

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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### RECORD NUMBER OF TURKEYS TRAPPED, RELEASED

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released 2,253 wild turkeys on 54 sites in 35 counties during the winter stocking period -- the most turkeys ever stocked by a state.

Upland Game Program Leader Don Wilson said the most impressive aspect of the 1987-88 turkey restoration program was the 396 eastern-strain birds obtained from other states and stocked on 21 sites in 13 East Texas counties.

"This was by far the most eastern turkeys we have stocked, and it should go a long way toward getting them established in more areas," Wilson said. "We need to maintain this momentum, because there are approximately 23 million acres of suitable eastern turkey habitat in East Texas."

Charles Allen, director of the Wildlife Division, said outstanding support has been received from Temple-Eastex Inc., Champion International Corp. and Kirby Forest Products, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Louisiana-

Pacific Corp. They were instrumental in the department's obtaining the large number of eastern turkeys from other states this year. "The forest products industries designated 25 percent (with the exception of Champion returning 100 percent) of the revenue they received from the Type II Public Hunting Program to the department's eastern turkey restoration program," said Allen. "This is an excellent example of state and private landowner cooperation."

Trapping and relocation of Rio Grande turkeys for restocking in other Texas locations and other states also had a record year. Crews trapped 1,857 birds from various locations across the state. Approximately 1,281 of the birds were distributed to 33 restoration sites in 23 counties, Wilson said.

A total of 576 Rio Grande turkeys were sent to other states, with 115 going to Nevada, 262 to Oregon and 199 to Washington. Some of the birds were part of wildlife trades that brought elk and desert bighorn sheep to Texas.

JC 3/9/88

WILDFLOWER DAY SLATED AT  
MCKINNEY FALLS PARK

AUSTIN -- State Parks officials are planning a colorful "Wildflower Day" to be held at McKinney Falls State Park near Austin on April 9.

Joining the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in conducting the event will be representatives of the National Wildflower Foundation and the Texas

## Department of Highways and Public Transportation

Planned events include wildflower tours and lectures, displays of live wildflowers, wildflower art, special activities for children and a photography workshop conducted by TPWD chief photographer Leroy Williamson

As many as 100 specimens of wildflowers will be displayed at park headquarters, and authors of books on wildflowers and native plant landscaping are expected to attend

McKinney Falls State Park is located approximately 13 miles southeast of the State Capitol at the confluence of Onion and Williamson Creeks To reach the park from Interstate Highway 35, take the William Cannon exit east to the Nuckols Crossing intersection; go straight, then turn left on Bluff Springs Road which becomes Scenic Loop Road The park entrance is on the left From U S Highway 183, take Scenic Loop Road west to the park entrance

All standard entrance and facility use fees will apply, but the wildflower day festivities will be free

JC 3/9/88

MULE DEER STOCKED AT  
MATADOR MANAGEMENT AREA

PADUCAH -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department crews released 30 female mule deer last week at the Matador Wildlife Management Area in Cottle County in an effort to bolster mule deer populations on the 28,183-acre

area

Ted Clark, mule deer program leader, said the animals were trapped from a private ranch in Brewster County and transported in trailers to the management area

"The Matador has had a small herd of mule deer for a number of years," Clark said, "but apparently they have not had enough reproduction and fawn survival to allow their population to expand "

Clark said if the mule deer population responds to the stocking program, a bucks-only public hunt may be authorized sometime in the future. The Matador is a Type II wildlife management area. Purchasers of \$35 Type II permits are entitled to hunt on any Type II area during open hunting seasons. They also are eligible to apply in drawings for restricted hunts

JC 3/9/88

VOLUNTEER BIRD SURVEY  
PROGRAM GETTING STARTED

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials say bird enthusiasts can participate in a continent-wide bird survey without leaving the comfort of their homes

A program called Project Feederwatch utilizes data provided by persons who maintain bird feeders. The information helps biologists learn more about numbers and distribution of a variety of common species, said biologist Catrina Martin

Project Feederwatch is a cooperative research venture of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory, and is in the midst of a successful pilot year during which 4,000 persons participated

"You need not be an expert birder to take part," said Martin "The project concentrates on common species, and baffling rarities can be ignored " She added although the counts are made over a one- to two-day period of your choice every other week from November through March, you are not required to watch every time, nor must you watch continuously on count days

The project requires a \$9 annual registration fee which helps to pay for project expenses To join, write Erica Dunn, Project Feederwatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850

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HARRIS COUNTY LED TYPE II  
PERMIT SALES IN 1987-88

AUSTIN -- Sportsmen in Harris County purchased 4,417 Type II Wildlife Management Area hunting permits from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the 1987-88 hunting seasons, the most sold in any Texas County

Harris County was followed by Dallas County, with 2,608 permits sold, then Tarrant County, 1,584 permits

Officials said it was not surprising that the next nine counties on the list are in the Southeast Texas region where a major portion of the Type II lands were available.

