

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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DEPARTMENT RADIO SHOW DEBUTS IN AUSTIN

AUSTIN--A new radio program showcasing the best of the Texas outdoors will hit the Central Texas air waves in September. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and KLBJ-AM (590) are launching the new show in Austin with plans to syndicate the program statewide in 1993.

Texas Outdoor Connection will debut Sept. 12 and will run Saturday mornings from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. The live program will feature two to three guests per week and will cover a broad range of outdoor topics.

"We see this hitting all the bases, from hunting and fishing to backpacking and camping to rock climbing, mountain biking and birdwatching," said Bill Rutledge, TPWD conservation communications director. "When people get ready for the weekend, we hope they'll tune us in to find the hottest spots for outdoor fun. We want to be their connection to the great outdoors."

The first show will feature the opening day of the first Texas teal hunting season since 1988, an overview of the department's new Texas Adventures program to allow selected Texans to help explore the Big Bend area and highlights of McKinney Falls State Park near Austin.

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Fall season topics for the program include mountain biking, deer and turkey calling, ecology tours on horseback, watchable wildlife and more. Regular feature segments will include "Call of the Wild," where the first caller to correctly identify a recorded wildlife call or noise will win a prize, the "Catch of the Day" report of hot fishing spots, a weekly calendar of outdoor events and more.

Stacy Bishop, an Austin area game warden, will host the program. A 14-year department veteran, Bishop is known for her friendly personality and her extensive experience in dealing with the public.

"Stacy Bishop is the real thing," said Lydia Saldaña, TPWD media services branch chief. "She loves nature, camps out and knows hunting and fishing. She really knows the outdoors. Plus, anyone can talk to her for five minutes and see that she's a great people person, one of the best educators we have. We are thrilled that she's available to host Texas Outdoor Connection."

Austin radio professional Darlene Lewis will produce the program. She boasts 15 years of experience in radio and television, including stints as reporter, talk-show host, producer and news anchor.

"Above all, we want this program to entertain," Rutledge said. "Our department has an important mission to inform and educate people, but the radio station management and our staff agree that this show needs to be fun.

"We hope to attract not only our traditional hunting and fishing audience but also the increasing number of today's Texans who want that back-to-nature experience."

TH 9/11/92

FISHERIES BRANCH REORGANIZED

AUSTIN--In an effort to more efficiently administer fisheries programs and to place greater emphasis on coastal fisheries management, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fisheries branch is being reorganized.

Dr. Rudy Rosen, fisheries and wildlife division director, announced the changes today. They are expected to take several months to fully implement.

Fish hatcheries, previously a branch of its own, now will be consolidated into the inland and coastal branches. Hatcheries Branch Chief Gene McCarty has been named chief of the expanded coastal fisheries branch. Mike Ray, assistant chief of fish hatcheries, becomes the deputy chief of hatcheries for the inland branch. The coastal fisheries branch will administer the three marine fish hatcheries.

Phil Durocher, inland fisheries branch chief, will assume responsibility for the six freshwater hatcheries.

"The purpose of hatcheries and fishery management is to make fishing better," Durocher said. "The consolidation will make it even easier for the managers of our reservoirs to use the hatchery as a tool for fishery improvement."

Enhancing fish production is among the first items of business for McCarty in his new capacity. The coastal fisheries plan also includes the creation of a commercial industry services desk and liaison officer to work more closely with the commercial industry.

Several senior biologist positions from the Rockport regional office will be redirected into the field, Rosen said. Staff selected for these jobs will become managers of field stations with the responsibility of establishing their stations as centers of fishery management expertise on each major Texas bay.

"These moves continue our focus on goals and objectives set last year to address coastal fisheries management," he said. "This decentralized, teamwork atmosphere allows individuals within the branch the authority to fully use their expertise to improve fishing and protect fishery habitat.

Research and enhanced data collection are other areas to be emphasized by the plan, Rosen said. Biologists at each field station will become responsible for establishing an area of expertise and conducting applied research to help better manage fisheries.

LW 9/11/92

QUAIL COUNTS BEST SINCE 1987

AUSTIN--The statewide quail hunting season may be the best in several years if the 1992 quail survey is any indication. The 20-mile roadside quail survey routes provided the highest numbers since 1987, the best year since the survey began in 1976.

"The prospects for the 1992 quail season look much better than 1991," said Don Wilson, small game program leader at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Most of the state will see the highest quail population since 1987. It should be an excellent year."

