

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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OUTSTANDING QUAIL SEASON PREDICTED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- Texas quail hunters who pine for the "good old days" should perhaps make plans to hunt their favorite game bird during the upcoming hunting season Nov. 7-Feb. 28.

"It looks as though we're going to have one of the best quail seasons in years," said Don Wilson, quail program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Quail counts are an all-time high in South Texas and the Rolling Plains, and quail populations statewide have made a dramatic comeback from the low counts of 1984."

The quail picture has improved to the point that the Parks and Wildlife Commission set the quail daily bag limit at 16 birds for the upcoming season. The possession limit is 48.

South Texas, which traditionally has the highest bobwhite quail populations of the state's ecological regions, is enjoying an outstanding year for the first time since 1982, Wilson said. "During 1984, quail populations hit rock bottom in South Texas, as they did in most other parts of the state. In 1985 the birds had good nesting conditions, but the

numbers of mature quail were so low that recovery was not possible in one production year," he said. Another good production year in 1986 set the stage for the 1987 quail boom, as a mild winter and ample rainfall spurred excellent production, he said.

The Cross-Timbers region, which is roughly between Fort Worth and Abilene in West Texas, benefited from the same favorable weather conditions during the past two years to produce a bumper quail crop this year. Wilson said the average count of 34 birds per route this year was twice the long-term average.

Quail in the Rolling Plains of West Texas have undergone perhaps the most remarkable recovery. Wilson noted that freeze and drought conditions in 1983-84 depressed quail populations to disturbing lows, averaging four birds per route during 1984 census work.

"Landowners in that area were worried that there were no quail left to reproduce," Wilson said. However, improved habitat conditions raised the count to 13 birds per route in 1985. By 1986, counts increased to a mean of 29 birds, which was above the long-term average of 22. This year's count is again around 29 birds per route.

Blue quail populations also are on the rise in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas, Wilson said. The average of 24 birds is more than double the long-term average and comparable to the all-time record of 34 set in 1977. "This is another region where quail populations were virtually at rock bottom in 1984," Wilson said. "Most counts that year found no quail at all. By 1985, the mean was four birds, and by 1986 it was eight. Suddenly

in 1987 it jumped to 24 "

"It's difficult to make predictions about hunting in a state like Texas, because there are so many variations in weather and habitat," Wilson said, "but overall it appears that the conditions are right for an excellent quail season over most of the state this year "

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QUAIL PROSPECTS EXCELLENT
AT CHAPARRAL WMA

ARTESIA WELLS -- Public quail hunts will be offered at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Chaparral Wildlife Management Area beginning Saturday (Oct 17), and hunting prospects appear excellent, officials said

Area manager David Synatzske said quail hunts will be offered each weekend through January, with four continuous days of hunting during the Thanksgiving weekend Nov 26-29

Hunters must register at the check station located off FM 133, eight miles west of Artesia Wells in LaSalle County

Synatzske said quail counts indicate unprecedented populations of bobwhite quail on the 15,000-acre management area "Populations have increased from well below one quail per mile in 1984 to the current level of more than 16 per mile, an 80-fold increase in three years," said Synatzske The count is double that of the next-highest count, made in 1972, he added

Hunters are required to wear blaze orange vests, and a \$5 per day fee is charged to hunt. Hunters are encouraged to bring dogs, but they also are warned that rattlesnakes occur on the area.

Dove hunting is currently being offered on weekends through Nov 14, and from Jan 2-10. Weekend hunt periods from Oct 17 through Nov 14 will offer both dove and quail hunting for the same \$5 daily fee.

Further information is available in the publication "Hunting Opportunities on Texas Parks and Wildlife Type I Wildlife Management Areas," available from TPWD offices.

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HUNTERS REMINDED OF TYPE
II HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

AUSTIN -- With hunting seasons just around the corner, many Texas hunters may still be without a place to hunt.

The state offers an alternative to hunters who have been unable to find an affordable hunting lease this year. For \$35, they can purchase a Type II Wildlife Management Area Permit which gives them access to 46 units totaling 413,000 acres in various parts of the state.

The annual permits are sold at most Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offices. The permits come with a map booklet showing locations, regulations and other information to guide the hunter in selecting an area to hunt.

