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# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## WATERFOWL SEASONS ADOPTED BY TPW COMMISSION

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, meeting in Austin on Sept 29, adopted waterfowl hunting seasons and bag limits that reflect a mandate from federal officials to reduce the harvest of ducks by 25 percent

Shorter seasons, smaller bag limits and reduced shooting hours were part of the regulation "framework" issued by the U S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) The changes represent an effort to reduce harvest of ducks whose populations have declined due to drought and habitat loss in nesting areas in Canada and the northern United States

Shooting hours for all waterfowl (ducks, geese and coots), as well as sandhill cranes, snipe and woodcock are sunrise to sunset, rather than the starting time of 30 minutes before sunrise that has been in effect for those species during past seasons Shooting hours for doves, rails and gallinules remain at 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

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The duck season was shortened in the eastern part of Texas from 51 days to 39, and in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit the season was reduced from 67 days in 1987 to 51 days this season. The eastern season dates are Nov 19-27 and Dec 10-Jan 8. The high plains season is Nov 12-Jan 1.

The duck bag limit has been changed from last season's 100-point system to a conventional three duck per day limit. The daily bag may include no more than two mallards (not more than one of which may be a hen), two wood ducks, one pintail, one redhead, one mottled duck and one hooded merganser. The season is closed on canvasbacks and masked ducks. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Goose hunting seasons and bag limits are basically unchanged from 1987, as weather and habitat conditions in northern nesting areas have been more favorable for geese than ducks, officials said.

In the eastern portion of the state, the season for "light" goose species is Nov 12-Feb 5; the dark goose season is Nov 12-Jan 22. The bag limit is five light geese and one Canada or black brant and one white-fronted goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

In the western portion of the state, the season for all geese species is Oct 22-Jan 22. The bag limit is five geese, not to include more than two dark geese.

Sandhill crane seasons also are similar to last year. The Zone A dates are Nov 12-Feb 12; Zone B is Nov 26-Feb 5; and Zone C is Jan 7-Feb

12. The daily bag limit in all zones is three sandhill cranes per day, six in possession

As in the past, a free permit issued by the TPWD is required of all sandhill crane hunters. Permits may be obtained by writing department headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. The name and address, including zip code, of each hunter is the only information required for the permits, which also may be obtained from TPWD offices in Amarillo, Lubbock, San Angelo, Abilene, Midland and San Antonio, as well as USFWS offices at Buffalo Lakes and Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuges.

Other seasons and bag limits adopted by the commission were woodcock, Nov 26-Jan 29, five per day, 10 in possession; common snipe (jacksnipe), Oct 29-Feb 12, eight per day, 16 in possession.

JC 10/5/88

WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT  
SEMINAR SET AT ATHENS

ATHENS -- Landowners interested in improving waterfowl habitat on their property are invited to attend a Landowners Waterfowl Management Seminar to be held Oct 22 at the Hilltop Inn in Athens.

The all-day seminar is being sponsored by the Henderson County Wildlife Committee, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Speakers will include waterfowl biologists and experts in associated

fields of habitat management For further information or pre-registration information, contact Gayle Finch, County Extension Agent, Courthouse Annex, 101 E Tyler St , Athens, TX 75751

JC 10/5/88

PRAIRIE CHICKEN HUNTERS  
REMINDED OF PERMITS

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials remind prospective prairie chicken hunters they are required to have free permits to hunt in the Oct 15-16 season

Counties where a season is offered on lesser prairie chickens, all in the Panhandle region, are Cochran, Hemphill, Hockley, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Terry, Wheeler and Yoakum

The permits are available free of charge from TPWD Headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or from department law enforcement offices in Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland and San Angelo

The hunter's name, complete address, telephone number and current hunting license number are required The permits also may be obtained by calling the department's toll-free number 1-800-792-1112

JC 10/7/88

FIRE ANT CONFERENCE SLATED  
AT AUSTIN OCT 24-25

AUSTIN -- A conference on the impact of fire ants in Texas will be hosted by Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas (SCOT) Oct 24-25 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 700 San Jacinto in Austin

Officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other state agencies, private conservation organizations and the Welder Wildlife Foundation are expected to participate in the two-day event

SCOT President Tom Martine said the conference has been endorsed by Gov Bill Clements. Martine said 26 experts from Texas and the Southeastern United States will present research papers at the meeting, but he indicated the event is not just for experts

