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# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## TPW COMMISSION TO CONSIDER GAME REGULATIONS

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will meet in regular public session at 9 a.m. Thursday (June 15) to consider several changes in 1989-90 game and fish regulations.

The meeting, open to the public, will be held at Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road.

Items to be included are dove and other early-season migratory game bird seasons, proposed reductions in white-tailed deer bag limits in some counties, proposed changes in fresh and saltwater fishing regulations and proposed rules for operation of Type I and Type II wildlife management areas.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS ON  
WILDLIFE STOCKING  
ANNOUNCED

AUSTIN -- Hunters, fishermen and others interested in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fish and wildlife stocking policies will have the opportunity to comment on that topic in 13 public hearings around the state during late June and early July

Each public hearing will include a video presentation on the history of fish and wildlife stocking programs in Texas. At least one Parks and Wildlife Commission member will be in attendance at each hearing, along with representatives of the department's Fisheries, Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions, officials said.

The nine-member commission will review public comments from the hearings before adopting new policies and procedures.

Hearings will be held in Abilene, Alpine, Amarillo, Arlington, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Houston, Laredo, McAllen, Midland/Odessa, San Antonio, Tyler and Waco.

Department staff members told the commission in a recent meeting in Austin that the stocking of animals in Texas has been instrumental in dramatic increases in several species, including white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn antelope and turkey. Stocking programs also have enhanced Texas' recreational fishing, with species such as Florida largemouth bass.

and striped bass adding to anglers' opportunities

Staff members also told the commission that since most of the state's wildlife habitat is in private ownership, stocking programs depend on agreements between the department and landowners

JC 6/7/89

HARVEST REFLECTS EXPANDED  
TYPE II HUNT PROGRAM

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Type II public hunting program set a number of records during the 1988-89 hunting seasons, owing in part to a significant increase in available acreage over the program's first year

Officials said an estimated 22,335 hunters utilized 676,002 acres of land this year, compared to 14,584 hunting on 450,000 acres the year before.

Hunting was allowed during open seasons for hunters who purchased \$35 Type II hunting permits. Nonconsumptive use of the Type II areas apparently increased in 1988-89 because of a \$10 Limited Use Permit created to encourage persons other than hunters to also enjoy the areas

White-tailed deer hunting continued to be the most popular activity on the Type II areas, with 16,325 hunters harvesting 2,932 deer during the season. In 1987-88, a total of 11,109 deer hunters bagged 1,896 deer

The department stocked approximately 2,000 whitetails on Type II areas during the past two winters in an effort to bolster populations

A large portion of the Type II acreage is in the popular squirrel hunting area of East Texas. An estimated 7,070 squirrel hunters took more than 62,200 squirrels this year, up from a harvest of 44,802 by 5,162 hunters the year before.

The addition of more tracts containing mourning dove habitat apparently helped increase the dove harvest from 9,085 in 1987 to 24,500 this year. The quail harvest, however, reflected generally lower quail populations, dropping from 25,055 in 1987-88 to 17,155 this year. The harvest decline occurred despite higher hunter numbers, from 2,122 to 3,125.

Also taken during the open seasons this year were 217 feral hogs and javelinas, 378 pheasants and 2,894 furbearers.

The survey also showed that approximately 9,799 persons used Type II areas for activities other than hunting. Scouting accounted for the largest number, at 5,382, followed by nature observers, 3,338, camping at 2,422 and fishing, 2,019. These totals do not reflect the nonconsumptive activities of an additional 2,000-plus individuals who purchased the Type II limited use permit.

Officials said announcements will be made later this summer about when the 1989-90 Type II permits will go on sale at department offices.