"We currently are selling about 389 permits a day, and the total has now passed the 18,000 mark," said Charles Allen, director of the TPWD's Wildlife Division. "At this rate we will reach the maximum capacity of 23,000 permits by November." He explained that permit sales will be limited to a number equal to one permit per 15 acres available under the Type II program.

"We feel the Type II system offers an easy and economical opportunity for Texas hunters to go hunting," said Allen. "They can hunt a variety of species in a variety of habitats, from East Texas woodlands to Trans-Pecos brushlands."

Hunters may locate the Parks and Wildlife Department office nearest them by checking the back of the 1987-88 Hunting Guide, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112.

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CEDAR BAYOU FISH PASS
OPENING CELEBRATED

FULTON -- The reopening of Cedar Bayou was celebrated recently in a dedication ceremony at the pass between Matagorda and San Jose Islands.

The 60-foot-wide and six-foot-deep channel was opened on Sept. 19, and dredging operations were completed on Sept. 25, according to Dale Robinson, chief of planning and development for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Parks Division.

The opening represents a victory for Save Cedar Bayou, Inc , a group of local fishermen who raised \$101,250 to finance the dredging and associated construction costs. Survey and engineering assistance was provided by the TPWD, Robinson said

Cedar Bayou Fish Pass connects Mesquite Bay to the Gulf of Mexico and is the dividing line between Aransas County and San Jose Island to the south and Calhoun County and Matagorda Island to the north

The pass was first dredged in 1959, and it quickly developed a reputation as a fishing hotspot. However, by the late 1970s sandbars had limited the passage of water and the bayou's productivity faded, according to Tom Heffernan, director of field operations for the TPWD's Coastal Fisheries branch. In 1979, the Gulf end of the pass was purposely closed to prevent oil from the Ixtoc I oil spill from entering Mesquite Bay and polluting the winter feeding grounds of endangered whooping cranes at nearby Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

The pass was reopened by high tides from Hurricane Allen in 1980, but constantly building sandbars finally closed the Gulf end by September 1985.

Efforts to reopen the pass were begun in January 1985 by a delegation from Aransas County supported by State Representatives Ted Roberts and Hugo Berlanga and then State Sen John Sharp. The group asked the Parks and Wildlife Commission for funds to reopen the pass. The commission was in favor of the project, but funding was not available.

Roberts organized a local task force named "Save Cedar Bayou Inc " in

April 1985 The organization, headed by Mrs. Jan McGlassen of Lamar, launched a fundraising campaign

Spoil disposal areas for the dredged material was provided on San Jose Island by Perry R Bass, owner of the island and active supporter of the project

The project also benefited from state legislation supported by Roberts and Berlanga, exempting the Cedar Bayou project from a state fee charged for material taken from state bottoms and placed on private land This saved the project approximately \$70,000, Heffernan said

In addition to enhancing sport fishing, the Cedar Bayou pass will allow the movement of blue crabs, shrimp and finfish back and forth from Mesquite Bay to the Gulf Blue crabs are a main component of the whooping crane diet and the influx of postlarval crabs from the Gulf to the Aransas NWR area will aid in supporting the increased number of cranes, Heffernan said

Fishermen are reminded that Cedar Bayou is a fish pass, and as such boats are not allowed within 2,800 feet of the Gulf mouth Signs have been placed by the TPWD to mark the points Access to the banks of the bayou is allowed by the U S Fish & Wildlife Service on the north side, and by San Jose Island Ranch on the south side Brent Geisentauner, refuge manager at Aransas, said overnight camping will be permitted on the Gulf beach area north of the Cedar Bayou channel No other camping areas are open, and camping is not permitted on the south bank, he said

OPINION SURVEY MAILED TO
TEXAS FISHERMEN

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials hope to learn more about the economic impacts of freshwater fishing in the state through an extensive opinion survey now underway

"We are interested in what motivates a person to go fishing, and what factors the fisherman considers necessary for a successful fishing trip," said Dr Steve Gutreuter, research specialist

The statewide attitude and opinion survey has been mailed to about 11,000 fishing license holders, both resident and nonresident, according to Gutreuter

Gutreuter said the survey booklet includes questions not only about equipment and expenses associated with fishing, but also anglers' attitudes about a variety of subjects such as how the state's fisheries are being managed and regulated

"We hope fishermen will take the time to respond to this survey, because it should help us do a better job serving the anglers' needs," Gutreuter said

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PUBLIC PHEASANT HUNTS SET
FOR BUFFALO LAKE

UMBARGER -- U S Fish & Wildlife Service officials have announced a series of public pheasant hunts to be held at Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge during December

Prospective hunters have until Nov 6 to submit applications To obtain an application form, send your name, address and daytime telephone number of Buffalo Lake NWR, P O Box 228, Umbarger, TX 79091

As many as 200 persons will be authorized to hunt, officials said

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AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for October 14, 1987.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 3 pounds on purple Fat Getzit; hybrid striper slow; crappie slow; catfish good to 35 pounds on juglines, mostly in the 5-8 pound range, on live perch and stinkbait.