Quail counts are conducted by wildlife biologists and technicians recording quail observed along a 20-mile route, beginning at sunrise or one hour before sunset. The information is used to document annual quail population trends.

Of the state's top three quail regions - South Texas, the Rolling Plains and the Cross Timbers - South Texas looks the best.

The median quail count for South Texas was 61, up from 39 in 1987 and 21.5 last year. The Rolling Plains count was 28, the best since 1987 (28.5) and almost double last year's 15. The Cross Timbers count was 12, slightly better than last year's 10.5, but well below 1987's high of 34.

"I think it's going to be a great year," said Don Frels, regional wildlife director in South Texas.

Jay Williams, South Texas district leader in San Antonio agreed. "It is going to be a good year, perhaps as good as 1987. We are seeing all sizes of young quail and some very large coveys."

"It looks very good at this time," said David Dvorak, area manager at the Matador Wildlife Management Area near Paducah. "We are seeing birds from just hatched to fully grown, although most of the birds are three-quarters grown. The hunting is going to be tough because of all the vegetation."

The Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau also reported excellent counts.

The Edwards Plateau count was 15 this year, up from 13.5 last year and the best since a count of 22 in 1977, the second year of the survey. "It is going to be better than last year but, overall, not a great year," said Larry Holland, district leader from Brownwood. "However, there are some good counts."

The Trans-Pecos had a count of 18 this year, the highest since 21 in 1987 and up from four last year. "This is a good year to come to the Trans-Pecos for quail hunting," said Mike Hobson, district leader from Alpine. "We have not had a year this good since 1987. I will definitely buy a Type II permit this year."

The Gulf Prairies remained low again this year. Three of the last four years the count has been 5, down from 12 in 1988.

The statewide season runs from Oct. 31-Feb. 28. The daily bag limit is 15 and the possession limit is 45. The lawful possession limit for quail is the maximum number - 45 - that may be in one person's possession after the third day of hunting. On the first day of any open season the possession limit is the same as the daily bag limit. Legal shooting hours for all non-migratory game birds are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

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EXPO POSTER, ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

AUSTIN--Two sets of brothers have won awards in the Texas Wildlife Expo '92 poster and essay contests, and two entrants have won in both categories.

Melissa Griffin of Paris and Clint Roberson of Menard were the big winners in the contests. Griffin won the ninth grade poster and essay competitions. Roberson won the eighth grade poster and essay competitions. Tom Roberson, Clint's brother, won the fifth grade poster contest.

A brother combination from Breckenridge won in the essay contest. Charles Anderson won the seventh grade contest and brother Bob won the college contest.

The Expo, presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is scheduled for Oct. 2-3 at TPWD headquarters in Austin.

A critical goal for the department is to promote conservation to the next generation of Texans. It also is designed to create public awareness of hunting's importance to Texas and wildlife management, focus public attention on the contributions hunters have made to preserve the abundant wildlife resources of Texas, inform a new generation of Texans about the history of hunting in the state and underscore the critical role of hunting in wildlife management.

Other essay winners include Bob Gabriel of Tyler, 10th grade; Richard Bush of Irving, 11th grade; and Chester W. Moore Jr. of Orange, 12th grade.

Other poster winners include Chris Stewart of Irving, kindergarten; Dustin Slack of T.E. Baxter Elementary School in Midlothian, first grade; Quinn Sherwood of Sumner, second grade; Micah Adams of Mesquite, third grade; David Polanco of San Juan, fourth grade; Veronica Torres of Arturo L. Benavides Elementary School in San Ygnacio, sixth grade; Joe Bob Hayter of Fort Stockton, seventh grade; David Morris of Austin, 10th grade; and Jeff Cox of Bowie, 12th grade.

Winners will receive a lifetime hunting and fishing license valued at \$800. They will be honored at the Expo celebrity banquet Oct. 2. Winners who cannot attend will have their licenses hand delivered by the game warden in their area.

Posters and essays will be on display during both days of the Expo.

Shooters and hunters contributed \$21.6 million to Texas wildlife and habitat management last year, 16 percent of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's budget. Since 1937, all sporting arms and ammunition excise taxes collected have been used by states' fish and wildlife management agencies to acquire wildlife habitat, conduct research and promote responsible hunting through education.

