

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the Dec. 9, 1987 issue:

Ray Roberts Lake Added To Type II W.M.A. System	1
McKittrick Canyon Trout Captured For Study	2
Current Hunting Season May Be Suitable For Framing	4
Wayward Whooping Cranes Require Caution	6
Additional Waterfowl Habitat Acquired In 1987	8
Winter Fishing Most Effective At Monticello	9
Fishing Report	11

RAY ROBERTS LAKE ADDED TO TYPE II W.M.A. SYSTEM

FORT WORTH -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have jointly entered into a license agreement to operate Ray Roberts Reservoir and associated lands as a Type II Wildlife Management Area beginning Saturday (Dec. 12).

Officials at the Corps and TPWD indicated that the property was legally posted and closed to all public hunting in 1987, but this agreement will allow public hunting for holders of \$35 Type II permits.

The 16,600-acre area is located near the city of Aubrey and covers portions of Denton, Grayson and Cooke Counties north of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. It represents the first Corps of Engineers land included in the Type II system, the new public hunting program developed this year. The addition of Ray Roberts Reservoir brings the system to a total of more than 431,000 acres available for hunting by Type II permit holders. The maximum allowable quota of 24,875 permits was sold by late November, with sales limited to approximately one permit for ever 15 acres to help ensure higher quality hunting experience.

Special restrictions for the Ray Roberts Type II area requested by the Corps include no overnight camping, no motor boats and hunting with shotguns only

Signs reading "Hunting By Type II Permit Only, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department," are posted at least every 1/4-mile on the area. Maps will be mailed to all permit holders. However, advance copies for use during the start of the season are available at the corps' Ray Roberts Project Office located below the dam off FM 2153 in Aubrey, and the Lewisville Lake Project Office, 1801 N Mill St in Lewisville

Type II permit fees will be used to stock deer and turkeys, and to develop waterfowl habitat where appropriate on Type II areas statewide, which include Ray Roberts, officials said

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MCKITTRICK CANYON TROUT
CAPTURED FOR STUDY

ELECTRA -- A crew of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hatchery biologists backpacked into the Guadalupe Mountains National Park last week on an unusual fishing expedition

The six hiked into McKittrick Canyon with electrofishing equipment and collected 26 trout that may possess genetic remnants of Texas' only native trout population

Pat Hutson, trout program leader, said historical records of the region

contain references by early settlers to trout in McKittrick Creek "If this is so, the fish may have been a native strain of cutthroat trout," Hutson said Later, possibly in the 1930s, a local rancher apparently stocked rainbow trout in the creek

Hutson said examination of the fishes' genetic makeup through electrophoresis will reveal whether the trout are pure rainbows or possibly an intergrade between rainbows and some other species

"Whatever strain they might be, the fact that they have maintained their population through reproduction for so long may indicate they have a greater tolerance for warmer water temperatures than trout in other regions," Hutson said

The fish, which were placed in oxygenated plastic bags and carried in backpacks to a tank truck, now are in indoor tanks at the Dundee Fish Hatchery at Electra

Hutson said he hopes the McKittrick Canyon fish can be spawned at the hatchery to provide offspring for more research

The department stocks hatchery-reared trout in a number of locations each winter on a put-and-take basis with anglers catching most of them The fish normally cannot survive through the warmer months and do not reproduce, Hutson said

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CURRENT HUNTING SEASON MAY
BE SUITABLE FOR FRAMING

AUSTIN -- The 1987-88 hunting season appears to be one of those rare vintages, a bountiful period to be savored by Texas sportsmen now and remembered fondly afterward

Favorable weather patterns during the past two years have revitalized habitats across the state, and hunters now are reaping the harvest, wildlife officials said

White-tailed deer populations are hovering around all-time high levels, mule deer are increasing their numbers in West Texas; turkeys continue to be abundant and quail have rebounded dramatically from critical lows three years ago. Pheasants also have benefited from the improved range conditions, and hunters can expect to see plenty of birds when the Dec 12-27 season opens this weekend in 35 Panhandle counties