BELTON: Water clear, normal level very little fishing activity.

BROWNWOOD Water stained, 11 inches below spillway; black bass slow to 7 pounds, but mostly undersized on Stanley jigs with trailers; striper slow; crappie excellent with limits fairly easy to get on minnows; white bass fair around midnight on slabs and L'il Georges; catfish good drifting to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on topwaters; striper fair to 14 pounds on white jigs; crappie slow; white bass fair with strings to 35 fish on Crazy Shad; catfish fair on trotlines to 11 pounds on goldfish and shad.

CANYON: Water clear, 78 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; largemouth bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on dark worms and cranks. smallmouth bass good to 3 pounds on 4 inch dark worms in 8-18 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good on minnows with a fair number of limits; white bass fair to 15 fish per string on slabs; catfish good to 5 1/4 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 77 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good to 9 pounds on DB-3, clear Zara Spooks, PopR and

Rat-L-Traps. crappie fair at night under lights on minnows; catfish good to 17 pounds at night on juglines, smaller fish caught on rod and reel. A 3-pound, 14-ounce Rio Grande perch was caught October 10 by Richard Armstrong of Houston on a DB-3 fish was 17 1/2 inches long and had an 18 inch girth.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water slightly off color, 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good with numbers of 4 pound fish within the slot, on minnows, largest fish for week was 9 1/2 pounds. crappie fairly good with some limits in 12 feet of water on minnows. catfish good in 12-13 feet of water on juglines baited with shad, and on rods and reels baited with liver.

LBJ: Water murky, 81 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on yellow spinners. striper fair to 8 pounds on silver Hot N Tots; crappie slow; white bass fair with strings to 30 fish on silver cranks; catfish fair in the 2-10 pound range on goldfish and stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 5 feet low; black bass slow on rod and reel, three black bass to 7 pounds, 2 ounces caught on a trotline baited with goldfish; crappie fair to 12 fish per string on minnows good numbers of catfish to 7 pounds on minnows and stinkbait.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, normal level black bass fair to 3 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on jigs and minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 5 pounds on nightcrawlers.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level black bass very good to 3 1/2 pounds on purple firetailed worms, buzz baits with white skirts; white bass good to 1 1/4 pounds; hybrid striper slow; crappie good at night around marina and around dam to 15 fish per string on minnows; catfish good to 4 pounds on trotline with cutbait and Tender Chunk dog food.

TRAVIS Water clear, 78 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass excellent with limits to 3 3/4 pounds on chrome Crazy Shad, Tiny Torpedoes, chartreuse spinners, strawberry worms, fishing under and around boat houses productive; white bass schooling around bluffs and points; crappie good on minnows in brush in about 20 feet of water.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 73 degrees, 4 1/4 feet low; black bass good from 2 1/2 to 5 pounds with limits on buzz baits and spinners in the creeks, around bluffs and in the mossy flats; striper slow to good but most small to around 6 pounds. crappie good on minnows with some limits. white bass slow; catfish good to 28

pounds on goldfish by state park; channel catfish fair and small.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 68 degrees, 16 inches low; black bass fair to good to 5 1/2 pounds on chartreuse and white spinners with large copper spinners, Rogues and Zara Spooks near the shore in shallow water; crappie excellent with limits of good sized fish in 20 feet of water around brush piles in the creeks on minnows; white bass and hybrid striper slow; catfish slow. Bream good to 100 hand sized fish to 1/2 pound each in 8 feet of water around moss beds on EuroLarvae.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 73 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on dark worms and cranks. striper slow; crappie good under bridges and the railroad trestle with some limits on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on buzz baits, topwaters; striper slow; crappie good with limits fairly easy on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 1/2 pounds on shrimp.

