief (OGT) signs

The signs can be obtained from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a minimum contribution of \$10 each to the OGT fund, according to Capt Wayne Chappell, OGT coordinator

"These signs will identify the landowner as a contributor to the OGT fund and will also fulfill the requirements of the Criminal Trespass Statutes when posted on his property," Chappell said. "As an added bonus,

money donated to the sign program helps fund the OGT reward program. Also, any contribution to the fund is tax-deductible "

The red and white signs measure 12 inches by 18 inches, and are made of durable aluminum

Persons witnessing game law violations in Texas can call toll-free 1-800-792-GAME anytime day or night. If the caller's information results in arrest and conviction, he or she is eligible for a cash reward. All callers can remain anonymous. The highly-successful OGT program has received more than 8,000 calls since its inception in 1981.

To obtain signs, contact your local game warden or TPWD law enforcement office. They also may be obtained by mail from TPWD headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. Along with your contribution to OGT, also submit your name, address, amount of your contribution and number of signs requested. Checks and money orders should be made payable to "Operation Game Thief Fund "

For further information call (512) 389-4596, or toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext 4596

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RAINBOW TROUT FISHING
PERIOD NOW IN FULL SWING

AUSTIN -- If you found some new fishing tackle under the Christmas tree this year, you might be looking for a place to try it out

John Mitchell of Waco, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery biologist, suggests visiting one of the 45 locations across the state where rainbow trout have been stocked

"The department will continue stocking these waters, including 16 state park lakes, through the end of January," Mitchell said

The put-and-take trout fishery comes at a time of year when fishing activity for other species has slowed down, Mitchell said "Trout fishing is usually good even when the weather is cold, since trout are cold-water fish that remain active in wintertime," he added

Another advantage of Texas trout fishing is that the fish are generally easy to catch. They will bite a variety of lures and bait, ranging from artificial flies used by trout-fishing purists, to earthworms and cheese

One new site heretofore not stocked is a freshwater pond at Galveston Island State Park. Anglers can fish for trout within a few hundred yards of the Gulf of Mexico surf

Another unusual new trout stocking site that is Palo Duro Canyon State Park near Canyon in the Texas Panhandle. The creek flowing through the

canyon offers trout fishing in the midst of some spectacular scenery About 2,000 trout will be stocked in the park in mid-January Another new location in the Panhandle region is the tailrace area below the Lake Meredith Reservoir dam in Hutchinson County north of Amarillo

Normal entry and facility use fees are charged to enter state parks, and all persons fishing for trout in the fresh waters of the state are required to have a valid fishing license and a \$5 freshwater trout stamp Persons exempt from fishing license requirements also are not required to purchase a trout stamp

Fishing licenses and trout stamps are available at TPWD law enforcement offices across the state and many retail bait and tackle outlets

State parks where trout have been stocked this season are Blanco, Bonham, Buescher, Caprock Canyons, Cleburne, Copper Breaks, Daingerfield, Ft Richardson, Galveston, LBJ, Meridian, Palmetto, Palo Duro Canyon, Purtis Creek, Rusk and Tyler

The daily bag limit for rainbow trout is five, and the possession limit is 10 in all Texas waters Check the current Texas Freshwater Fishing Guide for special regulations for the Guadalupe River in Comal County For more information, or to obtain the department's state parks brochure, call toll-free 1-800-792-1112.

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BLUEBIRD NEST BOXES
AVAILABLE FROM TPWD

AUSTIN -- A limited number of bluebird nest boxes will be made available free to the public by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department during February, officials said

Catrina Martin, a nongame species biologist for the agency, said about 800 of the specially-treated, weather-resistant cardboard boxes will be distributed to qualifying landowners to benefit bluebirds and other cavity-nesting species

"Natural nesting cavities, usually found in dead and hollow trees or fence posts, are not as numerous as in the past," Martin said "That's why nest boxes can increase breeding success of bluebirds and other cavity nesters "

Nest boxes have been set up along "bluebird trails" in many areas of the nation, including East Texas, Martin added

The boxes will be provided to persons who are interested in installing and maintaining five or more boxes The boxes must be installed at least 100 yards apart to prevent territorial disputes among the nesting birds, Martin said Persons accepting boxes will be asked to keep a written record on usage by bluebirds and other species The boxes are designed to last two seasons

To participate in the program contact the Nongame and Endangered Species Program, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext 4505, or (512) 389-4505 by Feb 6.