Topics include fire ant control, research status, needed research, impacts to birds and mammals, agricultural problems, general biology of the insect, impacts on society and tourism, beneficial impacts, economics of controls, medical impacts and others

For reservation information, contact Alan Allen, SCOT, 311 Vaughn Building, Austin, TX 78701, (512) 472-2267

JC 10/5/88

QUAIL UNLIMITED DONATES TO  
TYPE II FOUNDATION

AUSTIN -- In a presentation at their annual banquet, the Quail Unlimited organization presented the Texas Public Lands Foundation checks totaling \$7,000 for use on Type II Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

Type II WMAs are lands leased by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and made available for hunting and other uses on a permit basis

Bill Roth, president of the foundation, accepted the checks from David McBee, president of the Capitol Area Chapter of Quail Unlimited, which donated \$1,000. Other Quail Unlimited chapters donating money for quail management are East Texas, \$2,000; Panhandle, \$1,000; and the State Council consisting of all Texas chapters, \$3,000

"Quail Unlimited has started the ball rolling in funding worthy projects that will enable the department to provide more hunters with better hunting opportunities," Roth said

David McBee, president of the Capitol Area Chapter, said most of the organization's fundraising banquets will be held later this fall, and he expects further donations to result

Quail Unlimited is a nationwide association dedicated to benefiting quail and other wildlife. The Texas Public Hunting Lands Foundation is a nonprofit foundation established to provide support and funds for the Type

## II Wildlife Management Area - Public Hunting Lands Program

The funds raised by Quail Unlimited will be dedicated for enhanced quail management on publicly-owned WMAs such as the Granger area in Williamson County, Richland Creek in Freestone County and Lake Ray Roberts in Cooke and Denton Counties. The funds will be turned over to the department for their use in wildlife management practices that will benefit quail in addition to other upland game species such as doves, and the many songbirds that use the annual seed-producing forbs for food or nesting habitat, officials said.

JC 10/5/88

HISTORIC FULTON MANSION  
CLOSED FOR REPAINTING

FULTON -- One of Texas' oldest, most elegant houses, the Fulton Mansion State Historic Structure in Fulton, has been closed for repainting.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said the house will be receiving a new coat of paint outside. Inside, the drapery will be cleaned and the staff will photograph some of the furniture to bring the inventory up to date. Other cleaning and curatorial projects also will be done while the mansion is closed.

"The coastal environment is hard on house paint and the paint colors have faded on the outside," said James D. Bigger Jr., architect and restoration project manager for the department's Parks Division. Seven years ago the house was restored to resemble its appearance in the 1880s,

he said

"Even with the faded paint, the external appearance is always accurate historic representation, because during the years when the Fultons lived there the paint faded and had to be renewed from time to time," said Zane Morgan, head of the division's Interpretation and Exhibits Branch

Fulton Mansion was acquired by the department in 1976 as a significant example of high-Victorian architecture in Texas "The particular historical significance of the mansion is its Second Empire style of architecture, unique method of wood plank construction and its advanced mechanical and utility systems," said Bigger

Paint analysis has shown that the exterior was a golden yellow with dark brown trim and reddish brown trim on the windows "We had paint chips studied to determine the right hue and tone for each color," he said The house is being repainted in the gold and browns used for the completed restoration, according to Bigger

The mansion will be reopened at 8 a m Oct 26. Visitors may call (512) 729-0386 for a tour schedule after the reopening

JC 10/5/88



EITHER-SEX BAG LIMIT A  
BOON TO DEER HUNTERS

AUSTIN -- For the first time, deer hunters in most East Texas counties will not be required to obtain permits to take antlerless deer during the upcoming hunting season.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials remind hunters that the either-sex system of deer bag limits has been expanded to include 57 counties for the regular season beginning Nov. 5. This brings the total number of either-sex counties to 137, covering most of the traditional deer-hunting areas of the state.

Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader, said the either-sex system was an overwhelming success last year in the Edwards Plateau and South Texas. "Either-sex eliminates a considerable amount of red tape, and encourages the hunter and landowner to increase their harvest of the antlerless segment of the herd," Gore said. "That's what we've been trying to accomplish for years."

Under the either-sex system, the hunter simply attaches the appropriate tag from his hunting license to the carcass of any antlerless deer taken. Under the antlerless permit system, which has been used since 1953, the department issues a specified number of permits to the landowner, who in turn distributes them to hunters. Permit allocation is based on annual deer census surveys.