CADDO: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 2 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in the river bed; white bass slow; catfish fair to 1 3/4 pounds on shrimp baited trotline.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 74 degrees, 34 inches low; black bass fair and spotty on black metal flake worms and shad colored cranks in 10 feet of water; striper good to 8 pounds from within schooling white bass. crappie good around stumps and bridges on minnows. white bass very good with surfacing common in the afternoon around points on chartreuse Rooster Tails.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 68 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass good to 5 1/4 pounds on jig and pig; crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and chartreuse jigs; catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp and minnows.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 94 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 7 1/4 pounds on dark worms; catfish fair on trotlines to 6 pounds on tilapia; redbass slow.

FORK: Water clear, 70 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 10 1/4 pounds on white spinners, Bang-O-Lures, plum colored worms; crappie good to 3 1/2 pounds and 17 inches long on minnows; catfish good to 18 pounds on nightcrawlers on rod and reel and shrimp on trotline.

GRAPEVINE: Water slightly off color, 5 feet low; black bass good numbers of 12-13 inch fish on Sassy Shad and plastic worms, few keepers. striper slow; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows. white bass slow. catfish good to 3 pounds on stinkbaits and shrimp.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level. black bass fairly good to 5 1/4 on worms, frogs and spinners; with some limits and good numbers of undersized fish; crappie good with limits in 10 feet of water on minnows. white bass good to 3 pounds on Roadrunner jigs, Rat-L-Traps and white jigs. catfish slow.

LAVON: Water clear, 70 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass improved to 6 1/2 pounds on spinners; hybrid striper fair to 9 pounds on slabs. crappie very good to 20 fish per string to 1 pound each on minnows; white bass fair in great numbers to 1 pound on slabs; catfish very good to excellent to 13 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline baited with shad gizzards.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 70 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on plum worms; striper slow; crappie real good in 12 feet of water on jigs with several limits; white bass schooling late afternoon on clear topwaters; catfish good in the shallows on shrimp.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass fair in the moss to 4 pounds on L'il Georges and worms. striper slow; crappie fair with strings to 6 fish around intake; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds black worms and stick baits. crappie poor; catfish good to 9 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 5 pounds, 10 ounces on grape and black worms, a few others caught on cranks and topwaters. crappie picking up to 1 1/2 pounds around 1971 bridge on small minnows catfish fair to 4 pounds on trotline with cut shad.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 69 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 10 pounds on Tiny Torpedo, few small fish and a few within the slot; crappie slow due to lack of fishermen; catfish slow due to lack of fishermen.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 71 degrees, 16 inches low; black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds on dark worms; striper fair to 7 pounds on crank baits; crappie fairly good but no limits on minnows; white bass fair on cranks to 20 fish per string; catfish good to 20 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline on catalpa worms and nightcrawlers.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 68 degrees, 41 inches low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners; striper good to 6 pounds on Hellbenders and jigs; crappie good with limits to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows white bass fair to 20 fish per string on slabs; catfish good drifting shrimp to 6 1/4 pounds.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 75 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on dark worms; striper good to 14 pounds on slabs; crappie improving in deeper waters on minnows and jigs; white bass fair to 2 pounds on slabs; channel catfish good to 1 1/2 pounds on shrimp.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 75 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on cranks; striper good to 6 pounds on topwaters and slabs; crappie good on live minnows with limits fairly easy to catch; white bass good to 25 fish per string on slabs and topwaters; catfish fair to 4 pounds on rod and reel with shrimp.

