

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the March 2, 1988 issue:

Record Deer, Turkey Harvest Confirmed By TPWD	1
Fur Prices Declined During 1987-88 Season	3
Prospects Excellent For Spring Turkey Season	4
Washington-on-the-Brazos Celebration Set March 6	6
Alligator Season Posted Record Harvest in 1987	7
Two Shipments Of Elk Arrive In West Texas	8

RECORD DEER, TURKEY
HARVEST CONFIRMED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- Final survey results show the 1987-88 hunting seasons set a plethora of records, including an all-time high harvest of white-tailed deer and turkey.

Glenn Boydston, coordinator of technical programs for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said the estimated deer harvest of more than 504,900 was the fourth consecutive record harvest for the species and 13 percent higher than the 1986-87 season.

Most of the dramatic increase resulted from a rise in antlerless deer harvest. The 210,800 harvested represented a 28 percent increase over the previous season.

"The antlerless harvest was 46,000 animals higher than ever recorded before," said Boydston, "and more than three times higher than it was 10 years ago."

The department's big game harvest survey also showed a record number of deer hunters, 567,300, had the highest-ever success rate of 61.2 percent,

and highest-ever average kill per hunter, at 0 966

Of five major ecological areas sampled, only the Post Oak Savannah showed a decrease in total deer harvest. The antlerless harvest there increased by nine percent, but the buck harvest fell by five percent, accounting for a one percent overall decrease.

The following are other ecological areas, the harvest and percent increase: Pineywoods, 41,600 bucks (1%), 20,200 antlerless (10%), 61,800 total (3%); Cross Timbers and Prairies, 25,700 bucks (10%), 16,300 antlerless (47%), 42,000 total (22%); South Texas Plains, 55,600 bucks (3%), 42,900 antlerless (43%), 98,500 total (18%); and Edwards Plateau, 121,600 bucks (11%), 107,500 antlerless (26%) and 229,100 total (18%).

Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader, said several natural factors could have contributed to the record deer harvest, including high deer populations. However, hunting regulation changes also may have also played a part in the remarkable increases in antlerless harvest. "Expansion of the either-sex bag limit (where no landowner-issued permits are required) appears to have contributed to the 26 percent increase in the Edwards Plateau, and especially in the 47 percent gain in antlerless harvest in the Cross Timbers and Prairies of West Texas," said Gore. He added that the special late antlerless season in nine South Texas counties may have contributed to the whopping 43 percent increase in the doe harvest in the South Texas Plains.

The harvest of mule deer in West Texas and the Panhandle also reflected an increase; the 6,700 animals taken represented a 28 percent increase over

the previous season

The javelina harvest remained stable at an estimated 20,900 animals

The record 63,500 turkeys harvested during 1987-88 probably resulted from the large number of hunters in the field and continuing high turkey populations. The total harvest was 31 percent above the harvest of 48,500 the year before

JC 3/2/88

FUR PRICES DECLINED DURING
1987-88 SEASON

DEL RIO -- Generally low fur prices contributed to a mediocre fur harvest season this winter, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said

Biologist Sylvestre Sorola of Del Rio said fur dealers indicated that gloomy economic forecasts prior to the December-January fur season apparently caused prices to slide

"Prices have reached a point where some trappers may think twice before investing too much in next year's season," Sorola said. "However, the fur market typically is unpredictable, and it could turn completely around by next season."

Sorola said one of the factors that hurt Texas trappers was the depressed prices for raccoon pelts, usually a mainstay in the fur market. "Prices averaged only about \$10 per pelt for raccoons, which is the lowest

in about 10 years," Sorola said. Last year, raccoon pelts accounted for more than \$6 million in the Texas fur market.

Sorola added that pelts of grey fox and ringtail cat climbed slightly as the season progressed, but remained behind 1986-87 levels. Bobcat pelt prices remained fairly stable, averaging \$61.50, with pelts from the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas bringing as much as \$100, he added.