In all, the department sold 24,875 permits, which was the ceiling established on a basis of a hunter per 15 acres more than 436,000 acres were enrolled in the Type II program, and permit holders were eligible to hunt on any of the tracts they desired

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SEVEN BASS MAKE STATE TOP  
30 LIST IN 1988

AUSTIN -- Bass fishermen in 1988 have made another impressive assault on the list of 30 biggest bass caught in Texas

Since Jan 1, 1988, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel have confirmed seven bass large enough to make the top 30 listing, with three of those fish among the top 10

One of those fish, weighing 17 pounds, 4 16 ounces, was only about six ounces shy of the state record. The fish was caught by Larry Barnes of DeSoto during February at Lake Fork near Quitman. The state record bass, weighing 17 pounds, 10 7 ounces, also was caught from Lake Fork in November 1986

Seven of the state's larger bass have been loaned to the department's Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker program at the Tyler State Fish

Hatchery Superintendent David Campbell said the largest is a 16-pound, two-ounce bass from Gibbons Creek Reservoir near Bryan and the smallest is a 13-2 from Lake Fork.

The lunger program, sponsored by Lone Star Brewery, Cajun Boats and Jungle Labs, offers anglers a chance to lend 13-pound-plus bass to the department for hatchery experiments. Biologists hope to determine if the offspring of large female bass will inherit the potential for growth displayed by the parent fish.

Participating anglers receive a fiberglass replica of their fish as well as getting the fish back alive.

JC 3/9/88

STATE FISH RECORD  
APPLICATION RULES MODIFIED

AUSTIN -- The state fish records committee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has announced several rule changes for anglers seeking certification of state record fish.

The new procedures, which will become effective April 1, are designed to enhance consistency with rules used by the two major world record certifying organizations, the International Game Fish Association and the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Dr Gary Matlock, fisheries director, said an important change requires that potential state record fish must be caught from public waters. This

excludes fish from private, club or fish hatchery waters or private ponds not accessible for angling by the general public, Matlock said

Another change worth noting is that ties for rod and reel records are accepted. Fish taken under the unrestricted category (by legal methods other than rod and reel), must exceed the weight of the existing rod and reel records

Also, fish affixed with an electronic transmitter or other tagging device to assist in locating fish are not eligible. A fish may not have been knowingly caught more than once by the same person for a state record

Fish may be taken on line with no more than two hooks attached to the line, leader or trace. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use (applies to rod and reel records only)

The fish must also have been weighed only once and within three days of capture.

Anyone catching a possible record fish should obtain an application form from the TPWD. The new forms incorporate the application processes for state fish records, big fish awards, lake or bay records and the lunker catch and release program.

Big Fish Awards are issued to anglers catching fish heavier than minimum weights for that particular species. With proper documentation, the angler will receive a certificate commemorating his or her catch.

