

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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NEW DEER BAG PROPOSED FOR EAST, SOUTH TEXAS

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission was presented with a proposal calling for more conservative deer bag limits in the Pineywoods and the Post Oak regions of East Texas during its regular public hearing Jan. 21 here.

The majority of the 75 counties in the Pineywoods and the Post Oak are proposed to become "buck only" counties, with the taking of antlerless deer allowed only through permits issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Other counties with a three-deer bag limit would have either two or six doe days - days where a hunter is allowed to take either sex - or a full season of either sex hunting.

A new permitting system proposed for doe harvest would create a Landowner Assisted Management Plan and Permitting System. The idea, said Dr. Rudy Rosen, director of the fisheries and wildlife division, is for TPWD biologists to work directly with individual landowners or "cooperatives" to acquire specific information that will allow biologists to determine an approximate habitat value of an individual property to deer.

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Permits would be issued to the landowner based on this landowner-provided information in combination with TPWD deer population survey data and past harvest information.

Landowners who want to harvest antlerless deer under the permit system also will be required to report deer harvest and observation information to the department. This information will become part of a base of information relevant to deer management for the property, making it possible to become more and more accurate in issuing the proper number of permits over time.

The proposed new permit would replace the current permit, which allows doe permits to landowners based on total acreage, regardless of habitat quality.

"These new regulations and permit issuance systems are being developed in response to public concerns about East Texas deer management, declining deer numbers in East Texas and a desire by our staff to implement regulations and a doe permit system that will solve problems associated with deer management," Rosen said. "We want to better involve landowners in habitat management for wildlife."

Moving the beginning of deer season in all regions outside of South Texas back to the second Saturday in November will be offered as an option for discussion at public hearings across the state. Wildlife branch officials also were asked to get public comment and discussion on an optional proposal to allow an additional (fifth) deer and an addition of one week in 14 counties of South Texas.

The proposal is an option to add another deer tag to 14 counties in South Texas. Those counties are Maverick, Zavala, Frio, Dimmit, La Salle, McMullen, Duval, Webb, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Jim Wells and Kleberg.

Under this plan, which is being presented as an option for discussion with the public, a hunter would be allowed to take a fifth deer in South Texas, either a buck or doe, with landowner approval.

The other proposed option before the public would move the deer season opening day in regions of the state outside of South Texas to the second Saturday in November. Currently, most of the state opens the first Saturday in November while South Texas opens the second Saturday in November.

Under the proposal, most of the state would close the first Sunday in January. South Texas would have a two-week longer season, then go immediately into a 14-day late doe season. Traditionally, South Texas concludes its season the second Saturday in January, takes five days off, then has a 16-day late doe season.

Rosen emphasized that these are proposals and options. "Nothing is set in stone. These are options for consideration and comment. We're making every effort to listen to the public. We are willing to discuss various regulations proposals with the public, both hunters and land managers."

Wildlife staff also is proposing to allow hunters to take three total Rio Grande turkeys during either the fall or spring hunting seasons. Although the current bag limit is three turkeys, only two turkeys could be taken during either of the seasons. Relaxation of the regulation will enable hunters more opportunity to take turkeys at their choosing while still keeping the three-turkey bag limit.

Another proposal would remove the requirement that hunters must possess a special permit to take prairie chickens.

These proposed regulations changes will be presented to the public during hearings across the state in late February and early March. If adopted, the changes will become effective Sept. 1. Hearing dates and locations will be announced by mid-February.

(NOTE: Proposed deer bag limits can be found toward the back of the news packet in maps broken down by regions.)

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT LAMPPS

(Landowner Assisted Management Plan and Permit System for deer)

What is the purpose of LAMPPS?

To allow issuance of permits for the harvest of antlerless deer in counties having "bucks only" or "doe day" regulations during the open season for deer.

How will LAMPPS work?

The idea is for the department to work directly with landowners, their agents or landowner "cooperatives" to acquire specific information that will allow biologists to determine the biologically-acceptable number of does that can be harvested on a property or cooperative. Permits are issued based on landowner-provided information in combination with deer population survey data and past harvest information.

- * A landowner or landowner's agent wishing to harvest does requests a permit application form from the department. Cooperatives can apply for permits, based on total property under cooperative management.

- * The landowner receives a questionnaire in the mail and a set of easy to understand instructions.

- * The landowner fills out the questionnaire, which will be easy to answer, yet allow biologists to "estimate" the value of deer habitat on the property. Typical questions will be "How many total acres?" "How many acres of woods?" "How many acres of improved pasture?" "How many acres are grazed?" "How many cattle on average?"

- * The landowner mails the questionnaire form to TPWD headquarters in Austin.

- * The questionnaires are reviewed and the permit issuance rate is calculated based on information provided by the landowner, deer census and survey data and past harvest information.

- * Permits are printed and mailed directly back to landowners.

- * The landowner issues the permits to hunters for doe harvest on his property.

- * The landowner collects harvest and observation information, enters this information on a specially-designed form and mails this back to TPWD in Austin.

- * The landowner information is cumulative over time, honing permit issuance as information about a property grows.

If I apply for a doe permit, am I assured of getting at least one?

No. Permits will be issued on the basis of having adequate deer habitat to justify harvest of does. Permit issuance rate will be conservative.

Will there be a minimum acreage to qualify for a doe permit?

Yes, a minimum will be established. This minimum may vary depending on the county in which your property is located.

I already harvest my bucks and doe deer under a TPWD-approved wildlife management plan. Will I still be able to harvest the does I need to do proper management?

Yes. Doe permits will be issued according to the needs specified in your management plan. The department already provides doe permits for properties under an approved wildlife management plan. LAMPPS will be specifically designed to establish a base of information relevant to managing deer on properties not already under an approved wildlife management plan. Landowners who already have wildlife management plans have this information available and already are working with department biologists on setting biologically-appropriate harvest levels for deer.

What if I have land in a county where doe harvest is regulated by “doe days” (days during which either sex deer may be hunted) or by full season either sex hunting?

In counties where does can be hunted all season long, there is no need for doe permits. To determine how many, if any, does should be taken from a property, landowners should work with department or consulting wildlife biologists to develop a wildlife management plan.

In counties having “doe days,” LAMPPS gives landowners flexibility to extend the harvest over the entire season. However, doe harvest on the property should be restricted to the number of permits issued, no matter when harvest occurs. The property must have sufficient habitat to support doe harvest to receive permits.