Survey data from the 1987-88 season will not be finalized for several months, but the value of pelts taken may not match that of 1986, when the estimated total value to Texas fur takers was \$103 million. More than 900,000 pelts were sold that season, Sorola said.

JC 3/2/88

PROSPECTS EXCELLENT FOR
SPRING TURKEY SEASON

AUSTIN -- Turkey hunters have reason to be optimistic as the 1988 spring season approaches, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said.

They will have the advantage of an expanded season, April 2-24, and high turkey populations across most of the state's turkey range.

Don Wilson, upland game program leader, said 1987 was a very good turkey production year because of ample rainfall. "Turkey populations remain fairly high, and the good nesting season in 1987 means there will be quite a few 'jakes' or yearling gobblers in the field," Wilson said, adding that the young gobblers are usually easy for hunters to call.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission authorized the expanded season, which is a week longer than the 1987 season, in order to help hunters get into the field during peak gobbling activity. Wilson said gobbling activity is difficult to predict, usually beginning in late February or early March and continuing into April.

Gobbling indicates that the male birds are actively seeking hens, and they respond to hunters' calls best during that period, Wilson noted.

Hunters are allowed to take gobblers only during the spring season. Turkey bag limits are indicated by tags on the hunting license. A hunter may take two turkeys during the fall season and one during the spring, or vice versa. He may take only gobblers during the spring season, but hens may be taken in some areas during the fall season.

Sportsmen also should be aware that hunting is allowed during a spring season for eastern turkeys in portions of East Texas. In those areas, the spring 1988 season is April 2-17. To determine boundaries of the eastern turkey hunting areas, consult the department's 1987-88 Hunting Regulations Guide, available at department offices and hunting license outlets across the state.

JC 3/2/88

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS
CELEBRATION SET MARCH 6

WASHINGTON -- Visitors from across the state will celebrate the 152nd anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence at an all-day observance at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park March 6

Officials said hundreds of musicians, artists and historic re-enactment experts will lend their talents to the event, sponsored by the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association. The park is located between Brenham and Navasota off State Highway 105.

Officials said several groups will be participating for the first time. The Houston Pops Orchestra, conducted by Ned Battista, will perform music traced to the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto as well as other popular songs about Texas. Allen Commander, who portrayed Sam Houston in the Sesquicentennial movie "Independence," will narrate for the 2 p.m. performance.

Representatives from the "Crossroads of Texas," a historical re-enactment group, will be dressed in period costumes and will demonstrate domestic and military skills dating from the 1830s. The Brazoria Militia will demonstrate early firearm techniques.

Members of the Texas Rifles, a group devoted to the preservation of American and Texas history, will portray historic events.

The Texas Army organization will set up a military campsite. The group will demonstrate crafts, firearms, folk music and dances from the Texas Republic period.

Various Texas musicians will entertain, with special performances by the Blinn College Band and the Brenham High School Band.

While at the park, visitors can see Barrington, the home of Anson Jones, the fourth and last president of the Republic. There members of the Miss Ima Hogg Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas will be serving from the hearth of the Anson Jones kitchen. Additional food and beverage items can be purchased from concessionaires near the park.

The Star of the Republic Museum will open a special art exhibit at 10 a.m. The day will be highlighted by the lighting of a giant Texas birthday cake in the auditorium. The nearby visitor center in the park will be showing the film Independence at regular intervals.

JC 3/2/88

ALLIGATOR SEASON POSTED
RECORD HARVEST IN 1987

AUSTIN -- Hunters harvested a record 1,396 alligators during the September 1987 season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The season was authorized for portions of 15 counties in East, Southeast and South Texas.

Bruce Thompson, alligator program leader, said the harvest was 444 alligators higher than the previous year. "The harvest represents almost full implementation of our statewide alligator management plan," Thompson said. The management plan provides for sustained yield harvest of 1,500 to 2,000 alligators annually, given current understanding of Texas alligator populations.

