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EFFORT, COOPERATION MAY BE WINNING CHOLERA BATTLE

EAGLE LAKE -- Waterfowl experts are cautiously optimistic that the cholera outbreak among waterfowl in Southeast Texas may be on the wane, largely due to cooperative efforts of landowners, conservation organizations and wildlife agencies

Charles Allen, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Wildlife Division, said establishment of some 1,200 acres of clean roosting areas in the Katy Prairie and Eagle Lake areas west of Houston apparently has at least stabilized the situation

"I have no doubt that the quick and concentrated actions of concerned individuals and organizations prevented what could have developed into a disastrous situation for waterfowl and other birds," Allen said

By last week the count of dead birds passed the 7,000 mark in the wake of one of the state's largest avian cholera outbreaks in recent history. However, workers have collected a diminishing number of dead birds as the flocks moved onto roosting sites cleansed by draining and refilling or flushed with fresh water

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The cholera outbreak, which began in early December, resulted from several factors, Allen said, including a widespread scarcity of water due to drought and the incidence of aflatoxin poisoning in some waterfowl "The low water conditions forced the birds to concentrate in high numbers on available ponds and lakes," Allen said "Some of the birds already had picked up grain infected by a fungus that produces aflatoxin This toxin can either kill a bird or suppress its immune system, making it more susceptible to diseases such as cholera "

Allen said credit for early action in the disease episode should go to landowners such as David Winterman of Eagle Lake, on whose property the first die-off incident was detected Winterman immediately made arrangements to pump and flush two lakes on his land and made his airplane available to check surrounding areas for dead birds

TPWD wildlife biologist David Lobpries of Wharton took advantage of Winterman's offer and discovered that the outbreak had indeed spread to other roost sites

Subsequent aerial and ground surveys revealed 10 major die-off sites in the rice prairie area west of Houston Landowners, lessors and hunting club operators in those areas were contacted and arrangements began to be made to collect dead birds and provide clean roosting sites

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado County was made headquarters for collecting birds and coordinating relief activities

Habitat manipulations such as water pumping require permits and are sometimes expensive. To alleviate the former problem, TPWD officials met with Texas Water Commission (TWC) officials to see that emergency permits could be obtained quickly from the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Galveston-Harris County Subsidence District.

The problem of pumping expenses attracted help from both governmental agencies and private organizations and industry. The Waterfowl Habitat Alliance of Texas (WHAT Ducks) organization provided \$5,000 to reimburse landowners for pumping expense, an amount matched by the TPWD from its waterfowl habitat funds. Ducks Unlimited Inc. officials also announced their organization would provide up to \$30,000 for matching funds to be used in the cholera control project. Central Power and Light Co. provided \$5,000 to combat the problem.

Bob Jessen, waterfowl program leader for the TPWD, said many individuals, including TPWD and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employees and volunteers deserve credit for working around the clock to collect and incinerate the bird carcasses. "I think this could be considered a major conservation success story, thanks to the efforts of a lot of people and the coordination skills of the governmental agencies involved," Jessen said.

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RETURN OF COASTAL STRIPED
BASS HOLDS PROMISE

SEABROOK -- At one point in history, mighty striped bass swam up Texas rivers to spawn each spring, then returned to the briny Gulf of Mexico

Their disappearance from those same waters went virtually unnoticed during the early 1900s, possibly because of the abundance of other fishes in the state's rivers and bays

Now Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery biologists are working to restore sea-run populations of stripers for the state's anglers to enjoy

"We can only guess what caused the stripers to disappear," said Dr Jerry Clark, coastal fisheries branch chief, "but a similar decline happened in other Gulf states and along the Atlantic coast "

Biologist Henry Maddux said water quality problems and overfishing that might have been a factor in striped bass' problems earlier this century have been corrected in many river systems, opening the door for possible re-establishment of vigorous populations of the hard-fighting fish

Stripers are anadromous, meaning they normally live in saltwater bays or the ocean but swim up freshwater rivers to spawn This may already have happened in the Trinity River below Lake Livingston, Maddux said "During sampling at several points below the lake last spring we collected 127

striped bass eggs and two larvae (newly-hatched fish)," he said

The department has stocked stripers mainly in the San Antonio and Galveston Bay systems. A recent study by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission showed that the river systems targeted by the department for restoration of striped bass are ideal. In fact, Maddux said, the study listed the Brazos, Colorado, Guadalupe, Navasota, Neches, Nueces, Sabine, San Antonio and Trinity Rivers all as high priority areas for reintroduction of the fish.