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TEXAS TOP LARGEMOUTH BASS

#	(lb)	WEIGHT (oz)	LENGTH (inch)	BIRTH (inch)	ID.	AGE (yrs)	RESERVOIR	DATE	ANGLER
1 *	17	10.70	27.50	24.0		10	Lake Fork	Nov-86	Mark Stevenson
2	17	4.16					Lake Fork	Feb-88	Larry Barnes
3 *	16	14.58	27.63	24.0	FLMB	10	Pinkston	Feb-86	Earl Crawford
4	16	9.44	26.00	23.5			Lake Fork	May-87	Guy Whitherspoon
5	16	2.50	26.00	24.0		7	Gibbons Creek	Jan-88	Troy Johnson
6	15	8.50	27.00	21.5			Lake Fork	Apr-87	Dennis Canada
7 *	15	8.00	25.75	23.0	F-1		Echo (private)	Feb-81	John Alexander Jr
8	15	3.75	27.50				Welsh	Dec-83	Bill Ockerhausen
9	15	3.00	27.00	23.5			Houston County	Mar-88	Terry Walling
10	15	2.00	27.50	24.0	FLMB		Jacksonville	Apr-86	Melvin Berry
11	14	14.60	27.00		F-X	7	Lake Fork	Jun-86	Todd Hunter
12	14	12.25	25.00	22.0		6	Lake Fork	Feb-88	M. L. George
13	14	10.00	26.50		FLMB	9	Mill Creek	Mar-86	Mike Reeves
14	14	8.8	28.00	25.0			Lake Murvaul	Feb-88	Larry Schubert
15	14	6.75	25.63	22.7			Jacksonville	Mar-86	Eddie Lumpkins
16	14	6.50					Houston County	Mar-86	Dan Bush
17	14	6.4	25.25	20.0			Mill Creek	Mar-88	James Jordan
18 *	14	5.00	26.63	21.5	F-1		Echo (private)	Jan-81	John Alexander Jr
19	14	3.50					Monticello	Feb-84	Jackie Walker
20	14	3.36	25.00	22.2			Murvaul	Mar-87	Stan Ritter
21 *	14	1.50	28.00	21.7	FLMB		Monticello	Feb-80	Jim Kimbell
22	14	1.00					Monticello	Jan-84	Max Roach
23	14	1.00	28.00				Pinkston	May-85	Ronnie Denard
24	13	15.00	26.00				Lake Fork	Jul-87	Tony Clark
25	13	13.00	27.00	22.0			Jacksonville	Feb-86	Robert Parker
26	13	13.00	23.66		FLMB	9	Mill Creek	Mar-86	Mike Reeves
27	13	12.00					Houston County	Oct-85	Paul Sivy
28	13	11.68	27.00		FLMB		Private Lake	Sep-86	Bonnie Roles
29	13	10.66	26.75			9	Mill Creek	Aug-86	Bill Ballard
30	13	10.56	24.75	21.1		9	Lake Renbrook	Feb-88	Bill Linn
31	13	9.92	25.90				Private Lake	Oct-86	Lynn Kelley
32	13	9.50	25.00	21.3			Private Lake	Jan-87	Dan Berg
33	13	9.28	21.50	21.5		7	Lake Fork	Feb-88	Michael Kubecker
34	13	9.12	24.50	21.5			Lake Fork	Mar-87	Rodney Allen
35	13	9.00					Calaveras	Jul-84	Bill Bulliani
36	13	8.50	27.00			11	Nacogdoches	Apr-87	Keith Drewery
37 *	13	8.00	28.75				Medina	Jan-43	H. R. McGee
38	13	8.00	26.00				Lake Fork	Feb-86	Alden Clifton
39	13	8.00	27.00				Possum Kingdom	Mar-86	R.G. Marshall
40	13	8.00	27.00				Houston County	Mar-86	Mark Hill
41	13	7.00					Houston County	Nov-85	Bill Seymour
42	13	6.75					Monticello	Feb-82	Jimmy Roy
43	13	6.50					Welsh	Jan-84	Joe Soloman
44	13	6.00					Pinkston	Apr-83	Brown Addison
45	13	5.00	24.00				Braunig	Mar-83	Louis Keller
46	13	5.00	26.50				Possum Kingdom	Feb-86	J. D. Riggs
47	13	5.00	24.50		F-X		Murvaul	Feb-86	Steve Ritter
48	13	4.00					Calaverus	Jan-83	Brady Haycraft
49									
50									

\* State Record Status at one time.

ID Electrophoresis Identification (FLMB = Florida Largemouth bass, F-1 = First generation hybrid of Florida and northe largemouth bass, F-X = later generation hybrid Florida and northern largemouth bass)

**TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
FISH RECORD APPLICATION**

(Please Print or Type)



All applicants must complete this part of form

All applicants must complete this part of form

**1. ANGLER INFORMATION**

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_ TPWD Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(For department use only)  
 Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MI  
 Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO:**

**TEXAS STATE FISH  
RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
 4200 Smith School Road  
 Austin, Texas 78744

**2. AWARD CATEGORIES:**

Check those that you wish to be considered for.

- a.  **State Record (include picture of fish)**
- b.  **Big Fish Award**
- c.  **Lake or Bay Fish Record**
- d.  **Lunker Catch and Release Program**

**3. SPECIES INFORMATION**

Species \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
(Not required for Lunker Catch & Release Program)  
 Length (See diagram) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Legal Fishing Gear Used \_\_\_\_\_

**Information in This Block Required for STATE RECORD, BIG FISH AWARD and LAKE or BAY FISH Record ONLY.**

**4. WEIGHING INFORMATION**

Date of Weighing \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Weighmaster \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Texas Department of Agriculture Scales Certification No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Certified \_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESSES TO WEIGHING OR RELEASE**

**5. FIRST WITNESS:** Required for all award categories.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**6. SECOND WITNESS:** Not required for Lunker Catch and Release Program.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR STATE RECORD ONLY**

**7. VERIFICATION OF SPECIES IDENTIFICATION**

Common Name \_\_\_\_\_ Scientific Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Identification \_\_\_\_\_ Key Used for ID (If Needed) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Professional Fisheries \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent  
 Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**8. AFFIDAVIT OF ANGLER**

I, the undersigned, state that the fish described in this form was hooked, fought and landed by me personally without assistance except for help in netting or gaffing and that all other information contained herein is true and correct. I further state that all applicable fishery laws and regulations were complied with.