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SURVEYS INDICATE WHITNEY
BASS POPULATIONS HEALTHY

WHITNEY -- Largemouth bass populations at Lake Whitney apparently are holding up well in the face of increased fishing pressure, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The popular Central Texas reservoir is one of the state's most varied fisheries, producing largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass as well as striped bass

Biologist Ken Sellers said fall cove rotenone surveys collected 21 pounds of largemouths per acre, or about the same as the 1987 survey. Electrofishing samples showed a decline in bass numbers from 1987 to 1988, but the population was favorable in both years, Sellers said

"Even though habitat and cover were reduced in 1988 by lower than normal water levels, reproduction and recruitment to legal sizes was found to be good in both types of sampling," Sellers noted. The most common size bass collected was 10 to 13 inches long, indicating anglers should have good success in the coming year

Sellers reminds fishermen that the daily limit of five black bass per

day and minimum length limit of 14 inches applies to largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass. This is an aggregate limit, which means that only five bass may be retained in any combination of the species.

Lake Whitney is located about 15 miles west of Hillsboro off State Highway 22. Lake Whitney State Recreation Area is located on the lake's eastern shoreline, offering full camping facilities and boat ramps. For campsite reservations or other information call the park superintendent at (817) 694-3793.

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POWER SQUADRON, TPWD SIGN
BOATER EDUCATION AGREEMENT

AUSTIN -- Officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have signed an agreement which recognizes the boating course taught by the U S Power Squadrons (USPS).

Power Squadron District Commander Wendel Seibert said the USPS courses will begin in late January.

Power squadrons are located in Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, Fort Worth, Corpus Christi, Galveston Bay, Houston, San Antonio, Orange and the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Courses will be held at least once a year or more frequently if demand exists, officials said. Each course will be from six to eight weeks, with a two-hour class once weekly. There will be a nominal fee for USPS course.

material and classroom expense, but TPWD material is free of charge. Upon successful completion of the course, the student's name will be placed on file with the TPWD and a boater education certificate of completion will be issued.

Gina Swift, assistant boater education coordinator for the TPWD, said Texas has led the nation in boating-related fatalities during two of the past five years and was second in the other three. "Most boating accidents happen in relatively good weather, and most involve boat operators with considerable boating experience," said Swift. "This indicates a lack of attention to basic rules of safe boat operation. This is where boater education could save lives."

Along with the USPS agreement, the department currently accepts students trained by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The TPWD also plans to initiate a state boater education program utilizing volunteer instructors in early 1989.

Swift noted that a USPS course will be held in Austin beginning Jan. 30. For further information contact Gilbert G. Bartz at (512) 266-2572, or 266-3607.

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RARE TOXIN FOUND IN TEXAS-
CAUGHT BARRACUDA

AUSTIN -- A barracuda caught recently off the Texas coast was found to contain a rare toxin after three members of a family became ill from eating the fish. The barracuda was caught near an oil rig about 30 miles southeast of Matagorda.

A Texas Department of Health (TDH) analysis revealed that the fish contained a toxin known as ciguatera, produced by a single-celled marine dinoflagellate. Officials said the animal attaches to marine algae and is passed up the food chain through small herbivorous fish to large carnivorous fish to larger predatory fish and finally to humans.

Dr. Dennis M. Perrotta, director of the TDH Epidemiology Division, told the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that the toxin can have serious effects on humans. Although little is known about the abundance of such toxins in Texas waters, Perrotta said risks to Texas fishermen and consumers are considered minimal.

The incident in which the Texas family became ill was the first documented ciguatera poisoning case from fish caught off the Texas coast, Perrotta said. While the toxin occurs in many parts of the globe, most United States cases occur in Florida and Hawaii.

Ingestion of the toxin can result in a wide variety of symptoms, including abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, numbness,

mouth pain, disturbances of temperature perception and itching

Treatment is symptomatic, as there currently is no antidote for the toxin, Perrotta said. The toxin is not affected by cooking, freezing, drying, salting, smoking or marinating the affected fish.