LAMPPS relies on landowners giving the department information about their property. What if a landowner tries to cheat to get more doe permits than appropriate by giving answers that make the property sound better for deer than it really is?

Several "checks" are built into LAMPPS to detect gross misrepresentations - minor "mistakes" won't affect the system. If a landowner cheats, it may take time for the department to find out, but cheaters only hurt themselves. The purpose of this approach to deer management is to establish healthy deer populations that will benefit everybody. Landowners or their agents will be required to sign the application form and false statements may be subject to action by the department. In addition, participants will be subject to spot checks. As harvest data are collected and the base of data on the property and surrounding areas builds, false information may be spotted.

When can I apply for doe permits?

The system is only a proposal at this time. If it is approved for implementation, a deadline will be set for applications. Landowners can contact the department anytime for assistance in developing wildlife management plans that will aid landowners in determining how many does to harvest.

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RED DRUM BAG INCREASE, BASS LIMITS PROPOSED

AUSTIN--Coastal fisheries staff proposed a more liberal daily bag limit for red drum and inland fisheries staff proposed several bass-related changes during a briefing of the 1993-94 proposed regulations changes to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Jan. 21

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials proposed to increase the daily bag limit of red drum from three per day to four and the possession limit from six to eight.

"Our data indicates that coastal populations of red drum have made significant recoveries from previous natural disasters and over fishing," said Gene McCarty, coastal fisheries branch chief.

"Coastal fisheries data indicate that spawning success, relative abundance of sub-adults and the escapement of red drum to the Gulf spawning stocks have all increased," he said. "This moderate liberalization is justified to increase recreational opportunities without jeopardizing long-term health of the red drum fisheries."

The inland fisheries branch has proposed designating 76 water bodies, ranging from one to 100 acres as designated urban lakes. "These lakes would be subject to special regulations that would maximize pole and line fishing in urban areas and among our youth," said Phil Durocher, inland fisheries branch chief.

Fishermen on these intensively managed lakes would be prohibited from using trotlines, juglines or throwlines on these lakes. Also, the catfish bag limit would decrease from 25 per day to three and the minimum size length would increase from nine inches to 12 inches.

Another proposal would make Gibbons Creek a catch and release only fishery for bass rather than the current 14-inch to 21-inch slot limit. "This regulation should result in greatly increased catch and release angling of largemouth bass and increase the opportunities for production of trophy largemouth bass," Durocher said.

These proposals will be presented to the public during public hearings across the state in late February and early March. If approved by the commission, these changes will take effect Sept. 1

Below is a list of the other proposed hunting and fishing changes for 1993-94:

Inland Fisheries

Statewide Fishing Regulations

- * Require juglines to have a 30-day gear tag - commercial juglines must have orange colored floating device and non-commercial must be white, one gallon in size.

Exceptions to Bag and Size Limits

- * Change Lake Conroe black bass regulations from 14-inch minimum length limit to 16 inch minimum. Remain five bass per day.

- * Change black bass on lakes Bridgeport, Weatherford, Georgetown, Tyler, Striker and Caddo from a 14-inch minimum length limit, five daily bag limit to 14-inch to 18-inch slot limit and three per day bag limit.

- * Add lakes Bastrop and Decker (Walter E. Long) to 14-inch to 21-inch slot limit.

- * Add to the special regulation for the 14-inch to 21-inch slot limit lakes that only one fish per day longer than 21 inches may be retained.
- * Change Caddo Lake crappie from 50 per day with no minimum length limit to 25 per day with a 10-inch minimum length limit.
- * Prohibit chumming in Lake Texoma.

Research Based Proposed Regulations

- * Place a bag, possession and minimum length limit on saugeye of three per day, six in possession, and 18-inch minimum length limit.
- * Provide E.V. Spence and Fort Phantom Hill lakes with a blue catfish bag limit of five per day and an 18-inch minimum length limit.

(NOTE: The statewide flathead catfish limit will increase from 18 inches to 24 inches on Sept. 1. This change was passed by the commission in 1992. Also, passed in 1992 and going into effect Sept. 1, is a regulation prohibiting the use of any nets in fresh water.)

Coastal Fisheries

King Mackerel

- * Increase the minimum size limit from 14 inches to 23 inches as it corresponds to regulations implemented in federal waters.
- * Delete king mackerel bag limit exception that licensed chartered vessels currently have, which is two per person, per day for all persons on board or three per person, per day exclusive of captain and crew, whichever is greater.

Freshwater Catfish

- * Permit the retention of freshwater catfish taken by trotline below the Coastal Waters Boundary.

Crabs

- * Prohibit the tending of crab traps from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
- * Require 2 3/8-inch escape vents in crab traps.

HOLIDAY MOURNING DOVE SEASONS PROPOSED

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission was briefed on a proposal to split the mourning dove season in the Central and South zones into three segments during its regular public hearing Jan. 21 here.

The proposal would permit a regular fall dove season as well as short Thanksgiving and Christmas dove seasons when young hunters are out of school, said Ron George, deputy chief of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's wildlife branch. This change would require a federal framework change.

TPWD staff proposed another change in the federal frameworks that would include a four-county area in the lower Rio Grande Valley in the statewide mourning dove daily bag limit which allows six white-winged doves in the 12-dove aggregate limit. Other proposals call for an early teal season and a four-day white-winged dove season in the Special White-winged Dove Area, similar to last year.

Proposed dates for mourning doves are Sept. 1-Nov. 9 in the North Zone; Sept. 1-Oct. 31, Nov. 25-28 and Dec. 26-30 in the Central Zone; and Sept. 24-Nov. 14 (ends Nov. 10 in Special White-winged Dove Area), Nov. 25-28 and Dec. 26-Jan. 8 in the South Zone.

Beginning in 1991, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permitted Texas to have six white-winged doves in the 12-dove aggregate daily bag during the regular mourning dove season statewide, except for Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy and Cameron counties where the bag limit is restricted to two whitewings daily. George said the department believes the restriction is overly restrictive and unnecessarily complicates Texas hunting regulations.

If approved, Texans would see an early teal season for the second consecutive year. Proposed dates to hunt, blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal are Sept. 11-19. Bag and possession limits would be four daily, eight in possession.

The department is asking for a whitewing season in the Special White-winged Dove area (except Sanctuary B) for Sept. 4, 5, 11 and 12. Shooting hours would be noon to sunset. Bag and possession limits would be 10 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, including no more than five mourning doves and two whitetips per day.