Signature of Angler \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_.

Notary Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# INSTRUCTIONS

(✓) indicates required information

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDS

Fish must not have contained or have attached any electronic or other tagging device to assist in locating fish.  
Application must be submitted *within 60 days* of fish capture.

State Record	Big Fish Award	Lake or Bay Record	Lunker Catch and Release Program
✓	✓	✓	✓

Item	Instructions
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### 1. ANGLER INFORMATION

Date of Application	Enter month, day and year application is submitted
TPWD Code	For Department use only.
Angler Name	Please print (Last, First, MI). To be eligible for a state record, fish must not have been knowingly caught more than once by the same person.
Permanent Address	List mailing address.
Telephone Number	Area code and phone number where angler can be contacted.

✓	✓	✓	✓
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### 2. AWARD CATEGORIES

Check those categories for which you wish to be considered. Application for **STATE RECORD** must include a photograph showing full length of fish in relation to some object of recognizable dimension.

✓	✓	✓	✓
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### 3. SPECIES INFORMATION

For **STATE RECORDS**, all species are eligible. Others, such as hybrids, may be approved by the Committee. Eligible species and minimum sizes for the **LUNKER CATCH AND RELEASE PROGRAM** are:

BLACK DRUM	40"	LARGEMOUTH BASS	25"	SPOTTED SEATROUT	25"
BLUE CATFISH	45"	RAINBOW TROUT	15"	STRIPED BASS	35"
CHANNEL CATFISH	30"	RED DRUM	25"	SUNFISH	10"
CRAPPIE	15"	SMALLMOUTH BASS	20"	TARPON	60"
FLATHEAD CATFISH	45"	SNOOK	30"	WALLEYE	25"
HYBRID STRIPED BASS	25"	SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	25"	WHITE BASS	15"
KING MACKEREL	50"	SPOTTED BASS	20"		

Weight: To be eligible for a **STATE RECORD**, the fish must be weighed on certified scales, one time only, and within 3 days of capture. **Weight is not required for LUNKER CATCH AND RELEASE PROGRAM.**

Length:



Place Caught:

Give specific location. Fish must have been taken in Texas public waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coast of Texas and must not have come from private, club, or fish hatchery waters or private ponds not accessible for angling by the general public.

Type of Legal Fishing Gear Used:

Three categories for records are eligible: a) Freshwater - rod and reel only. b) Saltwater - rod and reel only. c) Unrestricted - freshwater and saltwater fish taken by legal means other than rod and reel and exceeding weight of existing rod and reel records.

To be eligible for rod and reel records, fish must be taken on line with no more than 2 hooks attached to the line, leader, or trace. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use.

✓	✓	✓	
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### 4. WEIGHING INFORMATION

Date of Weighing	Enter month, day and year that fish was weighed.
Name of Weighmaster	Please print full name (Last, First, MI).
Signature of Weighmaster	
Texas Department of Agriculture Scales Certification No.	Fish weighed on vehicle, axle load, or motor truck scales and registered under 400 pounds are not acceptable for state record certification.
Date Certified	Must be current date of scales certification.

✓	✓	✓	✓
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### 5. FIRST WITNESS

Name of Witness	For the <b>LUNKER CATCH AND RELEASE PROGRAM</b> witness must be party who observed release of live fish. For all other awards categories witness must be a disinterested party who observed weighing.
Signature of Witness	Please print full name (Last, First, MI).
Permanent Address	List mailing address where witness can be contacted.

✓	✓	✓	
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### 6. SECOND WITNESS

Name of Witness	Not required for <b>LUNKER CATCH AND RELEASE PROGRAM</b> .
Signature of Witness	Please print full (Last, First, MI).
Permanent Address	List mailing address where witness can be contacted.

✓			
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### 7. VERIFICATION OF SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Common Name	Specimen identification must be verified by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or other professional fisheries person.
Scientific Name	Write species common name as listed by the American Fisheries Society in the most recent edition of <i>A List of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes in the United States and Canada</i> .
Date of Identification	Write scientific name as listed in the above publication.
Key Used for Identification (if needed)	Enter month, day and year that species identification was verified by a professional fisheries person.
Professional Fisheries Person's Name	Give author name(s) and title of key used for species identification.
Signature	Please print (Last, First, MI).
Permanent Address	Must be signed by the professional fisheries person.
Telephone Number	List mailing address where professional fisheries person can be contacted.
	Area code and number where professional fisheries person can be contacted.