The toxin, which has no apparent effect on the host fish, can occur in a number of fish species. In Florida it has been detected in groupers, snappers, king mackerel, amberjack, dolphin (dorado) and barracuda.

For further information about the toxin, or to report possible occurrences, call the Texas Poison Control Centers toll-free 1-800-392-8548, or 1-800-441-0040.

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TPWD INVESTIGATING TRAVIS
COUNTY BIRD KILL

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is continuing to investigate a bird kill that so far has been fatal to approximately 1,500 birds in southeastern Travis County.

The incident originally was reported by local residents who saw dead and dying birds in an area approximately one-half mile by three-fourths mile in size.

Contaminants Biologist Jack Ralph and Game Warden Al Campos investigated the kill. They found the kill involved mainly blackbirds and cowbirds, but also included mourning doves, pigeons, meadowlarks, a marsh hawk, sparrows

and killdeer

Test results from birds sent to the Texas A&M University Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory revealed evidence of organophosphorus or carbamate pesticide poisoning. Ralph said the organophosphorus pesticide Bidrin (also known as Dicrotophos) was found on contaminated seeds in the crop of one of the birds analyzed. "Bidrin is extremely toxic to insects and birds, and its use is restricted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," Ralph said.

This poisoning incident has received extensive news media coverage, Ralph said, and has attracted the interest of many regulatory and citizen organizations. The TPWD, the Texas Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are continuing the investigation to determine the final number of birds killed as well as the possibility of civil and criminal violations of state and federal law, he said.

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AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Jan 12

CENTRAL

BASTROP Water clear 73 degrees, 14 inches low. black bass good in the 2-3 pound range on worms crappie fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good in number to 20 pounds on shad baited jug lines.

BELTON Water clear 55 degrees, 6 feet low. black bass slow. hybrid striper good to 8 pounds on chrome jiggling spoons in 30-40 feet of water to 3 fish per string. crappie good on small minnows in 10-20 feet of water to 20 fish per string; white bass fair with some surfacing around the sand flats on chrome Rat-L-Traps to 12 fish per string to 3/4 pounds each; catfish slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear 4 foot 9 inches low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on black jigs; striper slow. crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows white bass slow. catfish slow.

CANYON: Water clear 57 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; striper slow. crappie fair to 15 fish per string to 1 pound each on minnows white bass excellent with good numbers of limits on jiggling spoons. catfish slow. There were fairly good numbers of fishermen on the lake midweek.

FAYETTE: Water clear 65 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 7 pounds on a dukes mixture of lures which included gold or orange Rat-L-Traps with 9 fish over 21 inches last Saturday and 3 early Sunday mostly in 2-6 feet of water. fishing slow Monday and early Tuesday. crappie slow; catfish fairly good to 38 pounds on rod and reel as well as jug lines baited with live perch.

GIBBONS CREEK Water fairly clear, 57 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fairly good with 2 keepers over the weekend to 10 pounds, 12 ounces on jigs. many bass within the slot and below were also caught. crappie fairly good on minnows no limits. catfish slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear 4 feet low. black bass fair to in the 2-5 pound range on purple worms spinners. striper slow. crappie fair some limits after daylight midweek on minnows and jigs. white bass slow. catfish fair to 2 pounds on catfish bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 59 degrees, 12 1/2 feet low. black bass slow to 3 1/2 pounds on minnows in 6 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass good in numbers on silver slabs with limits; channel catfish fairly good on trotline baited with liver shrimp and cut bait to 1 1/2 pounds in good numbers. The number of fishermen on the lake midweek was below normal.

TRAVIS: Water clear 58 degrees, 13 feet low. black bass fairly good in number one boat caught 22 bass with only 2 keepers to 2 pounds on pig and jig and spinners, most on spinners in 1-18 feet of water. striper slow; crappie slow; white bass good in number to 25 per boat in 25-35 feet of water on jiggling spoons. catfish slow.

WACO: Water clear, 58 degrees, 3 feet low. black bass good to 5 pounds on crawfish colored cranks off the points and off the river and creek channels in the north end of the lake; striper poor; crappie fair to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass poor; catfish fair in the 10-14 inch range drifting shad.

