

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## BASS SIZE LIMIT BOOSTING FISHING AT TWO LAKES

AUSTIN -- Extensive electrofishing surveys by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department crews indicate the 14-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass has improved bass populations on two Central Texas lakes

Biologist David Terre of San Marcos said the catch rates and average size of bass both showed dramatic improvement over similar surveys in 1985 and 1986 at Lake Buchanan northwest of Austin and Canyon Reservoir north of San Antonio

Electroshocking surveys involve probing specified areas of a lake with electrodes that temporarily stun fish so they can be examined and then released. The same areas are sampled for the same time periods each year in order to reflect accurate trends, Terre said

The Parks and Wildlife Commission authorized the 14-inch minimum length limit for largemouths, along with a five bass per day bag limit, effective on most Texas reservoirs effective Sept 1, 1985

"Our collections on the two lakes show that largemouth bass over 12 inches long comprise a greater proportion of the populations than in previous years," Terre said

Terre explained that the survey is based on the numbers and size of collected bass that are over eight inches long. These are referred to as "stock size" bass for statistical purposes

Terre said the 1986 survey at Canyon showed that 12 percent of the stock size bass were 12 inches long or longer. "By comparison, 44 percent of the stock size bass exceeded 12 inches in the fall 1987 survey," Terre said

The percentage of Canyon Reservoir bass over the 14-inch size for legal retention also increased significantly, Terre said, from one percent in 1986 to 16 percent in 1987. The catch rate per hour of electrofishing rose from 2.5 per hour in 1986 to 15.3 per hour in 1987. The per-hour catch of 14-inch-plus bass jumped from 0.5 bass in 1986 to six bass in 1987

The data from Lake Buchanan are remarkably similar, reflecting a dramatic upward trend in both numbers and average size of largemouth bass, Terre noted

The percentage of stock size bass 12 inches and longer jumped from six percent to 42 percent; the 14-inch-plus group rose from 1 percent to 16 percent, and the catch per hour increased from four bass per hour in 1986 to 12.5 in 1987. The per-hour catch of 14-inch-plus bass grew from 2.7 to 5.1

Terre said the 14-inch limit has another benefit aside from protecting the under-14 fish from overharvest "Largemouths reach adult size (about 12 inches) after two growing seasons," said Terre "By protecting the under-14 fish, you are increasing the number of mature, reproducing fish in the population "

Higher water conditions and the length limits probably contributed to increased reproduction of bass at Canyon, Terre said Electrofishing collections of young-of-the-year bass (under eight inches long) rose from 39 per hour in 1986 to 154 in 1987 High water levels during the spring probably helped survival of young fish, Terre said

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FISHING PROGRAM TO  
CONTINUE AT BLACK GAP

ALPINE -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said fishing will be permitted on the Rio Grande in the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area in Brewster County beginning March 15, 1988

Fishermen are required to register at the area headquarters before fishing No fee is charged

Black Gap is one of the department's Type II wildlife management areas, and a \$35 Type II permit is required for entry However, due to conflict between Type I and Type II regulations, the department will continue to allow fishermen to enter without any requirements other than registration at the entrance

The area can be reached by taking U S Highway 90 to Marathon, turning south on U S. 385 then left on FM 2627 The road to the fishing area is rough, and four-wheel-drive vehicles are highly recommended

JC 2/10/88

LUBBOCK STARTS INNOVATIVE  
URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

LUBBOCK -- An intensive management program to improve fishing in 11 of Lubbock's municipal lakes is off to a good start with participation from state and city government, university officials and private citizens

Biologist Joe Kraai of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said the program is being coordinated by the department, Texas Tech University and the Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department Local citizens and organizations are providing much of the manpower, he said

Kraai said the TPWD has stocked many of the lakes with channel catfish, and volunteers have been recruited to feed the fish One impoundment, Casey Lake, was treated to remove all fish and restocked with channel catfish

Other lakes found to have sufficient forage fish populations were stocked with hybrid striped bass, and two lakes with abundant sunfish and minnow populations were stocked with largemouth bass, Kraai said