✓			
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### 8. ANGLER AFFIDAVIT

Must be signed by angler and notarized.

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for March 9, 1988:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on Rapalas and black jigs; crappie real good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs. yellow catfish good to 40 pounds jug lines baited with live perch; channel catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds on stinkbait with rod and reel

BELTON: Water clear, 52 degrees, 3 inches above normal level black bass slow, some caught but very few keepers on free swimming minnows and dark light tailed worms. striper slow crappie spotty on minnows and light blue crappie jigs white bass slow; catfish fair but small on stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 2 feet below spillway; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds, a single fish to 7 1/4 pounds, on dark worms; striper slow; crappie fair to limits but fish fairly small on jigs and minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CANYON: Water clear 59 degrees normal level. black bass good to 8 pounds, 2 ounces with several other large fish over the weekend on dark plastic worms; striper slow; crappie good up the river to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs white bass good up river at the rapids to 35 fish per boat on minnows and flea flies; catfish fair to 8 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers

FAYETTE: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level black bass good to 10 1/2 pounds on live bait and Rat-L-Traps and dark worms. crappie fairly good but spotty in deep water on minnows yellow and blue catfish very good to 35 pounds on live perch and goldfish with jugline.

GIBBONS CREEK Water slightly off color, 62 degrees, normal level. black bass excellent during the first part of the week with 6 bass over 21 inches to 9 1/2 pounds on a wide variety of baits; crappie slow but improving as the lake temperature rises in 8-10 feet of water on minnows; catfish good to 3 pounds on liver and catfish bait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, normal level. black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on spinners. striper good to 4 1/2 pounds also on spinners; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish very slow. Rains midweek kept most fishermen off the water.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level. black bass picking up in the shallows on worms and spinners to 6 pounds. hybrid striper fair but spotty trolling deep diving baits with a bucktail jig trailer; crappie good to 3 pounds with limits early on minnows or jigs night and day; white bass beginning to hit in the creeks and around creek mouths but fish still spotty; catfish very good to 10 pounds on fish innards.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 56 degrees, 2 feet above normal. largemouth bass slow to 8 1/4 pounds; smallmouth good to 5 pounds on nightcrawlers and minnows; hybrid striper slow; crappie good at night to 3/4 pounds on minnows and jigs all over the lake under crappie lights to 25 fish per string; white bass very slow; channel catfish very good on shrimp and nightcrawlers and Catfish Charly on trotline;

TRAVIS: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass good to 8 pounds on chrome Redfins, crawfish colored Patraps, Tom's Minners and strawberry Ringworms to 25 fish per boat per day; crappie fair in 20-30 feet of water on minnows white bass fair to good up the Pedernales; catfish fair to 5 pounds.

WHITNEY: Water clear 51 degrees, 8 1/2 feet low; black bass good with a few limits to 7 1/4 pounds, mostly 3 3/4 pounds or below, above Lakeside Villages on jig and eel cranks, Rat-L-Traps and spinners. smallmouth fair to good to 4 pounds on cranks and spinners around rocky banks; striper good in 5-40 feet of water on live bait rolling, down riggers with jigs and Redfins, in open water around creeks; crappie good in the barges on jigs and minnows to 1 3/4 pounds with some limits; white bass good to 3 pounds and smaller on Bagley Silver Smallfrys and Shadraps, with limits of 20 per string from Kimball Bridge to Chisolm Trail. catfish good in the barges to 3 pounds on worms,

jigs and minnows some catfish to 5 pounds on trotlines baited with catfish bait and Magic Bait.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS Water clear, 57 degrees, 5 inches above overflow due to local rains; black bass fair to and spotty to 9 pounds, 3 ounces on black jig; hybrid striper fair with some surface feeding on shad to 4 pounds; crappie good in the backs of creeks in shallow water on floats and jigs or minnows with good numbers of limits; white bass fair with some strings to 15 fish; catfish slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water murky, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds on spinners, jigs and Crawworms in black and red; crappie fairly good on minnows to 15 fish per string; white bass beginning to hit to 3 pounds on slabs in deep water; catfish fairly good on trotline in the 2-5 pound range on shrimp and worms.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 53 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass slow; catfish slow; striper slow; crappie good with limits to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass slow.