WHITNEY Water clear, 55 degrees, 12 1/2 feet low. largemouth bass slow to 5 1/4 pounds on cranks and jigs. smallmouth bass slow to 5 3/4 pounds on jigs and cranks. striper good to 16 pounds on shiners and minnows many smaller fish landed; crappie slow; white bass good on slabs to 2 pounds under the birds; catfish good to 4 pounds on worms. blue catfish good on cut bait to 5 pounds.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear 54 degrees 8 inches below overflow. black bass good to 5 pounds on jig and pig and Rat-L-Traps with limits; crappie are excellent with limits in 40-45 feet of water over brush near the dam in open water. winds high midweek. white bass slow; catfish fair to 12 pounds on trotline baited with minnows and shrimp. only one catfisherman out midweek.

BOB SANDLIN Water clear 52 normal pool level. black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on a black and blue worm in 4 feet of water. most fish were caught in 16-20 feet of water on Rat-L-Traps and jigs at the edge of the moss beds and around deep points. crappie fair under bridges on minnows no limits. white bass slow. catfish fair to 11 pounds on rod and reel near the spillway on minnows. A bass club

roadrunner tournament caught 87 1/2 pounds of bass with the top of 7 16 pounds, all fish released back into the lake.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear. 16 feet low; black bass slow all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen. The area had a freeze early Tuesday with a low of 30 degrees.

CADDO Water clear, normal level; black bass good to 2 3/4 pounds on yellow and black Rat-L-Traps in 6 feet of water with a few limits, many with 5-6 fish per string; striper slow; white bass slow, crappie good to 1 1/4 pounds on a minnows in the river bed and in Alligator Bayou catfish fair to 2 pounds at night on minnow baited trotline, no limits.

CEDAR CREEK Water clear, 52 degrees, 4 feet, 4 inches low; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on jigs and eel and black worms, hybrid striper fair in 24 feet of water around dropoffs in open water on silver slabs crappie slow; white bass fair to 15 fish per string on L il Georges and white jigs catfish fair to 7 pounds on live bait in 15 feet of water.

CYPRESS SPRINGS Water slightly stained 56 degrees normal level; black bass fair to 6 1/2 pounds most bass are in 3-4 pound range, in 4 feet of water on jig and pig crank baits are effective from 1-21 feet of water in mid afternoon, crappie good with some limits on minnows in 30 feet of water; catfish fair to 7 1/2 pounds drifting big minnows in 21 feet of water

FORK: Water clear, 57 degrees, lake full, black bass good to 9 1/4 pounds on jig with limits crappie good with limits on minnows; catfish slow.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear 50 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 7 pounds on chartreuse spinners and black and blue jig pork rind in 3-8 feet of water; all other fishing slow.

LAVON: Water clear, 51 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass slow; hybrid striper fair to 6 pounds on live minnows with a small weight near the Baptist encampment in 30 feet of water, crappie good to 1 1/4 pounds to 20 fish per string with a couple of limits in the creek beds near the powerplants white bass are fair to 15 fish per string on live minnows no surfacing; catfish good in 9 feet of water near the power plant and in the creeks on stink bait and shrimp.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 12 inches low; black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds on worms and Rat-L-Traps in 12 feet of water, catfish good on rod and reel as well as trotline to 35 pounds on chicken livers.

MONTICELLO Water clear 65 36 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 9 pounds 3 ounces on livewater dogs, jigs and 11 inch black worms, crappie slow; catfish excellent to 50 pounds on live bait, good numbers of channel catfish to 9 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear 49 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on medium diving baits such as Bombers, Texas Trailers with 1-2 fish per string in 10 feet of water; crappie good to 3 pounds or almost 16 inches in length on minnows in 27 feet of water with most in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range; white bass excellent with many limits on yellow and silver slabs in 30 feet of water catfish slow.

MURVAUL Water clear 60 degrees 2 inches above overflow; black bass fair to 5 pounds on spinners and jig and worms some topwaters in 4-8 feet of water around the edges of the moss; crappie fair under 1971 bridge on small minnows with a couple of limits catfish good on trotline on minnows and cut shad to 5 pounds

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear 68 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 59 pounds on chartreuse spinners pumpkin seed spinners and chartreuse Rat-L-Traps in 10-15 feet of water; crappie good with limits on minnows in 40 feet of water while fishing at 20 feet around creek channels catfish slow.