The Expo is designed to salute those people. "It's time for people to come together and say thanks," he said. "We want to expose non-hunters to those contributions hunters have made and to the wildlife management success story. Non-hunters and hunters can have a fun day and come together to celebrate conservation."

The Expo runs from 8 a.m. to dark on Oct. 3. Visitors can participate in several hunting and outdoor-related events, including shooting events using primary and modern firearms for youths and sporting clays fields for youths and adults. Shooting events are sponsored by Winchester, Remington Arms, National Sporting Clays Association, U.S. Sporting Clays Association, Lone Star Bowhunters Association, Thompson/Center Arms and Crosman Airguns.

Other events include:

- * Snakes - by Heart of Texas and South Texas Snakehandlers, learn about poisonous and non-poisonous snakes.

- * Tree Stand/Tower Stand Educational Displays - by API Outdoors and Game Tamer, learn the proper hunting techniques; youth will learn proper methods of safely climbing and retreating from several styles of elevated stands.

* Birds of Prey - by Last Chance Forever Inc. and John Karger, learn about birds of prey, a static display of actual birds and a flight demonstration.

* Sporting Dog Demonstrations - by various sporting breed clubs and field trial and training experts, witness use, handling, training and field demonstrations.

* Live Animal Exhibition - by various exhibitors, learn more about wild animals, regulations regarding ownership, habits, behaviors, rehabilitation efforts, animal damage and management programs.

The Expo will be on the grounds of TPWD headquarters. To attend, park adjacent to the I.R.S./V.A./Treasurer complex east of I-35 on Woodward Blvd. A free shuttle will bring you to TPWD headquarters for the Expo. Admission is free. For more information contact TPWD at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4472, or (512) 389-4472.

Major sponsors for the Expo are Coors and Chevron. Sponsors include Academy Stores, Barton Creek Properties Inc., Bliss-Murski, Browning-Ferris Industries, Bushlan, Crosman, GSD&M, H & K Inc., Hill Country Wholesale Inc., Keystone Steel & Wire, Lone Star Bowhunters Association, McBride's Guns Inc., Mike Davis Associates, Mossy Oak, National Wild Turkey Federation, Parker Drilling Co., Philip Morris U.S.A., Remington Arms, Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas, Temple-Inland, Texas Bighorn Society, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Wine Alliance, Thompson/Center Arms Co. and Winchester/Olin.

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

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on jerk worms and jigs; crappie are fair at night; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on Bill's Sponge Bait and live perch.

BELTON: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 7 1/2 pounds, a new lake record, on Bloodline Ring Rascals, spinners, buzz baits; hybrid striper are fairly slow; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent on topwaters and jigging spoons in Temple Lake Park area and in the sand flats; catfish are good to 6 pounds on stinkbait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly slow; striper are good at night under the lights; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are fair in number and size on slabs and spoons; catfish are fairly good to 16 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 83 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds in 3-5 feet of water on chartreuse spinners; striper are good to 10 pounds downrigging Tad's Jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are fair around Garrett and Shell Islands under birds early and late on slabs and jigs; catfish are slow.

CANYON: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds on topwaters; striper are slowing down, some small fish were caught; crappie are fairly good on minnows at night; white bass are spotty trolling with a Phantom Lure and minnows; catfish are good to 37 pounds on goldfish and perch.

COLORADO BEND: Fishing is slow due to lack of fishermen.

FAYETTE: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 12 pounds on water dogs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fairly good in the schoolie range on Rattle Traps; crappie are good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 12 to 15 feet of water; catfish are fair in the 3-5 pound range on live perch and catfish bait.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds early and late on buzz baits and topwaters; striper are fair in number to 10 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in number but most are undersized, best baits are white jigs and white Tom's Minners; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on minnows with trotline as well as rod and reel.

LEB: Water clear, 84 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 5 pounds, 12 ounces on chartreuse Getzits; striper are slow; crappie are fair around docks with structure in 12-18 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good on lower end of lake under birds on some topwaters but mostly with slabs and jigs; catfish are slow.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on buzz baits, spinners and worms; crappie are slow; white bass are fair with some schooling in mid

lake early and late; catfish are slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water off color, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on jigs and pigs; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 9-12 feet of water; white bass are fair in number on slabs and spoons; catfish are fair in the 2-3 pound range on rod and reel, trotline activity has been slow.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 89 degrees, 4 feet below normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on Mister Whiskers Cheese Bait, stinkbait and worms.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 14 inches on plastic worms and spinners; striper are slow in the lake but some caught below the spillway; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are good on earth worms strung up like plastic worms; catfish are good to 15 inches on worms and dough bait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 4 feet low; largemouth bass are good to 40 fish per boat per day to 3 1/2 pounds on chrome topwaters, chartreuse spinners and firecracker Ringworms; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 inches on the same baits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on cut bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 80 degrees, 1 1/2 feet low; largemouth bass are fair to 4 pounds on spinners and worms; small mouth bass are fair to 5 pounds on cranks; striper are good to 8 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are good with schooling all over the lake; catfish are good to 6 pounds on a variety of natural baits.