CADDO: Water muddy, 10 inches above normal level; black bass slow; striper fair on crawfish; crappie good during the day on small white jigs; catfish slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water stained in the coves due to high winds and rain, 57 degrees at the infeed before the storm; normal level; black bass fairly good to 10 pounds; 3 ounces on black jig and eel mostly in the shallow water and in the coves; hybrid striper slow; crappie good in the shallows in 4-5 feet of water on minnows and jigs to 25 fish per string to 1 3/4 pounds; white bass slow; channel catfish fairly good to 5 pounds on trotlines set at 12 feet and baited with shrimp.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water slightly murky due to rains and high winds; some 60 degree water in the coves. 8 inches over spillway level; black bass good from the bank to 7 3/4 pounds on chartreuse spinners, red cranks and lizards; crappie scattered; catfish fair to 22 pounds in 15-20 feet of water on live minnows.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 60 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 7 1/4 pounds on black lizard, a few on spinners; bass moving into shallow water; catfish fair on trotline on prepared bait to about 4 pounds; redfish slow to 9 1/2 pounds trolling. One power plant unit went back into operation Tuesday.

FORK: Water slightly murky due to Monday night thunderstorm; 58 degrees, 1 inch above normal level; black bass good to 12 3/4 pounds on chartreuse and blue and chartreuse and black spinners, Rogues and Rat-L-Traps in 10-15 feet of water; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds in 25-30 feet of water on minnows and jigs; catfish slow. Good numbers of fishermen and boats on the weekends.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 6 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie very good to 25 fish per string on jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 58 degrees, 4 1/2 feet above normal level; black bass fairly good to 9 1/2 pounds on lizards and Jig and Pig, Long As and spinners; crappie fair to 15 fish per string in the flooded brush areas on minnows; white bass fairly good on jigs and small cranks; catfish good to 7 pounds on trotline baited with cutbait and worms.

LAVON: Water clear, 48 degrees, 4 inch overflow; black bass fair, improved from last week, with 2 fish over 5 pounds on spinners; hybrid striper very good to 8 1/2 pounds in good numbers on live goldfish; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass picking up, not good yet but getting better; catfish good to 5 1/2 pounds on shad gizzards.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 52 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow on jigs to 3 1/2 pounds; hybrid striper slow; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass fair to slow in the creeks on a variety of cranks; catfish fair drifting, stinkbait best. Crappiethon going full blast with several high dollar fish caught; tourney runs through Apr 26 with a total of 1604 tagged fish.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 9 1/4 pounds on 8 inch black worms and black jig and eel; crappie fair to 10 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds each;



catfish very good to 8 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.  
MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 51 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 4 pounds on jig and pig. Rat-L-Trap; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows and jigs white bass slow; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 58 degrees, 3 inch overflow; black bass good to 9 pounds, 5 ounces on topwaters, spinners and cranks in less than 6 feet of water with limits of 5 fish, good numbers of undersized being caught; crappie improving under 1971 bridge with a few limits on minnows. channel catfish improving on trotline to 5 pounds on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level black bass good to excellent to 12 pounds, with 7 and 8 pound fish fairly common, on crawdad colored Rat-L-raps and gold Rogue with orange belly; crappie moving into shallow water to 20 fish per string in 8-10 feet on crappie jigs and crappie spins. catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 62 degrees, 8 inches above normal level black bass good to 6 3/4 pounds on jigs, spinners; striper slow; crappie good to 2 1/4 pounds with a few limits on jigs in 8 to 12 feet of water. white bass slow; catfish good to 54 pounds on trotline with live bait, fair numbers of smaller catfish brought in.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie poor white bass slow; catfish good to 2 pounds on shrimp on trotline.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 2 pounds in 14 feet of water right on the bottom early and late on jigs and minnows channel catfish fair to 1 1/2 pounds.

TEXOMA: Water murky, 48 degrees, normal level black bass good to 6 pounds on Pig and Jig and cranks; striper good to 22 pounds on jigs, deep diving Redfins, live bait and Sassy Shad from the islands westward; crappie on live minnows and jigs to 25 fish per string in shallow water around boat houses; white bass fair along with the striper on live bait and Sassy Shad around the Willis Bridge; catfish fair to 6 pounds on cut shad; trotline fishing slow.

