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# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## WATERFOWL HABITAT PROJECT LAUNCHED NEAR HOUSTON

HOUSTON -- An innovative project in the rice prairie country west of Houston is generating important landowner support for waterfowl, according to state and federal wildlife officials.

The project, which is the first U.S. effort in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), involves the flooding of rice stubble to provide protected roost sites for waterfowl.

Outfitters and landowners Joe Broussard of Broussard Farm, Inc., Burton Moore and Bob Salyer of the Devers area, and Harold Freeman and Larry Gore in the Katy area have entered into cooperative agreements with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to perform the habitat work, according to USFWS officials. A ceremony recognizing their conservation work will be attended by state and federal officials at 10 a.m. Nov. 15 at Salyer's home in Nome, about 50 miles east of Houston.

Under the agreement, the USFWS will provide federal funding to defray the owners' cost of pumping water onto the sites. These areas will be closed to waterfowl hunting to provide sanctuary for a wide variety of

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waterfowl and other wetland wildlife

Officials said that for less than \$3,000, some 300 acres of previously unavailable wetlands will be provided for wildlife use from Oct 1 to March 1, 1989. If successful, USFWS officials said they would like to see some 20 leases in the area to help wildlife.

The NAWMP is a cooperative international program by federal, state, provincial and territorial agencies of the United States and Canada, as well as private conservation organizations, farmers and other private citizens to promote wetland protection.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is participating in this Gulf Coast Joint Venture as well as the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture (East Texas bottomland hardwoods) in support of the NAWMP. Also, as a part of this plan, the department contributed \$100,000 in Texas Duck Stamp funds to the Quill Lakes project on the waterfowl breeding grounds in Saskatchewan in support of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture.

JC 11/9/88

RAINBOW RUNNER SETS NEW  
STATE SALTWATER RECORD

AUSTIN -- A 14-pound, 9 12-ounce rainbow runner caught in the Gulf of Mexico during June has been certified as a new state saltwater fish record.

Michael Horton of Galveston caught the fish while fishing for marlin bait near an oil rig. The runner was 39 inches long and 18 inches in

girth

Horton's fish displaces a 12-pound, 12-ounce rainbow runner caught off Port Aransas in 1986 as the state record

JC 11/9/88

CHOKO CANYON BASS WILL SET  
NEW LAKE RECORD

THREE RIVERS -- Thurston Rutherford of Austin caught a 13-pound, 14-ounce largemouth bass at Choke Canyon Reservoir Monday morning, unofficially setting a new lake record

Rutherford caught the fish on a one-ounce jigging spoon. He kept the fish alive in a minnow tank at the Calliham Unit of Choke Canyon State Park on the south side of the reservoir. Rutherford indicated he planned to put the fish on display at an Austin tackle shop. The previous lake record from Choke Canyon weighed 12 pounds, four ounces.

Local fishing guide Elroy Krueger said large bass went on an apparent feeding binge late last week before a cold front slowed the action. He said a 12-pound, one-ounce bass was brought into his store, as were two bass weighing over 10 pounds, three in the nine-pound class and three eight-pounders.

Choke Canyon State Park has two units on the shores of the 27,000-acre fishing hotspot. The Calliham Unit is located on State Highway 72 about halfway between Three Rivers and Tilden. The South Shore Unit is located

near Three Rivers and adjacent to the dam. Both units offer overnight camping facilities. For more information call the Calliham Unit at (512) 786-3868, or the South Shore Unit at (512) 786-3538

JC 11/9/88

KNOX COUNTY RESERVOIR  
OFFERS GOOD FISHING

TRUSCOTT -- A small and relatively unknown reservoir has started to get some recognition from West Texas bass fishermen, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Joe Kraai

Truscott Brine Reservoir is located on Bluff Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Wichita River, about three miles north of Truscott in Knox County

Kraai said gill net surveys resulted in collection of 79 largemouth bass, which is considered a significant number for a five-net survey. Other species found in the reservoir are gizzard shad, channel catfish, carp and green sunfish

Kraai said he expects fishing to be good through the remainder of the fall season. There are no boat launching facilities at the lake, but small boats can be launched on the north shoreline, he said

JC 11/9/88

A black silhouette of the Battleship Texas, showing its main gun turrets and superstructure. The ship is positioned above the title text.