NORTHEAST

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows and jigs in 12 to 20 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water fairly clear, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds on Berkley Power Worms and pumpkin seed colored worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows, fishing with jigs is slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 90-95 degrees, 6 inches below normal level; black bass are good in the 4 to 6 1/4 pounds on worms and cranks; hybrid striper are slow to 8 pounds on shad; catfish are slow to 6 pounds on cut bait and bloodbait; redfish are fair to 18 pounds on cranks early and late.

FORK: Water clear, 81 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are good to 10.19 pounds on Mud Bugs; crappie are good with limits to 2 pounds on jigs in 15-16 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 10 1/4 pounds on chicken livers.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear in the main lake, stained in upper end, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks in 10-15 feet of water, many in the 12-13 inch range on topwaters early and late on main and secondary points; crappie are fair in 20-25 feet of water around boat stalls on minnows and chartreuse jigs; white bass are

good to 2 pounds on small topwaters early and late and on 3/4 to 1 ounce slabs mid day in mid lake, some are hitting small cranks in 15 feet of water; catfish are good to 12 pounds on jug lines and trotlines in the Denton Creek area on bloodbait and shrimp.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 94 degrees surface, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on minnows and spinners; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 15 pounds on crawfish and shad gizzards.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 7.1 pounds on buzz baits, black neon Ring Rascal worms and cranks; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 9 pounds drifting nightcrawlers.

LEWISVILLE: Water murky, 80 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are fair to 10 pounds on live shad and carolina riggings with Bass Assassins; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds in 8 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow early and late with limits caught on slabs during the middle of the day; catfish are good up the rivers in Pecan, Little Elm and Trinity Rivers.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 100 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on PopRs and 11 inch black worms; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 8 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 84 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on worms, buzz baits; crappie are improving but no limits, some caught under 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish are good on trotline with nightcrawlers and cut shad; yellow catfish are slow to 33 pounds on trotline.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 9 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on worms; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good with a few limits on spoons and Rattle Traps while schooling; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on rod and reel and trotline baited with nightcrawlers, catalpas and chicken blood.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds early on jigs; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 14 pounds in the late afternoon on dough bait, stinkbait and dog food.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 80 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass are very good to 9 1/2 pounds, most were in the 2-3 pound range, on plastic worms; striper and hybrid striper are very good to a 7 pound average on live shad; crappie are picking up with several keepers caught on minnows; white bass are slowing down, some caught during the day; catfish are excellent to 1 1/2 pounds on shrimp and bloodbait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on plum colored Ringworms; crappie are fairly good with limits around brush piles late in the afternoon; white bass are schooling near the dam, many limits caught, best baits are PopRs; catfish are good to 30 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good

to 6 1/4 pounds on worms and cranks around the boat houses; striped are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are excellent with many limits on slabs and minnows; catfish are excellent to 7 pounds on bloodbait, stinkbait and worms.

