

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## VAUGHAN HATCHERY AND RESEARCH CENTER DEDICATED

CORPUS CHRISTI -- Officials of government, industry and conservation gathered at Corpus Christi Friday (June 17) to celebrate completion of the Ben F. Vaughan Jr. Hatchery and Research Center.

Gov. Bill Clements was special guest at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Other participants included Bob Armstrong and Chuck Nash, members of the Parks and Wildlife Commission; Perry R. Bass, former chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Commission; Betty Turner, mayor of Corpus Christi; Rene H. Gracida, bishop of Corpus Christi; Thomas V. Schockley III, president and chief executive officer of Central Power and Light Co. (CPL); Walter Fondren, III, chairman of the board of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (GCCA); Chuck Weil, president of the Corpus Christi chapter of GCCA; Ben F. Vaughan III, son of the late Ben F. Vaughan Jr., whose generosity made the hatchery project possible, and Charles D. Travis, executive director of the Parks and Wildlife Department.

New facilities include almost 14,000 square feet of space for biologists and researchers to use in production of red drum and other saltwater sport

fish, and 19 acres of additional outdoor rearing ponds

The Vaughan facility is part of the GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center, which is the world's largest red drum hatchery and a symbol of cooperation between government, business and a conservation group

The entire project began with completion of the John Wilson Hatchery in September 1982. The hatchery was built with \$1.4 million provided by the GCCA, on land made available by the CPL adjacent to its Barney M. Davis Power Station. The facility is staffed by Parks and Wildlife Department personnel who have produced between seven and 10 million red drum fingerlings annually since 1983.

With the additional tanks and ponds created by the Vaughan facility, annual fingerling production could reach as high as 20 million fish, including approximately 2 million spotted seatrout and 2 million snook.

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CORMORANT FOOD HABIT STUDY  
COMPLETED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- An extensive study of the food habits of double-crested cormorants shows the birds feed primarily on forage fishes such as shad in most reservoirs, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reports.

The 18-month study was prompted by increasing numbers of the fish-eating birds and fears by fishermen and others that cormorant predation was impacting populations of largemouth bass and other popular sport fishes.

Researchers collected 494 cormorants from eight public reservoirs and one private lake. A total of 441 contained materials suitable for analysis. The birds were collected by shooting after they had been observed feeding actively for at least 15 minutes.

Investigators were able to identify 29 fish species. Shad, small minnows, large roughfishes and various other forage fishes accounted for most of the contents by number; catfishes, basses, sunfishes and crappies accounted for 12 percent by number and 48 percent by weight. Cormorants consumed bass and sunfish exclusively on the private lake study area.

Size and species composition of food changed during the study period and was highly variable among the study lakes, the report said. Fishes 5.3 inches and shorter accounted for 90 percent of cormorant food contents, and most (90 percent) of the food items were forage fish species and sunfishes. Fishes as long as 16.3 inches were ingested.

Cormorants are protected by state and federal law.

Copies of the complete cormorant study may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112, or write the TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.

JC 6/22/88

BIDS ACCEPTED FOR BRUSH  
SEEDLING PRODUCTION

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is accepting bids from greenhouse operators interested in growing approximately 125,000 seedlings to be used in the department's white-winged dove habitat program in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Ron George, dove program leader, said the department will supply the seeds of Texas ebony, huisache, anacua, granjeno and brasil to participating greenhouses

Beginning Aug 1, the greenhouse will be responsible for providing all other materials (including the 1"x1"x12" paper containers, soil components, etc ), germinating the seeds, growing the seedlings to a minimum six-inch height by the November 1988 planting season, and delivering the seedlings to the Valley Bids will be based on a cost per seedling

Wildlife Division Director Charles Allen said the department has developed native brush reforestation techniques during the past three or four years "Over 1,100 acres on the Las Palomas Units will be reforested and producing whitewings within four years," Allen said "We have developed a comprehensive management plan that will concentrate on conversion of these open areas to native brush in the shortest possible time " The reforesting work is part of the habitat acquisition program made possible by funds generated from the sale of the \$6 State White-winged

Dove Stamp required of all whitewing hunters, Allen said

Persons interested in obtaining a bid package should contact the Contract Section, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext 4839, or (512) 389-4839

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GUADALUPE BASS REFUGE  
STOCKED WITH FISH

VANDERPOOL -- Biologists have stocked 5,000 Guadalupe bass into a special refuge for the species in the heart of scenic Lost Maples State Natural Area in Bandera County

Dr Gary Garrett of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Heart O' the Hills Research Station at Ingram said the refuge is intended to preserve the genetic integrity of Guadalupe bass, a species that has hybridized with introduced species in some areas. Guadalupes are a uniquely Texan species, found only in Central Texas river systems

Garrett said crews stocked the Sabinal River and one of its tributaries, Can Creek, on Friday. They seined Can Creek prior to stocking and transported all the largemouth bass in that section of the stream to the Sabinal, giving the small Guadalupes every chance to become established. Largemouths already were established in the Sabinal, and were not removed. The stream also has sunfish and channel catfish.