Texas' white-tailed deer hunters had high expectations for the season that opened Nov 14, since last season's harvest of 445,000 deer was an all-time high. Reports collected during this season's mid-point indicate they have not been disappointed

"We're apparently having an excellent season, despite unseasonably warm and rainy weather during the early part," said Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Gore stopped short of predicting another all-time harvest, but said the current

season may rival 1986 in terms of both quantity and quality

"The body condition and antler development of deer has been excellent this year, and some bucks of near record-book quality have been taken, both in South and West Texas," said Gore

Gore said a better than expected acorn crop, combined with warm weather, may have held the total harvest down somewhat in the popular Edwards Plateau region of Central Texas this fall. "The deer apparently are not responding well to feeders so far," he said. Hunting also has been somewhat slow in parts of East Texas, which also may be a result of habitat and weather conditions, he added.

While it is too early to predict the total harvest, Gore said he believes hunters will take approximately 20 percent more antlerless deer in the 80 counties now under the "either sex" system of bag limits. In those counties, hunters no longer are required to obtain antlerless deer hunting permits from landowners; rather, they attach the appropriate tag from their hunting license to the carcass of any antlerless deer taken.

"Last year about 125,000 antlerless deer were harvested in those 80 counties, and I hope that number will increase to about 150,000 this season under the either-sex program," Gore said.

The department will conduct a survey of hunters and landowners in the 80-county area after the season, to determine if the either-sex concept achieved its goal of increased antlerless harvest, Gore said.

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WAYWARD WHOOPING CRANES
REQUIRE CAUTION

AUSTIN -- Waterfowl hunters and sandhill crane hunters are being asked to exercise caution during their outings this winter because several young whooping cranes have strayed from their traditional wintering area on the Texas coast

Dr Bruce Thompson, endangered species program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said a juvenile whooper separated from its parents during migration was found southeast of Amarillo during November "This youngster has been doing well in that area for the past month but has moved among several playa lakes in a 10 to 15 square mile area," Thompson said He added that weather changes in the coming weeks may cause the bird to move, so hunters are urged to be on the lookout for the bird

On Nov 30, another yearling whooper was seen with a large flock of sandhill cranes between Edna and Victoria, about 70 miles north of the traditional wintering area Thompson said that although the whooper may move to other areas, it is likely that the bird could spend considerable time in the Jackson County vicinity

Whooping cranes are almost five feet tall, with mostly white plumage and black wingtips In flight, they extend their long, dark legs to the rear The whooper near Amarillo is this year's chick and has some rusty body feathering, Thompson said

The two wayward whoopers are particularly notable because they are young fledged in 1986 and 1987 by the same parents. Thompson said the whooper near Edna spent the entire winter of 1986-87 in Oklahoma, and like the bird near Amarillo, has never yet been to the usual coastal wintering area near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and Matagorda Island State Park and Wildlife Management Area.

"Although most whooping cranes stay with their chicks through most or all of the first winter, this pair appears to have a habit thus far of separating from their young during migration," said Thompson. "This appears to be a young breeding pair that has not yet developed complete parental abilities."

Thompson explained that these relationships are determined by colored leg markers placed on young cranes during the past 11 years by Canadian Wildlife Service biologists on the nesting areas at Wood Buffalo National Park in northern Canada.

"The whooping crane is highly endangered with only about 200 in existence worldwide, of which 130 are expected to migrate into Texas this winter. The whoopers are a precious Texas resource that deserve the attention of all Texans to ensure effective conservation measures," Thompson said. To report possible whooping crane sightings or request additional information, call toll-free 1-800-792-1112, or (512) 389-4979 in Austin.