JC 6/7/89

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING  
POPULARITY GOING UP

AUSTIN -- A continuing rise in the popularity of spring turkey hunting is reflected in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's annual Small Game Harvest Survey

The survey, based on questionnaires mailed to 15,000 hunting license holders, showed a dramatic increase in spring gobbler hunting activity during the 1980s

Glenn Boydston, coordinator of technical programs for the department's Wildlife Division, said the estimated number of spring turkey hunters has more than doubled since 1982, climbing from 40,600 that year to 86,200 for the 1988 spring season

The harvest also reflected this growth, increasing from just over 15,000 birds in 1982 to almost 53,000 in 1988.

This trend is a result of more areas of the state having huntable populations of turkeys, more areas of the state having a spring season and increased interest in the sporting aspects of spring hunting, especially the use of calls and camouflage, Boydston speculated

The survey also showed a decline in hunter numbers and hunter success for bobwhite quail during 1988-89. After the bumper year of 1987-88 when some 240,000 hunters harvested over 2 2 million quail, weather-related

reductions in quail populations in 1988 apparently caused the number of hunters to drop to under 200,000 and the harvest decreased to 1.3 million birds

Unlike the highly variable quail hunting statistics, data from the survey showed a fairly steady decline in numbers of rabbit and squirrel hunters and harvest in the past seven years. During 1981-82, an estimated 208,000 hunters took 1.1 million rabbits, compared to 130,000 hunters harvesting just over 500,000 rabbits in 1988-89. The number of hunters pursuing squirrels dropped from 231,000 in 1981-82 to 164,000 in 1988-89. Total harvest dropped from more than 1.3 million squirrels to just over 730,000.

Other species in the survey and harvest totals for 1988-89 were scaled quail, 271,000; mourning dove, 4.4 million; and pheasant, 84,300.

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BELTON HYBRID STRIPERS  
COMING ON STRONG

BELTON -- Three consecutive years of stocking hybrid striped bass apparently has resulted in strong populations of the fish at Lake Belton.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery technician Kevin Storey of Waco said gill net surveys revealed strong year-classes of fish from stockings in 1987, 1988 and 1989. "The total catch of hybrids was four times higher than in the last survey which was done in 1987," said Storey.

Storey noted that about 75 percent of the hybrids collected were in the 15- to 19-inch range, indicating they were from the 1987 stocking. The fish weighed an average of two pounds, ranging up to three and a half, Storey said.

Although most of the 1987 year-class are not yet at the 18-inch minimum length limit, they will exceed that size soon, Storey said.

Hybrids stocked in 1988 were found to be in the nine to 13-inch size range. They should reach legal size next year, while those stocked in 1989 will reach harvestable size in 1991.

Channel catfish also were well represented in the survey. Storey said catch rates were 50 percent above those of 1987. Catfish ranged in length from eight to 23 inches, with most in the 14- to 19-inch range. The largest weighed 5.8 pounds.

Lake Belton is a 12,000-acre reservoir operated by the Brazos River Authority and located just north of Belton.

JC 6/7/89

FLOODING MAY NOT AFFECT  
EASTERN TURKEY NESTING

MARSHALL -- Eastern wild turkeys stocked in 23 East Texas counties may have a good nesting year in spite of extensive flooding during mid-April, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Biologist Joe Campo of Marshall said turkey nesting was probably underway in some areas when the flooding occurred, but any birds whose nests were inundated still have time to re-nest

"Turkeys often are able to re-nest after flooding or predators interrupt their nesting, and they can continue this effort well into June," said Campo "The poults hatched in June this year should have excellent survival because the rains created good food and cover conditions "

Landowners in areas where the eastern birds have been stocked are reminded to watch for nesting hens and newly-hatched poults in the coming weeks

The department has stocked 1,127 turkeys at 65 restoration sites since 1979, made possible through the cooperative efforts of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Texas Wild Turkey Federation, Temple Inland, Champion International and Kirby forest products companies, private individuals and the department Most of the released birds were obtained from other states

Campo said most restoration areas were stocked with 12 hens and three gobblers "Under optimum conditions for reproduction, including adequate protection and suitable habitat, turkey populations should double their numbers each year for several years after stocking," he said