Thompson said 1,532 tags were issued to landowners for distribution to gator hunters. The harvest total indicates excellent utilization of the tags, he said.

The alligator management plan includes biological surveys conducted each summer prior to the hunting season to determine proper harvest levels. The harvest increased from 437 gators in 1984, the first legal season in recent times, to 747 in 1985, 952 in 1986, and the 1987 record level.

"The recovery of alligators in Texas has been a great success, and their populations again are an important resource in many Texas wetlands," Thompson said.

JC 3/2/88

TWO SHIPMENTS OF ELK
ARRIVE IN WEST TEXAS

VAN HORN -- The first major restocking of elk in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas is underway, with 48 animals released in the Davis Mountains on Feb. 29 and another 50 expected to be liberated in the Wylie Mountains Wednesday (March 2).

The animals, transported to Texas from Oregon in trucks, came in exchange for 300 turkeys from Texas to be stocked in Oregon.

Charles Allen, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Wildlife Division, said the restocking is a research project to investigate elk response to varied habitats. The Wildlife Division, in cooperation with Sul Ross State University, will monitor their progress with electronic tracking gear to gauge their survival, reproduction and movements.

The animals are being released on private ranches. Allen said agreements have been signed by the department and landowners, specifying that the animals will receive protection until the Parks and Wildlife Commission authorizes public hunts.

Elk of the Merriam's subspecies were once native to the Trans-Pecos, but they became extinct in Texas and elsewhere by the late 1800s. The elk being stocked are the Rocky Mountain subspecies. "These are very hardy and adaptable animals," said Allen. "We're optimistic that we may be able to establish new herds to expand public hunting opportunities."

JC 3/2/88

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for March 2, 1988

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 63 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass good to 5 pounds on cranks and jigs; crappie very good to 2 pounds with plenty of limits on minnows, white jigs and small Twisters; catfish fair to 4 pounds on stinkbait with rod and reel

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 3 feet below spillway; black bass slow to 5 1/4 pounds on a jig with a pork trailer; striper fair at night along with the white bass around the docks to 40 fish per string; crappie fairly good with limits of small fish, a few larger fish on minnows and jigs; catfish fairly good in number but small in size, largest fish weighed 6 pounds on trotline baited with goldfish, shrimp good on rod and reel

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level. black bass fair to 6 pounds on black and blue jig and eel combination; striper fair to 10 pounds on white jigs and Bang-O-Lures; crappie good to 20 fish per string on lead head white jigs white bass good to 30 fish per string on silver spoons and Tom's Minners; catfish good to 3 pounds on trotlines baited with chicken livers.

CANYON: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on cranks and worms; striper slow; crappie good in the mouth of the river around brush in 20 feet of water on minnows white bass good at the rapids up river to 50 fish per string on Flea Flies and small spinners; catfish fair on trotline mostly.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level black bass very good to 10 1/2 pounds on live bait as well as worms and

Rat-L-Traps in 4-10 feet of water: crappie very good to 15 fish per party on minnows and some blue crappie jigs. blue catfish good with a 40, 50 and a 58 pounder, a possible lake record.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass excellent on cranks, black worms and lizards with 10 keepers to 9 pounds, 15 ounces for the week; crappie fair with some limits around the intake on minnows; catfish good to 6 pounds on liver and minnows with rod and reel in Sulphur Creek as well as near the discharge.