# Battleship

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744

# Bulletin

## TPW COMMISSION GIVES GO-AHEAD FOR BATTLESHIP "TEXAS" RESTORATION

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved funds to repair and restore the Battleship "Texas," veteran of two world wars and the last surviving dreadnought

"The 'Texas' is a national treasure of historic significance, a symbol to Texans and all Americans that preserving freedom requires vigilance and sacrifice. We are preserving this ship for the people of Texas to visit, learn from and reflect upon," said Charles D. Travis, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

In December the department will tow the 74-year-old battleship down the Houston Ship Channel to Galveston for drydocking at Todd Shipyard Corporation. Todd submitted the low bid of \$51 million for the shipyard restoration work. At the yard, the ship's hull, superstructure and deck will be repaired and made watertight. A \$5 million grant from the U S Navy and over \$600,000 raised from private sources by the Battleship Texas Advisory Board will be utilized to fund the restoration project

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In the shipyard, the "Texas" will receive a special corrosion-retarding coating on her hull and superstructure. The "Mighty T" will also be repainted the World War II two-tone blue that she wore while in the Pacific in 1945.

The battleship is expected to return to her berth at San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park and re-open for public visitation in fall 1989.

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Nov. 10:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear 78 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on pink worms and purple worms along the shore line in 4-5 feet of water; crappie good with limits on minnows in 10-20 feet of water; catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds in shallow water on stink bait and shad.

BELTON: Water clear, 79 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on red cranks and white spinners in 5-12 feet of water; hybrid striper are very slow; crappie good to 20 fish per string on minnows in 18 feet of water, white bass slow; channel catfish good to 15 fish per string in 12-18 feet of water on Legal Limit Dough Bait

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string in 12 feet of water on minnows; white bass slow, yellow catfish fairly good to 8 pounds on live carp; channel catfish fair to 2 pounds on shrimp and minnows.

CANYON: Water clear normal level black bass fair to 6 pounds on dark plastic worms in shallow water early, cranks good midday; crappie good on minnows to 25 fish per string white bass fairly slow; no schooling yet; yellow catfish to 59 pounds on trotline with live bait.

COLORADO BEND: Water fairly clear 68 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass poor; striper slow to 5 pounds on chartreuse jigs, crappie are fair to 7 small fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; channel catfish are fair to 3 pounds yellow catfish slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear 81 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fairly good to 7 pounds, good numbers of undersized fish on topwaters. Moss Balls Weed Walkers, Long As, live bait, crappie fairly slow at night; catfish good in the 13-19 pound range with several baits.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear 70 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fairly slow with most below or within the slot, a 7.9 pound bass caught over last weekend on dark worms; crappie fairly slow in number but good in size to 20 fish per boat on minnows catfish fair in number to 4 pounds on rod and reel baited with stink bait, chicken livers and shrimp.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 5 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fairly good to 8 fish per string in 2 hours on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fairly good to 4 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish to 5 fish per string.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass slow striper slow; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on stink bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 72 degrees, 12.5 feet below normal level black bass fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds with some limits on purple worms at night and early morning; hybrid striper fair to 3 pounds near the bridge on white slabs; white bass good to 1 1/2 pounds each at night near the marina on minnows and white jigs.

WACO: Water clear, 66 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on white spinners and 4 inc dark Ringworms, striper very slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string in 10-12 feet of water around baited holes on minnows white bass slow catfish good drifting shrimp and frozen shad to 10 fish per string.

WHITNEY: Water clear 74 degrees, 10 1/2 feet low black bass fair to 5 pounds on spinners and cranks in 2-6 feet of water; smallmouth bass fair to 4 pounds with best catches at night on crawfish, jigs;

striper good on live bait and some jigs to 19 pounds, most in the 8-10 pound range; crappie good on minnows to 2 1/2 pounds with some limits, crappie fishing also good on barges; white bass slow; blue catfish good to 21 pounds on shad, bream and worms but most in the 2-3 pound range on worms; channel fairly good on worms most fairly small