Restoration sites are placed about eight miles apart to allow populations to eventually meet and form larger areas of occupied habitat



Unlike Rio Grande turkeys found in the eastern two-thirds of the state, eastern turkeys are tolerant of heavy rainfall conditions, Campo said

JC 6/7/89

MULE DEER ROUNDTABLE  
REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

AUSTIN -- Desert mule deer in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas deserve more intense management and attention as a revenue-producing resource, in the opinion of many West Texas landowners

This was one of many conclusions contained in a summary of the Trans-Pecos Mule Deer Roundtable hosted recently by Chuck Nash, chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Department, at Sul Ross State University in Alpine

Ted Clark, mule deer program leader for the department, said copies of the summary are available free to the public on request by writing the Wildlife Division, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

Clark said 69 persons representing a cross-section of interests relating to mule deer attended the meeting

"It was apparent after the roundtable that most West Texas landowners feel mule deer are an important resource," Clark said "They are concerned about whether there is enough biological data on mule deer, and they also believe the animals need more protection against predators, poachers and introduced exotic animals "

Texas mule deer populations are spread across a wide area of the Trans-Pecos region, and lesser numbers are found in portions of the Panhandle. Hunters harvested about 7,300 mule deer during the past hunting season, a nine-percent increase over the previous season.

JC 6/7/89

MATLOCK GETS SCOT  
CONSERVATION AWARD

AUSTIN -- Dr Gary Matlock, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Fisheries Division, has been named "Wildlife Conservationist of the Year" by the Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas (SCOT).

The award was announced at a recent awards program in Austin.

Matlock heads a staff of 245 and administers an annual budget of more than \$10 million.

SCOT officials said Matlock's contributions to conservation included obtaining commission approval to place tilapia on the Harmful Fish List, establishing size and bag limits on red drum, implementing a Guadalupe bass refuge and overseeing the renovation of the state fish hatchery at San Marcos.

JC 6/7/89

WILDLIFE VIDEO TAPE  
PROGRAM OFFERED

AUSTIN -- Farmers and ranchers interested in the video program "Agriculture and wildlife" now may be able to obtain copies of the program in their local area

The 55-minute program, which aired recently on satellite television, is a cooperative effort of Kansas State University, the Great Plains Agricultural Council, U S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and wildlife agencies of eight other Great Plains states

The program addresses the importance of private lands to wildlife, ways to manage land to increase wildlife, and benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program to wildlife

Those interested in obtaining the tape should contact their local county agricultural agent, officials said

JC 6/7/89

LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM SET  
AT FORT RICHARDSON

JACKSBORO -- Members of the 4th U S. Cavalry Regiment Memorial, Inc , of Lubbock will camp at Fort Richardson State Historical Park June 10-11 to re-create life in a frontier fort

The re-enactment is a feature of the "Weekend in Old Mesquiteville" festivities being held in Jacksboro, which include live music, bike rally, arts, crafts and food booths

"It's a good show when the 4th Cavalry re-enactors come to the fort to live like soldiers of 100 years ago, show off their riding skills and fire the authentic old cannon," said Max Peterson, park superintendent

Activities begin on Saturday at 10 a.m. as the festival opens on the town square in Jacksboro. After the kickoff event, a short cavalry parade will lead to the park one mile southeast of the city off U.S. Highway 281

A fully mounted and uniformed cavalry troop of 12 or more will drill on the parade ground while their wives, dressed in period costumes, will demonstrate frontier cooking

Longhorn cattle from the state's official herd will be penned at the edge of the parade ground, and Lester Galbreath, the herd manager, will speak to visitors about longhorns and their history

Fort Richardson was northernmost in the line of federal forts established in Texas soon after the Civil War. It served as headquarters for military units that participated in some of the most famous Indian battles of the postwar period