LBJ: Water stained, 54 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 5 pounds on brown jig and eel striper fair in the 5-8 pound range on deep diving cranks. crappie good with strings to 20 fish on red headed black jigs and minnows; white bass good to 25 fish per string on chrome Model A and small Rebel cranks catfish fair in the 2-5 range on shrimp and cutbait.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 5 fish per string on minnows in shallow water; white bass good with some fairly good strings on minnows; catfish slow to 7 pounds on rod and reel with minnows.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear normal level; black bass fair around Pecan Lake in the 3-4 pound range on dark worm; striper slow; crappie fairly good to with limits early on minnows and jigs; white bass slow catfish fair in the 2-3 pound range on stinkbait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 54 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass good in shallow water in creeks and coves on Short A and Bagley Top Gun early to 3 1/2 pounds to 30 fish per boat per day, about 2 out of 3 fish caught are keeper sized; midday bass are good in 20 feet of water with strawberry Ringworm and smoked Tom's Minners; striper slow; crappie fair in 20 feet of water in the brush on minnows white bass are beginning to move but still about 2 weeks before the peak, trollers picking up some in the Pedernales arm; catfish slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 50 degrees, 8 1/3 feet low; black bass good in the upper lake around the brush on black and blue jigs as well as Stanley Jigs to 6.3 pounds with a few limits great numbers of fishermen out over the weekend. One fisherman had to wait 90 minutes to launch a boat; striper good to 16 1/2 pounds mostly in the 12-14 pound range on deep diving Redfins and live bait around Katy Bridge, McKown Valley and Cedar Creek; crappie good

to 1 1/2 pounds around Rocky Creek, Bluff Mill and around Chisolm Trail on minnows, Flea Flies to 1 1/2 pounds; white bass good in the Nolan and upper Brazos to 30 fish per string trolling Hot Spots; yellow catfish good around Katy Bridge and in the river below the dam to 8 pounds on cut shad; a single blue catfish weighed 24 pounds.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 63 degrees in the afternoon in the coves, 55-57 degrees in the main lake, water level overflowing 3 inches, creeks and springs running; black bass fair with some good individual catches to 12 pounds, 10 ounces with a couple of 7s and 8s on jig and pig and jig and worm; striper and white bass surfacing on shad on chrome Rat-L-Traps and Kastmaster spoons to 27 fish per string; catfish slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, normal level; black bass excellent to 7 pounds on in shallow water on white spinners, two fishermen caught 9 bass in 2 hours with the largest weighing 6.3 pounds with total string weighing near 31 pounds; crappie good in the evening with good strings on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 52 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair to 6 1/2 pounds on silver slabs; crappie fair to good with many limits on minnows; white bass slow; catfish picking up some to in the 1/1/2-3 pound range on stinkbait.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 58 degrees at 10 feet in open water, normal level; black bass good with good numbers of bass over 7 pounds on black and chartreuse worms, shad colored cranks; hybrid striper slow some trolling Magnum Hellbenders trailing Hot Spots to 8 1/2 pounds; crappie slow in 26-28 feet of water on minnows; white bass very slow; catfish slow on south end, yellow catfish good to 43 pounds on the north end with goldfish and cutbait.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water stained, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass very good to 7 1/4 pounds on chartreuse spinners, more than 25 bass over 5 pounds last Saturday, great numbers of fishermen over the weekend; crappie slow; catfish slow.

FORK: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 14 pounds, 15 ounces on Stanley Jigs with black and blue pork trailers as well as black and white skirted willow leaf spinners, moccasin lizards, black blue tailed lizards, Rogues, Devil's Horses and Bang-O-Lures; crappie fair to good on minnows in 60 feet of water with limits of 25 fish; catfish slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass slow; crappie fairly good on crappie on jigs.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 63 degrees, 5 feet above normal level; black bass fairly good to 7 1/2 pounds on white spinners, black and blue jig and pig; crappie fair in 10-15 feet of water on jigs in the brushy areas; white bass surfacing in flats in 5-8 feet of water around brush lines, fish hitting jigs and small cranks to 15 fish per string; catfish good on trotlines to 8 pounds on cut shad.