WELSH: Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on June Bug worms; all other fishing slow.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 71 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to good to 5 pounds on plum, red and white, smoke worms on deep running cranks bounced off brush, some in 5-12 feet of water and in 18-22 feet; deeper water most productive; fish seem to be biting best in the solunar major feeding periods; hybrid striper and white bass slow; crappie slow but good sized; channel catfish good to 3 pounds, blue catfish slow to 6 pounds on nightcrawlers, cut shad and prepared stinkbait.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 pounds, 12 ounces on silver Rat-L-Trap and a Long A; crappie go to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow to 8 pounds.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 72 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass slow; striper fairly good while fishing for white bass, few caught intentionally; crappie picking up and moving into shallows in 2 1/2-4 feet of water with several strings of 20 fish on minnows; white bass spotty, fish have moved off points back into deeper water, not much schooling; catfish good in the 2-4 pound range; many limits of catfish on rod and reel and trotline.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 70 degrees, 4 feet below pool level. black bass good to 6 pounds in 6-10 feet of water along the edges of the hydrilla patches; striper slow; crappie real good in submerged brush in 18-25 feet of water but fish caught around 15 feet of water in the tree tops; white bass fair with some schooling up the Angelina around the Angelina River Bridge, no great numbers; catfish good in river beds in 30-35 feet of water on Catfish Charly and nightcrawlers.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level black bass picking up to 4 pounds on purple or grape worms, chartreuse and white spinners fished in 10-15 feet around moss beds; striper schooling in the afternoon when the water is calm along the river beds between Texas Island and the dam, many limits on Boy Howdy Jumpers with clear head or pearl colored with black back; white bass slow; a few catfish, not many fishermen.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, normal level. black bass very good to 3 pounds mostly on red and purple worms with white tails, buzz baits good early; striper good to 5 pounds, the larger striper should be good in 2 to 3 weeks; crappie slow; white bass

schooling in the San Pedro area and around the dam; catfish good in 75-80 feet of water on cheese bait, shrimp and worms.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 80 degrees, normal level. black bass good in numbers but too small to keep on dark worms; striper good to 1 1/2 pounds on chicken liver; crappie slow; catfish good in numbers but fairly small in size on shrimp, shad and tilapia; redfish excellent to 23 1/2 inches on tilapia from the bank; corvina slow. Lake will close on first Monday of December to the first Saturday of February.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 75 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass very good to 7 pounds on cranks and plastic worms; striper slow to 3 pound average on silver spoons and tilapia; crappie slow; catfish good to 25 pounds on plastic worms; orange mouth good to 8 pounds on shad and cranks; redfish slow.

CHOKER. Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level. black bass excellent to 7 pounds on blue and grape white tail worms in 17 to 20 feet of water off the points. striper slow; crappie excellent with easy limits on minnows under the bridge at Possum Creek and around 99 bridge; white bass slow; catfish excellent to 50 pounds on trotline with live bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level. black bass fair but most undersized, a few between 16-20 inches on dark worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie good to around 1 pound to 30 fish per boat on minnows. white bass slow; catfish fair with scattered fish to 2 pounds on stinkbait.

CORPUS CHRISTI Water clear, normal level. black bass good on dark worms. striper fair to 7 1/2 pounds on shrimp; crappie good at night under lights with some limits; catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp baited trotlines.

FALCON: Water clear, 1 foot high; black bass fair with some limits on plum colored worms; striper fair on lower end of lake around state park in the 3-6 pound range on Blakemore Knockers; white bass plentiful all over the lake on white slabs and Blakemore Knocker spoons. catfish good to 3 pounds on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good in 2-8 pound range on live bait with trotline in Bob's Cove and Antone's Hollow areas.

TEXANA: Water slightly murky, 79 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly slow with a few keepers during the week on spinners and buzz baits. striper and white bass slow; crappie fair and scattered on minnows. catfish fairly good to 16 pounds on trotlines baited with cut shad.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clearing, 72 degrees, normal level. black bass fair in 1-5 feet of water to 4 pounds on black worms. striper slow; crappie good to 20 fish per string on minnows and jigs around new fishing pier in state park and around bridges and derricks. white bass fair on minnows around the piers; catfish good drifting minnows and shrimp as well as a few from the bank.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass excellent to 5 pounds, 1 ounce on spinners, buzz baits and worms. hybrid striper slow in deeper water; crappie excellent to 2 pounds with fairly easy limits on minnows; white bass good on silver or shiny baits to 20 fish per string; catfish excellent to 28 pounds on perch.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level. black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners or live baits; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass plentiful and good sized; catfish good to 38 pounds on live bait; walleye beginning to hit in about 12 feet of water on minnows, nightcrawlers and yellow and white jigs.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 76 degrees, 13 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 8 pounds on dark plastic worms; striper good to 10 pounds on slabs and Pencil Poppers while fishing for white bass; crappie real good with easy limits of 25 fish on minnows. white bass good when schools are located; catfish fairly good to 5 pounds on stinkbait in baited holes.

PROCTOR: Water clear, 76 degrees, 5 feet below conservation level. black bass good to 5 pounds on dark plastic worms with white tails; striper slow; crappie fair on green jigs and minnows in good numbers but no limits. catfish fair on trotlines baited

with shad.