The standard \$2 per vehicle entry fee is charged at the park, but no additional fee is charged for visiting the re-enactment activities. Call the park at (817) 567-3506 for further information

EC 6/7/89

# Camp n' TEXAS

TEXAS STATE PARKS

June 6, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information call

Emily Carter 512/389-4690  
Parks Information Coordinator

SOLDIERS AND INDIANS  
RETURN TO FT. GRIFFIN

ALBANY -- Fort Griffin State Historical Park, an 1870s era frontier fort, will come to life on June 24 and 25 with the sounds of bugles, cannon shot and Indian drums. A reenactment program will showcase authentic, period costumes, cavalry drills and Indian dances during Fort Griffin's Historic Weekend.

"The 4th Cavalry (Memorial Regiment) from Lubbock are folks who are serious about history and visit the fort for the experience of frontier military life," said Lester Galbreath, park superintendent. Park visitors can talk to the soldiers, look inside the tents, examine the guns, wagons, cannon and equipment, he said.

The Crazy Dog Warrior Society of plains Indian reenactors from Abilene will present award winning ceremonial dances. Drumming and playing the Indian flute, the Kotso Lodge of Indian Dancers and Woapalanne Society of Indian Singers will narrate and dance the Corn Dance and Buffalo Dance. Galbreath said the group plans to dress as plains Indians and live in a tepee village.

-- MORE --

Fort Griffin is on a plateau overlooking a bend in the Brazos River west of Fort Worth. Placed near pony-express and overland stage trails, the fort became an important staging area in the Indian Wars. A town, The Flat, grew haphazardly nearby becoming a notorious hang out for gun slingers, buffalo hunters, and trail drivers.

Today, in addition to the historic ruins of the fort and weekend events like the June reenactment, the park offers visitors a quiet campground for tents and trailers on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River. Campers can enjoy summer breezes and good fishing where there used to be a West Texas outlaw town. An open-air group dining pavilion is situated a few steps from the campsites and makes a lovely setting for a fish fry.

Fort Griffin is also one of 14 state parks offering a \$2 reduction in camping fees this summer. Beginning June 1 and ending Aug 31, campers arriving between Sunday and Thursday afternoons will benefit from the reduced rates for campsites with water and electricity. Weekend rates will not be changed.

Reenactment events will begin at 8 30 a.m. on June 24 and close at noon on June 25. A \$2 per vehicle entry fee is charged but the historic program is free. Reservations are recommended for campers and can be made by calling the park at 915/762-3576. The park, northwest of Fort Worth, is located 15 miles north of Albany, Texas on U S Highway 283.

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for June 8:

CENTRAL

BELTON: Water clear in lake stained in Leon River 75 degrees, 1 foot above normal level. black bass good to 3 pounds on PopRs in 3 feet of water; hybrid striper fair to 8 pounds to 3 fish per string with some surfacing on Rat-L-Traps and chrome jigging spoons; crappie slow; white bass fair to 12 fish per string on small white or blue jigs channel catfish good to 9 fish per string to 3 pounds average around 10 feet of water on Legal Limit Doughbait.

BUCHANAN: Water clear. 79 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass good in shallow water early on topwaters to 9 pounds good in deeper water in the middle of the day on diving baits; striper good in the Rocky Point area to 17 pounds, 12 ounces on live perch; crappie slow, some on deep water on minnows; white bass good early where shad are running with Spots and slabs; catfish good to 6 1/2 pounds baited holes yellow catfish good to 58 pound on trotline with live bait.