LAVON: Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper good to 4 pounds on large minnows in the tailrace below the dam; crappie very good with limits on minnows and jigs; white bass picking up; catfish slow.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 54, 2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds in the warmer water with spinners; hybrid striper slow; crappie very good to 2 pounds with many limits which included 27 tagged money fish from the Crappiethon; white bass slow; catfish fair to 7 pounds drifting stinkbait.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear in spots, some murky areas, 3 feet low; black bass good to 10 pounds, a couple of 6s and 7s on Rat-L-Traps and Model As; striper slow; crappie good to 17 fish per string in the evening in 12-14 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fairly good on big minnows, bank fishing fair on worms and shrimp in 1 1/2-3 pound range.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 73 degrees, 3 inches high; black bass excellent to 11 96 pounds on lizards, worms and water dogs; crappie slow; catfish excellent to 15 pounds with good sized strings on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 49 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 5 pounds, 4 ounces on white pig and jig; crappie good to

20 fish per string late at night on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 14.55 pounds, a new lake record, on worms, lizards and spinners, with several in the 6 pound range; crappie picking up under 1971 bridge on minnows with strings to 15 fish per string to 1 1/4 pounds each; catfish picking up on trotline to 6 pounds on small perch, cut shad and nightcrawlers.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level black bass good to 8 pounds over the moss beds and around the edges on Rat-L-Traps and worms; striper slow; crappie moving in to shallow water on minnows and small spinners; white bass slow; catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 65 degrees, 4 inches high; black bass good to 6 pounds on jigs, spinners and some topwaters; striper slow; crappie good to 2 pounds, 6 ounces on minnows with some limits; white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 1/2 pounds.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good in the 2 pound range on spinners and worms; striper slow; crappie very good to 2 pounds, 5 ounces, most around 1 1/2 pounds, with fairly easy limits on minnows and small jigs. catfish good to 2 1/2 pounds on shrimp baited trotlines.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 49 degrees, normal level black bass slow to 10 pounds on white slabs; striper slow to 3 pounds on slabs also; crappie fairly good in shallow water to 9 fish per string on minnows; white bass fairly slow; catfish fair to 1 1/2 pounds around the bridge on shrimp.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 47 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good to 6 pounds with some limits on Sassy Shad while fishing for striper; striper good on Sassy Shad, jigs, trolling deep diving Redfins and live bait with fish to 18 pounds; crappie good with limits on minnows in 10 feet of water; white bass fair to 5 fish per string on small jigs; catfish fair to 22 pounds on rod and reel with live bait.

WELSH: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level black bass good in 3-8 feet of water to 7 pounds, with many in the 2-3 pound range on plastic worms; crappie slow on minnows; catfish good in the 3-4 pound range on trotlines with live bream.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 62 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass good in 3-12 feet of water to 9 3/4 pounds with several 8s, 5s and 6s with a good number of undersized fish on jigs, worms, Rat-L-Traps and spinners; hybrid striper slow to 11 pounds; crappie moving into shallow brushy areas to 15 fish per boat on minnows, very few on jigs; white bass good in the Stubblefield Bridge area in the upper end of the San Jacinto; catfish fair on trotline and rod and reel, but little interest in catfish. Good crowds of fishermen over the weekend.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 61 degrees, normal level black bass good to 11 3/4 pounds on black lizards with several 9s, 8s, 7s and 6s; crappie fairly good in the dam area on shiners to 20 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish slow.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds on chartreuse spinners and grape worms in 3-5 feet of water; striper slow; crappie real good under the boat stalls in 6-8 feet of water to 12 fish per person early, fishing good late afternoon; white bass fairly slow in lake, good about 60 miles up the river at the lock and dam; catfish spotty and unpredictable to 78 pounds on live bait and trotline; blue catfish fair in 45 pound range; channel catfish fair to 5 pounds.