SPENCE: Water clear, 76 degrees, 18 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on buzz baits spinners and worms; striper fair to 12 pounds on topwaters and live perch; crappie good with some limits on minnows; white bass fair to 12 fish per string; catfish fair on trotline baited with minnows and stinkbait.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, normal level black bass good but generally small on spinners and worms; striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows with strings to 90 fish; white bass slow; catfish good to 3 pounds to 8 fish per string on stinkbait and shrimp.

COASTAL

SABINE LAKE: Redfish good at night to 7 pounds behind Sydnese Island and Stewart's Island on dead shrimp; good numbers of trout but most are still undersized; birds working some; tides have been high very early or very late; good numbers of trout around East Pass to 1 1/2 pounds with many throwbacks sheephead improving to 4 pounds south of Sydnese Islands; drum good to 5 pounds and flounder to 3 pounds; golden croaker and some sand trout caught; live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Big numbers of oversized redfish in the 40 pound class from beach front pier, around the jetties and in the surf; golden croaker plentiful from the Gulf Coast piers, more than 900 croaker caught this past week from the pier; flounder plentiful but mostly restaurant sized; bigger flounder in ship channels, around San Luis Pass, Rollover Pass, several to 4 pounds; croaker full of eggs; speck fishing reasonably good along the south side of East Bay; West Bay producing good numbers of specks but 4 out of 5 too small to keep; keeper redfish good in East and West Bays; offshore fairly slow; live bait shrimp available; number of fishermen down in general; a few pintail ducks in, no geese. No Galveston fishing report next week.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish fair to 2 1/2 pounds in the back bays on live shrimp; not many fishermen mid week due to low tides; live bait available at \$9.50 per quart.

PALACIOS: Redfish good with many in the 26-29 inch range on finger mullet and trout rigs in Oyster Lake, Carancahua Bay; trout are more plentiful with many in the 16-18 inch range on live shrimp, trout rigs, touts; flounder plentiful all over area; live bait shrimp available. Good numbers of mourning dove.

ROCKPORT: Redfish slow, some in Copano Bay on live bait and spoons; a few redfish to 9 pounds south of Hog Island and right off Corpus Christi Bayou; good numbers of trout to 5 pounds in Copano Bay, most fish around 2 pounds; golden croaker beginning to run along the Lydia Ann shore line near the light house. Live bait available at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish fairly good the 24-25 inch range in Redfish Bay, around Lydia Ann Channel and the Intracoastal, the east end of the Morris Cummings Cut producing good numbers of specks to 18 inches; some flounder along the edges of St. Joe Island. live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart. Horace Caldwell Pier producing a good number of drum in the 3-5 pound range; croaker beginning to run, some whiting and some small trout being caught; flounder fairly good in back bays on finger mullet. Live bait shrimp available.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of redfish to 30 inches and more around the Kennedy Causeway flats; large schools of fish located but they are hard to catch; fishermen can catch 1 or 2 fish but others won't hit; Landcut and Baffin Bay producing a fair number of redfish, trout and flounder. From the Kennedy Causeway south to Bird Basin there have been many large golden croaker to 24 inches; Live bait shrimp beginning to pick up; dead shrimp still scarce. Oso Pier fishing fairly slow midweek. Bob Hall Pier producing trout to 4 pounds in fairly good numbers, a few limits, averaging about 17 inches. a few redfish to 7 pounds a few flounder to 5 pounds, average about 2 pounds on live finger mullet or mud minnows; some black tipped shark to 4 feet; golden croaker beginning to run; Spanish mackerel fair on end of pier to 3 pounds. The flats around the boat hole producing good numbers of redfish to 30 inches on gold spoons and gold Mir-O-Lures.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish to 28 inches beginning to hit in the shallow water on small quarter ounce gold spoons; trout fishing

still fairly slow; no live bait shrimp available; fairly good numbers of fishermen out; fairly good numbers of redfish but few trout.

PORT ISABEL: Fairly good numbers of redfish to 8 pounds in the Three Islands area on live shrimp and red plastic worms; some redfish to 29 inches in the surf day and night on live shrimp, frozen shrimp, live mullet; jetties producing Spanish mackerel and kingfish; trout fairly good but not large; live bait shrimp plentiful

PH 10/14/87