

texas parks & wildlife news

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In the April 9, 1993, issue:

Lunker Program Moves To Parks And Wildlife Foundation.....	1
Zebra Mussels Could Cause Problem In Texas Waters.....	2
New Fees Set For Hueco Tanks.....	4
Whitetail Rehabilitation Study Ongoing.....	5
Latin American Biologists To Tour Texas.....	7
Three More Big Game Award Banquets Set	8
North Texans Still Believe Some State Parks Closed.....	11
Volunteers Build Guzzlers On Sierra Diablo WMA	12
Deer Regulations Maps	
Texas Big Game Award Regions Map	
Fishing Report	

LUNKER PROGRAM MOVES TO PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

AUSTIN--The Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker program is being renamed Share A Lunker Inc. and will become a program of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc., it was announced April 2.

The Boards of Trustees of Share A Lunker Inc. and Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc. have given unanimous consent to plans to house the operation of the lunker program at the new Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center to be built in Athens.

The changes were made in name and operation to allow close coordination of resource use and development of the program, said Kurt Kalkomey, board president of Share A Lunker Inc. "This is an unusual opportunity for growth in the Share A Lunker program, which continues to be aimed at promoting education and genetic research to increase the production, size and quality of Florida largemouth bass."

The \$16 million hatchery will feature an educational center, a historical museum, a Texas Fishing Hall of Fame and a new super hatchery with the latest in fish production and rearing technology, Kalkomey said. Share A Lunker Inc. and Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc. will work closely together in raising funds for the center.

The lunker program accepts largemouth bass weighing at least 13 pounds caught from Dec. 1 through April 30 each year. The fish are studied and allowed to spawn, if possible. When the department is finished with the fish it is turned over to the angler, who usually returns the fish to the lake. The angler receives a fiberglass replica of his catch.

"This affiliation will broaden and expand the potential to develop the Share A Lunker program, thus enabling future program goals to be met," he said. "We are looking forward to the opening of the center."

LW 4/9/93

ZEBRA MUSSELS COULD CAUSE PROBLEM IN TEXAS WATERS

AUSTIN--If zebra mussels make their way up the Red River into Lake Texoma, officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fear the tiny shellfish could spread rapidly into the Trinity River and across the state through a water transfer system stretching from the Oklahoma-bordering lake to Lake Lavon.

The zebra mussel, which has caused problems in the Great Lakes, has migrated as far south as Mississippi and Arkansas and could reach Texas waters soon. To date, none have been reported in Texas waters.

Zebra mussels live in freshwater but attach to solid objects like some marine mussels. They are a fouling organism, like marine barnacles. Native Texas freshwater mussels bury in the bottom.

The problem with zebra mussels is that they cover anything they can attach themselves to, he said. They multiply so rapidly and cling so tightly that they can clog industrial and municipal water pipes, lines and power plant intakes and attach to boats, trailers, docks and other objects.

TPWD officials are concerned that once these mussels, which average about 1-inch in size, reach Texoma they can travel through a water transfer system that carries water to Lake Lavon for use by several suburbs and small cities near Dallas.

In 1986, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted permission to the North Texas Municipal Water District, which also provides water to Dallas, to transfer 84,000 acre feet of water annually from Texoma to Lavon, said Rollin MacRae, TPWD wetland resources program leader. Listed as conditions of the permit were requirements to address the department's concern of any living organisms being transferred along with the water.

"We suggested very fine screens on the water intake system," he said. "We wanted to know if anything was getting through. We wanted to see if anything was in the creek that wasn't there already."

The water district built a pipeline that stretches 25 miles from Texoma to Sister Grove Creek, a tributary of the Trinity River. The water would then flow into Lake Lavon in Collin County. Bruce Hysmith, inland fisheries district biologist in Denison, said the water transfer system has been built and tested, but has not been used yet.

"It's operational but they haven't needed it yet," he said, "because of all of the rain the past few years." Screens usually are used to filter out fish, eggs and larger invertebrates.

"Any water transfer that would speed up zebra mussels in state waters we will want to look at," MacRae said. "They may get here eventually; they may not. They are so small that I'm not sure we have anything effective to keep them from moving to another water body."

These filter-feeding animals, which may reach densities of more than 90,000 per square foot, have negative environmental impacts, too. They may completely cover native mussels and other animals, compete for food with desirable native species, alter the food chain and they can change aquatic habitats and communities. Zebra mussels consume food needed by zooplankton, which in turn is eaten by small game and forage fishes.

"It's very worrisome. It looks real bad in the Great Lakes," MacRae said. "I suppose if zebra mussels were detected in Lake Texoma or upstream in the Red River we would try to stop the project." He said there are a couple of very expensive ways that could solve the water transfer problem, one being to sterilize the water along the way.

Although their arrival may be imminent, boaters and anglers can help prevent their transportation to Texas. Inspect boats and trailers, destroying any zebra mussels found. Drain bilges, live wells and bait buckets. Clean and sterilize them with bleach, then dry before using again. Never transport water from one water body to another.

Zebra mussels have been described as "D"-shaped or boat-shaped with a flat side, unlike other North American freshwater clams and mussels. Their coloration is usually pale yellowish- or greenish-tan with bold black or brown cross bars or zigzag markings like zebra stripes. Some may be completely dark or occasionally completely light colored.

No other native or introduced clams or mussels found in fresh water have a shape and color pattern like the zebra mussel.

Zebra mussels are on the harmful list and may not be legally possessed in Texas.

Anyone who finds a zebra mussel in Texas should contact the Heart of the Hills Research Station, HC 07, Box 62, Ingram, Texas, or call (210) 866-3356.

LW 4/9/93

NEW FEES SET FOR HUECO TANKS

EL PASO--New per person fees for Hueco Tanks State Historical Park will allow people from all economic backgrounds to enjoy the park while still providing protection for the site's native American rock art.