TEXOMA: Water a little off color, 79 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 9 1/4 pounds on Berkley Power Worms in shallow water; striped are good to 13 1/4 pounds on live bait, slabs and topwaters; crappie are good with some limits reported on minnows around boat houses; white bass are good and mixed in with stripers and are good on live bait, topwaters and slabs, the island seems to be the best; catfish are good to 45 pounds on cut bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water dingy on the south end, clear on the north, 81 degrees, 1 foot below seasonal norm; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on worms, jigs and topwaters, Rattle Traps and Spinners; crappie are poor on the south end, fair on the north end to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs around the stumps; white bass are fair with schooling on the main lake, up the rivers and near the dam on small Rattle Traps and L'il Georges; catfish are fair to 25 pounds on stinkbait, shad, chicken livers, catalpa worms and nightcrawlers; bream are fair on the main lake and good below the dam on red wigglers and crickets.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 8 inches low; black bass was fair over the weekend due to high boat traffic on worms and cranks; white bass are improving on Pet Spoons and jigging the humps; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are fair to good but good numbers are too small to keep on nightcrawlers and prepared baits; bream are improving on red worms.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/4 pounds on black and blue Craw Worms, Slug-Gos and June Bug worms; crappie are fairly good to 20 fish per string at the island on minnows; white bass are fairly good to 15 fish per string on minnows at the dam and the islands; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on rod and reels with worms.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good from daylight to 9 a.m. on spinners and cranks in the shallows; striped are slow; crappie are beginning to pick up with strings to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good but most are under sized and are caught on slabs and trolling Pet Spoons; blue catfish and yellow catfish are fair to 55 pounds on live bait; channel catfish are good to 6 pounds on shad.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 85 degrees, 4 1/2 feet below normal level; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are slow.

SHELDON: Water clear, 85 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair in the evenings on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in the 2-3 pound range on cut bait.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 87 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on worms, jigs and some topwaters; striped are fair to 10 pounds on deep running Redfins; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds on shiners and

strolling; catfish are fair to 15 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on Power Worms, spinners and some buzz baits early; striped are slow and deep; crappie are poor; white bass are fairly good at night on minnows; catfish are good in shallow as well as 12 to 40 feet of water in and around moss beds on cheese baits.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair but all are undersized on Power Worms; striped are slow to 5 pounds, all others undersized, on chicken livers; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on chicken livers; redfish are fair to 17 pounds on tilapia.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds, 9 ounces on live perch; redfish are fair to 18 1/2 pounds on perch, shad and Rattle Traps; corvina are fair in number to 13 1/2 pounds on live perch.

CHOKE: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 1/4 pounds on buzz baits early, spinners are good all day in 2-4 feet of water around the grass beds; Slug-Gos and plastic worms are good with several limits averaging 2 1/2 pounds; plastic worms are picking up bass on the humps; crappie are fair on live minnows around 99 bridge at night and early morning; white bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds trolling deep diving cranks and spoons in the dam area; catfish are good in the river channel by Callihan and Four Fingers, Possum Creek channel and Elm Creek channel on cheese baits; trotline and jug line have been slow, but cooler weather should be more productive.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair with most in the 13-14 inch range on plastic worms and spinners; catfish are good to 9 inches and up with trotlines baited with perch or blood; crappie are fair with some keepers on crappie jigs.

TEXANA: Water clear in main lake and up the creeks and rivers, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on plastic worms with good numbers of undersized fish caught on plastic worms; crappie are fair in the Navidad on minnows to 20 fish per string; catfish are slow.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 14 inches on rod and reel; some trotline activity with live bait.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on worms; striped are fair to 4 pounds on live shad; crappie are poor; white bass are slow; catfish are poor.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on white spinners; striped are slow; crappie are fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good on silver spoons; catfish are good to 7 pounds on Mister Whiskers Catfish Bait and shrimp.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, lake

full black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fairly good in number, many are undersized; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 18 pounds on live bait.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 96 feet, black bass are slow; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are fair to 10 fish per string; catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on liver baited rod and reel.

MEREDITH: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow to 7 1/4 pounds on minnows from the bank; crappie are good late at night near the bottom on minnows; white bass are good with minnows; catfish are fair to 15 inches on the bottom with bread, corn, worms and minnows.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear in main lake, murky in the upper end, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 20 inches in 12-18 feet of water on dark or root beer worms, spinners or cranks early and late with largest fish hanging around points, bluffs and structure, small bass are plentiful in upper ends of Elm Creek, Grape Creek, Horse Creek and Spring Creek; small mouth bass are fair to 15 inches on points and bluffs in 20 feet of water; crappie are poor to 1 pound on minnows in 14 to 20 feet of water; channel catfish are good to 5 pounds in baited holes and with trotlines on flats.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on plastic worms, Slug-Gos, and Tequila Sunrise worms, some schooling activity; small mouth are slow; striped are good to 7 pounds on topwaters, Striper Striker, chrome topwaters with white buck tails all over the lake; crappie are fair under docks on minnows; white bass are schooling and are caught on chrome baits; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on jug lines, trotlines and on rod and reel baited with liver.

PROCTOR: Water a little murky, 6 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are slowing down; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 23 pounds on worms mostly.