"Guadalupes historically have shared the same streams with largemouths,"

said Garrett, "so that is not a problem. But we wanted to determine the difference in survival when Guadalupe bass are stocked in a stream that has no largemouths "

Guadalupe bass are similar in appearance to the spotted bass found in East Texas and much of the Southeastern U S. Garrett said in spite of the similarity, genetic investigations have shown Guadalupe bass are a distinct species. Genetic variations also occur among stocks of Guadalupe bass from the various river drainages, he added.

Lost Maples is located four miles north of Vanderpool on Ranch Road 187

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CADDOAN MOUNDS HOLD  
MYSTERIES OF HISTORY

ALTO -- Tucked in the shadows of the East Texas pines is a window into a past culture

Tall mounds of earth constructed by Caddo Indians between 800-1100 A. D. are the centerpiece of Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site, where researchers have learned much about this most sophisticated prehistoric Indian culture in Texas

Caddo Indians were known as a "mound building" culture, using the mounds in burial ceremonies. Excavations of the mounds have unearthed artifacts indicating that residents of the Texas site were on the westernmost edge of an extensive trade and cultural domain reaching to the Mississippi River

and beyond

Visitors to the historic site need not be trained archeologists to enjoy Caddoan Mounds. Extensive interpretive exhibits, including an audio-visual program and a self-guided 3/4-mile trail tour help the visitor understand more about Caddo Indian life. A reconstructed Early Caddo dwelling, built as an experimental archeology project, is a popular stop along the trail.

Caddoan Mounds is a day-use only area, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, closed Monday and Tuesday. The site is located six miles southwest of Alto on State Highway 21. For further information, call the park superintendent at (409) 858-3218. For those wishing to stay overnight in a state park, Mission Tejas State Historical Park is located a few miles southwest of Caddoan Mounds on Highway 21. For information on campsites and other facilities at Mission Tejas, call the park superintendent at (409) 687-2394.

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THE GASPER HAS PLENTY OF  
REASON TO GRIPE

AUSTIN -- In this era of fishing enlightenment, one fish continues to be misrepresented, misidentified and downright slandered.

Highly-educated anglers who can identify a largemouth bass on the first jump and tell a channel catfish from a "highfin blue" still have problems with the freshwater drum.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists said drum may inherit this low level of angler esteem because of their similarity in appearance to carp and buffalo

"Although they are classified by law as a rough fish, freshwater drum are a predator species like their relatives the red drum and black drum of the Texas Gulf Coast," said Nick Carter, inland fisheries chief "They often hit artificial lures and fight like crazy when hooked "

The other misconception about drum (also called gaspergou in Texas) is that the silvery fish are believed to have the pesky intramuscular bones of the kind found in carp or buffalo Freshwater drum can be filleted the same as redfish or bass, with no bone problem, said Carter

The flesh is firm but mild in flavor The palatability of freshwater drum has been demonstrated in several government-sponsored taste tests In effect, properly-prepared drum received consistently high ratings in each test

One of the drum recipes used in the taste tests is called "poor man's shrimp cocktail " To prepare it, cut drum fillets into small strips or chunks Add two tablespoons of salt to a quart of water and bring to a boil Place fish in boiling water Bring to a boil again, then cook for three to four minutes Remove the fish and chill in ice water or refrigerator Serve cold on a bed of lettuce with shrimp cocktail sauce, hot mustard or your favorite seafood dip

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AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for June 22, 1988

#### CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass good in the 2-3 pound range on Big Hs; hybrid striper slow; crappie slow; catfish good to 5 pounds on juglines baited with stinkbait.  
BELTON: Water clear 79 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass good to 6 pounds on 4-inch chartreuse worms in 20-40 feet of water; hybrid striper spotty to 9 pounds on live shad; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 12 feet of water; white bass good to 1/2 pound on chrome or clear topwaters. channel catfish good to 19 fish per string to 3 1/2 pounds on Bob's Chicken Blood.

CANYON: Water clear, 80 degrees normal level black bass fairly slow to 5 pounds on dark worms in 20-30 feet of water. striper slow; crappie good at night under lights on minnows with limits of 25 fish; white bass slow; catfish good to 6 pounds on shrimp. No walleye caught for at least a month.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 84 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good with a couple of fish over 7 pounds, slow Monday on black and blue worms, lizards and Weed Walkers over the submerged grass at night. crappie good at night to 18 fish per string daytime fishing slow, on minnows, catfish fairly good to 30 pounds at night on live bait.