Daily bag limit during the statewide mourning dove season would be 12 mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, including no more than six whitewings and two whitetips per day.

The proposed season for rails statewide is Sept. 1-Nov. 9. The daily and possession bag limits would be 15 and 30, respectively, for King and clapper rails, 25 and 25 for Sora and Virginia rails. The gallinules season is proposed for Sept. 1-Nov. 9 with bag limits of 15 and 30, respectively.

Shooting hours for all early season migratory game birds, except for the special white-winged dove season, would be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. If approved by the commission and the USFWS, the proposed changes would go into effect Sept. 1. These proposals will be reviewed for final adoption by the commission on July 8.

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25 PARKS TO RECEIVE MATCHING FUNDS

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved \$7,276,760 in park grants for 25 projects during its regular public hearing Jan. 21

Applications for \$13,796,569 in matching funds were submitted by 55 sponsors seeking grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Texas Local Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund.

Both funding sources were established to assist states, cities, towns, counties and other local governments in defraying the costs of purchasing park land and developing outdoor recreation facilities.

Grant monies are earmarked for the acquisition and development of parks in the following areas

Austin	Northwest MUD #1 Canyon Creek Park	\$500,000
Ochiltree County	Wolf Creek Park II	\$197,300
Beaumont	Collier's Ferry Park	\$500,000
Fort Worth	Arcadia Trail Park	\$480,000

Arlington	Cravens Park	\$500,000
Grapevine	Bear Creek Park	\$416,800
Richardson	Spring Creek Park III	\$483,850
Flatonia	Flatonia Park	\$307,529
Sweeny	Veterans Memorial Park	\$500,000
Jeff Davis County	Fort Davis Community Park	\$188,632
TPWD	Lake Tawakoni State Park	\$500,000
Pearland	McLean Road Park II	\$233,850
Plano	Russell Creek Park	\$500,000
Fredericksburg	LBJ Park III	\$ 60,500
Hico	City Park	\$ 30,000
Pasadena	El Jardin Park	\$299,030
Williamson/Travis Co.	MUD #1 Anderson Mill West	\$ 90,000
Forest Hill	Trentman Park	\$ 23,234
Hereford	Swimming Pool Park	\$500,000
Roma	City Park	\$108,500
LaCoste	Hemphill Park	\$ 36,740
LaPorte	Little Cedar Bayou Park II	\$ 81,870
Weatherford	Soldier Spring Park	\$ 98,925
Bexar County	Comanche Park	\$140,000
Houston	Hermann Brown Park III	\$500,000

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YEAR OF GULF MUSICAL TO TOUR STATE

AUSTIN--Environmental troubadours Bill Oliver, a well-known Austin musician, and Glen Waldeck of Philadelphia will bring their musical message of coastal conservation to children across Texas in February.

The Gulf of Mexico Musical Science Tour will kick off at 9:45 a.m. on Feb. 4 at the Governor's mansion in Austin. The musicians will entertain local school children with supporting remarks from staff of the Environmental Protection Agency, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas General Land Office.

The tour is sponsored by the nonprofit Center For Marine Conservation, based in Austin, through a grant from the EPA. The tour celebrates the fact that 1992-93 has been designated the Year of the Gulf of Mexico.

"The children of today are our best hope for preserving and protecting the richness and diversity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem," said Linda Maraniss, CMC regional director and Musical Science Tour creator. "The Tour is half beach party and half science lesson rolled into one. Our hope is that these performances will instill pride, a sense of stewardship and increased awareness of the Gulf and its wildlife in children across Texas."

"We in Texas are fortunate to be one of five U.S. states that border the Gulf of Mexico," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "The Musical Science Tour is an exciting way to teach our students that the Gulf must be protected and that learning marine science can be lots of fun."

Oliver and Waldeck have been writing and singing songs for the past 20 years and have performed throughout the U.S. and around the world. Their 45-minute program includes the award-winning "Be A Beach Buddy," "Have To Have A Habitat," "Turtle Island" and two songs about the Gulf of Mexico composed especially for the tour. In December 1992, the show traveled to Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida and is now coming home to Texas.

After the Austin performance, the show will head south and begin a six-city swing up the Texas coast, ending in Dallas. The tour itinerary is listed below.

DATE	TIME	CITY/LOCATION
Feb. 7	2 p.m.	Brownsville, Gladys Porter Zoo
Feb. 8	9:30 a.m.	Brownsville, Vella Middle School
	1:30 p.m.	Brownsville, Vella Middle School
Feb. 9	1 p.m.	Port Isabel, Port Isabel High School
Feb. 10	9:45 a.m.	Corpus Christi, Prescott Elementary School
	1:30 p.m.	Corpus Christi, Gibson Elementary School
	7 p.m.	Corpus Christi, Texas State Aquarium
Feb. 11	9:30 a.m.	Corpus Christi, Kaffie Middle School
	1:30 p.m.	Corpus Christi, Wynn Seale Middle School
Feb. 12	2 p.m.	Seabrook, Bay Elementary School

Feb. 13	2 p.m.	Galveston, National Marine Fisheries Service Sea Turtle Hatchery/Laboratory
Feb. 14	2 p.m.	Galveston, UT Medical Branch Hospital Child Life Department
Feb. 15	10 a.m.	Galveston, Stephen F. Austin Middle School
	1:45 p.m.	Galveston, Weiss Elementary School
Feb. 16	Noon	Houston Museum of Natural Science
	7 p.m.	Houston Museum of Natural Science
Feb. 17	10:40 a.m.	Houston, Revere Middle School
	1:30 p.m.	Houston, Revere Middle School
Feb. 21	TBA	Dallas, The Science Place, Fair Park

For more information on the Musical Science Tour, contact Maraniss at (512) 477-6424.

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BLUEBIRD NEST BOXES IN DEMAND

AUSTIN--Because of an overwhelming demand for bluebird boxes from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's headquarters, anyone interested in one of the boxes is encouraged to call one of six state parks that are distributing them.

The department has about 2,700 bluebird nest boxes available free to the public. The boxes will be provided to those contacting the department by Feb. 10.

Artificial nest boxes are needed to increase the breeding success of bluebirds and other cavity nesters since natural nesting cavities, usually found in dead and hollow trees, have declined in recent years.

The department's boxes are made of specially treated, weather-resistant cardboard material and can last up to two years. They must be placed at least 100 yards apart to avoid territorial disputes among nesting birds.