CANYON: Water clear. 78 degrees. 1 foot low; black bass good in number but mostly small fish, few keepers on Rat-L-Traps and dark worms in 10-15 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good on minnows and small grubs in 18-20 feet of water with several limits; white bass spotty; channel catfish good to 5 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp; yellow catfish good to 52 pounds on live bait. Fisheries crews stocked 40,500 striper fingerlings this week

COLORADO BEND: Water muddy, 72 degrees, 2 feet low black bass slow; striper slow; crappie poor; white bass poor; catfish poor

FAYETTE: Water clear. 88 degrees. 1 foot low; black bass fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds on worms buzz baits and spinners; crappie slow; blue catfish fairly good on rod and reel to 20 pound on live bait; yellow catfish slow.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear 85 degrees, normal level. black bass fairly good to 8 pounds 2 ounces with many in the slot, on wide variety of baits crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; catfish fairly good to 3 pounds on stink bait, shrimp and blood baits

LBJ Water clear. 80 degrees, lake full black bass good to 8 3/4 pounds on chartreuse DB#3 in 10 feet of water; striper fair in the Colorado Arm trolling Thunder Sticks or deep diving baits; crappie slow; white bass fair on points where shad are running, also good with vertical jigging in deep water; channel catfish fair in baited holes to 6 pounds yellow catfish good to 34 pounds on trotline baited with live bait.

SOMERVILLE: water clear. 76 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; striper fairly good near the dam over the weekend in the 3-4 pound range on Hellbenders with a Pet Spoon trailer crappie fair around marina on minnows with limits white bass slow; catfish slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 78 degrees 3 feet low black bass good in the 3 to 6 pound range on buzz bait and jig and pig in 4 feet of water near Buzzard Roost and in the coves north of the marina; hybrid and striper slow; crappie good in Bluff Park and around Cedar Gap Bridge on minnows and jigs at 6 feet; white bass fair to 6 fish per string on minnows and white jigs about the same distance in deep water; catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear. 79 degrees 10 feet low; black bass good to 40 fish per string per day on chrome topwaters early, strawberry worms in the middle of the day, with 5 keepers to 4 pounds 2 ounces; striper slow; crappie slow white bass fair with some midmorning

schooling catfish fair.

WHITNEY: Water clear in upper lake, murky around dam, 77 degrees 2 3/4 feet high; largemouth bass slow; smallmouth fair to 4 3/4 pounds on cranks and jigs. striper good to 15 pounds on perch and shad in the mouths of Towash and Rocky Creek; crappie slow; white bass fair with a few limits on slabs; catfish slow to 6 pounds on worms and minnows Few fishermen out midweek.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear. 78 degrees, 2 inches overflow; black bass good to 6 pounds. 13 ounces on purple worms in 8-12 feet of water. crappie good at 20 feet on brush piles on minnows with limits to 2 pounds;

white bass fairly good in small schools in 20 feet of water in the creek channels, occasional surfacing. feeding on shad, Hellbenders and Model A Bombers trolling at 10 feet, L il Georges and chrome Rat-L-Traps good on the surface. catfish slow. Redear and blue gill sunfish good in 5 feet of water on worms and crickets.

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained, 78 degrees, normal level. black bass fair to 8 3/4 pounds on worms, spinners and buzz baits; crappie good deep in the timbers on shiners and minnows; white bass fairly good; catfish fairly good to 19 pounds on trotlines. channel catfish good off the banks on worms and blood bait.

BRIDGEPORT: Water murky. 2 feet high; black bass good but no keepers, few fishermen out; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fairly good near the dam on Rat-L-Traps spoons and slabs. catfish fairly good to 35 pounds with some limits on worms and dough bait.

CADDO: Water clear. 1 foot high; black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on frogs and Rat-L-Traps in 4 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows in the deeper parts of the river; white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 1/2 pounds on trotline baited with minnows. bream excellent on red worms and crickets.

CEDAR CREEK: Water slightly stained, 78 degrees. normal level. black bass fair to 7 pounds, 2 ounces on shad colored cranks and grape worms in 6-10 feet of water; hybrid striper good to 10 pounds on bream or large silver slabs. crappie fair on minnows to 12 fish per string in 20 feet of water around stumps, bridge pilings; white bass fair trolling Texas Trailers, shad colored cranks; catfish good along the creek beds and along riprap on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

FAIRFIELD: Water clearing, 1 foot high; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good; redfish good.