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear 70 degrees 16 inches below overflow; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on buzz baits, Tiny Torpedoes and Rat-L-Traps in 6 feet of water fish are feeding on small bream around moss beds crappie are very good in 25 feet of water over brush to 25

fish per string on minnows white bass fair some on surface with chrome baits. catfish slow. Bluegill and redear are plentiful on red worms in 6-8 feet of water. sunfish are still very active.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear. 76 degrees, 4 feet, 10 inches low; black bass fair to 6 1/2 pounds on buzz baits and worms. hybrid striper slow; crappie fair with strings to 15 fish in 18 feet of water on minnows white bass good with early and late surfacing, strings to 25 fish on Lil Georges and Rooster Tails. on the surface and in 16 feet of water: channel catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp; yellow catfish are good to 32 pounds on live bait.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water fairly clear. 65 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 6 pounds 6 ounces on Jigs and Frogs. some topwaters are good early; crappie are good in 20-25 feet of water on minnows mostly, some white and yellow jigs catfish improving in 12-20 feet of water on shrimp, nightcrawler worms and some stink bait

FORK: Water clear, 68 degrees, 13 inches low; black bass slow in number but good in size to 9 pounds on black jigs. crappie are excellent to 2 3/4 pounds with good numbers of limits on minnows; catfish slow

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear 64 degrees, 22 inches below winter pool black bass fair to 5 pounds on worms spinners and frogs; crappie are fairly good in 10 feet of water around the old river channel on minnows to 20 fish per string. many are fairly small in size; white bass slow catfish fairly good to 9 pounds on trotlines in mid lake on various catfish baits.

LAVON Water clear. 68 degrees 6 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on spinners, no large bass this week; crappie good around baited holes on minnows and jigs. white bass good to 14 inches no limits catfish are excellent to 20 pounds with many in the 6-8 pound range on juglines and drifting shrimp.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear in parts of lake, some areas muddy, 78 degrees 14 feet low; black bass fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on lures, minnows. striper good on Critter Getters to 5 1/4 pounds with some limits crappie good to 3 1/4 pounds with some limits on minnows and crappie jigs; white bass fair to 4 fish per string; catfish fairly good on bloodbait, shrimp and worms in the 2-5 pound range.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear. 4 feet low; black bass good to 16 inches on dark worms, striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good on liver.

MONTICELLO: Water clear. 77 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on dark 8- and 11-inch worms in 5-15 feet of water: crappie poor catfish very good to 10 pounds drifting around the hot water outlet.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear. 2 feet low; black bass fair; crappie are very good on minnows white bass slow; catfish fair to 7 pounds on rod and reel

MURVAUL Water clear. 79 degrees, normal level. black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds 10 ounces on Jig and Eel, good numbers of smaller bass on silver Rat-L-Traps clear Tiny Torpedoes; crappie good around 171 bridge to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish good in the 2-4 pound range on worms and minnows; a single 40-pound yellow catfish caught this week.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 71 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on white and chartreuse spinners and crawfish patterned Rat-L-Traps crappie good with limits at night on live minnows in 15-22 feet of water. catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 69 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 7.5 pounds on Jig and Eel striper good to 8 1/2 pounds on cranks around Highway 155 bridge; crappie picking up to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fairly good on cranks to 12 fish per string. catfish good to 18 pounds on trotline baited with live bait. Catfish Charlie or bloodbait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear 78 degrees, 3 feet low black bass fair to 5 pounds on chartreuse spinners; striper good to 8 pounds on live shad; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass good with many limits while fish are schooling early and late on slabs catfish good to 5 1/2 pounds on drifting shrimp.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 65 degrees, 40 inches low: black bass are



very good to 7 1/2 pounds in 4-6 feet of water around dropoffs and ledges on dark worms. Striper slow; crappie are very good to 17 fish per string to 2 1/2 pounds minnows; white bass slow; catfish are very good to 7 1/2 pounds drifting shrimp and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear. 67 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass slow; Striper good to 9 pounds with good numbers of limits on slabs, Sassy Shad, live bait, jigs and trolling. Crappie fair on live bait around baited holes; catfish excellent to 10 pounds on shrimp, worms, stinkbait and live bait.