"With this new fee schedule, we had to strike a balance between equal access and site protection," said Carolyn Scheffer, director of park operations at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "We will continue to monitor the Hueco Tanks situation closely and if vandalism becomes a problem again we have the option to react quickly to return to a more conservative access policy."

The new, permanent fees will replace a 90-day operations plan put in place after the park was closed in November because of severe problems with rock art vandalism. The 90-day plan required every park visitor to have a \$25 Texas Conservation Passport. Before that the daily entrance fee was \$4 per vehicle. During the 90-day period, park employees said there have been no new reports of vandalism, though there have been more wildlife sightings and less litter

TPWD employees also stressed that better visitor education, including a planned back country orientation video, and more volunteer involvement will help protect the site. The new Friends of Hueco Tanks park support group has 25 active members and plans to help lead guided tours and monitor rock art for vandalism.

Standard state park rules regarding adult supervision of minors will remain in effect. Every group of eight minors under age 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

The following fees and rules went into effect April 1

- * Daily per person entrance fees are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 years old and under. Educational group daily entrance fees are 50 cents per person for all students, teachers and chaperons on school-sponsored visits. This will include individuals from colleges, universities and public or private schools offering accredited courses.

- * Entry is free for holders of the Texas Parklands Passport or the Texas Conservation Passport.

- * Entry is free for Tigua Indians coming to the park for ceremonial purposes who have made prior arrangements with the superintendent.

- * Access to the interior of the park will be possible only with a guided tour or special, individual back country permit.

Vehicles, including bicycles, will be prohibited in the west side picnic area. Day-use vehicles will be restricted to designated parking areas. Overflow parking will not be permitted; limit of 60 cars in the park at any time for day use. Camping is permitted in the existing campground at \$9 for sites with water and electricity. Reservations are taken from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (915) 857-1135. All fires must use containerized fuel only. Day use operating hours will be 8 a.m. until dark, when the gates will be closed. All other rules will remain essentially the same.

TH 4/9/93

WHITETAIL REHABILITATION STUDY ONGOING

AUSTIN--Wildlife rehabilitators in Hays and Travis counties, with the help of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, are in the second year of a three-year study concerning the survivability of rehabilitated white-tailed deer fawns when returned to the wild.

The study is designed to look at survival rates by rehabilitation technique, said Roy Welch, TPWD wildlife biologist from Driftwood.

The study began in the spring of 1992 with the rehabilitation and release of 14 fawns. These fawns were cared for by three rehabilitators using different techniques, he said.

Ann Connell of the Driftwood Wildlife Association cared for seven of the 14 fawns. Her technique consists of extremely limited human contact with the fawns after they arrive and their condition is stable. The fawns are housed in a facility that allows them to be cared for until they are ready for release with little possibility of imprinting on humans.

Five of the 14 fawns were raised by Patty Simmon of Wimberley. Simmon's technique allows for limited human contact, primarily while being fed. The fawns also are able to see and hear normal human activities throughout the day. They are not handled.

Cindy Carracio of the Good Day Ranch in Travis County raised two of the fawns. Since the Good Day Ranch facilities are set up for everyday human visitation, the fawns were in constant contact with people. This contact included being part of a small animal petting zoo. These fawns had little fear of humans and became quite tame.

The fawns were released in October at sites near Columbus, Welch said. All were ear tagged, with a different color of tags assigned each rehabilitator. The fawns' survival and movements are being monitored by cooperating landowners at release sites and observation data are taken and sent to the department.

"Social grouping and interaction with resident deer on the release sites, as well as survivability, will be monitored during the course of the study," he said. "We hope to increase the number of rehabilitated fawns this year to about 50, if possible, to facilitate observation."

The department and the rehabilitators have received help from the Acco Feed Company, which has agreed to provide support for the project through the donation of milk replacer and pelleted feed for the fawns. This will allow the rehabilitators to care for more fawns than they would otherwise be able to accommodate. Wimberley Feed and Western Wear has been the supply point for the Acco feeds used in the project.

LW 4/9/93

LATIN AMERICAN BIOLOGISTS TO TOUR TEXAS

AUSTIN--Five biologists, three from Mexico, one from Honduras and one from Venezuela, will tour Texas in April as part of a new international effort to conserve increasingly threatened Neotropical migratory birds.

The 12-day Partners In Flight field course is sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It will give the biologists valuable first-hand information on the nesting grounds of migratory birds that summer in Texas and winter in Latin and South America.

"This is a beginning," said Madge Lindsay of TPWD's wildlife branch. "We are still in the early stages and this is a small group, but our hope is that this will mark the beginning of new era in international cooperation to protect neotrops."

The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. on April 19 at McKinney Falls State Park near Austin. The biologists will attend a combination news conference and field workshop to see nesting sites for the painted bunting, a colorful Neotropical migratory songbird that is commonly seen at the park in spring.

Jane Lyons of the National Audubon Society is the field course leader and will be handling trip logistics. The TPWD Nongame Wildlife Program office is coordinating activities for several of the sites along the field workshop route.

Below is the field course itinerary.

April 19	News Conference and tour at McKinney Falls State Park
April 20	Tour of Travis Audubon Sanctuary, U.T Austin
April 22	Tour of Fort Hood bird research areas
April 23	Drive to High Island bird sanctuary near Galveston
April 24	Tour High Island and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
April 25	Tour High Island and Bolivar peninsula
April 26	Tour Galveston area and Galveston Island State Park
April 27	Tour Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area, southeast of Houston
April 28	Partners In Flight meeting in Galveston, drive to Brownsville
April 29	Tour Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary

April 30	Tour Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area and Santa Anna National Wildlife Refuge
May 1	Tour Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, return to Austin

TH 4/9/93

THREE MORE BIG GAME AWARD BANQUETS SET

AUSTIN--Three regions have scheduled Texas Big Game Awards program banquets for the weekend of April 17-18. The program is designed to recognize quality deer and pronghorn antelope, the hunter and the land manager or owner upon whose land the animal was taken and hunters harvesting their first animal.