FORK: Water clear, 84 degrees, lake full. black bass good to 12.79 pounds on dark worms in 15 feet of water; crappie fair to 1 1/2 pounds to 10 fish per string; catfish fair to 12 pounds on nightcrawlers.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 83 degrees, 4 1/2 feet high; black bass good with many limits to 11 1/4 pounds. a possible lake record caught by Arthur Harris of Kilgore on blue and white Ringworms and assorted dark worms. crappie scattered; white bass fair on isolated points along the river channel on small cranks; catfish fairly good on trotlines to 10 pounds on cut bait and worms; bream excellent in flooded hard surfaces on crickets and worms in good numbers.

LEWISVILLE: Water muddy. 73 degrees, 3 feet high; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on white spinners; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 36 pounds on rod and reel with cranks near the dam at night.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear. normal level. black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow. some to 2 pounds on nightcrawler's. Few fishermen are out this week.

MONTICELLO: Water muddy. 90 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds on 8 inch black and black neon worms in shallow water. crappie slow; catfish good to 9 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water murky, 79 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass slow; crappie slow; white bass fairly good surfacing on topwaters and Sassy Shad; catfish good to 8 pound son worms and ghost minnows.

MURVAUL: Water muddy. 70 degrees, 18 inches over spillway level; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds before the rain on topwaters. slow after the Sunday night rains; crappie good over the weekend, slow midweek; catfish good with good numbers of limits as the lake rose on earthworms.

PALESTINE: Water clear. 85 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 5 pounds, 13 ounces on worms, topwaters early and late; striper fairly good to 6 3/4 pounds on spoons and some surfacing; crappie slow; white bass fair on topwaters and slabs; catfish good on nightcrawlers and catalpa worms on rod and reel as well as trotlines.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear. normal level. black bass good to 6 pound average on dark worms in 3 feet of water; striper slow. crappie are improving on minnows in 6 feet of water. catfish slowing in deep water on shrimp and blood bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear. 80 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, worms and spinners in 6-8 feet of water. striper excellent to 10 pounds on bream and live shad in 15 to 21 feet of water. crappie poor; white bass excellent to 2 pounds with limits on minnows. Sassy Shad, Rooster Tails; catfish excellent



to 2 1/2 pounds on shrimp and liver.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 7 feet low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds with limits on dark worms in the 8-17 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass good to 1 pound on spinners, slab spoons and Rat-L-Traps catfish slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear 69 degrees, 6 inches over spillway level; black bass fair to 4 pounds on spinners in 2-4 feet of water along moss beds; striper fair to 14 pounds to 2 fish per boat on live bait and Allison Slabs; hybrid striper good with limits to 12 pounds each on live baits and Allison Slabs; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 3 pounds with many limits; catfish good with limits in 8-10 feet of water on worms

TEXOMA: Water clear 77 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass good to 5 pounds with limits on worms and spinners striper good to 16 pounds on live bait and topwaters; crappie are fair in deeper water on minnows white bass fair on live bait and some topwaters; catfish good on shrimp, cut bait, live bait and worms off the bank, off trotlines and from boats.

WELSH Water clear 87 degrees normal level black bass good to 7 3/4 pounds on worms in 18-22 feet of water; crappie fair in 15-20 feet of water on minnows and tube jigs catfish are very good to 11 pounds on trotlines baited with bream in 15 feet of water; channel catfish good to 4 pounds on rod and reel with cut shad and nightcrawlers in 12 feet of water.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear in lake some color in the north end, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 9 pounds but most were below 14 inches on dark worms glitter worms, Rat-L-Traps; hybrid striper and striper are slow, some trolling around 1097 bridge; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good on trotline and rod and reel to 15 pounds on live bait; blue catfish and channel catfish are good to 2 1/2 pounds average on chicken livers and blood bait. Bream beginning to hit.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 78 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds on chrome Zara Spooks, Darters, Craw Worms, DB#3s, Rat-L-Traps, minnows and worms; striper slow; crappie fair to 2 1/2 pounds near the dam in 10 feet of water on minnows; white bass good near the dam around coves on minnows; catfish fair to 34 pounds on live perch on rod and reel as well as trotlines.