SPENCE: Water clear, 84 degrees, 23 feet low; black bass are slow; striped are fair in number but most are small, striped are surfacing all over the lake and are caught on topwaters; white bass are slow and small; crappie are fairly slow on minnows; catfish are good to 2 1/2 pounds on trotlines and rod and reel baited with shrimp and worms around the dam.

STAMFORD: Water muddy, 3 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to good to 4 pounds on spinners; striped are slow; crappie are good to 3 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 27 pounds on trotline with live bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 76 degrees, 12 inches low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair but most are too small to keep; white bass are fair to 4 pounds on slabs and spoons; catfish are very good to 6 pounds on worms; walleye are good to 3 pounds on minnows.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing was slow until the weekend when the drum run began, fair numbers of flounder and good numbers of redfish were caught, good numbers of big croakers caught; no live bait shrimp or mud minnows

available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish have been good in keeper range at the Causeway bridge; specks to 3 pounds with near limits at the same place; flounder are picking up at the bridge; specks are good on the south reef; good numbers of redfish limits; caught at Blue Buck Point on the Louisiana shoreline on dead shrimp; specks are hitting mud minnows and artificial lures. No live bait shrimp but some mud minnows are now available.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of oversized redfish have been caught at the beach on cut mullet and large dead shrimp, mostly near San Luis Pass; good numbers of specks in the surf and at the jetties; good numbers of trout and keeper redfish in East Bay; good numbers of flounder all over; good numbers of snapper caught offshore; live bait shrimp available \$10 to \$12 per quart.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing is very good with easy limits of red snapper to 18 pounds with most in the 2 to 5 pound range around 35-50 miles offshore; limits of kingfish averaging 8 to 15 pounds were caught 20 to 35 miles offshore; good numbers of trigger fish, a few black fin tuna, a few amberjacks, dolphins, some grouper also caught; sharks are fairly plentiful.

PORT OCONNOR: Fishing has slowed down; redfish are showing up around the big jetties, in the back bays toward Pringle and Conte; good numbers of trout caught at Boggy Bayou, Green's Bay, Lighthouse Cove, Bill Day's Reef; offshore has been good for snapper but weather has slowed down many of the trips; kingfish are slowing down; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful at \$8.50 per quart.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of keeper sized redfish caught in West Matagorda on finger mullet, the Colorado River is full of trout and redfish, most are undersized; shark fishing is excellent at the walkway on the jetties; flounder fishing has been good on the south shoreline in both bays; bait shrimp is available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Fishing has been fairly slow; fishing conditions remain fairly good with light southeast winds; high tides are staying longer; some trout caught around the wells on live shrimp, croaker or mullet; redfish and trout have been caught along the south shoreline of Matagorda Peninsula on Hogies strawberry Swimming Jacks with metal flake and white tail; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. Flounder are still holding up along the south shore line of Matagorda Peninsula.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of redfish and trout caught in all bays on live bait and artificials; live bait shrimp available at \$9 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Good numbers of oversized redfish in Charlie's Pasture off the ship channel on live shrimp and live mullet, limits of legal sized fish are easy to get; trout fishing has been a little slow; live bait shrimp are available at \$7.54 per quart. Offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of bull dolphin 25 to 35 miles offshore; good numbers of kingfish caught in the same area; fair numbers of tuna landed; good numbers of larger snapper caught 30-40 miles offshore; good numbers of fishermen going out since Labor Day; party boats are catching

grouper in the 40 to 50 pound range; good numbers of 40 pound barracuda coming in.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Back bay fishermen are catching redfish and trout to 20 inches on live bait shrimp along the causeway, Portland Reef and between the power lines; live bait shrimp are available at 15 cents each.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of herding redfish south of the black pipes and around Unnecessary Island, one school has around 2000 fish mostly oversized fish to 35 pounds; trout fishing has been slow, some small fish caught but few keepers on the east side on the color line; a few trout caught south of Unnecessary Island in the deep water; the full moon should improve fishing by weekend; surf fishing is slow but good numbers of fish off the jetties, whiting, sand trout and croaker are plentiful; offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of bonito and a few kingfish; a few wahoo caught inside the 20 fathom mark; a single sail fish hooked; pier fishing has been good early for whiting, golden croaker and sand trout; night pier fishing has been producing trout to 23 inches along with whiting, golden croaker and sandtrout; live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

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