The Texas Big Game Awards program, sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Wildlife Association, received 1,317 entries, 1,031 scored entries and 286 entries for first harvest.

Region 5, the Post Oak Savannah area, will have its banquet at 5:30 p.m. on April 17 at the Clements Scout Ranch, south of Athens. The banquet is sponsored by the Henderson County Wildlife Committee. For more information, call (903) 675-6130.

Region 5 received 32 typical whitetail entries, six non-typical whitetail entries and 11 first hunter entries. The top five entries for the Post Oak Savannah region in each category are listed below.

Typical White-tailed Deer

1) James Golden of Chandler, 159 5/8 Boone & Crockett net score, 11 antler points, 17 6/8-inch inside spread, taken in Henderson County; 2) Johnny Haddad of Dallas, 156, 13 points, 17 4/8 inches, Grayson Co., 3) Delbert Sims of Whitesboro, 153 5/8, 10 points, 16 3/8 inches, Grayson Co., 4) Rusty Bell of Elkhart, 146 4/8, 8 points, 15 inches, Anderson Co., 5) Kevin Taliaferro of Scurry, 146, 10 points, 15 2/8 inches, Ellis Co.

Non-typical White-tailed Deer

1) Mike Parker of Lone Oak, 164 5/8, 16 points, 17 1/8 inches, Red River Co., 2) Freddie Gowin of Edgewood, 162 7/8, 15 points, 15 2/8 inches, Grayson Co., Hagerman Wildlife Refuge; 3) Cooper Busch of Canton, 162, 15 points, 19 5/8 inches, Van Zandt Co., 4) Bill King of Broken Arrow, Okla., 155 5/8, 18 points, 20 2/8 inches, Red River Co., 5) Anthony Fry of Bryan, 147 4/8, 13 points, 18 2/8 inches, Madison Co.

First Deer/Pronghorn Award

Some selected entries include Justin Fite of Madisonville, 8 years old, whitetail, Madison Co., Fiteland Farms; Daniel Izzo of The Woodlands, 12, whitetail, Leon Co., Keechi Creek WMA; Donald Preyer of Paris, 12, whitetail, Lamar Co., and Jack Jackson of Richardson, 64, whitetail, Freestone Co.

Region 8, South Texas, has scheduled its banquet for 5 p.m. on April 17 at the J.K. Northway Coliseum in Dick Kleberg Park in south Kingsville. The banquet is sponsored by the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call (512) 592-6438.

Region 8 received 329 typical whitetail entries, 75 non-typical whitetail entries and 43 first hunter entries. The top five entries for the South Texas region in each category are listed below.

Typical White-tailed Deer

1) Phillip Stringer of Humble, 187, 15 points, 26 inches, Zapata Co., Rancho El Barrocito; 2) Robert Bracken of San Antonio, 178 3/8, 12 points, 18 1/8 inches, McMullen Co., Robert Bracken Ranch; 3) Don Brock of Kingsville, 177 5/8, 16 points, 22 5/8 inches, Kleberg Co., King Ranch Inc., 4) W.M. Wheless III of Houston, 175, 14 points, 19 6/8 inches, Maverick Co., 5) Joe Krolczyk of Bryan, 173 2/8, 16 points, 19 7/8 inches, La Salle Co., Pat Welder Camaron.

Non-typical White-tailed Deer

1) Minnie Dora Bunn Haynes of Laredo, 229 6/8, 31 points, 15 2/8 inches, La Salle Co., Colorado Ranch; 2) John Brannan III of Seguin, 199 2/8, 18 points, 19 2/8 inches, Dimmit Co., 3) Mike Oldfather of San Antonio, 197 6/8, 17 points, 19 4/8 inches, Dimmit Co., Oldfather Ranch; 4) Leo Mack Jr. of Tyler, 192 2/8, 15 points, 17 6/8 inches, La Salle Co., Caiman Ranch; 5) Jane Hightower of Tyler, 188 3/8, 16 points, 17 inches, La Salle Co., Caiman Ranch.

First Deer/Pronghorn Award

Some selected entries include Cody Weeks of Kingsville, 4, whitetail, Kleberg Co., King Ranch Inc., Nick Baucum of Robstown, 6, whitetail, Kleberg Co., James Tyler Pawlowski of Bellville, 7, whitetail, Zapata Co., Jamie Bertsch of La Grange, 8, whitetail, Maverick Co., Alison Koehler of Seguin, 9, whitetail, Bee Co., Brien Cullum of Humble, 9, whitetail, Webb Co., Lavon Anderson of Plano, 57, whitetail, Webb Co., Joe Chiddix of Dallas, 62, whitetail, Zavala Co., and Jim Faught of Doss, 65, whitetail, Dimmit Co.

Region 3's banquet will be at 3 p.m. on April 18 at the National Guard Armory in Brownwood. The banquet is sponsored by the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call (915) 646-9535.

Region 3 (Cross Timbers) received 179 typical whitetail entries, 21 non-typical whitetail entries and 74 first hunter entries. The top five entries for the Cross Timbers region in each category are listed below.

Typical White-tailed Deer

1) Gary Sitton of Abilene, 158, 10 points, 18 2/8 inches, Shackelford Co., Hooker Ranch; 2) Byron Hendrix of Arlington, 157 1/8, 10 points, 17 5/8 inches, Tom Green Co., Angelo State University Ranch; 3) Keith Privett of Fort Worth, 155 6/8, 10 points, 18 inches, Shackelford Co., Nail Ranch; 4) Kenneth Baker of Harold, 155 3/8, 10 points, 18 5/8 inches, Wilbarger Co.; 5) Nolan Ryan of Alvin, 153 4/8, 11 points, 16 1/8 inches, Shackelford Co., Stasney's Cook Ranch.