Boxes can be obtained by contacting the following parks: Fairfield Lake in Freestone County (903-389-4514), Cedar Hill in Dallas County (214-291-3900), Huntsville in Walker County (409-295-5644), Kerrville-Schreiner in Kerr County (210-257-5392, McKinney Falls in Travis County (512-243-1643) and Palmetto in Gonzales County (210-672-3266). About 200 boxes are available at each park, so customers will be limited to one each.

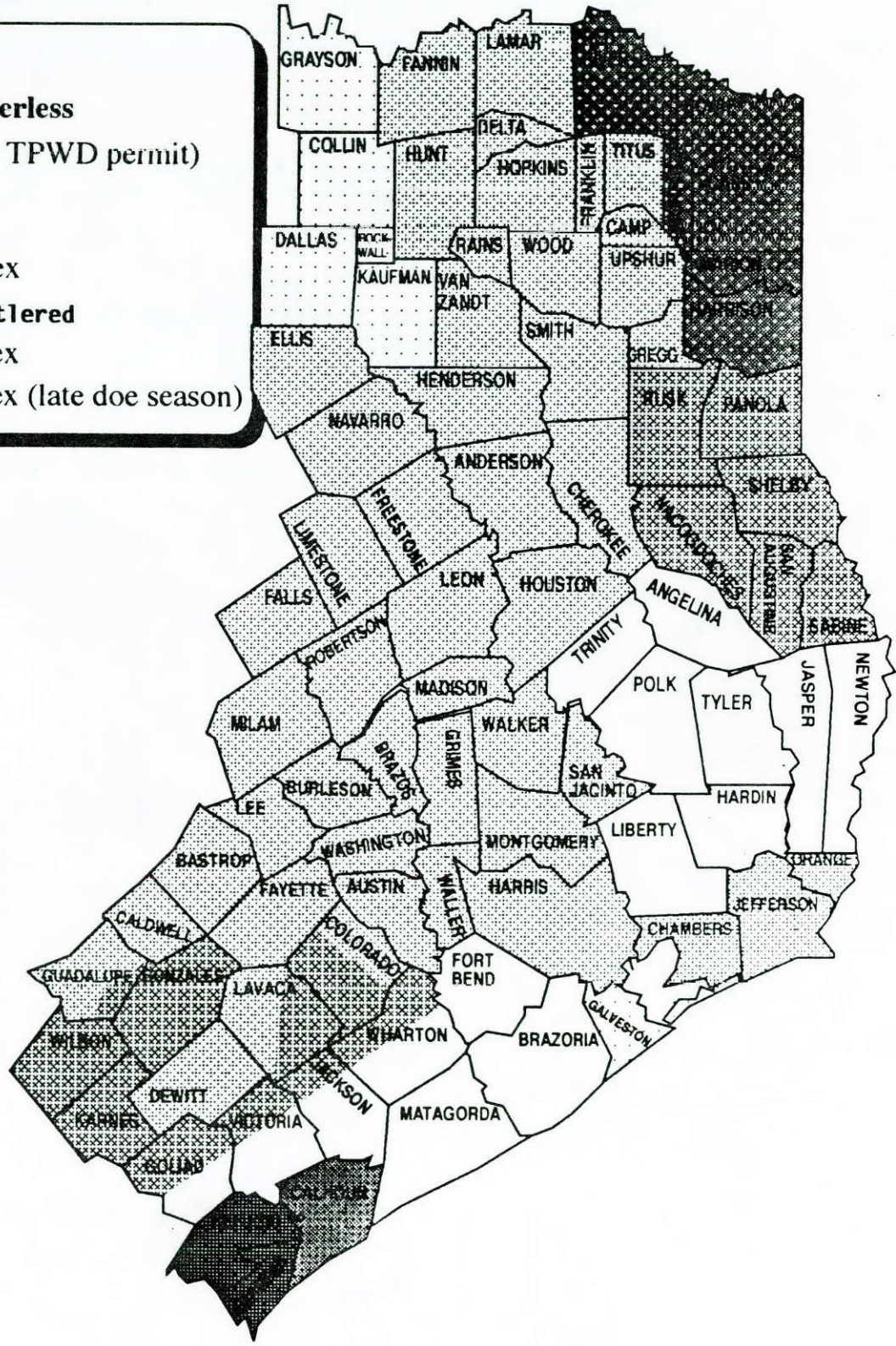
Those accepting boxes will be asked to keep a written record on usage by bluebirds and other nesting species observed. This information is important for keeping department data bases current.

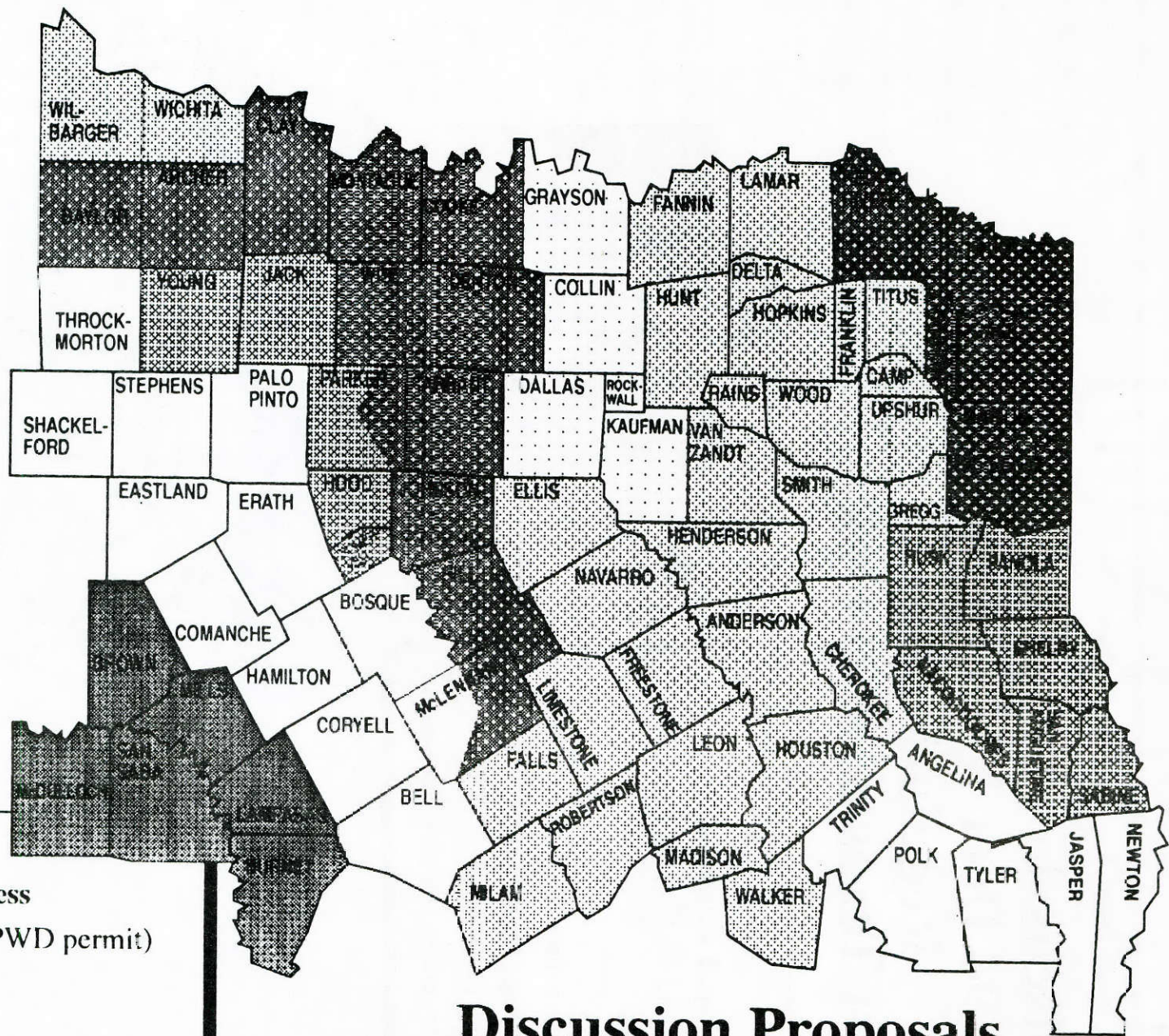
For more information or to request bluebird boxes, call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4979, 4403 or 4505, or (512) 389-4979, 4403 or 4505.