RAYBURN: Water clear, some murkiness in river, 51 degrees, 1 foot above pool level black bass good to 12 pounds, 10 ounces, a new lake record, on jigs, Rat-L-Traps, Crawworms and some topwaters; striper slow to 6 pounds; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair. Fog heavy over last weekend.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level black bass fairly good to 6 3/4 pounds on red Rat-L-Traps; striper fair to 7 pounds; crappie fair at the edge of the grass beds on jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 feet above conservation pool;

black bass fair to 5 pounds on spinners and buzz baits in chartreuse and white. striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 6 pounds on shrimp and worms in 8 feet of water up the Pecos River, fish are in 60-80 feet of water and scattered.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level black bass good to 8 pounds on cranks; striper excellent to 2 pound average with many limits on liver and shad; catfish slow; redfish slow to 19 pounds on shad and shrimp from the bank.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass excellent to 9 pounds on plastic worms and cranks; hybrid striper good to 3 pound average on silver spoons and Rat-L-Traps; crappie slow; catfish good to 30 pounds on tilapia and shad; orange mouth corvina excellent with strings to 40 pounds on green grubs and cranks; redfish fair to 4 pounds on cranks.

CHOKO: Water clear, 58-62 degrees, lake full. black bass good to 8 1/4 pounds on white spinners and Tequila Sunrise worms in no set pattern in 3 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow to 3 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass slow on slabs, Rat-L-Traps and white grubs with a string of 21 white bass which weighed 53 pounds; catfish picking up on trotline in the 5-22 pound range on live bait with a trotline. Good numbers of fishermen midweek, live bait minnows plentiful. One operator uses 100 pounds of minnows per week.

COLETO CREEK Water clear, 61 degrees, with the generating plant down for two months for service, normal level. black bass good to 7 pounds on spinners with many undersized fish; striper fair to 3 pounds on minnows and spoons crappie fair on minnows in 12 feet of water to 15 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish slow with some on rod and reel on bloodbait to about 4 pounds.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level. black bass very good to 7 pounds on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 23 pounds on rod and reel drifting shrimp.

FALCON: Water clear, 2 feet above normal; black bass good to 10 pounds, 1 ounce with several 6s and 7s on white and chartreuse spinners in 3-4 feet of water; striper slow to 6 pounds on spinners while fishing for black bass; crappie slow; white bass good up the river on topwaters such as a Pico Pop to 100 fish per string. Catfish fairly good on frozen shrimp and sponge bait.

MEDINA: Very few fishermen out.

TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, clear in jungle area and clearing in the Navidad River, 64 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good to 4 pounds in the jungle area; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie picking up to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in the shallows; catfish excellent on trotline on cut bait, shrimp to 26 pounds.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water turbid, 50 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on jigs, lizards and worms in 8-12 feet of water; hybrid striper fairly slow but beginning to hit in the hot water discharge area on slabs and Rat-L-Traps crappie excellent in the hot water discharge area on white jigs and minnows; white bass fair trolling near the dam on Rat-L-Traps and slabs as well as slabbing off rocky points near the dam; catfish fairly slow; walleye fishing good to 5 pounds on live bait and white jigs in the discharge area.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level black bass good to 6 pounds, 13 ounces on spinners; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass to 15 fish per string on slabs and minnows; catfish good to 13 pounds on trotline baited with live perch.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 7 pounds in the shallow flats in late afternoons on worms and cranks; striper good around Goat Island and down near the dam on slabs and trolling Roadrunners and Fliptail flirts on down riggers; crappie excellent in both creek arms especially Hubbard Creek near the bridge with a good number of limits of fish to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows or yellow jigs; catfish slow.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 60 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair but small, not many keepers on purple worms with white tails;

crappie slow but good sized on minnows; white bass fair; catfish beginning to hit, fish generally small

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 45-48 degrees, 13 1/2 feet low; black bass very good in the 3-9 pound range on crawdad colored shrimp and topwaters; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and slabs white bass slow; catfish slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 53 degrees, 19 feet low; black bass good to 7 pounds, 183 black bass caught in tournaments over last weekend which totaled 514 pounds, mostly on spinners. striper slow; crappie slow; white bass good to 30 fish per string on slabs; catfish fair to 40 pounds on trotline with live bait.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 56 degrees, 2 1/2 feet below pool. black bass good to 11 pounds, 12 ounces on crawdad lure; hybrid striper slow; crappie picking up in 4-6 feet of water with strings to 20 fish per string off the docks on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 15 pounds with good strings on goldfish and cut shad.