A rainbow trout fishery at one of the city lakes already has been successful this winter, giving urban Lubbock residents opportunity to catch

the hatchery-reared fish close to home, according to Kraai

The city is providing materials and labor, and Tech graduate students are conducting ongoing creel surveys to determine utilization of the lakes

Dr Hal Schramm of the Texas Tech Department of Range and Wildlife Management, said the urban fishing program has been successful so far "We felt we needed to do something to increase utilization of these city lakes as a natural resource," said Schramm "We are managing each lake for the kind of fishing we feel it can support "

Corporate sponsors have donated money to the program, as well as assisting in promotion of special events such as youth fishing contests, Schramm said

JC 2/10/88

THREE NEW STATE FISH  
RECORDS CERTIFIED

AUSTIN -- The fish records committee has certified three new state fish records

Rosa B Melson of Edmond, OK, caught a two-pound, one-ounce goldfish Dec 4 at Lake Corpus Christi The fish, caught on a shrimp, will be a new species entry in the freshwater record book

Mike Lombardi of Galveston set a new state record on Oct 1 when he caught a three-pound, 2.72-ounce hardhead catfish at the Galveston Seawall The former record hardhead weighed three pounds, one ounce

David Bartling of Port Aransas set another saltwater record with a two-pound, 14-ounce gulf toadfish caught off Port Aransas Oct 18 The former record weighed one pound, 12 ounces

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BIG STRIPED BASS CAUGHT  
BELOW CANYON DAM

CANYON LAKE -- The phrase "big fish in a small pond" could be applied to Todd Fulcher's catch on the Guadalupe River Thursday (Feb 2)

Fulcher landed what is likely the second-largest striped bass ever caught in Texas about a mile below Canyon Reservoir Dam

He caught the 39-pound, 14 ounce fish in the river which is little more than a creek because of reduced water releases from the dam Fulcher said he used a live bluegill for bait, and landed the striper with 12-pound-test line

The fish was 45 inches long, which is actually two inches longer than the current state record fish caught below the Mansfield (Lake Travis) dam in April 1986 The record striper weighed 43 pounds, eight ounces

Biologist David Terre of San Marcos, said Fulcher's fish was weighed on certified scales at a marina at Canyon Lake "The department has not stocked stripers in the river, but quite a few have obviously come through the dam," said Terre, adding that no striped bass have been stocked at Canyon Reservoir since 1983

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PUBLIC QUAIL HUNTS SET  
RECORDS AT CHAPARRAL

ARTESIA WELLS -- All-time records were set during public hunts for quail at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Chaparral Wildlife Management Area, TPWD officials said

Hunters bagged 12,607 quail on the 15,200-acre area in Dimmit and LaSalle Counties in South Texas -- the highest harvest since the department acquired the tract in 1969

Herb Kothmann, public hunt coordinator, said the phenomenal hunting is reflected in the results of the first four weekend hunts "A total of 2,155 hunters bagged 8,654 quail during those four weekends, which is unprecedented," Kothmann said

For the entire 34-day hunt period, hunters bagged 0.83 quail per acre. When the estimated number of unretrievable birds is added, total harvest amounted to a remarkable one quail per acre.

Kothmann said the Chaparral hunts were typical of quail hunting in South Texas in 1987-88. "Quail populations have been excellent in most of the state's quail habitat," he said. While public quail hunts at the Chaparral area are completed, the general quail season in Texas continues through Feb 28.