WELSH Water partially clear, 82 degrees 2 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 8 pounds on jigs and dark worms in 3-8 feet of water near dropoffs points and logs, crappie slow; catfish fair in the 4-5 pound range on shrimp, shad and worms. Bream are excellent on shrimp bits and worms.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to good in numbers to 7 14 pounds on a black and blue worm in 4 feet of water, most bass are in 5-9 feet of water; hybrid Striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to good to 2 pounds on shrimp, nightcrawlers Papa Earls; white amur fair to 12 pounds on Papa Earls.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 75 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fairly good numbers to 7 pounds, 2 ounces with good numbers of undersized or slot sized fish on purple worms, black worms; crappie fair to 2 1/2 pounds with some limits before the weekend on minnows; catfish fair to 8 pounds on live perch baited trotlines.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear. 67 degrees 5 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds, with several limits, few large fish, on dark worms; Striper slow; crappie are fairly good to 12 fish per string in the shallow water on minnows no limits white bass good in the upper end of the lake on jigs and grubs, most white bass have left the main part of the lake; catfish are very good to 9 pounds on shad; blue catfish good to 40 pounds on shad; yellow catfish good to 78 pounds on live bait with a trotline

RAYBURN: River discolored, lake clear 75 degrees, 11 feet low; black fair, some to 9 pounds around the edges of the hydrilla on spinners worms and topwaters in 10 feet of water; Striper fair to 12 pounds around the 147 bridge on jigs and trolling Rat-L-Traps; crappie fairly slow on minnows; white bass fair around 147 bridge and off points early and late on jig and spoons or Rat-L-Traps; catfish slow

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear 74 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds in numbers on topwaters, spinners and cranks; Striper have been good to 12 pounds on jigs and live bait when fish not schooling; crappie have been fairly good strolling along marshlines, night fishing with lights has been productive; white bass are good sized and are running with Striper; catfish slow.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear. 78 degrees 3 feet above conservation level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on topwaters early and purple or red worms in the afternoon; Striper excellent in number in the 11-14 pound range on slabs and roadrunners, largest Striper are caught on topwaters, many in the 5-6 pound range. Crappie slow up the Devils river with some limits on minnows; white bass excellent with many full limits on minnows and slabs up the Pecos Rio Grande and Devils Rivers; catfish excellent with many full limits, when the wind is up catfish are good to 5 pounds in 30-50 feet of water on cheese bait when wind is calm fish are good to 8 pounds in 5-8 feet of water under cork with cheese baits. Fishing for catfish around baited holes is best.

BRAUNIG Water murky. 74 degrees, normal level; black bass good in number but no keepers all undersized; Striper good on chicken livers to 5 pounds crappie slow; catfish good to 3 pounds on chicken livers and shad; redfish slow; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS Water clear, 78 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass good to 7 pounds on plastic worms and cranks; Striper fair to 5-pound average on Pet Spoons; crappie slow; catfish good to 3 pound average on tilapia and shrimp; corvina good to 5 pound average with strings to 20 pounds redfish have been fair to a 7-pound average on spoons and tilapia.

CHOKE: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 13 pounds, 14 ounces on dark worms, most other bass below 7 pounds

or smaller; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass fair to 10 fish per string; catfish good in number to 8 pounds on minnows and cheese bait.

COLETO CREEK Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 3/4 pounds in the evening in shallow water; striper and all other fishing slow due to lack of fishermen

FALCON: Water clear 2 feet above normal level, black bass have slowed up quite a bit, due to water rise and norther; striper good to 15 pounds near the dam and state park; crappie good off the dock to 20 fish per string on minnows; catfish good on frozen shrimp and sponge baits.

MEDINA: Water clear, 8 feet low; all fishing slow.

TEXANA: Water murky, 1 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds in the jungle area on worms, many undersized bass were caught on topwaters early; striper and white bass slow; crappie are very slow; yellow catfish are good to 18 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

#### WEST

BAYLOR: Water clear, normal level; black bass fairly slow due to lack of fishermen, a single fisherman caught 1 limit of bass, all other fishing has been slow

GRANBURY: Water clear, 70 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good in numbers to 5 pounds 7 ounces on shad colored cranks, striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish very good to 3 pound on chicken liver sand shrimp.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water slightly murky, 68 degrees, 10 1/2 feet low; black bass are fairly good in the 4-5 pound range on topwaters, worms and cranks, Jigs and Pigs, striper fairly good in numbers but most below 18 inches a few to 11 pounds, crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good to 25 fish per string on topwaters when schooling, slabs good off the bottom; catfish slow.

PROCTOR Water murky, 69 degrees, 3 feet below conservation pool; black bass are very slow, some on deep running cranks worms and jigs; striper slow; crappie fair in 15 feet of water over brush piles on minnows, channel catfish good on trotlines baited with shad.