Gore said that during the 35 years of antlerless permits, hunters have averaged using only 35 percent or fewer of the permits. Antlerless permits still are required in all or portions of 32 counties, where deer populations are isolated in small areas or are not as high. In some counties, only bucks may be taken.

Gore explained that the landowner still retains the right to specify the number and sex of game to be taken from his property, regardless of which bag limit system is in effect.

JC 10/5/88

1988 Either-Sex Counties for White-Tailed Deer  
(no antlerless permits required)

Anderson	Hardin	Nueces
Angelina	Harris	Orange
Aransas	Harrison	Palo Pinto
Atascosa	Hays (west of I-35)	Panola
Bandera	Henderson	Pecos
Bee	Hidalgo	Polk
Bell (west of I-35)	Hood	Presidio
Bexar	Houston	Reagan
Blanco	Howard (south of I-20)	Real
Bosque	Irion	Reeves
Brazoria	Jackson	Refugio
Brazos	Jasper	Robertson
Brewster	Jeff Davis	Runnels
Brooks	Jefferson	Rusk
Brown	Jim Hogg	Sabine
Burnet	Jim Wells	San Augustine
Calhoun	Karnes	San Jacinto
Callahan	Kendall	San Patricio
Cameron	Kenedy	San Saba
Cass	Kerr	Schleicher
Chambers	Kimble	Shackelford
Cherokee	Kinney	Shelby
Coke	Kleberg	Somervell
Coleman	Lampasas	Starr
Comal (west of I-35)	LaSalle	Stephens
Comanche	Leon	Sterling
Concho	Liberty	Sutton
Coryell	Limestone	Taylor (south of I-20)
Crockett	Live Oak	Terrell
Culberson	Llano	Throckmorton
DeWitt	Madison	Tom Green
Dimmit	Marion	Travis (west of I-35)
Duval	Mason	Trinity
Eastland	Matagorda	Tyler
Edwards	Maverick	Uvalde
Erath	McCulloch	Val Verde
Fort Bend	McMullen	Victoria
Freestone	Medina	Walker
Frio	Menard	Webb
Gillespie	Mills	Wharton
Glasscock	Mitchell (south of I-20)	Willacy
Goliad	Montgomery	Williamson (west of I-35)
Gonzales	Morris	Wilson
Grimes	Nacogdoches	Zapata
Guadalupe	Newton	Zavala
Hamilton	Nolan (south of I-20)	



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

# Battleship Bulletin

IMMEDIATE RELEASE. October 4, 1988

For information call Jim Eaves  
Region 8 Headquarters  
(713) 471-3200  
(713) 462-1422

"SAVE OUR SHIP" CAMPAIGN

AUSTIN, Texas -- A statewide aluminum can recycling campaign was started today to benefit the Battleship Texas. After 40 years in her berth near Houston, the ship is in need of major structural repairs.

She is the only survivor of both world wars and the dreadnought era of battleships. Texans who want to donate aluminum cans to help the historic landmark should call toll-free, 1-800-64-TEXAS for the name of their nearest participating aluminum can recycling center. More than 700 recycling centers, beverage distributors and Kwik Wash locations throughout the state will serve as collection points.

The cash value of donated cans will be given to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) battleship restoration fund.

"The Mighty T is being prepared for towing to a gulf coast shipyard for major hull repairs," said Dr. Wilson E. Dolman, TPWD's director of parks division.

-- MORE --

"The ship's own restoration crew is now very busy reinforcing bottom tanks, restoring topside structures in the aircastles and installing a vital flooding alarm system."

George Cobb, president of Alcoa Recycling Company, urged all Texans to help save the 74-year old Battleship Texas, which has been berthed at San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park for 40 years. Although destined for target practice in 1947, Battleship Texas was saved by Admiral Nimitz and Texas school children who raised money to help bring her to Texas.

Alcoa is one of the corporate sponsors for the three-month aluminum can recycling campaign.

"The 90-day 'Save Our Ship' recycling campaign will help save a piece of Texas history and will also raise awareness of the importance of recycling," according to Cobb.

"About 57 per cent of the aluminum cans sold in Texas are recycled, remelted, rolled into aluminum sheet and put back to work as new beverage cans. Everybody wins and nobody loses. Recycling aluminum cans fights litter, saves energy, creates jobs and eases the burden on municipal landfills."