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VETERAN BROODER 'CANNED'  
AT LAKE WACO

WACO -- Freedom wasn't very kind to one veteran broodfish liberated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department during January

A five-pound blue catfish was discharged from active duty at the department's Dundee Fish Hatchery and stocked at Lake Waco on Jan 19 Its carcass, minus the fillets, was discovered in a lakeside trash dumpster Friday

Owen Davis of Waco, who has the trash disposal contract at the lake's Corps of Engineers parks, noticed the fish while picking up trash The yellow streamer indicating the fish's status as a veteran brooder was still intact

Davis took the tag to the Waco TPWD office where the fish's background was revealed He later received a copy of the fish's "honorable discharge" from the hatchery system

When brood fish are no longer usable in the hatcheries, they are tagged and released into public waters Anglers catching the fish are asked to record the tag number and report it to a TPWD office

Officials encourage anglers to release the veteran brooders because they are vulnerable; they can continue to reproduce in the wild

JC 2/10/88



Paul Hope, Fishing Report No. 312  
February 10, 1988

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Feb. 10, 1988:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level black bass good to 4 pounds on Fat Getzits and brown and black jigs crappie slow; catfish fair to 5 pounds on chicken blood.

BELTON: Water clear, 43 degrees, normal level black bass good in mid lake area to 3 pounds on chrome jigging spoons; hybrid striper slow, best to 8 pounds in mid lake area trolling white cranks; crappie good in the Cedar Ridge area on minnows; white bass excellent to 30 fish per string at the mouth of creeks on white or light blue Don's Jigs; catfish good at the log jam with stinkbait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass slow, a few to 3 1/2 pounds on dark worms and jigs; striper slow; crappie good on minnows and jigs in the creeks and off the docks with some limits; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass slow to 2 pounds on black jigs with blue pork; striper slow to 11 pounds on deep divers with trailing jigs; crappie good to 10 plus fish per string; white bass good to 30 fish per string on Model A; catfish fair to 4 pounds on dog food and blood bait in 20-30 feet of water.

CANYON: Water clear, 55 degrees, 2 1/2 feet below normal; largemouth bass fair to 5 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; smallmouth slow; striper slow in the lake, some in the river below the dam to 28 pounds, 13 ounces on live perch in the Horse Shoe Falls area, fish generally found in larger pools; crappie good on minnows in the late afternoon, some limits at night; white bass fair to good in the first 4 miles of the Guadalupe River above Canyon trolling Bomber and Phantoms to 30 fish per boat; catfish slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level black bass good on dark worms in 40 feet of water on PopRs and some jigs to 8 3/4 pounds, many over 6 and 7, but not a great number of fishermen; crappie fairly good with good sized fish in 12-18 feet of water on minnows catfish slow, a few to 25 pounds on juglines baited with goldfish and perch.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level black bass good to 15 fish per boat but most fish within the 15-21 inch slot, on DB#3s, Rat-L-Trapd, jigs, spinners and lizards in 10 feet of water crappie slow to 15 fish per boat on minnows. catfish good in the 3-5 pound range along the spillway and around the dam on liver baited juglines.

LBJ: Water dingy, 53 degrees, normal level black bass slow to 2 1/2 pounds on pig and jig combinations of black and green; striper slow, a few on Rat-L-Traps crappie good to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 35 fish per string on white slabs catfish fair to 6 pounds on bloodbait and stinkbait in 10-15 feet of water.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie very good to 25 fish per string on minnows to 1 1/2 pounds average; white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 pounds each on stinkbait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 49 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; largemouth bass slow; smallmouth bass to 5 1/4 pounds on minnows and Shadrap; hybrid striper good to 2-3 pounds to 4 fish per string near the dam on slabs and jigs; crappie good at night in Bluff Park and around the marina to 9 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 4 pounds in the coves on shrimp and liver.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 52 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on black Jig and Pig, 4 inch strawberry ringworms doodling in 25 feet of water, and live minnows; striper slow, white bass slow, some at night under light; crappie fair around the docks in 20 feet of water; catfish slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 47 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass slow to 6 3/4 pounds on spinners and yellow tailed plastic worms; striper slow; crappie slow in lake, good in the barges on jigs

and minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 pounds on nightcrawlers, few fishermen out midweek.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 45 degrees, one inch high; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds in shallow water on spinners, Rogues and Redfins; crappie excellent to 1 1/2 pounds with limits of 25 fish on minnows in 42-47 feet of water on minnows as well as in 3-5 feet of water; white bass are excellent in 45-55 feet of water near the dam; catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 6 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow; weather cold and very few fishermen on the lake.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 45 degrees, normal level; black bass slow, a few smaller fish but no keepers yet; hybrid striper slow; crappie scarce, a few from the 30-35 foot level, no movement toward the coves yet; white bass slow; channel catfish good to 4 pounds in 12 feet of water on nightcrawlers.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water slightly murky, 45 degrees, 1 foot above normal level black bass very good to 7 1/4 pounds, many in the 3-5 pound range, in the evenings in 2-10 feet of water; crappie fair in 25-30 feet of water on minnows mostly; catfish fairly good to 26 pounds in 18-25 feet of water on trotlines with live minnows.

FAIRFIELD: Water slightly off color, 72 degrees at discharge, 63 degrees in main lake, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 9 pounds, 6 ounces on jig and eel; catfish fair to 7 pounds on trotline baited with earth worms; redfish slow to 13 pounds caught on a DB#3.

FORK: Water clear, 44 degrees, normal level but gates are open; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on dark pig and jig in 15-20 feet of water; crappie fairly good with a few limits in 53 feet of water on minnows; catfish slow.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 51 degrees, 6 feet high; black bass good to 8 pounds, 6 1/2 ounces on black and blue jig and eel, good numbers of fish around 5 pounds in the flooded brush tops; hybrid striper fair below the spillway on jigs crappie slow; white bass fair below the spillway; catfish fair on minnows in the flooded brush.

LAVON: Water clear, 42 degrees, lake full; black bass slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows with a good number of limits on jigs and minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass fair to 1 1/4 pounds on silver and shad colored slabs with some surfacing; catfish slow.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 45 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good on jigs to 25 fish per string in 12-15 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fair

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds on Model As and crawfish colored Rat-L-Traps in 6 to 7 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good day and night on minnows. white bass slow; catfish slow, some to 2 pounds from the bank.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds on 8 inch black worms and DB#3; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on live minnows; catfish very good to 10 pounds on rod and reel on shrimp and Canadian crawlers around the hot water discharge.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 42 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow; only 3 boats out midweek, no fishermen earlier this week.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level black bass good up to 10 pounds, 2 ounces on lizards. crappie fair under 1971 bridge, a few keepers to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; channel catfish fair to 6 pounds on trotline as well as rod and reel on Canadian crawlers and cut shad. Steve Whiteside, 45, of Lake Murvaul caught a 10 pound bass and a 9 pound bass in a string of 7 fish that averaged 6 pounds, 10 ounces. Though he had never caught a 10 pound bass before, all fish were released.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level black bass slow; weather cold, few fishermen on the lake; some crappie in 30-35 feet of water on minnows; catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 4 inches above normal level; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on jig and eel in 10-12 feet of water;