LIVINGSTON: Water clearing, 80 degrees, 18 inches high; black bass slow; striper fairly good around Pine Island and the dam on live bait and trolling large Tony Accetta spoons; crappie spotty in sloughs to 20 fish per string since Saturday; white bass spotty; fairly good in clear water spots; catfish good in roiling water in the 1-3 pound range for channel and blue catfish; yellow catfish good to 40 pounds on trotline baited with live perch. Rod and reel fishermen are doing well on shad, bream fishing is very good.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear 84 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on worms and topwaters; striper good to 25 pounds near the dam trolling Redfins; crappie fairly slow to 1 1/2 pounds on crappie jigs, white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on trotlines baited with live carp and large minnows.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds early on Zara Spooks, the largest weighed 9 pounds and was caught on a pumpkin seed colored Craw Worm; striper slowing; crappie slow; white bass good with schooling around the dam, San Pedro Canyon and near the Mexican Marina. catfish good in 5-8 feet of water on shrimp and cheese baits.

BRAUNIG Water murky, 84 degrees normal level black bass slow with 2 keepers to 6.5 pounds all week on dark worms; striper slow; catfish slow; redfish are fairly good to 14 pounds on Tony Accetta Spoons and crawfish.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 80 degrees 1 foot low; black bass good to 5 pound average on Rat-L-Traps and plastic worms striper are good to 5 pounds average on Tony Accetta Spoons; catfish good to 4 pound average on tilapia and shrimp; redfish are excellent to 8 pound average from the bank on crawfish and perch; corvina excellent to 8 pound average from the bank on tilapia crawfish and shad.

CHOKI: Water slightly off color 80 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass good up the river to 7 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and cranks; striper slow; crappie slow, some up the river in the brush; white bass slow;

catfish good with limits

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 71 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 8 pounds on lizards, spinners and worms; striper slow; crappie fair to 1 pound on minnows in the shallow brushy areas; catfish fair in the 2-4 pound range on shrimp and liver, mostly around Dike No. 2 and the fishing pier.

FALCON: Water clear, 12 feet low; black bass good in the 2-5 pound range a few larger on worms and cranks, some limits; striper slow, some around state park in 35 feet of water with jigging spoons; white bass fair; jigging Knocker spoons; crappie slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on frozen shrimp.

TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, clear in the jungle and up the Navidad and Sandies Creek, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 5 pounds on topwaters in the jungle; striper and white bass slow; crappie fair with a few limits up the Sandies on minnows; catfish fair on trotlines to 10 pounds on cut bait.

#### WEST

BAYLOR: Water murky, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 9 pounds, 2 ounces on salty Craw Worms, chartreuse buzz baits, purple Firetailed worms in shallow water; crappie slow; catfish fairly good to 5 pounds on water dogs, worms and stink baits.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper good to 8 1/2 pounds on chartreuse poppers; crappie fairly good to 1 pound on minnows; white bass good to 4 pounds on fat Getzits; catfish good to 5 1/4 pounds on minnows in 10 feet of water.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 7 1/2 pounds on minnows, no limits; smallmouth bass good in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on minnows, jigs, Countdowns; white bass good with many limits in the 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 pound range on same baits; crappie good with full strings on minnows mostly; catfish good in the upper end of the lake; yellow catfish fairly good to 13 pounds on rod and reel with live bait; walleye fairly good to 6 pounds on a Rapala Countdown or live baits.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass good in number but small in size on plastic worms; crappie picking up during the day, good at night on minnows with limits; white bass good on wide variety of baits; catfish good in number but small in size on rod and reel as well as trotline.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clearing, 65 degrees, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass good in number but small in size on topwaters and worms; striper good to 15 pounds on slabs; large white jigs, no limits; crappie fair in number and good sized on minnows; white bass good on slabs and minnows; catfish fairly good in 20-25 pound range on perch and blood baits.