PALESTINE. Water clear, 10 inches low; black bass good to 6 pounds, 6 ounces on jig and eel in 8-12 feet of water; striper fair to 8 pounds on cranks around 155 bridge; white bass fair but no limits in the same area crappie good in deep water on jigs some at night around Kickapoo Bridge, catfish good on trotline to 17 pounds on blood bait

RAY HUBBARD Water clear 58 degrees 3 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on Hotspots in 8 feet of water; striper and hybrid striper slow; crappie are very good in 10 feet of water on minnows and jigs with good numbers of limits white bass fair with some schooling around the discharge area on popping corks and jigs in the late afternoons catfish good to 6 pounds on shrimp, several limits

caught around discharge.

TAWAKONI: Water clear 49 degrees, 2 feet below spillway level black bass are fair to 3 pounds on spinners in 18 feet of water; striper are slow to 17 pounds on white jigs with white grub trailers; hybrid striper slow; crappie slow, some caught on minnows to 8 fish per string; white bass fair to 3 pounds on slabs; catfish are fairly good around the rocks with cane pole or rod and reel and stink bait in 8-12 feet of water.

TEXOMA: Water clear 51 degrees 3 feet low black bass good to 9 pounds 9 ounces on a Sassy Shad smallmouth good to 6 pounds 8 1/2 ounces on a Pig and Jig in 20 feet of water a new lake record caught by Mark Schmitt of Farmers Branch on Jan 7 striper fair to 9 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad and jigs; crappie fair to 7 fish per string on live minnows white bass slow; catfish good to 25 pounds on rod and reel and trotline

WELSH Water clear 62 degrees, lake full; black bass fair to 9 1/2 pounds on topwaters and lizards, also a good number of undersized fish caught; crappie slow; catfish good to 6 pounds on perch and worms; bream good on worms

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 5 1/2 feet low black bass are scattered to 9 3/4 pounds on black and blue jig, the average bass is in the 4-5 pound range, fish are hitting lightly; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie are slow but good sized under 1097 bridge also in the Stubblefield lake area; channel catfish fairly good to 3 pounds in the river on shrimp and nightcrawlers not many fishermen midweek; most fishermen this week are at the boat show in Houston; Christmas trees are piling up around the lake and will be submerged in the lake to be used as fish attractors

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 58 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 8 pounds 6 ounces on a live shiners in 12 feet of water; striper slow; white bass good near Golden Acres on slabs; crappie good to 20 fish per string on minnows around Golden Acres, crappie have moved out of 35 feet of water catfish slow.

LIVINGSTON Water clear 62 degrees 4 feet low black bass slow due to lack of fishing pressure, some in the 2-4 pound range on white spinners; striper fairly good with several limits to 14 pounds each with live bait, crappie good on minnows with some movement into the creeks; white bass slow in the lake, Trinity River producing many limits; yellow catfish good to 60 pounds in good numbers on live bait blue catfish good in the 30-50 pound range channel catfish good to 8 pounds with plenty of limits

RAYBURN: Water clear, 13 feet below pool, black bass have been good to 6 pounds around the moss beds with diving baits spinners and worms and jigs; striper slow; crappie fair up the river on minnows in the main river channels; white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds in the main river channel no limits

TOLEDO BEND Water clear, 61 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on spinners Rat-L-Traps and Jig and Eel; striper good to 4 pounds, no big striper this week, on silver spoons; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 7 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait

SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, 2 feet above normal level black bass fairly good to 4 pounds on dark plastic worms in 15 to 20 feet of water; striper are very good to 12 pounds on Redfins and Ponyhead Jigs with limits under birds, crappie slow; white bass good along with striper on slabs; catfish good in 40-60 feet of water on cheese stink bait and worms, some limits.

BRAUNIG Water murky 58 degrees normal level black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; catfish good to 6 pounds in good numbers on chicken liver, worms shad corvina slow; redfish good until the cold front hit, best bait before the front was crawfish fished from the bank.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 62 degrees normal level, black bass slow; striper slow to 4 pounds; crappie slow; catfish fair to 2 pounds; corvina slow; redfish fair to 10 pounds on cranks and shrimp.