Non-typical White-tailed Deer

1) John Robertson of Arlington, 202 4/8, 20 points, 15 inches, Stephens Co., 2) Randy Wright of Fort Worth, 200, 30 points, 13 6/8 inches, Hamilton Co., Sloan Ranch; 3) James Fischer of San Angelo, 179 6/8, 13 points, 20 6/8 inches, Runnels Co., 4) Reed Sprinkel of Haltom City, 174 6/8, 15 points, 19 3/8 inches, Young Co., 5) Lyle Jeanes II of Dallas, 167 3/8, 14 points, 16 6/8 inches, Throckmorton Co.

First Deer/Pronghorn Award

Some selected entries include Hunter Davis of Iowa Park, 7, whitetail, Runnels Co., David Walker of Jacksboro, 8, whitetail, Taylor Co., Heinze Ranch; Cody Rudd of Euless, 9, whitetail, Concho Co., Timothy Derek Liles of Graham, 9, whitetail, Stephens Co., Tommie Owens of Dallas, 62, whitetail, Hamilton Co., James Smiley Ranch; and Leonard Tavern of De Soto, 67, whitetail, Nolan Co.

The final two award banquets are scheduled for April 24 in Llano and May 1 in Center. For information on the program and upcoming banquets contact TPWD at 1-800-792-1112 or (512) 389-4800. Cities interested in hosting a banquet in 1994 should call TWA's Charly McTee at (210) 826-2904.

LW 4/9/93

NORTH TEXANS STILL BELIEVE SOME STATE PARKS CLOSED

DENISON--Recent comments at state parks in North Texas indicate people in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and elsewhere in the region believe Eisenhower State Park has closed, even though both it and the nearby Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park are open.

"If they keep up this word of mouth, they may yet have me closed," said Mike Gaddis, Eisenhower State Park manager. Gaddis said this half jokingly, but the problem is no laughing matter.

The public confusion began in August when the small, historical park Eisenhower Birthplace in Denison was listed to close as part of statewide budget tightening at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Eisenhower State Park, the large recreational park on Lake Texoma northwest of Denison, was never on the cutback list. Today, both sites are open at full service, though the state historical park is now run by nonprofit Texas Rural Communities, Inc.* (See note below.)

Gaddis said Eisenhower State Park's visitor numbers took a dive in March. Total visitors for the month were 39,220, compared to 46,672 in March 1992. Part of this may have been due to increased rain this March, but Gaddis believes it also is caused by misinformation.

"When I went to the Ray Roberts Lake State Park opening near Denton last weekend, several park managers from the North Texas region told me people were coming in to their sites saying, 'We wish we could go to Eisenhower, but we heard it's closed.' "

Eisenhower State Park is trotting out a great lineup of April events designed to turn the situation around. At 8 p.m. on April 13, visitors can line the lighted banks of Lake Texoma as TPWD biologists demonstrate the latest electrofishing survey techniques and discuss what makes a great lake fishery. At 7:30 p.m. on April 17, a native American family from Oklahoma will share traditional stories and dances of the Choctaw, Crow, Chippewa and other Indian tribes.

Starting at 2 p.m. on April 24, Eisenhower State Park will host a variety of Earth Day events, including a litter pickup and canned food drive co-sponsored by the local McDonald's. The wackiest event is sure to be the Litter Bonnet Competition, an imagination program where people make hats made of litter, which will be judged later in the day. A live animal program will include a baby beaver, a young alligator and several rattlesnakes, courtesy of one of the park rangers, who is also a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

For more information, call (903) 465-1956.

A similar Earth Day bash is planned at the Eisenhower Birthplace from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 24. This will include birdwatching hikes at the nearby Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, a program called How to Make Earth, The Art of Composting by the local agriculture extension agent and a program on how to attract birds and wildlife to your backyard.

For more information, call (903) 465-8908.

* (NOTE: None of the seven Texas state parks originally slated for closure in August 1992 were closed. Almost all of them are now open under new partnership agreements where local communities or other groups are helping to operate them.)

TH 4/9/93

VOLUNTEERS BUILD GUZZLERS ON SIERRA DIABLO WMA

AUSTIN--About 60 members of the Texas Bighorn Sheep Society and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel pooled their knowledge and resources to build two water collection devices during late March in mountains on the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area near Van Horn in West Texas.

The Texas Bighorn Sheep Society donated the materials and most of the labor to build the devices, also called water guzzlers, said Robert West, regional wildlife director from San Angelo. One guzzler was built on Victorio Peak and the other was constructed in a saddle above where David Abbey harvested a sheep in 1990.

Each v-shaped device is designed to catch rain water, then funnel the water into a storage tank from which the flow is regulated by a float valve. Each of these guzzlers has two 2,500-gallon capacity polypropylene holding tanks.