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Discussion Proposals 1993-94 Deer Management Regulations East Texas & Post Oak

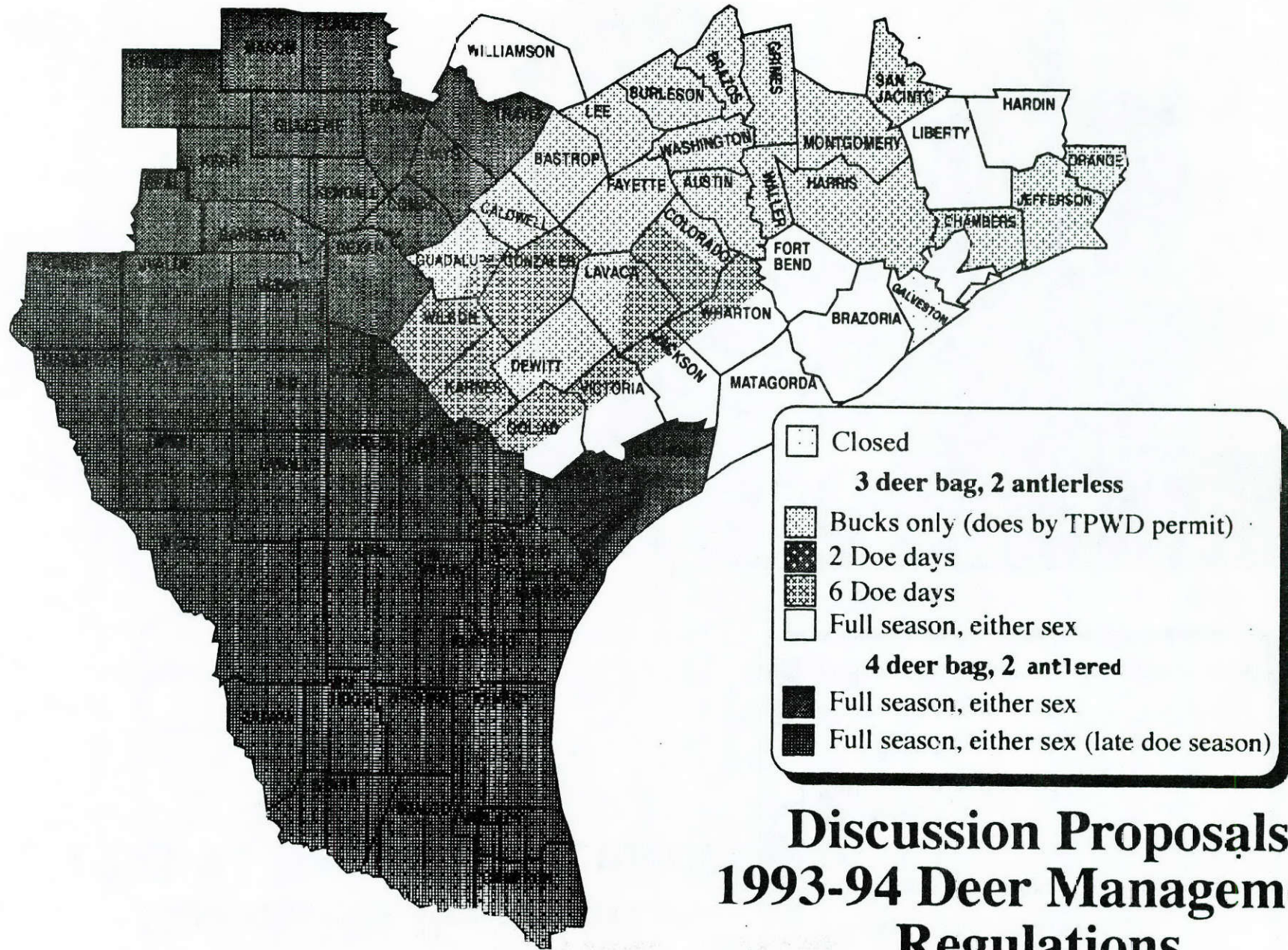
-  Closed
3 deer bag, 2 antlerless
-  Bucks only (docs by TPWD permit)
-  2 Doe days
-  6 Doe days
-  Full season, either sex
4 deer bag, 2 antlered
-  Full season, either sex
-  Full season, either sex (late doe season)












	Closed
3 deer bag, 2 antlerless	
	Bucks only (does by TPWD permit)
	2 Doe days
	6 Doe days
	Full season, either sex
4 deer bag, 2 antlered	
	Full season, either sex
	Full season, either sex (late doe season)