striper slow; crappie good to 2 pounds in 10 feet of water on jigs with a few limits; white bass slow; catfish slow.  
RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper good around hot water discharge; crappie fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fairly good around the power plant warm water discharge.  
TAWAKONI: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly slow to 7 pounds on topwaters and worms; striper slow to 6 pounds on live bait or topwaters; crappie fair in deep water and under the boat houses; white bass fair but small; catfish slow.  
TEXOMA: Water clear, 42 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to good to 5 1/2 pounds on pig and jig in 2 feet of water; striper fair to 17 pounds on Sassy Shad, jigs and live bait; crappie good with strings to 16 fish on live bait; white bass slow; catfish fair to 38 pounds on shad baited trotline.  
WELSH: Water clear, 69 degrees, lake full; black bass fair to good to 8 pounds on lizards and Crawworms in black and red metalflake, some early and late on topwaters on Bomber Long A; crappie slow due to lack of fishermen; some catfish in the 4-5 pound range on trotlines baited with live bream.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass slow midweek, fish good in 18 inches of water in the 4-5 pound range on spinners, cranks, Mean Green worms; striper slow; crappie fair and good sized before the front; white bass slow; catfish fairly good in baited holes on rod and reel.  
HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pound 12 ounces; striper slow; crappie good with strings to 12 pounds to 2 1/2 pounds per fish; catfish slow.  
LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 8 1/2 pounds on white spinners; striper fair below the dam, lake; striper slow; crappie picking up with fish moving into creeks; white bass slow; catfish good to 78 pounds; blue catfish good to 6 pounds; channel catfish good to 8 pounds on live shad.  
RAYBURN: Water clear, 50 degrees, 6 inches above pool level; black bass good to 6 pounds in deep water on jigs and worms near the moss beds; striper slow; crappie fair on pier, no limits; crappie good sized up the river above the bridges; white bass good above the bridges in the main river; catfish fair, few trotlines.  
TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, normal level; black bass fair to 5 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; striper fair to 6 pounds; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 47 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass good on clear and metal flake worms in 10-20 feet of water; striper excellent with a good number of fish between 20 and 30 pounds on Ponyhead jigs with white 4-inch Fliptails, some beginning to hit Redfins on Cow Creek, the dam area, mouth of the Rio Grande; crappie slow; white bass good on white and chartreuse jigs in the mouth of the Devil's River in 10-15 feet of water; catfish fair to good in 90-100 feet of water on Roger's stinkbait.  
BRAUNIG: Water murky, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass good but no keeper sized fish; striper good to 6 pounds on chicken livers; crappie slow; catfish good to 9 pounds on chicken liver and shad.  
CALAVERAS: Water murky 53 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds on jigs and plastic worms; striper good to 3 pound average on silver spoons; crappie slow; catfish good to 25 pounds on tilapia and chicken livers; redfish slow to 9 pounds on cranks; corvina excellent with strings to 45 pounds on silver spoons and tilapia.  
CHOKE: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass very good in the 4-8 pound range on spinners and worms; striper slow; crappie excellent to 3 1/2 pounds on live minnows around the willows on the river banks, under the bridge at Possum Creek, under 99 bridge at the boat ramp and around the dam; white bass fair to 30 fish per string in the river channels above Highway 99 Boat Ramp on chrome Rat-L-Traps; catfish very good in 45-50 feet of water to 8 pounds on stinkbait.  
COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 3 pound average on spinners in shallow water; striper

good on spoons to 6 pounds, 10 ounces with several in the 12-16 inch range; crappie fair on minnows and jigs at the hot water discharge; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water slightly murky, normal level black bass slow; striper slow; crappie picking up to 8 fish per string on minnows; white slow; catfish fairly good on worms in the 2-8 pound range on wide range of baits.

FALCON: Water clear, 2 feet above normal level black bass fairly good to a 6 pound average, on dark worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie fairly slow off the dock; white bass good up the Rio Grande to 83 fish per boat in a half day of fishing; catfish good on frozen shrimp and sponge bait.

MEDINA: Fishing slow due to poor weather and lack of fishermen.

TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, clear in jungle area, 58 degrees, normal level black bass fair to good in jungle area on black and blue jigs and plastic worms to 4 1/2 pounds; striper and white bass slow; crappie very slow; blue catfish very good to 24 pounds on a live perch baited trotline.

#### WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 44 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on chrome Rat-L-Traps in 4-5 feet of water striper slow crappie fairly good around hot water discharge on minnows; white bass good along with the striper on minnows catfish slow.

GRANBURY: Water clear, normal level black bass good to 6 pounds on cranks striper fair to 12 pounds around the hot water discharge; crappie good under 377 bridge in 20 feet on minnows; catfish slow; white bass slow.

GREENBELT water clear, 42 degrees, normal level; weather cold and windy, no fishermen.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 44 degrees, lake full; black bass fair to 3 pounds on spinners; striper fair to 8 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; crappie good with limits to 1 pound in 12-15 feet of water up the creeks; white bass slow; catfish slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 45 degrees, 13 feet down; black bass fairly good to 5 pounds, 9 ounces on dark jigs and worms in 25-30 feet of water striper fairly good trolling and fishing deep to 12 pounds; crappie picking up fairly good in the 18-25 fish range on minnows; white bass slow on slabs; catfish fair on trotline, few fishermen out. Corps of Engineers indicate they will close the gates around the middle of March after dam repairs are complete. Water was first lowered in April 1987

PROCTOR: Water dingy, 46 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on dark plastic worms; striper slow; crappie good to 15 fish per string in 15 feet of water; catfish slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 46 degrees, 19 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds, 10 ounces on jigs and worms. striper good to 26 pounds trolling live bait; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds; hybrid striper slow; crappie scattered, not biting; white bass slow; catfish fair to 9 fish per string on trotline.