WELSH Water clear, 74 degrees, lake full, rain began 4 a.m. Tuesday; black bass slow with spawning mostly over, fish moving away from shoreline; crappie slow, no fishermen; catfish good to 6 pounds on trotline with perch and drifting shrimp. bream plentiful on red wiggler worms.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 64 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good only at feeding time and then they hit lightly on 4 inch with a little metal flake dark worms and jigs, Rat-L-Traps, deep running cranks; striper fair trolling chrome Rat-L-traps white bass excellent in the mouth of the San Jacinto River trolling chrome Rat-L-Traps; crappie moving into the brush and staying close to the bottom near the creeks, crappie also good around 1097 Bridge on minnows, very few on jigs; catfish fair but not many fishermen due to high winds

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level black bass good to 15 pounds, 3 ounces caught by Terry Walling of Palestine on Stanley Jig with a black and blue Crawworm trailer in 5 feet of water, also a 12 1/4 caught by Debbie Harrison of Cypress on waterdog; in addition, there were 21 bass over 7 pounds, 18 fish over 6 pounds, 13 fish over 8 pounds, 4 fish over 9 pounds, 6 fish over 10 pounds and 3 fish over 11 pounds within a week; striper slow; crappie fair down near the dam on minnows; catfish slow.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level black bass very good in the 4 to 8 pound range on worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie fair along the shore on minnows and to 1 1/2 pounds white bass fairly good to 65 fish per boat on minnows at night; catfish fairly good on trotline as well as rod and reel to 2 pounds on rod and reel catfish good in the 20-30 pound range on trotline.

RAYBURN: Water muddy up the river due to rains early in the week, 52 degrees, 1 foot above pool level black bass good to 6 pounds in a women's tournament; an 11 pounder was caught and released; bass caught around willows and buck brush on jigs and

lizards, worms, Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie improving in shallow water but most are still in deep water; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pounds on rod and reel mostly. Winds high all week.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, raining midweek, 66 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass excellent to 8 pounds on white spinners and red Rat-L-Traps; striper slow even though there was a tournament; crappie slow, should be good in 3 weeks on lower end of lake; white bass slow; catfish slow.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 52 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass excellent to 9 pounds on dark worms and white spinners in 5 to 15 feet of water off ledges; striper good in the 2-10 pound range with a few in the 20-30 pound range on Ponyhead jigs with white grub tailed from Markers 16-20; crappie slow; white bass scattered, some up the Pecos, and a few in the lake on white and chartreuse slabs; catfish fair with big fish moving into shallow water on shrimp and cheese bait.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 10 pounds on Crawdad colored plastic worms; striper good to 3 1/2 pounds on chicken livers; crappie slow; catfish good to 6 pounds on chicken liver and shad; redfish good to 16 pounds on Tony Accetta spoons in 30 feet of water; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass excellent to 8 pounds with many caught from banks on dark plastic worms; striper good to a 3 pound average on chicken livers and shrimp; crappie slow; catfish good to 40 pounds on minnows and shrimp; redfish fair to 10 pounds on Phantoms; corvina good to 5 pound average with some limits on green grubs.

CHOKE: Water clear, 63 degrees, lake full; black bass good to 7 pounds, most in the 4-7 pound range, with a good number of limits on white spinners, worms and topwater; no discernable pattern; striper slow; crappie slow with some limits to 3 pounds on minnows; white bass good to 4 pounds, 10 ounces a new lake record, on Monday with white grubs; catfish good on trotline to 60 pounds with live bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows at night to about 1 pound each; white bass slow; catfish good on bloodbait averaging about 2 pounds.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, normal level; black bass fair to good to 7 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, worms and minnows; striper good on shad, slabspoons to 5 pounds each; crappie excellent on minnows to 1 1/4 pound with limits; catfish good to 3 pounds on shrimp, shad and worms.

FALCON: Water clear, no rain, 2 feet above normal; black bass fairly good on spinners and worms to 7 pounds; striper slow; crappie good with numbers of small fish, few keepers, most in the 3-5 inch range on minnows and jigs; white bass good to 100 fish per boat on slabs in lake and casting baits up the river; catfish good on frozen shrimp and sponge bait to 4 pounds on rod and reel.

MEDINA: Water clear, 58 in lake, 62 degrees in the coves, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 16 inches on dark worms; striper slow; crappie good mostly at night on minnows to a dozen fish per string; white bass fair, fish seem to be heading up river; catfish slow.

TEXANA: Water murky in main lake, clear in the jungle area, 50 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 5 pounds on white spinners; striper slow; crappie fair in the shallows on live minnows; white bass slow; catfish good on trotlines to 25 pounds with live bait.