Maddux noted that the TPWD currently is analyzing the chemistry of waters in coastal rivers to establish a more extensive priority order for future stocking programs. "When this is completed we should have an indication of which areas are best-suited for establishing self-sustaining populations of striped bass," he said.

JC 1/4/89

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HELPS
INLAND RED DRUM PROGRAM

SAN ANTONIO -- The popular red drum (redfish) fishery at Lake Braunig near San Antonio was created by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocking programs, but now the agency is getting help from a private organization.

The San Antonio Boating Trades Association (SABTA) recently purchased 20,000 red drum fingerlings from a Port O'Connor fish farmer and released them at Braunig on Dec 21. Department crews transported the fish from

Port O'Connor to Braunig

Jesse Cox, president of SABTA, said the association paid \$10,000 for the three- to five-inch fingerlings. The money was raised from gate receipts at BTA boat shows, and the association is using the money for projects to benefit the public, Cox said.

Bill Rutledge, hatcheries chief for the TPWD, said plans are underway to produce red drum at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery at Electra. "We have encountered some problems with rearing redfish fry in freshwater ponds, but we now have the capability for adjusting the salinity of those ponds and should be able to produce some fingerlings this spring," Rutledge said.

In addition to Braunig, the department has stocked redfish at another San Antonio area lake, Calaveras, as well as at Fairfield near Fairfield, Tradinghouse Creek near Waco, Colorado City near Colorado City and Nasworthy near San Angelo.

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PRE-CHRISTMAS GUNFIRE
TOUGH ON GAME WARDENS

AUSTIN -- Several Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens hope 1989 proves to be more peaceful than were the waning days of 1988

At least four incidents during December involved possible life-threatening situations, according to Maj David Palmer, director of law enforcement field operations

Game warden Guillermo Gonzalez of Starr County was lucky to survive a hailstorm of shotgun buckshot fired at his vehicle as he chased a group of road-hunting suspects one night in early December

John Caudle, law enforcement regional supervisor at San Antonio, said Gonzalez encountered the four suspects in a pickup truck in an area where illegal hunting had been reported. When he attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver sped away.

When Gonzalez gave chase, one of the occupants of the truck leaned out the window and opened fire with a shotgun. Although several buckshot hit Gonzalez' vehicle, he managed to continue the chase while calling the Starr County Sheriff's Department on his radio.

A roadblock attempt by sheriff's deputies succeeded only in forcing the suspects to turn onto a side road. The chase ended with the arrest of three suspects, while a fourth who fled on foot was arrested the following

day

Three of the suspects were charged with attempted capital murder and several other charges. The fourth, a juvenile, was charged with poaching. A dead deer was found in the back of the suspects' truck.

Three assaults on game wardens in other areas of the state occurred during the same time frame, officials said. Arrests have been made and charges pending in all except one which is still under investigation.

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LAKE CORPUS BASS COMEBACK
DOCUMENTED BY TPWD

MATHIS -- Bass fishing at Lake Corpus Christi may be one of the sport's best-kept secrets in Texas.

The 19,000-acre reservoir is the major water supply for the City of Corpus Christi, and it is located about halfway between the city and Choke Canyon Reservoir which shares its Nueces River watershed.

Excellent fishing at nearby Choke Canyon may have overshadowed the recent improvements at Lake Corpus Christi, but Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist John Wray said fishery surveys show the downstream lake has a good population of largemouth bass.