Participating in the "Save Our Ship" campaign are Alcoa Recycling Company, American National Can, Houston Coca-Cola Bottling, Coca-Cola Bottling of North

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Texas, Austin Coca-Cola Bottling, Beaumont Coca-Cola Bottling, Lubbock Coca-Cola Bottling, Coca-Cola Bottling of El Paso, Coca-Cola Bottling of San Antonio, Container Recovery Corporation, Continental Resource Recovery, Golden Aluminum Company, Pearl Brewing Company, Kwik Wash Laundries, Inc., Reynolds Metals Company, Shiner Beer, Stroh Brewing Company, Texaco U.S.A. and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers parks.

-- END --

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for October 5

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to good to 4 1/2 pounds on Fat Getzits, buzz baits and topwaters; crappie very slow; catfish good to 3 pounds on minnows and cheese bait

BELTON: Water clear, 80 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on chrome PopRs in 10 feet or less of water; hybrid striper good to 8 pounds on chrome Rat-L-Traps in 20 feet of water; crappie good to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass fair to 15 fish per string on small chrome Rat-L-Traps; channel catfish good to 12 pounds on Bob's Chicken Blood in 22 feet of water on rod and reel

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 32 inches below spillway black bass fair to 5 pounds, 12 ounces on black chartreuse worms in deep water, striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string to 1 pound each on minnows; white bass good early and late around lighted docks at night on L'il Cleos and Kastmaster spoons

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 81 degrees 10 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on black and orange spinners in shallow water; striper good in the 4-5 pound range on chrome slabs, many small striper; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows at night under lights; white bass good with limits on clear topwaters on the surface in 60 feet of water; catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds on stinkbait and shrimp.

CANYON: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds with good numbers of throwbacks on Rat-L-Traps and worms in shallow water early and late, normally fish are in 15 feet of water; striper slow; crappie fair to good on minnows in the upper end of the lake; white bass spotty with some surface activity; yellow catfish good to 25 pounds on goldfish and live perch, channel catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 83 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds with at least 10 keeper fish since Monday on dark worms, live bait and chrome Boy Howdies, Rat-L-Traps in 6-10 feet of water in the coves; crappie slow; catfish very good to 27 pounds, many in the 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 pound range on rod and reel baited with live minnows and goldfish.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, 9 inches low; black bass fair in the creeks and creek channels to 20 inches on cranks, good numbers of throwbacks; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; catfish excellent to 6 pounds on rod and reel with stinkbait and liver in 8-9 feet of water

LBJ Main lake murky, coves clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on crawdad cranks in 4-8 feet of water; striper fair in the 3-6 pound range on chrome diving baits in 18-25 feet of water; crappie good to 10 plus fish on strings at night, fish should be good during the day when the lake water temperatures drop another 5 degrees; white bass good with strings to 25 fish on black and chrome WeeRs or any similar bait; catfish good to 3 pounds on shrimp and cutbait

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass fairly good in the 4-6 pound range on blue worms in 6-10 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good in the 18-24 pound range on trotlines baited with goldfish.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fairly good to 15 fish per string on minnows and jigs in fairly shallow water; catfish fair to 2 pounds on rod and reel with shrimp, liver and shad

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 12 feet low; black bass slow; hybrid striper very good to 3 1/2 pounds on white slabs, jigs and minnows to 5 fish per string; crappie good on minnows and jigs to 15 fish per string; white bass good on minnows and jig to 20 fish per string; channel catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds on liver, Catfish Charlie on rod and reel, cutbait good with trotline.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 79 degrees, 13 feet low; black bass good since Monday to 4 1/4 pounds on chartreuse spinners, chrome topwaters and strawberry glitter worms to 45 fish per day per boat with most

below keeper size: striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 pounds on shrimp  
WACO: Water clear, Bosque Flats still a little muddy, normal level black bass good to 8 pounds, mostly in the 2 pound range on cranks in 18 inches to 4 feet of water; striper poor; crappie good with full strings to 3/4 pound each on minnows in 16-20 feet of water; white bass good but mostly small on Rat-L-Traps and slabs on the surface; catfish good to 3 pounds drifting shrimp and shad.  
WHITNEY Water clear, 78 degrees, 10 feet low; largemouth bass good to 4 pounds on worms; smallmouth bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on same baits; striper good on live bait to 12 pounds, most in the 6 pound range on live bait; crappie good on minnows from barges and in creeks, mostly small on minnows; white bass fair on slabs, fish mostly small; catfish good to 3 pounds average, some to 8 pounds, on trotlines and droplines