COASTAL

SABINE LAKE Redfish fair in the 18-25 inch range with many undersized fish in Hickory Cove on dead shrimp; flounder fairly plentiful to 2 pounds on mud minnows along the highways in road ditches; a few drum to 2 pounds on dead shrimp; a couple of trout to 2 pounds on dead shrimp.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish fairly slow; specks good to 8 3/4 pounds on orange Willie's Shrimp; several big drum to 40 pounds on white touts and Willie's Shrimp; flounder fairly good to 4 pounds in good numbers; no live bait shrimp, only fresh dead shrimp and live mud minnows.

GALVESTON: Specks fairly good in East and West Bays drifting on Kelley Wigglers and a few shrimp to 5 1/2 pounds; female trout beginning to show roe; some flounder in the same area to 4 pounds on Kelley Wigglers. a few redfish just above keeper size to 23 inches black drum good to 24 pounds off the north jetty when fishermen can find their way through dense early morning fog; snapper fairly good when boats can get out; beach front producing sandtrout; still a few whiting and small drum; live bait shrimp hard to find from \$8.50 to \$9 per quart; piers producing sandtrout and small drum.

PORT OCONNOR: Big drum running to 60 pounds around the jetties and around Indianola on blue crab; one boat limited out on trout but wouldn't say where they were caught; good numbers of rat reds, not many keepers and generally no more than 2 to 3 fish per person; one boat offshore to the first rigs with good numbers of sand trout but only 3 snapper to 1 pound; live bait shrimp plentiful but raining midweek and should be fishable by the weekend.

PALACIOS: Redfish good with limits of 5 fish in the 28-30 inch range on dead shrimp in the Carancahua River; trout are small with some limits on shrimp and trout rigs; good numbers of drum with the redfish, but no big sizes yet; flounder fairly good in the river in the 2 pound range; live bait shrimp scarce.

ROCKPORT: Redfish good to 10.3 pounds on silver spoons in Estes Flats with several others in the 9 and 10 pound range in Allan's Bight, Redfish Bay, Mud Island and Long Reef Bend; trout good in redfish bay to 8.8 pounds on pink Mir-O-Lures; some trout in Little Bay; big drum showing up with a 57-pounder leading the pack on blue crabs; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish plentiful in the 20-22 inch range; live bait shrimp available at \$7 per quart. good numbers of sheepshead on live bait and fiddler crabs, fish not as large as a month ago but numbers better; raining midweek.

CORPUS CHRISTI Few redfish in Laguna Madre; trout fair in numbers and small in size in the Upper Laguna, trout to 4 pounds in Baffin Bay and the Land Cut on wide variety of baits; a few drum to 40 pounds around the Land Cut. Flats around Kennedy Causeway are full of sting rays. Oso Pier producing a few drum to 34 1/2 pounds on blue crab; good numbers of small sandtrout; fairly good amounts of live shrimp at \$1.50 per dozen, fair numbers of people fishing for black drum.

PORT MANSFIELD: Wade fishermen catching good numbers of redfish

to the 30 inch maximum on silver and gold spoons between Butcher's and Dove Islands; good numbers of trout to 8 pounds with several in the 5 pound range on strawberry touts under a popping cork north of Port Mansfield Cut to the Gulf and north to the Land Cut in 4 to 6 feet of water. no live bait shrimp available but boats working. Offshore activity slow. some big drum to 60 pounds in East Cut going to the Gulf. High winds midweek, few fisherman.

PORT ISABEL: Good numbers of redfish to 11 pounds plus which was just under 30 inches on live shrimp under a popping cork south of Three Islands; good numbers of trout to 7 pounds on live shrimp and some on touts such as Mel's Chubby in red; black drum good to 30 pounds in the Brownsville Ship Channel. Live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 3/2/88