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ADDITIONAL WATERFOWL
HABITAT ACQUIRED IN 1987

AUSTIN -- Sales of Texas Waterfowl Stamps and art prints made possible the acquisition of six coastal marshland tracts totaling more than 8,356 acres during 1987, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Dr Dan Moulton, program leader for waterfowl habitat acquisition, said a new wildlife management area (WMA) was established on a 5,700-acre tract that formerly was the eastern half of the AP Ranch. The tract, acquired with stamp funds, was acquired for \$325 per acre from the Texas Nature Conservancy (TNC). The area, called Mad Island WMA, is located five miles west of the town of Matagorda in Matagorda County. It is bounded on the south by the Intracoastal Canal and on the east by the West Branch of the Colorado River.

Two tracts were acquired from the Texas General Land Office, through the TNC, as additions to existing waterfowl management areas. The 633-acre Alligator Slide Ranch was added to the Guadalupe Delta WMA in Calhoun County, as was a privately owned inholding of 32 acres, and a 104.3-acre tract was added to the Peach Point WMA in Brazoria County.

Generous donations of wetlands by Mrs. Nelda C Stark (1,737 acres) and M. L. "Buddy" Lefler (150 acres) were added to the recently established Lower Neches WMA near Bridge City in Orange County. The Lower Neches area now totals 3,749 acres including previous donations by M. L. Lefler, Frank Dover and John W. Shaw.

Moulton reminds hunters and conservationists they can support the department's wetland preservation program by purchasing Texas Waterfowl Stamps. Also, print reproductions of the stamp art are available from art dealers or Collectors Covey, 15 Highland Park Village, Dallas, Texas 75205

Tax-deductible donations to the fund also may be sent to Waterfowl Habitat Fund, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744

JC 12/9/87

WINTER FISHING MOST
EFFECTIVE AT MONTICELLO

MOUNT PLEASANT -- Bass fishing at Lake Monticello is at its best when winter weather is at its worst, judging from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department creel surveys

Biologist Tim Schlagenhaft said seasonal creel surveys conducted during 1986 at the 2,000-acre power plant reservoir indicate the winter months are best both for numbers and quality of bass

"In comparing the seasons, data show that the spring period has the most fishing pressure, at about 22 hours per acre, followed closely by winter, at 21 hours per acre," Schlagenhaft said. "While fishing pressure is nearly equal during these seasons, harvest is almost twice as high during winter."

It might surprise anglers to know that 47 percent of the total yearly bass harvest at Monticello occurs during the winter. The catch rate, or

number of bass harvested per hour, also is highest during winter, followed closely by the fall catch rate. "Although the fall catch rate is similar, about 70 percent of the bass harvested during fall are shorter than 14 inches," Schlagenhaft said. "On the other hand, 70 percent of the bass harvested in the winter are more than 18 inches long."

Schlagenhaft said that during one six-hour creel survey in January 1986, anglers harvested six bass over nine pounds each.

Monticello has a 14-18 slot bag limit, meaning anglers are required to release bass between 14 and 18 inches in length.

In addition to excellent production of trophy-sized bass, Monticello provides fine catch and release fishing. Almost 85 percent of all bass caught are released, with most being in the slot size, Schlagenhaft said. "Most winter anglers are trophy bass fishermen, and an increasing number of these sportsmen are releasing legal-sized fish up to eight pounds," he noted.

Monticello is located about 10 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant on State Highway 127. Public launch and camping facilities are available at Titus County Park, where fees are charged.

JC 12/9/87

AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for December 9, 1987.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 66 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on cranks, spinners, Bombers, hybrid striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; catfish fair to 4 pounds on stinkbait and live perch.

BELTON: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 pounds on pig and jig to 3 fish per string in 15-18 feet of water; crappie good on minnows and small jigs to 20 fish per string mostly at night; white bass good in the Lake Park area to 30 fish per string average on spoons and slabs; catfish good up the Leon River to 12 pounds on rod and reel baited with bloodbait and stinkbait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie excellent to 1 3/4 pounds, most average about 1 pound, on minnows and jigs; white bass fair at night around the lights on small silver spoons and spinners, catfish fair on trotline to 6 1/4 pounds on shrimp; no drift fishermen.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on 3/8-ounce brown jigs; striper good to 12 pounds on white 1 1/2-ounce bucktail jigs in 18-25 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass good with strings between 20-40 fish on slab spoons. catfish good to 28 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish.