#### COASTAL

SABINE LAKE: Redfish very slow; a single black drum from the Gulf States Utility outfall canal few people fishing midweek; water in fairly good shape but the weather is too cold. Optimists believe the next front will be the last one for a while. There was snow in the area two times last week.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish has been fairly good, but few fishermen since the cold front; some activity midweek on Culprit Worms and Willie Shrimp Touts; fishing best over oyster reefs; trout fishing fair with good numbers of trout but most too small to keep; drum fair to in the 3-4 pound range from the bank on the south end of the lake on dead shrimp; some commercial crabbers catching a few crabs, but sport fishermen haven't been bringing 'em in; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: No live bait, very little fishing especially in the open water areas which have been very rough; there have been some fish in the ship channel slip which have produced fair catches of sand trout on dead shrimp. Offatts Bayou and Lake Madeline producing a few specks and sand trout when the wind lays the largest speck was 6 pounds on Kelley Wigglers;

offshore fishing non existent due to rough water.

PORT OCONNOR: the Army Hole is producing redfish in the 4-6 pound range with several limits in the coldest weather, best bait is cut mullet, dead shrimp and plastic worms; drum to 5 pounds in deep waters of the bays; sheepshead plentiful at the jetties.

PALACIOS: Redfish excellent in deeper waters of rivers and upper bays to 30 inches with strings from Carancahua weighing in excess of 50 pounds; one 29 1/2 inch red weighted 12 pounds even; best bait for redfish is dead shrimp; specks are biting on high tides to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp, cut mullet and some artificials on piers and in turning basins an occasional flounder; no live bait shrimp available; one bait shrimper will be trying the surf before the weekend. Local quail season has been very good. Some goose depredation to crops in the area.

ROCKPORT: Waters are in fairly good shape; raining midweek and water chilling, trout seem to be concentrating in deeper harbors such as Conn-Brown and the Intracoastal around Palm Harbor; no live bait shrimp available. Best baits are touts, red shrimp tails, Mir-O-Lures.

PORT ARANSAS Cold, foggy, drizzly weather has kept most fishermen away from the water; fishing fairly slow; some trout in the Conn-Brown Harbor; some sheepshead around the jetties, none in Corpus Christi Bay yet; sheepshead should begin showing up in the wells area within the next couple of weeks. offshore activity fairly good in the Triangle Area, 25 miles out; groups of big redfish reported in South Bay in 4 feet of water, few fishermen; a limited supply of live bait most of the time at \$7 per quart. Some blue crabs showing up around Allen's Bight; some commercial crabbers bringing in a 1000 pounds per day in very shallow water. Horace Caldwell pier fishing fairly slow midweek though fishing was good before the last front. Weather midweek miserable, only 2 or 3 fishermen Monday and Tuesday.

CORPUS CHRISTI Oso Pier produced a single 5 pound drum on Tuesday; few fishermen out since last Friday. Bob Hall Pier had 4 fishermen in the last two days; fishermen have reported a herds of big redfish in the 28-29 inch range in Padre Isle Channels area about 8 or 9 feet deep. Upper Laguna fishing slow.

PORT MANSFIELD: A fresh norther hit late Tuesday which slowed fishing considerably; no live bait shrimp available; a good number of small drum in the Port Mansfield Harbor but the weather slowed the fishermen.

PORT ISABEL: Bad weather, including rain, has kept fishermen off the water. Offshore fishing generally slow. Quail hunting still good in the area. Ducks and geese still plentiful in the area.

PH 2/10/88