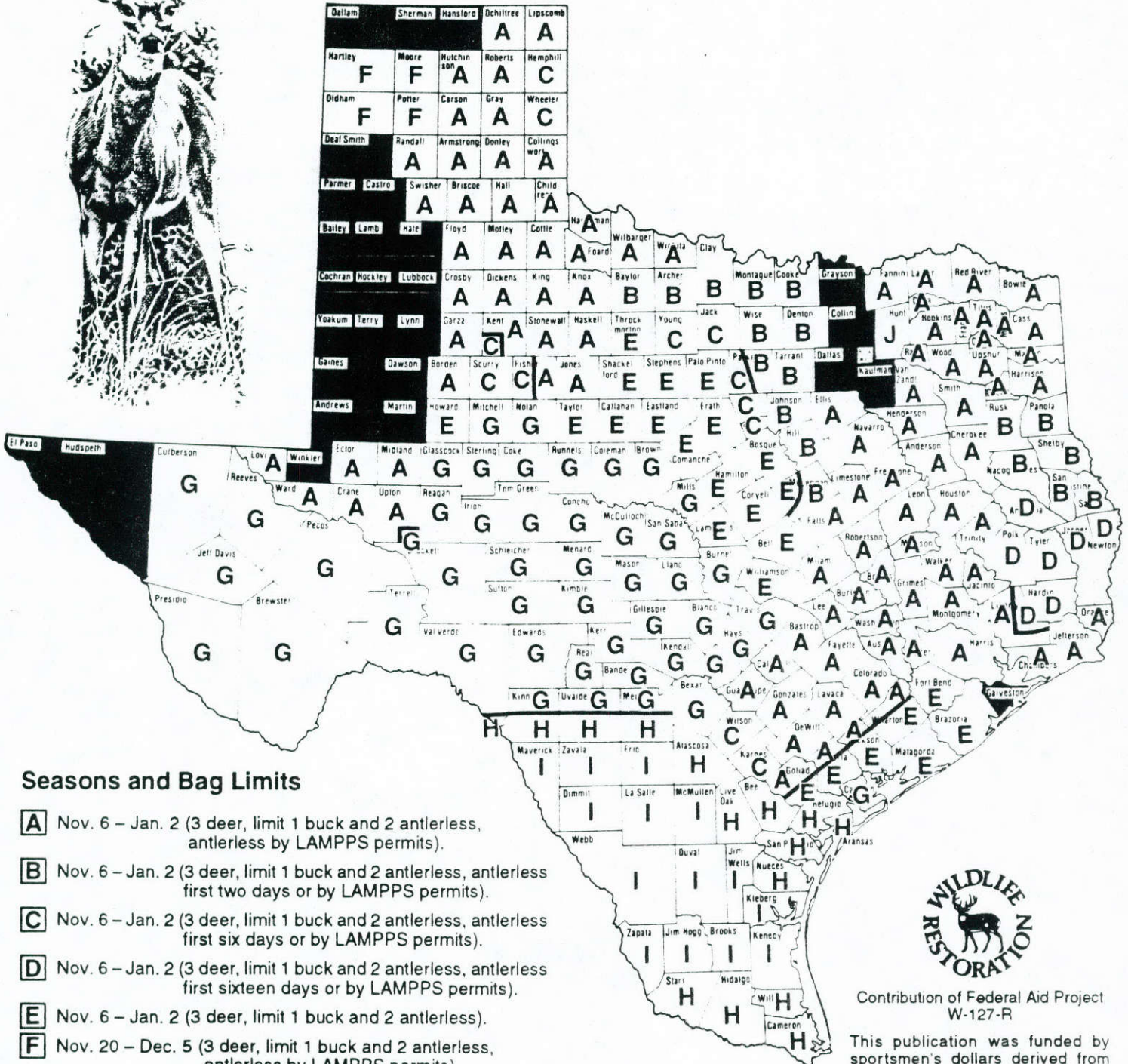
"Sheep frequently are seen in these areas during surveys and both locations are near numerous, heavily-used sheep trails. Several sheep were seen during flights to and from the construction sites," West said. "If summer rains in the Sierra Diablo Mountains are near normal this year, all tanks should fill by August."

The Texas Bighorn Society has been a big help in increasing the number of desert bighorns in the Trans-Pecos since the mid-1980s. The estimated desert bighorn sheep population is 425 animals currently in Texas, but that should increase after this spring's lambing.

"Water at these sites should enhance the ability of the Sierra Diablo WMA to support bighorn sheep," West said. "The elevations of both locations will allow sheep to obtain water without leaving the relative safety of high-quality escape terrain."

LW 4/9/93

WHITE-TAILED DEER REGULATIONS 1993-1994



Seasons and Bag Limits

- A** Nov. 6 – Jan. 2 (3 deer, limit 1 buck and 2 antlerless, antlerless by LAMPPS permits).
- B** Nov. 6 – Jan. 2 (3 deer, limit 1 buck and 2 antlerless, antlerless first two days or by LAMPPS permits).
- C** Nov. 6 – Jan. 2 (3 deer, limit 1 buck and 2 antlerless, antlerless first six days or by LAMPPS permits).
- D** Nov. 6 – Jan. 2 (3 deer, limit 1 buck and 2 antlerless, antlerless first sixteen days or by LAMPPS permits).
- E** Nov. 6 – Jan. 2 (3 deer, limit 1 buck and 2 antlerless).
- F** Nov. 20 – Dec. 5 (3 deer, limit 1 buck and 2 antlerless, antlerless by LAMPPS permits).
- G** Nov. 6 – Jan. 2 (4 deer, limit 2 bucks).
- H** Nov. 13 – Jan. 9 (4 deer, limit 2 bucks);
Jan. 15 – Jan. 30 (antlerless only).
- I** Nov. 13 – Jan. 16 (5 deer, limit 3 bucks);
Jan. 17 – Jan. 30 (antlerless only).
- J** Nov. 6 – Nov. 14 (3 deer, limit 1 buck and 2 antlerless, antlerless by LAMPPS permits).
- Season Closed.

Note: Archery season: Oct. 1-Oct. 31 in all counties with a general season, and in Grayson and Kaufman Counties.



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Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.581
April 7, 1993

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for April 7:

CENTRAL

BELTON: Water clear, 62 degrees, 7 feet above normal level; black bass are excellent to 8 pounds on spinners and jigs; crappie are good on minnows and fleaflies; white bass are good on topwaters and jigging spoons; catfish are good to 7 pounds in the Leon River and Cowhouse Creek.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 52 degrees, 2 feet below spillway level; black bass were good to 6 pounds in weekend tournaments, many in the 2-5 pound range caught on spinners and worms; striper are slow; crappie are beginning to hit with up to 20 fish per string on minnows, some caught at night under lighted docks; white bass are good in schools under birds on slabs and spoons; catfish are slow, a few caught in the creeks on trotlines.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 63 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 6.9 pounds on chartreuse spinners; striper are excellent to 18 pounds on live shad; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows in 5-10 feet of water; white bass are good from Paradise Point to Colorado Bend State Park trolling medium diving baits; catfish are good to 8 pounds on fresh shad.