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 72 degrees, 17 inches low; black bass fair overall to 6 pounds on Chiggers, Lucky 13s, Tiny Torpedoes and Rat-L-Traps on top of the bottom moss and in 7 feet of water near the shore; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string on minnows with some jig action, mostly minnows, in 15 to 20 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good on trotline at night  
BRIDGEPORT: Water slightly murky, 12 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie very good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 2-8 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good drifting.  
CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 2 pounds on Rooster Tail spinners and topwaters in 2-3 feet of water hybrid striper fair in open water in 25 feet of water on silver slabs and bucktails; crappie good to 25 fish per string in the stump fields and around the bridge pilings on minnows in 18-20 feet of water; white bass good to 2 pounds with limits on chartreuse Rooster Tails and chrome L'il Georges with late afternoon surfacing channel catfish fair; yellow catfish fair.  
CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 74 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 9 pounds, 10 ounces on 8 inch June Bug worms in 8 feet of water, many smaller bass from 2-6 1/2 pounds on black and white DB#3s, as well as green and white cranks; night fishing good with black and pearl 8-inch worms, fire and ice worms good during the day; crappie good to 3 pounds on minnows and flea flies; catfish good to 27 1/2 pounds on live perch; channel catfish good from the docks on chicken liver.  
FORK: Water clear, 74 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass good to 7 pounds, 2 ounces on dark worms crappie very good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 16-18 feet of water; catfish fair to 4 1/2 pounds on rod and reel  
LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 76 degrees, 2 feet below normal; black bass fairly good to 5 pounds on frogs and worms, some buzz baits crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass fairly slow on small cranks catfish fair to 5 pounds on trotline baited with minnows  
LAVON: Water murky, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass slow; crappie good to 1 pound to 15 fish per string on minnows in 12-15 feet of water white bass slow; catfish good to 7 1/4 pounds on shrimp and shad.  
MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 87 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good in the 4-8 pound range in the moss beds on 6 inch Tequila Sunrise and plumb worms; catfish fair in the 4-6 pound range.  
MONTICELLO: Water clear, 87 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 6 pounds, 13 ounces on DB#3s and MiniRs; crappie fair to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs channel catfish very good to 7 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.  
MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 78 degrees 18 inches low; black bass slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds to 10 fish per string on minnows white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp, liver and cheese baits  
MURVAUL Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds, 12 ounces on dark worms, several 4-5 pound fish have been caught on topwaters; crappie fairly good with some limits to 1 pound on small minnows under 1971 bridge in 14 feet of water; channel catfish good to 5 1/2 pounds on small perch and out shad.  
NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 77 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass excellent to 9 1/4 pounds on white and chartreuse spinners with willow leaf blades crappie are fair to 20 fish per string on minnows. catfish slow.



PALESTINE: Water clear, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on worms, cranks and topwaters; striper fair to 7 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, Hellbenders or L'il Georges; white bass fair with some topwater activities; crappie slow, some in deeper water, very few in shallow water, most under 10 inches and a few to 2 pounds; catfish fairly good to 40 fish per boat on trotlines to 7 pounds; an occasional yellow catfish to 18 pounds on trotline baited with bream and shad.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 78 degrees, 38 inches low; black bass good to 6 pounds, 6 ounces on Craworm; striper slow; crappie picking up with some limits under the bridge on minnows; catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp

TAWAKONI Water clear, 84 degrees, 30 inches low; black bass very good to 7 pounds on dark worms and spinners; striper good to 16 pounds and hybrid striper good to 12 pounds on live bait as well as white jigs with a worm trailer; crappie very good to 2 1/2 pounds to 20 fish per string on minnows white bass slow; catfish very good to 9 pounds on shrimp, bloodbait and worms

TEXOMA: Lake Clear, up river murky, 77 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks, worms, spinners and topwaters in 3-20 feet of water; striper improving with lots of topwater action, some slabbing and trolling to 11 1/2 pounds; crappie improving in 12-15 feet of water on minnows, white and chartreuse jigs; white bass fair with some surfacing with the striper; catfish good to 50 pounds on trotline with live bait