#### WEST

GRANBURY: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow to 2 fish per string on minnows in deep water; white bass slow; catfish slow.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 45 degrees, normal level; black bass fair around keeper size on spinners; crappie fair; white bass fair; catfish fair. Fishing has been fairly slow due to bad weather.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 5 feet low; black bass excellent to 8 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, worms and Pig and Jig in shallow water; striper very good on spinners and Rat-L-Traps to 15

pounds, most around 9 pounds crappie fairly good with some limits on minnows; catfish slow.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 52 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 8 pounds, 6 ounces on purple jigs, crappie very good on minnows and white jigs to 2 pounds with limits; white bass slow; catfish good to 8 pounds, 10 ounces on trotline with cutbait and to 14 pounds on rod and reel with a purple worm.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 48 degrees, 13 1/2 feet low; black bass very good to 8 pounds on cranks; striper slow; crappie very good on minnows to 25 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish slow.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 60 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to good to 9 pounds, 6 ounces but most in the 4-5 pound range on jig and eel, striper slow; crappie fairly good on minnows and jigs to 6 feet of water with limits of 25 fish; catfish fairly good up the river arms on shallow trotlines with shad.

SPENCE: Water clear, 53 degrees, 19 feet low; black bass good to 8.1 pounds on worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie slow but a few on minnows in 16 feet of water; white bass good on slabs, cranks to 30 fish per string; catfish fair on trotlines to 12 pounds on bass minnows.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 56 degrees, 3 feet below conservation pool, black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on worms, Rat-L-Traps and cranks with many undersized fish; hybrid striper slow; crappie good in 3-4 feet of water on minnows and jigs to 20 fish per string; yellow catfish slow to 35 pounds on trotline with live bait; channel catfish good to 10 pounds on trotline with live bait and cut shad.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 46 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fairly good to 8 pounds on spinners; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

#### COASTAL

SABINE LAKE: A few redfish mostly in Hickory Cove to 24 inches but most undersized on dead shrimp; a good number of drum to 4 pounds; good numbers of specks to 16 inches on dead shrimp; fairly good numbers of flounder along the roadsides; some sheepshead down south; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE: Redfish fair over last weekend but slow since, no limits, on Culprit worms and Willie Shrimp lures; trout fairly good with numbers of big trout to 8 3/4 pounds on Willie Shrimp lures and Culprit worms; some limits of specks with a few undersized fish; no live bait shrimp available; drum good to 35 pounds on shrimp; flounder fishing improving on mud minnows.

GALVESTON: Waders picking up some redfish around Carancahua Reef to about 6 pounds on strawberry Long Johns; big trout showing up along shoreline; good numbers of flounder in the deeper water of the bays; drum good in the 15-20 pound range on blue crab; no live bait shrimp available. Marble sized hail feel around the end of Galveston Island.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish to 30 inches and above at the jetties on sea lice, a couple of keepers per fishermen; some drum on Saturday but slow Sunday due to low tides, a limit or two of trout; live bait shrimp available at \$9.50; an offshore trip produced sandtrout, a grouper and a triple tail. Fair numbers of fishermen on the weekend, weekdays fairly slow.

PALACIOS: Redfish good sized and in good numbers in Carancahua River and Turtle Bay with limits of 5 fish; trout good in numbers but most undersized in South Bay and Turtle Bay; still a few flounder to 3 pounds in the Carancahua River; live bait shrimp becoming more plentiful.

ROCKPORT: Redfish good to 11 pounds and 30 inches long, another 9 pounder landed midweek on purple split tailed grubs just out from Carbon Black Plant in Estes Flats near California Hole; drum good to 57 pounds on sea lice and crabs in Copano Bay; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Good numbers of big redfish spotted in the flats but fish not hitting; big redfish mostly above 30 inches from the jetties on fresh dead shrimp; jetties also producing good numbers of 6-10 pound drum, sheepshead; live bait shrimp scarce; surf producing whiting, pompano and an occasional nice sized trout. Horace Caldwell Pier producing a fair number of pompano to 5 pounds; a 4-foot blacktip shark last Monday, a few bonnet



nose shark, whiting and stingrays. a few drum to 3 pound.  
CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish in good numbers spotted in the flats but fish won't strike; fair numbers of trout in Laguna Madre but half are undersized. a few large drum at the Land Cut; live bait shrimp available, dead bait scarce. Bob Hall Pier producing a good number of whiting, bonnet nose shark to 3 feet; a few drum to 6 pounds; stingrays; no live bait on pier. Oso Pier slow due to weather changes late Tuesday.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish slow; good numbers of trout to 4 pounds all over east side of the bay around Port Mansfield. several limits; live bait shrimp scattered; offshore activity slow.

PORT ISABEL: A few redfish to 30 inches on the west side of Intracoastal near Unnecessary Island and off Stover Point on dead shrimp and on touts when the water is clear; sheepshead and black drum to 30 pounds on the Brownsville Ship Channel. a couple of specks in the 8 pound range in the same area; some good sized trout off Holley Beach; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

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