"There are three main reasons for the improved fishing at Lake Corpus Christi (formerly Lake Mathis)," Wray said. "First, the lake level came up in 1986 after a long drought. This inundated large areas of vegetative

growth that provided cover for bass

"The second reason could be the 248,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings the department stocked in 1980," Wray continued. The Florida strain is noted for boosting growth rates in bass populations. "Finally, the 14-inch minimum length limit that went into effect on Sept 1, 1985, probably increased survival of more bass and increased their average size," he said.

Wray said November electrofishing surveys collected bass at the outstanding rate of 95 per hour. Of these fish, about 60 percent were over 12 inches long or longer, and 38 percent were 14 inches or longer. "The overall quality of the population was seen by an excellent size distribution from three to 23 inches," Wray said, adding that the catch included individual fish weighing six, seven and 10 pounds.

The lake is located northwest of Corpus Christi off U.S. Highway 37, just west of Mathis. Prospective visitors should consider camping overnight at Lake Corpus Christi State Recreation Area, located four miles southwest of Mathis on State Highway 359. The lakeside park offers full camping facilities, including screened shelters. It also has two fishing piers and boat launch ramps. For reservations or information call the park at (512) 547-2635.

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

CENTRAL

BASTROP Water clear, 75 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on brown, blue and black jigs; crappie slow; catfish good to 2 1/2 pounds on jug lines baited with stink bait.

BELTON Water clear 54 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on chrome jigging spoons, spinners jig and pig in 5 to 20 feet of water hybrid striper fair to 3 fish per string to 5 pounds on jigging spoons in the mid lake area; crappie good to 20 fish per string on small minnows around the Highway 36 bridge in 10-32 feet of water; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on Rat-L-Traps; channel catfish good to 5 pounds on trotlines in Owl Creek; yellow catfish slow.

BROWNWOOD Water clear 4 feet, 9 inches below spillway; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on black jigs; striper slow; crappie are fair to 1 pound to 15 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 60 degrees, 12 feet low black bass slow to 2 pounds on crawdad colored cranks and black jigs; striper fair and small in the 3-5 pound range on blue and silver cranks crappie slow; white bass slow to 10 fish per string on black and silver cranks; catfish good to 4 pounds on chunky dog food and chicken liver in baited holes

CANYON: Water clear 60 degrees, normal level largemouth bass fair to 5 3/4 pounds on dark jig and pig in 15 to 25 feet of water on the ledges; smallmouth bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on brown jig and pig in 15 to 20 feet of water striper fair to 11 1/2 pounds on jigging spoons; crappie good on minnows at night to 1 1/4 pounds with some limits in the upper end of the lake and in the river white bass excellent with schooling in the upper half of the lake early in 40-60 feet of water with some limits on jigging spoons; catfish slow to fair to 4 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers on rod and reel; trotline fishing is slow.

COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 62 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass slow but not many fishermen out; about 25 fishermen this week; white bass slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 69 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fair to 6 1/4 pounds but no big ones with some fishermen catching up to 20 fish within the slot; crappie fair on minnows catfish fair from 17 to 21 pounds on rod and reel, jug lines and live bait

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 62 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow; crappie fairly good to 20 fish per string during the day on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair in the 2-4 pound range on a variety of catfish baits.

LBJ water clear to murky, 61 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 2 pounds on brown and black jigs in 6-8 feet of water striper slow in the 3-5 pound range on silver and blue deep diving Bombers; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 1 1/2 pounds on chicken livers and shrimp.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass slow striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string during the day on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair in the 2-4 pound range on stink bait Fairly good number of fishermen on the lake midweek.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear 69 degrees 15 feet low black bass good in number but most are undersized on live minnows striper slow; crappie slow white bass fairly good to 25 fish per string; catfish good sized and good numbers.

TRAVIS: Water clear 59 degrees 13 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 1 1/2 pounds in 25 feet of water on grubs, pig and jig and live minnows, striper slow; crappie improving to 20 fish per boat in the Pedernales River and in the Colorado River from Mountain View up stream; white bass fair in the mouth of the Pedernales in 25 feet of water on jigging spoons, catfish spotty and unpredictable

WACO: Water clear 56 degrees, 18 inches low black bass fair to 4 pounds on jig and pork; crappie fairly good in the 15 to 25 fish per string to 1/2 pound each on minnows white bass slow; catfish fairly

good to 2 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp or shad.