COLETO CREEK Water clear, 65 degrees 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds with many undersized fish in 4 feet of water on red and purple plastic worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

FALCON: water clear 10 inches above normal level black bass are

fair to 5 pounds on spinners and worms with some near limits. Striper slow; crappie slow; white bass are fairly good up the river on slabs and L'il Georges. Catfish good to 4 pounds on shrimp and sponge baits.

TEXANA: Water murky in lake, clear in the Jungle area, 60 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good in the Jungle area on chrome Rat-L-Traps and dark worms. Striper and white bass slow; crappie very slow; catfish fair to 10 pounds on cutbait and trotlines.

WEST

GRANBURY: Water clear, 59 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 5 pounds on pig and jig; Striper good to 9 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; crappie are good to 25 fish per string on minnows. White bass slow; catfish slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 48 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds, some limits, on worms and spinners, topwaters; Striper fair on spoons to 4 pounds; crappie good on minnows and jigs. White bass slow; catfish fairly good on trotlines to 10 pounds on cut bait.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds, 6 ounces on a plastic worm, few fishermen this week; crappie fairly slow around the dock to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 10 1/2 feet low; black bass fairly good to 6 pounds over the weekend on plastic worms. Striper fair to 20 inches on a minnow; crappie fair on minnows. White bass fairly good on slabs and spoons. Catfish slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 50 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on Rat-L-Traps. Striper have been good to 17 pounds on live bait with limits in 30-40 feet of water. Crappie fairly good up the river on minnows with some limits. White bass fairly good under the birds with limits on slabs. Catfish fair on live bait to 12 pounds on shiners, redfin minnows.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 8 feet low; black bass fairly good to 8 pounds, not many fishermen, on Rat-L-Traps and Jig and Pig. Crappie fairly good to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish are slow, mostly because of the weather which included rain, fog, Tuesday dreary and cold. A few small redfish in the Gulf States Canal on small crabs. A few flounder on mud minnows. Live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Winds and cold rain have placed all outdoor activities on hold--except surf fishing. Good numbers of whiting caught in the surf. Bay and gulf waters are too rough for small boats. Trout fishing should resume when the weather moderates. Weather has not been cold enough yet to drive fish into deep holes. Trout fishing was from the central to the eastern portion of West Bay mostly in Duncan's Alley and in East Bay along the south side. When the weather came in and stopped the fishing, trout were fairly good to 4 pounds on strawberry on red-colored Kelley Wigglers rigged on flex jigs which gives an extra hook; good numbers of land trout in the ship channel which should resume when weather moderates.

ROCKPORT: Light rains falling early Tuesday. Not many fishermen out. Some trout to 2 pounds caught on black and silver Hogie lures from the docks. Earlier this week, gold spoons produced redfish to 24 inches in Mesquite Bay; the Italian Bend area in Copano produced trout to 1 1/2 pounds on red worms and shrimp tails. Allan's Bight producing trout on MirOlures to 28 inches. Live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart. Live shrimp not abundant. Winds light with light rain falling midweek.

PORT ARANSAS: Horace Caldwell Pier fishing has been slow since the front hit Sunday. Fairly good numbers of sandshark before the front along with whiting and pompano. Few fishermen since the front. Before the front there were a few bull redfish caught from the end of the pier.

CORPUS CHRISTI: High winds and cold weather slowed the fishing over the weekend and early this week; good numbers of trout were caught in Upper Laguna Madre on live shrimp. The largest was 20 inches but most were in the 16-18 inch range; no redfish. Live bait shrimp available but becoming scarce. Few fishermen out midweek. Oso Pier fishermen catching butterfly drum since the front. The largest weighed 10 pounds and was 25 inches long; good numbers of sandtrout caught before the front when the daytime highs were still in the 90s;

live bait shrimp hard to get. Bob Hall Pier fishermen catching whiting and pompano to 3 pounds, bonnet nosed shark which is unusual for this time of the year. angelfish to 1/2 pound were caught last week; few fishermen since the weekend because of the weather. no redfish or trout. Water clear and winds calm midweek.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing is slow midweek because of the weather. few fishermen out. All outdoor activities are on the slow side

SOUTH PADRE Sandhill crane hunters bagging limits near Raymondville over a dark goose spread with silhouettes and full bodied decoys; goose hunting still going good, good numbers of mourning doves in the afternoon. Midweek weather cold, misty rain falling. few fishermen out.

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