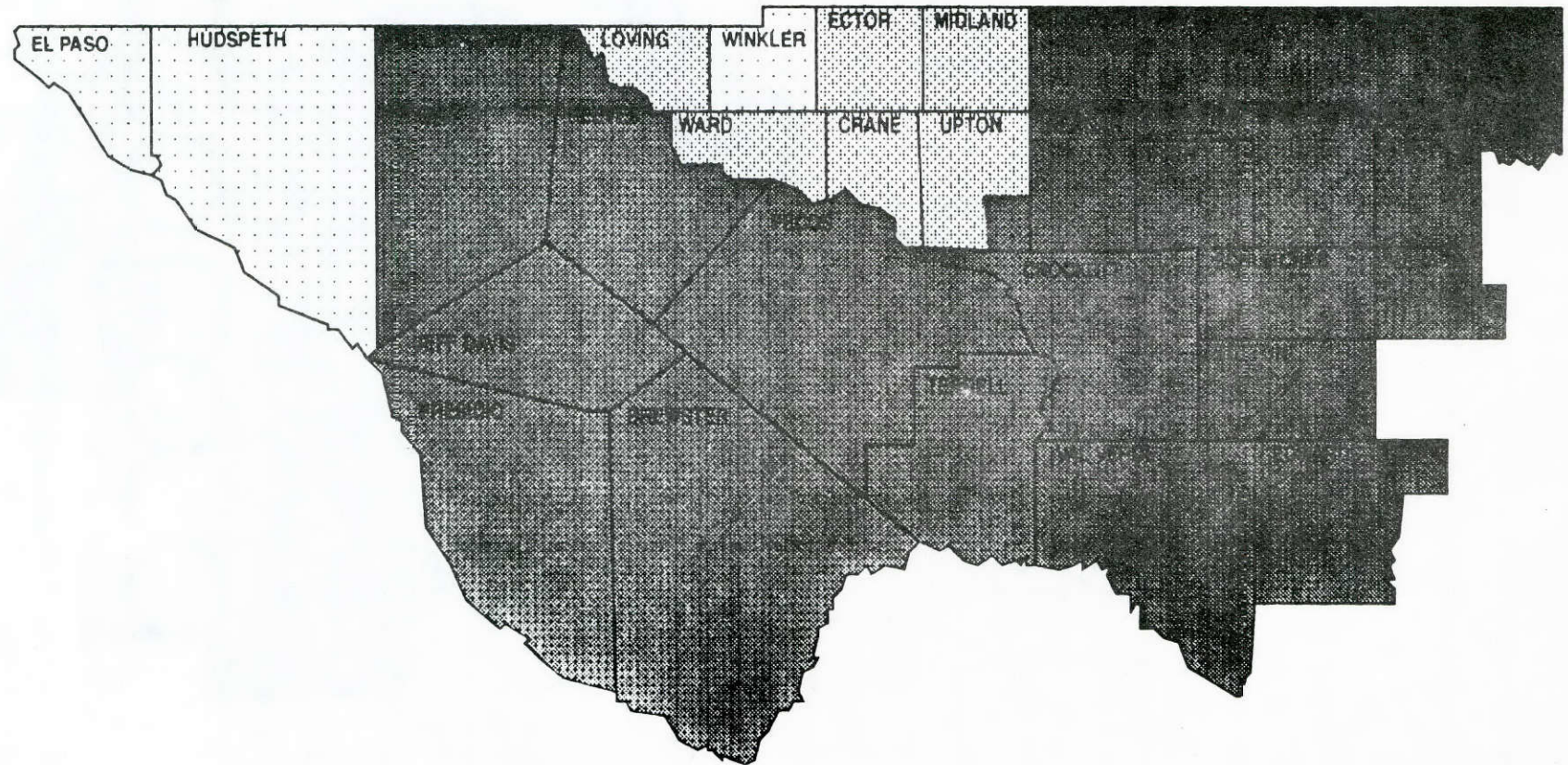
Discussion Proposals 1993-94 Deer Management Regulations Northeast Quarter



Discussion Proposals 1993-94 Deer Management Regulations Southeast Quarter








Discussion Proposals 1993-94 Deer Management Regulations West Texas

	Closed
3 deer bag, 2 antlerless	
	Bucks only (does by TPWD permit)
	2 Doe days
	6 Doe days
	Full season, either sex
4 deer bag, 2 antlered	
	Full season, either sex
	Full season, either sex (late doe season)



Discussion Proposals 1993-94 Deer Management Regulations Texas Panhandle

DALLAM		SHERMAN	HANSFORD	OCHILTREE	LIPSCOMB	
HARTLEY		MOORE	HUTCHINSON	ROBERTS	HEMPHILL	
OLDHAM		POTTER	CARSON	GRAY	WHEELER	
DEAF SMITH		RANDALL	ARMSTRONG	DONLEY	COLLINGSWORTH	
PARMER	CASTRO	SWISHER	BRISCOE	HALL	CHILDRESS	
BAILEY	LAMB	HALE	FLOYD	MOTLEY	COTTLE	HARDENMAN
COCHRAN	HOCKLEY	LUBBOCK	CROSBY	DICKENS	KING	FOARD
YOAKUM	TERRY	LYNN	GARZA	KENT	STONEWALL	KNOX
GAINES		DAWSON	BORDEN	SCURRY	FISHER	JONES
ANDREWS	MARTIN	HOWARD	WHEELER	NOEL	TAYLOR	CALLAHAN

	Closed
3 deer bag, 2 antlerless	
	Bucks only (does by TPWD permit)
	2 Doe days
	6 Doe days
	Full season, either sex
4 deer bag, 2 antlered	
	Full season, either sex
	Full season, either sex (late doe season)

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Jan 28:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 5 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps and jigs; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water clear, 53 degrees, 7 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on spinners, jigs and jiggling spoons, most fish are in 3-6 feet of water with the larger fish in 15 to 25 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are good through 2 1/2 pounds on fleaflies and minnows, best crappie fishing is in the Leon River; white bass are good on jiggling spoons in 18-40 feet of water; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water fairly clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow in the 2-3 1/2 pound range on spinners and worms; striper are good to 2 3/4 pounds under gulls on spoons and slabs; crappie are fair to 16 inches on jigs and minnows, several undersized fish caught; white bass are good under the gulls on L'il Cleos and spoons; catfish are fairly good to 4 pounds on worms and shad; yellow catfish are fair to 32 pounds on live perch.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 54 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds, 6 ounces on purple worms; striper are good to 10 pounds on live shad; crappie are slow; white bass are good with limits daily on deep diving cranks; catfish are good to 6 pounds on fresh cut shad.