CANYON: Water dingy, some debris, 76 degrees, 7 feet low and rising; largemouth bass fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds on blue black jig and pig; smallmouth fair to 3 pounds on 4 inch motoroil worm; striper slow; crappie good but hard to find in 25 feet of water; white bass good, but not breaking water yet, for the first hour after daylight on clear days; catfish good on shrimp to 7 pounds on rod and reel, trotline also productive.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level black bass good all week to 9 pounds, 3 ounces on chrome blue backed Rat-L-Traps in 10-12 feet of water, a couple of 7 pounders caught in shallow water on Rat-L-Traps and brown skirted jigs; crappie slow; catfish slow, a few small fish on live bait with rod and reel.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water slightly muddy in the creeks, 63 degrees, 5 inches low; black bass slow and small on topwaters early and dark plastic worms later in the day; crappie fair and scattered to 1 pound on minnows in 12 feet of water; catfish slow due to lack of fishermen. Few fishermen out on the lake midweek.

LBJ: Water murky, 67 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on black and chartreuse jigs in 8-12 feet of water; striper fair to 10 pounds on shad colored cranks, crappie slow; white bass good with strings to 35 fish per string silver Pico Perch; catfish good to 36 pounds on goldfish.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level black bass fair on plastic worms, striper fair to 5 1/2 pounds on minnows; crappie fairly good midweek to 10 fish per string on minnows in shallow water; white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on prepared catfish bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 73 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass good to 3 pounds on purple worms, striper slow; crappie good at night to 15 fish per string around the dam and around marina, Bluff Park and Cedar Gap Bridge on minnows and blue jigs, white bass good around 3 a.m. around the Cedar Gap Bridge on slabs and minnows; catfish good on trotline bait with liver and Tender Chunk Dog food to 4 pounds.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 66 degrees 7 1/2 feet low; largemouth bass good to 18 fish per boat with about a dozen keeper sized and above on crawfish colored Fat Raps to 3 pounds; Guadalupe bass good to 16 inches on same lures as well as smoke glitter grubs, live minnows good when lure fishing slows in 20 feet of water off points; striper slow; white bass fair with increasing activity at night under lights; catfish and crappie slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 59 degrees, 6 feet low; largemouth bass good to 5 pounds, mostly in 1-3 pound range with some limits mostly on open waters; smallmouth good to 5 pounds, but mostly smaller, on cranks and jigs to in 25 feet of water, good numbers of bass fishermen on the lake midweek; striper good on live perch, shad and minnows and jigs with down riggers and in shallow water mostly in the 8-11 pound range; crappie slow; white bass good with midday schooling mid lake on spoons, grubs and Fleaflyies under the birds to 15 fish per string; catfish fair to 27 pounds on trotline around White Bluff and Cedar Creek on cutbait and worms

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water slightly murky around edges from 4 inches of rain, 55 degrees, 8 inches below overflow; black bass good to 8 pounds on Bloodline jig and Crawworm, jig and eel. striper slow; crappie excellent with limits in 40 feet of water on minnows white bass slow; catfish slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Lake clear, creeks muddy, 58 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 7 pounds on jig and pig in 20 feet of water; crappie good late under railroad bridge on minnows; white bass spotty to 2 pounds on jig and spoons; catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, normal level black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fairly good on minnows. white bass slow; catfish slow.

CADDO: Water partly clear, 6 inches high; black bass fairly good to 4 pounds; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows to 20 fish per string white bass slow; catfish slow. Few fishermen midweek.