WHITNEY Water clear, 55 degrees, 12 1/2 feet low; black bass fair in the 4-5 1/2 pound range on minnows and cranks in 3-10 feet of water; smallmouth good to 5 89 pounds on jig and pork at night; striper fairly good in number but most are small on minnows primarily; crappie good to 93 fish per group on minnows; white bass good on Critter Gitters and spoons in deep holes; blue and channel catfish good on deer liver, chicken liver and worms on trotline mostly

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 55 degrees, 8 inches below overflow; black bass are good to 8 1/4 pounds on a black jig with green pork frog; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string to 2 pounds on minnows in 43 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish slow. There are fairly good numbers of fishermen on the lake since last Friday.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 51 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on blue jigs and Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string under the bridges with minnows; white bass fair to 15 fish per string on jigs; catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT Lake water clear, river murky, 16 feet low; black bass good to 7 3/4 pounds on cranks from the bank; striper fair to 6 3/4 pounds; crappie good in 6-10 feet of water with limits on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CADDO Water clear, normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on purple worms and Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows with limits; catfish fair at night to 3 pounds on minnows. Chain pickerel good when the weather is cold.

CEDAR CREEK Water clear, 53 degrees, 4 foot, 2 inches low; black bass fair on black and red worms in 8-12 feet of water; hybrid striper good to 9 pounds on silver slabs in 18-22 feet of water around dropoffs in open water; crappie slow; white bass fair with surfacing ever three days on silver slabs and white jigs; catfish good on goldfish to 6 pounds; yellow catfish good to 43 pounds on cut bait and live bream.

CYPRESS SPRINGS Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds on jig and pig in 20 feet of water; crappie fair in 36 feet of water on minnows; catfish fair in 25 feet of water on big minnows.

FORK: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 9 pounds on multicolored jigs, jig and spoons and Lil Georges; crappie excellent on minnows with fairly good numbers of limits; white bass slow; catfish good 25 feet of water on minnows and shrimp.

LAKE O THE PINES Water clear, 51 degrees, 8 inches above normal level; black bass fairly good to 7 pounds on jigs with pork rind trailers; crappie fair in 10-15 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

LAVON Water clear, 56 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 1 pound around riprap near the dam on worms and spinners; crappie fair to 1 1/4 pounds; catfish slow near the dam off the rocks in 8 feet of water on live and dead bait.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass good in number but most undersized on white spinners; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 pounds on trotline with worms and stink bait.

MONTICELLO: Water murky, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass very good to 9 1/4 pounds on black lizards and worms; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 9 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp near the hot water discharge.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 51 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass slow; crappie good to 3 pounds on minnows in 27 feet of water; white bass good with limits on silver slabs; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 60 degrees, 3 inches above normal level; black bass fair to 7 pounds, 7 ounces on Rat-L-Traps, jig and frog, jig and eel; crappie are improving under the bridge at night to 1 1/2 pounds on small minnows; catfish slow to 4 pounds on trotline with cut shad, not many trotline fishermen out.

NACOGDOCHES Water clear, 61 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on chartreuse crawfish colored Rat-L-Traps as well as yellow and white spinners in 6-10 feet of water; crappie good with limits in the daytime in 40 feet of water suspended at 25 feet on minnows near the dam; catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear 1 foot low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on jig and eel; striper are improving to 7 pounds around 155 bridge on cranks; crappie fairly good with some limits in deeper water around 155 bridge and the dam on jigs and minnows; white bass fair in number on cranks, no limits; catfish good to 18 pounds on trotline baited with blood bait. Catfish Charly.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear 7 feet low; black bass fairly good in numbers to 27 inches on minnows; crappie fairly good with some limits on minnows; catfish are fairly slow. Rainbow trout are good with limits on Rooster Tails, whole kernel corn and Super Dooper lures. Lake averages about 20 boats per day while 50 are permitted at one time.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear 12 inches low; black bass slow; striper fair and spotty near the power plant, slow normally; crappie good early and late on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish good to 3 pounds on shrimp drifting.