CANYON: Water clear in spots, murky in shallows, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on minnows, purple worms, cranks and spoons; striper are beginning to hit; white bass are very good at night at the rapids on minnows; crappie are either big or undersized with some to 2 1/2 pounds around Crane's Mill Park; catfish are improving, channel catfish are fair to 4 fish per string.

COLORADO BEND: Water slightly murky, normal level; black bass are poor; striper are fair to 12 pounds on live perch; crappie are poor; white bass are good to 2 pounds on chartreuse, white or blue jigs, many limits caught; catfish are good to 30 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 6 1/2 pounds on water dogs, slab minnows, worms, lizards and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows; catfish are excellent to 32 pounds on slab minnows water dogs, chicken livers and shrimp.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 11 pounds on spinners, Rattle Traps and worms in shallow water; crappie are scattered, many undersized fish caught; catfish are fairly good in the 3-4 pound range on stinkbait. The lake will be open normal hours Easter Sunday.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on white spinners, chartreuse spinners and frog colored topwaters; striper are fair to 12 pounds on live bait and shad; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; white bass are slow on white jigs and minnows; catfish are fair on minnows and shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear, 63 degrees, lake full; black bass are excellent to 8 pounds, 11 ounces on pig and jig combinations; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 5-

10 feet of water and on docks with structure; white bass are good up Colorado and Llano arms of lake trolling or casting fleaflies in running water; catfish are good in baited holes to 8 pounds on stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 70 degrees, 2 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on Bulldog Spinners, black and chartreuse and black and cherry Jawtec Salty Dog Lizards; crappie are fair in back of creeks in shallow water on minnows; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water slightly murky, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are excellent to 2 pounds on jigs and live minnows; white bass are fair behind the dam on jigs and live minnows; catfish are fairly slow, some to 3 pounds caught on trotlines baited with live minnows.

SOMERVILLE: Water a little off color, 61 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on worms, spinners and cranks; striper are slow; crappie are good around marinas and in the creeks on minnows and jigs; white bass are fairly good for the old timers, beginning fishermen and tourists are not doing well; catfish are good to 20 pounds, most are in the 1-2 pound range on rod and reel; trotline fishing is slow.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 66 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good in the 3 to 5 1/2 pound range on cranks, spinners, plastic worms and Power Worms; smallmouth bass are good in the 1 1/2 to 5 pound range on the same baits; striper are slow; crappie are fair; white bass are fair also; catfish are fairly good in 10-30 feet of water on Mr. Whisker's Cheese Bait and shrimp.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 2-8 pound range on minnows; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 14 to 25 feet of water; white bass are good on slabs, spoons and minnows; catfish are good to 18 inches on rod and reel.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 62 degrees, 1 foot low; largemouth bass were good to 10.2 pounds along with a 7 1/2 pounder in a weekend tournament on chartreuse Slug-Gos, chartreuse spinners and smoke glitter grubs; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on same baits with frequent limits; striper are fair in the 4 to 6 pound range on smoke glitter grubs off points while fishing for bass; crappie are good to 14 inches on chartreuse tube jigs and live minnows; white bass are spotty in Lakeway area on grubs; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on trotlines with cut bait.

WACO: Water off color, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 8 pounds on spinners and jigs; striper are slow; crappie are good through 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on small Roadrunners; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 58-62 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to good to 8 pounds on cranks and topwaters in 6-8 feet of water; striper are good to 16 pounds on topwaters and Redfins; smallmouth bass are fair in number on minnow-looking lures to 5 pounds; crappie are good in the barges, boat houses and in the lake on minnows and jigs in shallow water, some limits caught;

white bass are good in the creeks and the Nolan River on slabs and spoons; catfish are good from the bank on shrimp and stink bait, most fish are small.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 59 degrees, 1 inch above normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on Centipedes and Power Lizards; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in 10-12 feet of water; white bass are schooling at daylight but few fishermen out; catfish are slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10.31 pounds on worms; striper are beginning to hit cranks; crappie are fairly good under the railroad bridge early; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water murky, 55 degrees, lake full; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water dingy, 54 degrees, 10 inches above normal and dropping; black bass are good to 8 1/2 pounds on lizards in 4 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Main lake clear, upper lake muddy, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 9 pounds on Carolina rigged worms, spinners and Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are excellent in shallow water on jigs and minnows; white bass are improving, some caught on jigs and slabs; catfish are fair in number on chicken parts.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 71 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 12 pounds, 15 ounces, a new lake record caught by James Blair of Garland, on lizards; crappie are fairly good on minnows and jigs in 4 feet of water; catfish are fair in 10 feet of water on stinkbait and shrimp.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 60-70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on crank baits; hybrid striper are slow; catfish and redfish are slow.

FORK: Water clear, 59 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 11.36 pounds on Crawworms; crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 21 feet of water under the bridge; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water off color to stained, 61-62 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 9.33 pounds on black and blue jigs in 7 to 10 feet of water; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs in 10-15 feet of water; white bass are good with many limits caught in Denton Creek area around 377 bridge on minnows, Sassy Shad and grubs early and late; catfish are good to 9 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp in 15 feet of water.