SPENCE: Water clear, 65 degrees, 22 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on spinners and plastic worms; striper good in number in the 5-8 pound range on large shiners and trolling Hellbenders and jigs; crappie slow; white bass good on chartreuse colored slabs; catfish good on trotline to 4 pounds average on nightcrawlers.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear 65 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fair to 4.67 pounds on buzz baits many near 3 pounds on large minnows; crappie slow to 20 fish per string to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass slow to 3 1/2 pounds and some limits on minnows; channel catfish good to 11 pounds on trotline baited with perch; blue catfish are fairly good in numbers to 33 pounds on trotline baited with perch.

WHITE RIVER: Water slightly off color 6 feet low; black bass fair; crappie fair but small in size; white bass fairly good; catfish fairly good; walleye have been fair on minnows

#### COASTAL

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish have been excellent in numbers most have been oversized, many busted lines with many fishermen going to 25 pound test monofilament line. Keeper redfish were between 7 - 8 1/2 pounds on dead shrimp, strawberry colored, pink and white touts most caught over the shell reefs in the south end of the lake early and late, speck fishing has been fair wind has been high which has kept birds away but there were some catches made to 5 pounds; flounder have been good to 5 pounds, most have been caught by the bridge on mud minnows, croaker and drum have been slow. Water conditions are good; live bait shrimp is not available but mud minnows are.

GALVESTON A few oversized reds caught at San Luis Pass and at the end of the jetties, some redfish are caught in the bays but most of these are too small to keep; trout are scattered, a few to 6 pounds in Trinity and East Bays flounder run still going but slowing down in number, some strings to 6 fish to 4 pounds each on live mud minnows; croaker run unpredictable, most caught along the beach front with whitening; offshore has been producing good numbers of 5 pound snappers, some to 10 pounds one group of bonito caught; live bait shrimp available good numbers of geese flying from Brazoria

County over the island to feeding areas in Jefferson and Liberty Counties during the night.

PALACIOS: Rains last weekend forced redfish out of the rivers and muddied up the bays; East Bay, South Bay and Turtle bays producing fairly good numbers of trout though most are undersized; fishing should improve with the first norther. Trout are biting best at night on trout rigs.

PORT OCONNOR Redfish have been good to 28 inches with some undersized; about 3 out of 4 redfish caught at the jetties are too big to keep; trout are good to 20 inches in the back bays, Pringle Lake, Bill Day's Reef, a 26-inch trout was caught in Pringle Lake; flounder have been good with commercial fishing boats catching up to 300 fish; hook and line fishermen are bringing in fair numbers of flounder to 5 pounds, most in the 2-3 pound range, fairly good numbers of golden croakers around old Saluria as well as from the jetties, live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Redfish have been good to 28 inches with many oversized fish caught in Redfish Bay, South Bay around Hog Island and Steadman Flats; good numbers of trout caught on the outside beach at Traylor Island; flounder have been good around North Pass with a gig; flounder beginning to show up around the Ferry Landing in Port Aransas, some live bait available at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish have been good in numbers in the 24-26 inch range in South Bay and along Lydia Ann Channel on the west side between the lighthouse and Morse Cummings Cut; a few trout landed while fishing for croaker; a few sandtrout and gafftop are beginning to show; live bait shrimp available at \$7 per quart in Aransas Pass. Horace Caldwell Pier fishing has been slow due to lack of fishermen and high winds, a few trout and a few big redfish were caught over the weekend; tides out.

CORPUS CHRISTI Redfish in good numbers all over Laguna Madre, Corpus Christi Bay, Baffin Bay, in the surf with good numbers of limits, still many throwbacks on live shrimp, artificials; trout fair to 3 pounds on live shrimp in Laguna Madre, a few flounder to 5 pounds showing up around the Intracoastal, golden croaker are slowing down; live bait shrimp are available but getting scarce again.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fairly good numbers of redfish to 45 inches with a good number of keepers also at the jetties, good numbers of redfish south of the East Cut on spoons and touts, trout fishing has been slow due to high winds, winds have stirred up the waters; live bait shrimp are available at \$10 per quart. Offshore fishing is slow due to winds.

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish have been fairly good to 7 1/2 pound south of Unnecessary Island, on the flats north of Three Islands, trout have been good to 6 1/2 pounds south of the gas wells and east of Three Islands; flounder slow; offshore activity has been slow due to winds; live bait shrimp at \$10 per quart.

PH 11/09/88