WELSH: Water mostly clear, 94 degrees, 2 3/4 feet low; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on cranks, black 6-inch worms and purple 12-inch worms in 4-12 feet of water; crappie are fair on jigs and minnows in 18 to 20 feet of water; catfish good averaging 4 to 6 pounds on cut shad and shrimp; bream are plentiful on worms and shrimp.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water slightly off color, 70 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are scattered and unpredictable in 6-12 feet of water to 9 17 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and worms, about half of the fish caught are keeper sized, fish hit lightly; striper, white bass and catfish slow; channel catfish good to 2 pounds on shrimp, shad, stinkbait and nightcrawlers

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 70 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on topwaters, Long As, Rat-L-Traps, June Bugs, Spooks, many fish within the slow; striper slow; crappie fair to 1 1/2 pounds with good sized strings on minnows; white bass fairly good near the dam to 10 fish per string on minnows and slabs; catfish fair on bloodbait and minnows to 9 pounds

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 77 degrees, 5 foot, 5 inches low; black bass good to 10 1/4 pounds on black worms in 20 feet of water; striper slow, a few fish caught near Pine Island; crappie improving each day with strings to 15 fish per day on minnows; white bass spotty, some limits on slabs; yellow catfish good to 97 pounds on trotline with live bream, several yellow catfish in the 25-40 pound range; blue catfish good to 40 pounds on trotlines and live bait; channel catfish good in the 1-5 pound range shad

RAYBURN: Water clear, 74 degrees, 8 1/2 feet below pool level black bass good along the edges of the hydrilla and in shallow water in the 2-4 pound range, some improvement early this week. striper slow; crappie good in deep water in the brush in 25 feet of water on minnows; white bass fair on jigging spoons; catfish slow.

TOLEDO BEND Water clear, 5 feet low; black bass good to 2 1/2 pounds on Tiny Torpedoes, Boy Howdies and Devil's Horses early; motoroil and black worms are good later in the day in 20 to 25 feet of water; striper good to 3 pounds on Boy Howdies and jigs; crappie good on small jigs in front of the moss beds, best catches have been at night on live bait in 25 feet of water with strings ranging from 20 to 50 fish per night; catfish good in baited holes

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 76 degrees, 4 feet above normal level; black bass fairly good to 4 pounds with an occasional 8 pounder on purple and red worms with white tails striper slow to 20 pounds on green Bananahead jigs with white flirt tail; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish excellent in 60-80 feet of water on stinkbait, worms and shrimp.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass excellent in number but no keepers on dark plastic worms and chrome Rat-L-Traps in 10-15 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; catfish improving to 4 pounds in small numbers on shrimp and chicken livers; redfish excellent to 20 pounds on Tony Accetta spoons; orangemouth corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 6 pounds on plastic worms in 6 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; catfish fairly good to 3 pounds on shad and tilapia; corvina good to 8 pounds on tilapia and shad; redfish fair to 10 pounds on tilapia.

CHOKO: Water clear, normal level; black bass fair to 9 pounds, 15 ounces and another 7 1/4 pounder on firecracker worms and topwaters early; striper slow; crappie very good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish very good in baited holes to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited with Roger's Cheese Bait; hole is baited with soured wheat.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on black worms; striper slow; crappie fair in number and small in size on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on shrimp and chicken livers.

FALCON: Water clear, 1 foot above normal level; black bass very good to 6.3 pounds on dark worms, spinners and some topwaters in backs of coves in 5 feet of water; striper fairly good on jigging spoons and trolling in 30-40 feet of water; crappie slow, some off docks on minnows; white bass good in number but small in size all over the lake; good numbers of catfish on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 8 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass; catfish good to 47 pounds on trotline with live perch, many 4-6 pound fish caught.

TEXANA: Water slightly murky, 2 feet low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on plastic worms in the jungle area; striper and white bass slow; crappie fairly slow on minnows; catfish very good to 12 pounds on trotline and cutbait.

#### WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water slightly off color, 74 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow; white bass good; walleye good to 3 pounds, many from dock.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 74 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds, 2 ounces on buzz baits and topwaters; striper good to 12 pounds, 6 ounces on live perch in 20 feet of water; crappie good in 28 feet of water to 25 fish per string on minnows; catfish good to 10 pounds, 11 ounces and several limits of 14-15 inch channel catfish; white bass slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 7 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on buzz baits and minnows; striper good to 5 pounds on silver slabs; crappie good on minnows to 25 fish per string between 5-12 feet of water around trees and brush; white bass good along with hybrids and stripers; catfish fairly good to 27 pounds and several 8-10 pound fish on live perch and cutbait.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 76 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters in 4-5 feet of water around vegetation; crappie good to 1 pound on minnows around docks in 10-20 feet of water; white bass good trolling Bombers and Hellbenders in 12 feet of water; yellow catfish good to 20 pounds and blue catfish good to 15 pounds on shad and perch.

SPENCE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 25 feet low; black bass very good 8 pounds on worms and buzz baits; striper good to 15 pounds trolling large shiners and topwater baits; crappie slow; white bass fair on slabs; catfish fair to 5 pounds on stinkbait.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 70 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good in the 3-7 pound range on topwaters early and late and worms after 9 a.m.; crappie fairly good on small minnows in 15 feet of water; catfish are fair on stinkbait and lizards.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish fair to 6 pounds in the marsh, not many caught, mostly undersized fish; best baits are gold spoons and shrimp; good numbers of specks but still many undersized fish, largest speck weighed about 4 pounds on shrimp; good numbers of sandtrout; good numbers of croakers; drum fishing has improved to 5 pounds on shrimp; flounder good to 3 pounds with many in the 2 pound range on shrimp; bait shrimp plentiful.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish good near the bridge and over the shell reefs to 7 1/2 pounds on fresh dead shrimp and finger mullet; specks beginning to show up, scattered catches, most fish are caught along the south levee wall and in the south part of the lake, best bait is live shrimp; croaker are good from the bank and from Blue Buck Point; flounder slow to 6 pounds since the beginning of cooler weather from the pier on mud minnows; lake is rough because of high winds; offshore boats have trouble getting out. Water is sandy colored; mud minnows available.

GALVESTON: Redfish are fairly slow and scattered; most redfish that are caught along jetties are too large to keep; good numbers of golden croakers are caught along the beachfront, the piers, the ship channels, Rollover Pass and the usual croaker haunts; fair numbers of flounder; best trout fishing is in East Bay and Trinity Bay; best fishing is in East Bay with the most trout, redfish and flounder; live bait shrimp are available; no great number of fishermen.

PALACIOS: Redfish were good until the passage of the front last Sunday and the fishing shut off; midweek fishing still poor; very little bait midweek; speck fishing about the same with the exception of some full strings at Matagorda Peninsula Tuesday morning on live shrimp; dove hunting very good particularly near water holes. Live bait is scarce.

ROCKPORT: Redfish good in the 21 to 22 inch range, some larger on mullet in St. Charles Bay; trout good with limits to 19 inches in the same area; good numbers of trout from Copano Causeway on speck rigs with small pieces of shrimp; good numbers of golden croakers off jetties on speck rigs; live bait shrimp available; weather beautiful midweek; water clear, winds calm.

PORT ARANSAS: All fishing has been slow since the front; a few fishermen out; live bait shrimp are available at \$7.50 per quart. Horace Caldwell Pier producing limits of specks to 19 inches on shrimp and live mullet; sheepshead and specks on dead shrimp; a 29-inch long Spanish mackerel caught Tuesday; good numbers of flounder landed early; good numbers of golden croaker as well as black tip shark.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish slow; good numbers of undersized specks, few keepers; best catches were golden croaker to 2 pounds in the Intracoastal Canal of the Upper Laguna Madre on dead shrimp and cutbait; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful. Oso Pier producing a few croaker. Bob Hall Pier fishermen producing redfish in the 25-26 inch range at night under the lights on shrimp and live finger mullet; trout good in the 14-23 inch range on live shrimp and finger mullet; whiting, a few croaker, a few flounder and Spanish mackerel also landed; a 6 1/2 foot tarpon landed late last week; blacktip shark beginning to show up again. Water clear.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish have been slow since Gilbert; specks have been slow too; few fishermen out midweek; no bait shrimp available.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish hard to find, some in the Three Islands area in the 20-24 inch range, with many throwbacks; specks in good numbers in the Three Islands area and in the lower part of the bay down by the Causeway; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. Water fairly rough offshore.

PH 10/5/88