TAWAKONI: Water clear 54 degrees 36 inches low; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on black and blue worms, dark Model A cranks; striper good to 15 pounds on white jigs and worms; hybrid striper fair to 13 pounds on white jigs and worms; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 5 pounds on shrimp and cheese bait.

TEXOMA: Water clear 51 degrees 5 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on cranks in 3 feet of water; striper good to 11 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad and jigs from the island area to the Willis Bridge; crappie fair on minnows; white bass slow; catfish excellent to 42 pounds in the flats and along the river channels.

WELSH: Water clear 62 degrees, lake full; black bass fairly good to 9 1/4 pounds in shallow water on topwaters and lizards; crappie slow; catfish good on worms and live bream.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear 60 degrees 5 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 9 2 pounds on DB#3s; most are caught on dark worms; striper slow to 5 1 pounds; white trolling for white bass using a chrome Rat-L-Trap. Crappie fairly good, one boat caught 40 crappie in the north end of the lake; catfish fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds; a single yellow catfish to 46 pounds on a rod and reel with a live shiner. White amur are slow due to cold weather.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 58 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds; several 7s and 6s on minnows, dark jigs, dark worms; Rat-L-Traps, Long As and Fire and Ice worms; striper slow; crappie good in 14 feet of water on minnows; some limits on minnows; white bass fair with crappie at the dam; catfish fair to 9 pounds on rod and reel baited with minnows.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear 56 degrees 4 1/2 feet low; black bass fair in the 2-4 pound range with some limits on white spinners; striper good with limits in the 12-14 pound range; crappie fair with a few limits in the mid lake area; good numbers in the upper part of the lake; white bass slow in the main lake, most white bass are up river; catfish are excellent to 85 pounds; blue catfish to 45 pounds and channel catfish good to 10 pounds each on live bait and cut shad.

RAYBURN: water clear in lake, discolored in the river 13 feet below pool level; black bass good to 9 pounds on blue and black jigs, worms, spinners, Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie good from river bank on minnows; white bass fairly good off points; channel catfish fair around baited holes.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear 6 feet low; black bass fair on spinners and chartreuse Rat-L-Traps to 6 1/4 pounds; most in the 2-3 pound range; striper slow; crappie fair and small sized in deep water on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow; Trotline fishing slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear 54 degrees, 3 feet above normal level; black bass fair to 7 pounds on Bomber lures; striper fairly good to 21 pounds off Highway 277 on a Ponyhead Jig with a white trailer; crappie slow; white bass good on white and chartreuse slabs in the main lake under birds; catfish good with plenty of limits in 30-70 feet of water on cheese bait.

BRAUNIG: Water clear 58 degrees, normal level; black bass poor; striper fair to 3 pounds on chicken livers; catfish excellent to 15 fish per string to 3 pounds average on crawfish and shrimp; redfish good to 9 pounds on crawdads and chicken livers; orange mouth corvina poor.

CALAVERAS Water clear 64 degrees 1 foot low; black bass fair to 4 pound average on jigs and plastic worms; striper fair in the warm water discharge area on grubs and cranks; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good on shrimp but most are in the 2-3 pound range. Redfish have been very good to 15 9 pounds a new lake record caught on New Years Day by William LaGrange in boats and to 10 pounds from the banks on cranks and silver spoons corvina are very good to 7 pounds on green grubs and DB#3s.

CHOKO: Water clear 3 feet low; black bass good in number to 6 1/2 pounds on jigs and jigs and spoons and worms striper fair to 10 pounds on lures crappie excellent to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass slow and scattered; catfish are excellent in number to 18 3/4 pounds on live minnows, cheese bait and blood bait.

COLETO CREEK Water clear 65 degrees 2 feet low; black bass fair to 25 inches on dark worms early; striper fair in number but most are too small to keep on spoons crappie fair on minnows at night. white bass slow; catfish poor.