JOE POOL: Water murky, 58 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 10-12 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 9 pounds on shad gizzards and stinkbait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 59 degrees, 4 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 7 1/2 pounds on Slug-Gos, black lizards and spinners; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds under bridges on minnows; white bass are fair along creek channels on small

cranks and jigs, several caught above 259 bridge; catfish are fairly good to 9 pounds on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers and live bait.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on live water dogs; crappie are fair on minnows in 15 feet of water; catfish are good to 7 pounds on Canadian Crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 12 fish per string on minnows in 16 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 63 degrees, 18 inches high; black bass are good to 8 pounds on black lizards, cranks and jigs; crappie are good to 3 pounds on minnows and jigs around 1971 bridge and in the boat houses and piers; catfish are good to 10 pounds on nightcrawlers and liver; yellow catfish are fairly good to 20 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

PALESTINE: Main lake clear, creeks murky, 58 degrees, 6 inches high; black bass are good to 8 1/4 pounds on worms, jigs and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows in shallow water; white bass are good on small spinners and cranks; catfish are picking up in the 8 pound range on bloodbait and cut bait.

PURTIS CREEK: Water murky, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on a variety of baits; crappie are beginning to pickup, most in the 1 pound range and are caught on minnows; catfish are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are very good; white bass are very good; catfish are slow.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 55-61 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on spinners and jigs; crappie are improving in shallow water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on shad.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Main lake clear, upper lake stained, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on spinners, lizards and jigs; hybrid striper are fair to 15 pounds; crappie are slow; white bass are slow on spoons; catfish are good to 45 pounds on trotline with live bait.

TAWAKONI: Water murky, 61 degrees, 4 inches high; black bass are good to 4 pounds on spinners and worms; striper are poor; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on slabs; catfish are good to 6 pounds on worms and cut bait.

TEXOMA: Water murky, 52 degrees, 6 inches high; black bass are good to 7.4 pounds on white Roostertails; smallmouth bass are good to 5.6 pounds on jigs; striper are good to 16.42 pounds trolling deep diving Redfins, Sassy Shad and live bait; crappie are good on minnows and jigs to 15 fish per string in 2-6 feet of water; white bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on Sassy Shad and spoons; blue catfish are good to 30 pounds on rod and reel.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water fairly clear, some color in the creeks, 67 degrees, 10 inches above normal level; black bass were good before the front hit Monday, fishing has been slow since; white bass are fairly good on the humps and in shallow

water on Mini Traps; crappie are slow on minnows around boat sheds and under 1097 bridge; catfish are slow; bream are slow.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 12 pounds, 7 ounces on water dogs in 4 feet of water; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string in 7 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair to 15 fish per string near the dam on minnows; catfish are good to 5 pounds on minnows and worms.

LIVINGSTON: Water slightly off color and clearing, 57-58 degrees, 5 inches above pool level; black bass are good with several limits to 6 pounds, most fish are in the 2-4 pound range and are caught on spinners and pig and jig combinations; striper are fairly slow; white bass are fairly slow; crappie are good with several limits on minnows in very shallow water; catfish are good to 86 pounds on trotlines with live bait; blue catfish are good to 45 pounds on cut shad; channels are good on cut bait.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 60 degrees in the coves, 58 degrees in the lake, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds, 1 ounce on pumpkin seed colored lizards; crappie are slow in number but good sized; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on trotlines baited with Ivory Soap.

SHELDON: Water muddy, 61 degrees, 3 inches high; black bass are poor; crappie are fair in number but most are undersized and are caught around the island; catfish are poor.

TOLEDO BEND: Water off color, 64 degrees, lake full; black bass are slow to 6 1/2 pounds, some caught on spinners, Rogues, lizards and Crawworms; striper are good to 16 pounds on live bait near the generators; crappie are fair to 1 3/4 pounds in shallow water on shiners and jigs; catfish are fair to 60 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 59 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 11 pounds on dark worms, cranks and spinners; striper are improving to 25 1/2 pounds on Bananahead Jigs, Rapalas, slabs and Redfins; crappie are slow; white bass are good up the Pecos River; catfish are picking up in the 4-5 pound range on cheese baits.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on plastic worms; striper are slow; catfish are good to 3 1/2 pounds on liver; corvina are slow; redfish are good to 17 pounds downrigging silver spoons in 25 feet of water.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on artificials; striper are good to 7 1/2 pounds on chicken livers; crappie slow; redfish are good to 15 pounds on shrimp and shad; catfish are good to 3 pounds; corvina are slow.

CHOKE: Water clear, 64 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good in 1-5 feet of water on worms and Slug-Gos, spinners and topwaters are good early, shallow running cranks and spoons to 10 pounds, 9 ounces; crappie are fair in 10-20 feet of water along the river near 99 bridge on live minnows; white bass are good from 99 bridge upriver to Tilden; catfish are good with most caught in less than

10 feet of water in back of creeks on cheese bait and liver under corks; trotline and jug line fishing are good to 51 pounds in shallow water on cut shad.

COLETO CREEK: Water clearing, 74 degrees at the boat ramps, normal level; black bass are fair in number, most are undersized and caught near the weed beds on spinners and Rattle Traps; hybrid striper are fair in number and small in size; crappie are fair on minnows at night along the channel; catfish are fair on rod and reel with live bait and cut bait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear from Brown Island to the dam, murky up river, 65 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds in 3 feet of water on white willow leaf spinners in the coves from Lagarto to Pernitas Creek; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 2 pounds in 1-2 feet of water on minnows and black and silver Mister Twister jigs; white bass are still up the river, some white bass caught at the state park pier on minnows and curl tail jigs; blue catfish are excellent to 14 pounds on trotlines baited with shad and soap; good number of blue catfish caught on jug lines baited with carp; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds on rod and reel from the bank on chicken livers near KOA.

FALCON: Water clear, 64 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are excellent to 11 pounds on chrome Rattle Traps and blue flake Power Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on rod and reel on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 65 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on pumpkin seed Power Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good to 2 pounds on Roadrunners and white jigs; catfish are slow.

TEXANA: Water muddy, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds in the jungle on worms; white bass and a few crappie caught up the Navidad River on minnows; catfish are slow on trotlines.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky, 62 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on worms; striper are good to 7 pounds on cut shad and silver side minnows; crappie are good to 15 fish per string with many undersized fish caught on minnows; walleye are fair to 16 inches on live bait while fishing for crappie; catfish are slow.