SPENCE: Water muddy, 80 degrees, 27 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on cranks; striper good to 29 pounds on live bait, some limits; crappie slow; white bass good to 2 pounds with full strings; catfish good to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers.

STAMFORD: Water muddy, 78 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on worms, Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows; catfish excellent to 6 pounds on worms and shrimp; yellow catfish good to 50 pounds on live bait.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, normal level; black bass good in the 2-6 pound range on Rat-L-Traps and cranks; striper slow; crappie fair to 20 per string to 2 pounds each on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good in the 18-30 pound range on trotlines baited with perch.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on cranks and live bait; crappie good to 2 pounds with full strings on minnows; white bass good; catfish fair.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Good numbers of redfish to 26 inches caught south of Stewart's Island and along the road ditches on dead shrimp; specks slow; flounder fairly good to 2 pounds around the ship channel and south of Stewart's Island; good numbers of croaker south of Stewart's Island and some by the channel; a fair number of sheepshead; winds low Tuesday, increasing Wednesday; no live bait shrimp available; mud minnows available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Flounder good to 4 pounds near the bridge on mud minnows; some redfish to 8 pounds off of Blue Buck Point from the bank on bone colored touts and Sassy Shad; specks schooling near the banks in the 1 1/2 pound range; drum good to 5 pounds in mid lake on fresh dead shrimp. Live bait shrimp and mud minnows are available.

GALVESTON: Fishing has been reasonably good between wind storms; good numbers of redfish to 28 inches at the jetties, most between 21 to 24 inches on live mullet and large live shrimp; some trout at jetties to around 2 pounds on live shrimp; bays are paying off with scattered trout; some trout along beach front when water clears; a 8-pound trout caught at Gulf Coast Pier; some jack fish along beach front and at the jetties; live bait shrimp available at \$8 to \$9.50 per quart.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish good to 25 inches at the Matagorda jetties on Hogie's hot pink touts with good numbers of limits, trout good to 4 pounds in the Fish Pond, also around Falwell Island and in shallow water in the Big Pocket; sharks are abundant at the mouth of Saluria near the Coast Guard Ruins; tarpon good to 5 feet at the mouth of Saluria; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50; trout and gafftop good late at night on the public fishing pier on artificials and live bait.

ROCKPORT: Redfish fair in the 24-26 inch range around the backside of Mud Island on gold spoons, trout fair in the 16-18 inch range in Aransas Bay near San Jose Island on red worms; live bait shrimp available winds low midweek.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish fairly good to 25 inches; flounder good to 2 1/2 pounds on live bait and Cordell's; not many fishermen out midweek; live bait shrimp available at \$7 per quart plus tax. A few redfish around 20 inches, specks good in the 20-25 inch range and a few blacktip to 3 feet from Caldwell Pier.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Fishing fairly slow; some redfish to 28 inches many oversized fish around Bird Island on Broken Backs and gold spoons; live bait shrimp fairly hard to get; bays choppy, winds to 18 knots, few fishermen out midweek.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing fairly slow due to high winds; few fishermen out; live bait plentiful at \$10 per quart. Guides report great numbers of shrimp in the flats.

SOUTH PADRE: Specks good to 7 1/4 pounds on live shrimp scattered from South Bay to Three Islands mainly under birds in Three Islands area on live bait; redfish good in the same area to 28 inches, limits of both; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; most trout under birds are schoolies with some larger trout thrown in. Winds to 30 knots early Wednesday, winds mild over last weekend.

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