CEDAR CREEK Water stained in coves due to heavy rains, 56 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low and slowly rising; black bass fair to 6 3/4 pounds on shad colored cranks in 8 feet of water; hybrid striper fair on 1 ounce yellow jigs in 27-30 feet of water near dropoffs in open water; crappie slow; white bass fair trolling Hellbenders and chartreuse Rooster Tail trailers; catfish good on shrimp and stinkbait to 3 3/4 pounds in 12-15 feet of water.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level black bass fairly good on topwaters to 6 pounds, no full strings; crappie good on minnows to 2 pounds. catfish good to 5 pounds on minnows and bloodbait.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 83 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 5 1/4 pounds on dark worms in 12 feet of water, some on spinners in shallow water; catfish fair to 6 pounds on rod and reel on earthworms and shrimp; redfish scattered.

FORK: Water slightly murky, 60 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on black and chartreuse worms, Rogues and jigs striper slow; crappie good to 18 fish per string on minnows white bass slow; catfish good on trotline to 8 1/2 pounds on stinkbait.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, normal level black bass fair but small on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 5 pounds on trotlines bait on shad.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, tinted on upper end, 61 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds on chartreuse spinners and Tennessee Shad; crappie fair on minnows and jigs around boathouses; white bass slow; catfish slow. Good numbers of gadwalls, wood ducks, teal and mallards for the opening of the third and final segment of the duck season on Saturday morning.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level black bass good to 9 pounds, 10 ounces on 8-inch black worms and DB#3s; crappie poor; catfish good on nightcrawlers and shrimp drifting around the outlets. Bream very good for the few who fish for them; good numbers of redears in 5-10 feet on green jigs and earthworms.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows in 12 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish slow. Winds high all week, most fishing has been from the bank.

MURVAUL: Water clear, murky in spots due to heavy weekend rains, 62 degrees, 8 inches over spillway; black bass fair to 7 pounds, 5 ounces before the rains on black and grape worms, slow after the rains; crappie slow, some around boat houses; channel catfish good due to the water rise on cut shad and nightcrawlers. Fair numbers of ducks for the final segment of the duck season beginning Saturday.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear on lower end, off color on upper end, 61 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass improving to but within the slot, very few fish above slot limit, on crappie colored

Rat-L-Traps between the banks and the moss beds; white bass and catfish slow. Deer hunting slow in the area due to weather.

PALESTINE: Water slightly dingy, 68 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 pounds, 13 ounces on jig and eel, several 5s and 6s with several limits; striper fair to 8 pounds with a few limits and fish moving into deeper water around Highway 155 bridge; crappie fairly good but no limits to about 2 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass good on spoons to 50 fish per string; catfish slowing to 13 pounds on trotlines baited with bloodbait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 54 degrees, 34 inches low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on plum worms and white spinners, no full strings; striper good to 11 7 pounds trolling Hellbenders and white jigs; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds with limits on minnows; white bass fair to 1 1/2 pounds on white slabs; catfish good to 10 pounds around the discharge area on cut shad and bloodbait with rod and reel

TEXOMA: Water clear, 56 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on cranks; striper fair to 8 pounds on Sassy Shad in 20-25 feet of water; crappie fair on minnows to 1 1/2 to 15 fish per string; white bass good to 30 fish per string to 2 pounds on topwaters; catfish fair to 18 pounds on cutbait and stinkbait with rod and reel

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water fairly clear, 60 degrees, normal level. black bass slow on chrome Rat-L-Trap and worms fished near bulkheads in 2 feet of water; hybrid striper, white bass and a few crappie under 1097 bridge on minnows; catfish still good on catfish bait, shrimp, cut shad. Bream hard to find.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 pounds on live water dogs; striper slow; crappie good to 2 pounds with limits; white bass slow; catfish good to 79 pounds, a 29 pound blue catfish on live perch.