FRYER: Water murky, 46 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish are slow; trout are excellent to 7 pounds on Power Baits and salmon eggs.

GRANBURY: Water murky, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on pumpkin seed worms; striper are good to 12 pounds trolling white jigs; crappie are good on small minnows and 1/32 ounce white jigs; white bass are good up the river on white and yellow Roadrunners; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on Mr. Whiskers Cheese Bait.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; smallmouth bass are fairly good to

6 pounds on minnows and Rattle Traps; crappie are slow, some caught in 20-30 feet of water on minnows; walleye are fair in the 7-8 pound range on minnows in 5-40 feet of water; catfish are slow.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 59 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 3/4 pounds on spinners in 2 feet of water; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are fair trolling small cranks; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on chicken liver.

O.H. IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 58 degrees, 2 inches low; largemouth bass are excellent to 22 inches in 5 to 20 feet of water on tomato worms, black, chartreuse and purple worms, cranks and spinners; smallmouth bass are good to excellent to 18 inches on spoons, jigs and worms off points and channels; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs in 2-4 feet of water up rivers and 5 to 15 feet in the main body; white bass are fair to good to 2 pounds on jigs off points and trolling deep diving lures up river; channel catfish are good to 8 pounds on rod and reel or trotline up river and in baited holes in 20-30 feet of water; yellow catfish are fair to good to 15 pounds on trotlines up river with live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Main lake clear, upper end off color, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 9 pounds on Carolina rigged worms, spinners and Rattle Traps; striped are fair in deep water on live bait, some to 17 pounds caught trolling; crappie are good to 12 inches on minnows in 18 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow to 2 1/2 pounds on prepared bait in 25-30 feet of water in the channels.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 7 pounds on spinners and minnows; striped are fairly good to 4 pounds on worms; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 2 pounds on minnows and minnows.

SPENCE: Water clear, 58 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on chartreuse and white spinners and red shad worms; striped are good in the 4-6 pound range on minnows; crappie are slow; white bass are good mixed in with stripers on L'il Poppers around stick ups near the bank in shallow water; catfish are good to 5 pounds on cut bait.

STAMFORD: Water muddy, 59 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows; catfish are good to 51 pounds on trotline with live bait; some catfish caught on rod and reel to 4 1/2 pounds on worms and live bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 56 degrees at 11 feet, 3 feet low; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on spinners in shallow water; crappie to 2 pounds are beginning to hit minnows; walleye are good to 6 pounds on large minnows in 7-10 feet of water; catfish are good up the river to 20 pounds on rod and reel with shrimp.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Some redfish and drum caught in the Old River Cove; winds have been fairly high, some rain; skilled fishermen are catching limits; no live bait shrimp available; dead shrimp and mud minnows are available.

GALVESTON: Snapper to 18 pounds

when boats could get offshore; grouper to 125 pounds caught past Head Banks; good numbers of redfish caught at the jetties, limits of keepers; good numbers trout and redfish caught in the bays, most bay redfish are too small to keep; gafftop fishing has improved along the beach front; live bait shrimp available in the \$10 to \$12 per quart range. Weather has been a big factor in fishing this week.

FREEPORT: Snapper plentiful when boats can get offshore; a few redfish in the keeper range caught in the bays; some flounder caught on live shrimp; live bait shrimp available at \$8 per quart.

PALACIOS: Good numbers of redfish and trout caught along the south shoreline of Matagorda Peninsula around Green's and Cotton's Bayous on strawberry Hogies Swimming Shad with white tails; fair numbers of big trout caught at the Port O'Connor jetties on MirO lure TT28 lures and 4 inch strawberry metal flake Hogies Swimming Shad; some trout and redfish caught at the mouth of Oyster Lake; good numbers of redfish caught between Turtle Bay and Carancahua Bay around TPWD Research Station; good numbers of flounder to 5 pounds caught also; flounder are scattered; live bait available sometimes at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Winds high midweek, estimates up to 35 knots, some clear water in protected areas; boats having a hard time in winds; thundershowers expected midweek; some bait shrimp available; some trout caught in protected areas but winds have hurt the water clarity.

PORT ARANSAS: Winds have been high; fishing has been fairly slow; some trout picked up near Dagger Island in deep channels on live shrimp and piggy perch; some flounder in the 1 1/2 pound range caught; good numbers of black drum caught around the pilings and ferry landing on dead bait; live bait shrimp available at \$8 per quart.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Back bay fishermen are catching a few redfish and drum between the high lines and some trout caught along the causeway on live shrimp, dead shrimp and cacoho minnows; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing is excellent from Century Point north on the West Side with trout to 8 pounds and redfish in the keeper range, limits easy when the wind cooperates, best baits are shrimp and red touts; East Side producing trout from the gas platform north, trout in the 3-4 pound range and redfish are scarce on the East Side; action picking up north of the East Cut for redfish; action slow south; jetty anglers catching good numbers of sandtrout and large sheepshead on live and dead shrimp; drum run has ground to a halt; offshore too rough for boats to get out; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$10 to \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish and trout excellent in the bays, good numbers of limits; trout to 9 pounds with most in the 2-3 pound range on live shrimp; brown tide still here; Three Island and Gas Well Flats are good fishing holes right now; Stover's Point to Culien House are good on the West Side; some deep water trout caught in Laguna Vista Cove and wade fishermen are doing well off High School Point; offshore is slow due to winds; some bonito, black fin

tuna and snapper caught when boats can get out; jetty fishing is good early and late for trout, flounder, sheepshead; surf fishing is good for whiting and an occasional drum, good numbers of pompano caught in the surf; pier fishing is excellent at night for specks, good numbers of croaker and sand trout caught during the day from the pier; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

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