CANYON: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 3 pounds trolling Phantom Lures, Rattle Traps, silver spoons and minnows; striper are fair to 4 pounds on larger minnows; crappie are good in Tom Creek, up the river and off the new pier at Crane Mill; white bass are good trolling minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds off piers in Tom Creek and up the river.

FAYETTE: Water clear in main lake, murky in the creek beds, 63 degrees, 12 inches above normal level; black bass fair to 8 pounds on water dogs, dark worms are good on cloudy days and lighter color worms are better on bright days and some cranks; crappie are fair to 1 3/4 pounds on live minnows; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on chicken livers and slab minnows.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow due to lack of fishermen; catfish are slow. Fishing has been slow because of high winds.

LBJ: Water clear, 54 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 5 pounds, 9 ounces on chartreuse DB#3s; striper are slow; crappie are good on upper end of Colorado arm of the lake in the rocks and structure with minnows; white bass are beginning to congregate around 1431 bridge getting read for the spawn up river; catfish are good to 6 pounds in baited holes on fresh shrimp.

LIMESTONE: Water clear to murky, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; few fishermen out.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky, 57 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair

to 14 inches on jigs and minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 2 pounds on stinkbait.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in the 3 pound range in 10-20 feet of water on jigs, cranks and spinners; smallmouth bass are good in the 3 pound range in 15 to 25 feet of water on minnows, worms and spinners; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good in 5 pound range in 15 to 20 feet of water on stinkbait, shrimp and cheese baits. Squaw Creek Park will be open 7 days a week during daylight hours after Feb. 1.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 59 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good through 18 inches on minnows and worms; striper are slow; white bass are fair on minnows and slabs; catfish are fair to 19 inches on worms and dough bait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 57 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 14 pounds, a new lake record, on live minnows and apple seed Pat Getzits; Guadalupe bass are fair in number to 14 inches on the same baits; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 15 feet of water under docks; white bass have been spotty in 30 feet of water; catfish are slow.

WACO: Water off color, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 15 to 20 feet of water; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on small jigs; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 47 degrees, 2 3/4 feet low; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on Western Worms, grubs, spinners and cranks in 15 feet of water; striper are good through 14 pounds in 20-40 feet of water with many 4-8 pound fish caught on deep running Redfins, Roadrunners, Sassy Shad and slabs; crappie are slow during the day and better at night on minnows with very few limits; white bass are good on slab spoons and Critter Gitters in creeks; catfish are slow to 5 pounds on worms.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on worms and Craw Worms; crappie are good on minnows; hybrid striper, white bass and catfish are slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 42 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows and jigs in 10 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water clear, 40 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on spinners; striper and white bass are slow; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on trotlines at night and set hooks at night baited with minnows.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 49 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string, fish are caught below 20 feet of water; white bass are beginning to move, some surfacing activity, best baits are Roostertails and minnows; catfish are excellent to 97 pounds on jug lines baited with chicken gizzards and goldfish.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 11 1/4 pounds on spinners in 12 feet of water;

crappie are good with limits on minnows in 30 feet of water; catfish are good to 10 pounds on nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 3/4 pounds on Slug-Gos and Rattle Traps; crappie are slow; catfish are slow; redfish are fair to 10 1/4 on DB#3s.

FORK: Water clear, 50 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good through 13.10 pounds on jigs; crappie are fairly good to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear in the main lake, stained in the creek, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on black and blue jig and pig combinations and chartreuse spinners around creek channels in 20-25 feet of water; crappie are fair in numbers on red and chartreuse jigs around boat houses in 20 feet of water; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on 1 ounce Critter Gitter slabs; catfish are fair in number on shrimp and stinkbait in the Marshall and Denton Creek area.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 39 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on shad, minnows and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and frozen shad; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on fresh shad gizzards and Canadian Crawlers.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 51 degrees, 6 1/2 feet above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 8.9 pounds on black and blue jig and pork combinations in the flooded brush and some were caught on chartreuse spinners; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds on minnows in deep water around the dam in 35 feet of water; catfish are good to 6 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers in the flooded brush.

LAVON: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on plastic worms and lizards; striper are slow; crappie are good with limits on minnows about 2 feet off bottom; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on minnows.

LEWISVILLE: Water a little muddy, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in the creeks to 6 pounds on spinners and jigs; striper are good under I35 bridge on live shad or Sassy Shad; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on shad and shrimp.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on water dogs, lizards and spinners; crappie are slow; catfish are excellent in the 8-10 pound range on shrimp and Canadian Crawlers.

MURVAUL: Water a little off color, 48 degrees, 6 inches high; black bass are good through 7 pounds, 2 ounces on spinners and jigs, several in the 2 pound range caught on spinners; crappie are fairly good around 1971 bridge on minnows and small jigs, several limits caught; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen, some to 4 pound caught on trotlines.

PALESTINE: Water murky in the creeks, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 2 pounds in deep water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

PURTIS CREEK: Water murky, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 3-7 pound range on worms in 2-4 feet of water;

crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 12 feet of water; catfish are slow.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 47 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on pumpkin seed colored jigs in 15 feet of water; crappie are fair in the brush piles on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 11.1 pounds on minnows.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 44 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair to good to 13 1/2 pounds on Sassy Shad, Tads, Jigs and live bait; crappie are fair to 1 3/4 pounds on live bait; white bass are good through 2 1/2 pounds on slabs and live bait; catfish are excellent to 40 pounds on cut bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water murky, 46 degrees, 9 feet above normal level; black bass and all fishing are slow to fair due to weather.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water fairly clear in main lake, off color on north end, 55 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 8.93 pounds on worms in less than 8 feet of water and in 22-27 feet of water; white bass males are heading up stream, most are under 12 inches in length and most are caught on small spoons jigs; crappie are good under 1097 bridge on minnows; catfish are good up to 2 pounds during the warm days.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string on minnows at Golden Acres; white bass are good in the Trinity River; catfish are good to 10 pounds on minnows.

LIVINGSTON: Water clearing, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds in the creeks and in Penwaugh Slough on black lizards with chartreuse spinners; striper and white bass are still up river; crappie are fairly good early and late in the afternoon to 12 fish per string; catfish are fair and small, most are caught from the bank.