LIVINGSTON: Water slightly off color due to rains, 60 degrees, 3 inches above normal level black bass fairly good to 9 1/2 pounds over the weekend, several in the 3-5 pound range on dark worms; striper fair and spotty mostly on trotlines; crappie fair in number but no limits; white bass still slow; yellow catfish good to 90 pounds; blue catfish good to 35 pounds on cutbait or shad; channel catfish good to 3 pounds on trotline and rod and reel

RAYBURN: Water discolored up river due to rains, 61 degrees, 3 1/2 feet below pool level. black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on jigs, spinners, worms around the edges of the hydrilla; striper slow; crappie good when the wind is not blowing and boats can stay over brush in open water; white bass slow; catfish fair on trotlines to 3 pounds on Catfish Charly, stinkbait, big worms and shrimp.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, normal level. black bass fairly good to 3 pounds on small spinners; striper slow; crappie slow to 5 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair on trotline.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, lake level 2 feet high; black bass good to 3 pounds on red metal flake worms and white chartreuse worms; striper good to 5 pounds on white pony head jigs with white flirrtails; crappie slow; white bass good around dam; catfish good on cheese baits and shrimp in 100 feet of water.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 66 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass slow; striper fair to 3 pounds on chicken livers; catfish fairly good to 4 pounds on chicken liver and tilapia; redbird good on tilapia to 16 pounds; corvina slow. Braunig Lake open only from 6 a.m.

to 6 p.m.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 68 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 pounds on spinners and plastic worms; striper good to 3 pound average on shrimp and Phantom Lures; crappie slow; catfish good to 3 pound average on tilapia and shrimp; redfish good to 10 pounds on spoons and Rat-L-Traps; corvina excellent with strings to 60 pounds on the Tony Accetta 121 and 131 spoons as well as tilapia.

CHOKE: Water clear, normal level black bass fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds average on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie excellent with full strings to 2 pounds each under the bridges and near the dam on minnows; white bass slow; catfish excellent with limits over the baited holes on Roger's Cheese Bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water mostly clear but murky from rains in some areas. 64 degrees, normal level black bass fair with good numbers of smaller fish on worms and spinners; striper good to 5 pounds on shrimp, Rat-L-Traps and spoons; crappie poor; white bass slow; channel catfish good to 13 pounds.

FALCON: Water clear, 1 foot high; black bass fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds doodlesocking worms; striper fairly good in numbers to about 6 pounds on Blakemore Knocker spoons and Bomber slabs; white bass good on spoons and jigs with as many fish as you can carry home; crappie fair from docks on jigs and minnows; catfish good to 4 pounds, mostly in the 1-2 pound range, on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to lack of fisherpersons.

TEXANA: Water murky, normal level black bass fair to 3 pounds in the jungle on Tequila Sunrise worms; striper and white bass slow; crappie poor; blue catfish fair to 8 pounds on trotline with cut bait, shad and crawfish.

WEST

GRANBURY: Water clear, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows to 4 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 69 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 3 pounds on plastic worms, chartreuse spinners; hybrid striper good to 7 pounds on any shiny bait; crappie fairly slow to 12 fish per string on minnows in 8-20 feet of water; catfish poor.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 14 1/2 feet low; black bass fairly good to 5 pounds on cranks and worms; striper good in 2-10 pound range on cranks and slabs; crappie fair and good sized on minnows to 20 fish per string; white bass good to 30 fish per string on slabs; catfish slow to 5 pounds on live bait and stinkbait, few fishermen on the lake.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 60 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 5 pounds on black jigs; striper poor; crappie fair to good to 15 fish per string on minnows and jigs; catfish fair on trotlines baited with shad and minnows.

SPENCE: Water clear, 62 degrees, 19 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on purple worms; striper fair to 16 pounds on big shiners drifting; crappie slow; white bass fair to 7 fish per string on slabs in 17 to 35 feet of water; catfish slow.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level black bass good to 12 pounds, 6 1/2 ounces, a new county record on jig with trailer; striper fair and improving to 4 pounds; crappie good with strings to 25 fish on minnows; white bass good to 25 fish in 30 minnows on slabs; catfish fairly good to 5 pounds on live bait.