FALCON: Water clear 18 inches above normal level. black bass fairly slow on cranks, worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie fair off the docks; white bass are doing fairly well trolling and jigging; catfish good in number to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited with fresh dead shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear 22 feet low; black bass fair in the 3-5 pound range on minnows striper slow; crappie slow; catfish fair in the 12 to 47 pound range on trotlines baited with live perch.

TEXANA Water muddy in lake, clear in jungle area 65 degrees 1 foot low black bass fair to 3 pounds on white spinners in the jungle area. striper and white bass slow. crappie slow; catfish are fairly good to 10 pounds on cut bait in the main lake

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear 7 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good off the docks on minnows white bass good; catfish good on trotline and rod and reel.

GRANBURY Water clear 62 degrees 1 foot low; black bass good to 5 pounds on jig and pig; striper are good to 5 pounds on Hotspots; crappie are good on minnows and jigs with limits white bass are slow; catfish are good on trotline baited with live perch in the 5-7 pound range

HUBBARD CREEK Water clear below normal level; black bass are good to 8 1/2 pounds also with some 6s and 5s on Rat-L-Traps. striper slow; crappie good with minnows with limits; white bass slow catfish fair on trotline.

SPENCE: Water clear 22 feet low; black bass are good on spinners to 3 pounds; striper fair trolling live bait to 15 pounds, no limits; crappie improving on minnows and jigs with strings to 20 fish. white bass are very good with limits mainly on slabs catfish slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish are fairly good around East Pass and the northeast corner of the lake mostly on red worms and some on mud minnows birds have been working; specks have been good in the same area. some specks on small shrimp; the mouth of Gulf States Canal has been good for keeper sized flounder. specks and redfish just below the plant where the water is warmest most fish are too small to keep; drum are scattered. small live bait shrimp area available

GALVESTON: Fair numbers of redfish to 27 inches on Kelley Wigglers and live mud minnows in East and West Bays trout are fairly good on Kelley Wigglers and live shrimp when available sandtrout plentiful in the ship channel beach front producing whiting and some small sheepshead

PALACIOS Trout in good numbers with limits in the 14-18 inch range on touts flounder and redfish slow; the number of fishermen are increasing following the holidays live bait shrimp scarce.

PORT OCONNOR Fairly good numbers of redfish caught but many are too small to keep mostly on dead shrimp, Hogies or plastic worms with keepers ranging up to 27 inches. specks have been fairly plentiful around Grass Island most just above keeper size with some limits in 2 hours. flounder run has slowed down; light norther midweek but fishing has been fairly good fairly good numbers of fishermen out all week; no live bait shrimp available

ROCKPORT: Copano fishing is excellent midweek with good numbers of trout to 2 1/2 pounds. good numbers of throwbacks on red and green worms. redfish are good in number in Copano Bay on chartreuse and red lures, worms and grubs. the Mud Island area is producing good numbers of trout. good numbers of redfish in the same area in the 20-25 inch range on fly rods. Allan's Bight has been producing good solid trout to 5 pounds on Kelley Green worms. No live bait shrimp are available.

PORT ARANSAS Redfish slow. trout are fairly good to 5 pounds along with sheepshead to 8 pounds on live shrimp; surf fishermen have been catching pompano, whiting, drum and redfish; some redfish are too large to keep; offshore has been fairly good for snapper when boats can get out; live bait shrimp available.

CORPUS CHRISTI Redfish are very slow; trout are fair in number but all are undersized many in the 6 inch range. good weather has brought out good numbers of fishermen. a few boats went to the Landcut area brought back good sized and good numbers of trout and a few redfish; live bait shrimp scarce midweek. Weather mild. light north winds midweek.

PORT MANSFIELD Good numbers of trout to 25 inches with good numbers of limits on red and root beer colored touts east of Marker 234. a few redfish north of East Cut, a few limits on red Cheater Jigs with a white tail and green with a red tail. a few snapper to 4 pounds brought in when boats can get off shore. no live bait shrimp are available.

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish scattered to 28 inches mostly in the potholes south of Three Islands. trout limits to 20 inches, great numbers of undersized trout, all along the Intracoastal, around Unnecessary Island. live bait shrimp scarce but some available early.

PH 1/4/89