RAYBURN: Water stained, 55-61 degrees, 2 feet below normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on Carolina rigged pumpkin seed worms; hybrid striper fairly slow to 8 pounds, 9 ounces on minnows white crappie fishing; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 53 degrees normal level; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on jigs, Craw Worms, Rattle Traps and Model A Bombers in 14-16 feet of water near dropoffs; striper are slow to 10 1/2 pounds, a few smaller fish caught near the generators on jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good in the 1-3 pound range on Catfish Charlie in baited holes; bream fishing is slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 5-7 pound range on Power Worms, spinners and Spanish Dancers; striper are good in the 18-24 inch range on 1/2 ounce Bananahead Jigs with a full trailer in 3 feet of water under the birds; white bass are schooling round Pecos High Bridge

on forest green slabs; catfish are good to 3 pounds on stinkbait in 40-60 feet of water along the deep ledges.

BRAUNIG: Water fairly clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 7 pounds, 6 ounces on deep diving baits, many in the 4-5 pound range caught but released; hybrid striper are slow to 6 pounds on chicken liver and shrimp; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on shad; blue catfish are fair to 12 pounds on chicken livers and shad; redfish are fairly good to 20 pounds on tilapia and Rattle Traps, nightcrawlers and shrimp.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on plastic worms and jigs; striper are good to 5 pound average on grubs and shrimp; catfish are good to 9 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers; redfish are good to 15 pounds on tilapia and silver spoons.

CHOKE: Water clear, 58 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 3 pounds average in 3-8 feet of water around the grass beds with plastic worms, black chartreuse and red shad, spinners, shallow running cranks, best fishing is early and late; striper are slow; crappie are slow with no concentrations found, some caught around heavy bush on live minnows; white bass are fair with males moving up river, most of the fish are caught above Bracken Ramp; catfish are fair and scattered, best fishing is done by baiting holes, most fish are in 15 to 35 feet of water around the river channel.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 57 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair in number around Dike #2 on various types of baits; striper are excellent with some limits on spoons; crappie are poor; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 14 inches and above on minnows and trotlines.

FALCON: Water clear, 63 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are excellent to 9 pounds, 7 ounces on blue flaked Power Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent to 2 pounds on the upper end of the lake on Knocker Spoons; catfish are excellent to 5 pounds on frozen shrimp baited trotlines.

MEDINA: Water clear, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow to 3 pounds and deep diving cranks; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow, a few fish caught on L'il Georges, no limits; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers; catfish are good to 9 pounds on perch baited trotlines.

TEXANA: Water muddy, normal level; black bass, crappie and white bass are poor; catfish are fairly good in the 1-5 pound range on cut bait.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 55 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair in 8 feet of water around piers and around 18 feet at the derricks on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water off color, 47 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on cranks off rocky points; striper are fair to 5 pounds on live shad; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 10-12 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on small cranks; striper are good to 8 pounds each at the warm water outlet and are caught on live perch or shad; crappie are fair in number under the bridges on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on Mr. Whiskers cheese bait in baited holes.

GREENBELT: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fairly good on minnows in 35 feet of water; catfish are fairly slow; walleye are slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 47 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 11 pounds on artificials; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 6 pounds on trotlines and stinkbait.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 37 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow; walleye are slow.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 45 degrees, 3 1/4 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair in 8-20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear in main lake, murky in the upper end, 47 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are good to excellent in number in the 4-5 pound range in 20-40 feet of water along deeper points and drop offs near channels on light colored spinners, cranks, jigs and slabs worked slowly; smallmouth bass are fair to good to 16 1/2 inches in 25-30 feet of water on jigs and slabs; crappie are fair in number on minnows and jigs in 15 to 20 feet of water; white bass are poor to fair to 1 1/2 pounds on jigs and slabs over points; channel catfish are fair to 2 pounds up the Concho River on worms; walleye are slow.

PROCTOR: Water murky, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good at the mouth of the river on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 47 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass are fair in the 3-4 pound range on red shad worms; striper are good to 14 1/2 pounds on slabs; crappie are very slow; white bass are good to 3 pounds on slabs; catfish are slow.

STAMPFORD: Water clear, 39 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair but most are small; crappie are good on jigs and minnows; catfish are good in keeper sizes on live bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 51 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are good on small minnows; walleye are good on large minnows in 16 feet of water.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Some redfish and few drum caught south of Sydnes Island; some catfish caught in the marshes; weather has been improving and a few more fishermen are out.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: The early Sunday morning front muddied up the waters; before the front good numbers of specks and reds were caught at the jetties; good sized reddish also caught by the causeway bridge; a few flounder caught near the causeway bridge. No live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Winds have been fairly strong; whiting are good along the beach front; a few scattered redfish, some of which are

keepers, caught along the beach front; a few scattered trout and redfish in the bays; few fishermen out; live bait is available but not plentiful. Fair numbers of good sized red snapper are caught when boats were able to get offshore.

FREEPORT: Fishing has been fairly good with a 7 1/2 pound speck caught at Quintana; quite a few snapper caught at the second rigs about 20 miles offshore.

Offshore boats are catching snapper in the 3-20 pound range, also gag, grouper, warsaw, scamp, vermilion snapper, some keeper sized amberjacks, some undersized ling and some bonito.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of redfish caught in the bay on cut mullet; specks are good when weather is good; East Matagorda Bay has a lot of fish but most aren't hitting; live bait shrimp bait is available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Good numbers of redfish caught in Green's Bayou along with a few big trout; best redfish bait is a gold Johnson Sprite while trout are best on Cordell's Jumping Minnows and Zara Spooks; good numbers of small trout caught around the seawall in Palacios with a few keepers on a variety of MirOlures and Hogies Screemers; redfish are showing up in Keller's Bay; good numbers of flounder in the bay with limits at night on a gig; live bait shrimp are not available.

ROCKPORT: Before the front, redfish were caught in 8-10 inches of water, tide was up and flats had water on them; redfish are caught around Ransom Island and around shell reefs in the deeper guts; redfish should be back on the flats by the weekend; some live bait shrimp are available.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of redfish and drum caught near the high lines in the back bays; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

SOUTH PADRE: Some trout and redfish caught before the last norther, fishing has been slow since; surf fishing is good though the weather is cold; one fishermen caught 52 whiting in the surf, the smallest was 14 inches; some big drum caught in the channel; fishing should improve with the weather; good numbers of sandtrout caught in deep water; snapper fishermen are doing very well when the boats can get out; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 1/27/93