COASTAL

UPPER SABINE LAKE A few redfish to 7 pounds but mostly undersized at the Gulf States outfall. fairly good numbers of good sized redfish in Bessie Heights marsh; a few live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE: Redfish good in the 6 to 10 1/2 pound range on salt and pepper touts and gold spoons at the mouth of Sabine Lake; trout fairly good, slow mid week, to 8 pounds on white pigtails, purple grubs, black and white grubs; birds working early; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON Scattered trout and redfish in the bays, fishing requires a lot of hunting; better fishing is in East Bay; snapper fair offshore when you can get out. beach front producing scattered sheepshead, croaker, and sandtrout; only an occasional redfish and a few small drum; live shrimp available but will become scarce when it gets cold; duck populations good but goose populations spotty, weather still not good for waterfowl.

PORT OCONNOR: A few limits of redfish to near 30 inches from the jetties and in the surf on live shrimp and cut mullet; some limits of trout to 2 1/2 pounds at the jetties. good numbers of sheepshead; live bait shrimp available at \$9.50 per quart, \$6 per pint.

PALACIOS: Redfish slowing but still fairly good on live mullet to 30 inches around Grassy Point, Carancahua and Turtle Bays trout plentiful to 8 pounds, mostly in 2-4 pound range, on jointed Bombers and plastic shad in South Bay, Turtle and Carancahua Bays winds very high last Sunday but waters still fairly clear. Live bait shrimp scarce, but some available early at \$9 50 per quart. Ducks and geese plentiful for the final segment of the duck season which begins Saturday 30 minutes before sunrise.

ROCKPORT: Redfish thicker than flies in the cuts between Allan's Bight and Long Reef to 28 inches or 6-8 pounds with many limits on silver spoons; good numbers of redfish around California Hole in Estes Flats on Cordell's touts and live perch; trout good on red strawberry worms in Port Bay and Italian Bend; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful flounder slowing due to warm weather.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish fair to 6 pounds on live shrimp, pinperch, spoons; trout good to 3 pounds with a few limits and some near limits; flounder scattered; a few sheepshead and small drum; live bait shrimp scattered; good numbers of ducks for the third segment of the duck season which begins Saturday morning. Horace Caldwell Pier producing specks to 3 1/2 pound range with mostly in the 1 to 1 1/2 pound range on Mir-O-Lures when waters calm under light; a few pompano; a few black tipped shark to 5 pounds; a few butterfly drum in the 3-10 pound range on shrimp; a few whiting; bait shrimp, finger mullet, bait mullet and squid available.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Very few keeper sized redfish, great numbers of 10-inch long redfish; specks plentiful in 10-12 inch range but few keepers. two fishermen in a boat with 100 shrimp caught virtually 1 fish per shrimp, then caught another 50 fish on red worms but had only 5 keeper sized fish for the trip; flounder very slow; drum slow; good sized sheepshead in Corpus Christi Bay; Landcut area producing fair catches of redfish and trout; live bait shrimp available. Oso Pier producing trout in 3-5 pound range on live bait. Bob Hall Pier producing good numbers of whiting to 1 1/2 pounds; good trout over the weekend to about 3 pounds, average 1 1/2 pounds. good numbers of sharp nosed and black tipped shark to 3 1/2 feet; 100 pompano caught last Saturday to about 3 pounds each. sheepshead plentiful around pilings on fiddler crabs, no live bait at pier.

PORT MANSFIELD: Some big trout in the 5-6 pound range in the Landcut area; redfish fair in the 24-30 inch range in the Saucer area; live bait shrimp available. Only fair number of fishermen out midweek.

PORT ISABEL: Trout fishing good along the Intracoastal in the 1-3 pound range, a few to 8 pounds, on live shrimp; reddish scattered to 4 pound average; flounder running along the channels around the spoil banks in shallow water, also in the surf. live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. Offshore slow; snapper fishing should begin any time.

PH 12/09/87