GIBBONS CREEK Water clear 85 degrees normal level, black bass excellent to 8 pounds, 12 ounces on black worms, Stanley Jigs and DB#3s with several other 8s and 7s crappie excellent with full limits on minnows; catfish very good to 10 pounds on rod and reel on a wide variety of baits in 1-5 feet of water

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 6 inches low; black bass fair in the 3-4 pound range on green spinners in 2 feet of water. striper slow; crappie slow; white bass good to 25 fish per string average on minnows, catfish slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear normal level black bass fishing fairly good, some to 5 1/2 pounds on dark worms in the afternoon; striper fair trolling to 7 3/4 pounds with several 4s on diving cranks with spoon trailers, crappie improving to 20 fish per string on minnows and jigs white bass fairly good over the weekend on live bait and plugs trolling; catfish good to 20 fish per string from the bank around the boatramp on frozen shad and Catfish Charlie.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow; hybrid striper fairly good at the fifth pillar at Cedar Gap Bridge on white slabs and minnows in 4-6 feet of water; crappie good from to 4 a.m. around marina to 3/4 pounds on minnows and white jigs; channel catfish very good on trotline to 4 1/2 pounds on a wide variety of baits. yellow catfish slow to 40 pounds on trotline with live bait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 78 degrees, 13 feet low black bass good to 2 1/2 pounds on topwaters early and late, worms and grubs good midday; striper fair downrigging 1/2 and 1 ounce jigs in 45 to 50 feet of water. crappie slow; white bass picking up under the lights to 40 fish per boat on small white and yellow jigs, minnows, best fishing between midnight and daylight; catfish good on rod and reel with live catfish, most are channels and blues; trotline fair in the 8-10 pound range on crawfish and live perch.

WHITNEY Water clear, 70 degrees 7 2 feet low largemouth bass good on spinners, cranks and PopR's to 5 9 pounds in shallow water. smallmouth fair to 4 pounds on cranks and deep diving baits; striper good to 25 pounds trolling Redfins around state park and in McKown Valley. crappie slow; white bass good on jigs, Flea Flies and spoons around bluffs in Cedron Creek late; catfish slow on nightcrawlers to 6 pounds yellow catfish to 46 pounds on trotline with live bait.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level black bass very good to 10 pounds, 11 ounces, with several 7s and 8s, on black or purple worms in 12 feet of water at the break of the bottom moss

where sunfish congregate; crappie good with limits of 25 fish on minnows primarily in 20-25 feet of water over brush piles; white bass slow; catfish good and moving into shallow water to 21 pounds on trotline, rod and reel as well as drop lines at night on a wide variety of baits; bluegill and redear excellent on crickets and red worms in 12 feet of water the moss break line.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear. 78 degrees. 1 foot low; black bass good to 9 pounds on dark worms in 18 to 20 feet of water midday; white buzz baits good early in shallow water; crappie slow; white bass fairly good on Rat-L-Traps and small cranks at 10-12 feet in 20 feet of water; catfish fair to 10 pounds to 8 fish per string on trotlines baited with worms and live bream; bream fishing good on crickets and worms.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear. normal level; black bass fairly good to 4 pounds on minnows; striper fairly good; crappie very good with limits on minnows off the bank in shallow water; white bass slow; catfish fairly good to 4 pounds on minnows.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear. 78 degrees. 15 inches low; black bass good in numbers to 6 pounds, 2 ounces with many smaller good keeper sized fish on topwaters; black and red metal flake worms; hybrid striper good trolling Hellbenders with chartreuse Rooster Tails as trailers; crappie good day and night in 18-22 feet of water in the stump fields with some good catches in shallow water; white bass good trolling deep diving cranks with Rooster Tail trailers; channel catfish fair to 3 pounds on shrimp and stinkbait; yellow catfish good on north end of lake with goldfish and cutbait.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear. 80 degrees. 1 foot low; black bass good early and late to 6 1/2 pounds on blue Fire and Ice in the evening and black worms at night; crappie fairly good in 20-25 feet of water along the moss edges on minnows and chartreuse jigs; catfish very good to 13 pounds average in the 6-8 pound range, in 4-5 feet of water at night and in 15 feet of water during the day on nightcrawlers and minnows.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear. 90 degrees. normal level; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on dark worms; catfish very good to 4 pounds in good numbers on trotlines baited with tilapia; redfish very good to 12 pounds on DB#3 cranks.

FORK: Water clear. 80 degrees. 2 feet low; black bass good to 7 pounds on dark worms in deep water; crappie good with limits on minnows in 18-20 feet of water; catfish slow.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear. 82 degrees. 18 inches below summer level; black bass fair to 6 pounds, 6 ounces on worms, buzz baits with good numbers of fish to 1 1/2 pounds in the mid lake area on Tiny Torpedoes and small Rat-L-Traps; crappie slow; white bass schooling fairly well in the dam area; best baits are Rat-L-Traps and small white jigs; sunfish good on crickets and worms.

LAVON: Water clear. 71 degrees. 2 feet low; black bass slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string to 1 pound each on minnows primarily; white bass good to 1 1/4 pounds to 20 fish per string on slabs; catfish good to 7 pounds on shad baited trotlines; sunfish improving on crickets with good numbers of fish on stringers.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear. 78 degrees. 5 feet low; black bass fair early to 4 pounds on dark worms; hybrid striper along with white bass good late on clear topwaters; crappie slow; catfish good to 8 pounds drifting shrimp with rod and reel.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear. 16 inches low; black bass good on worms to 3 pounds; striper good in deep channels; crappie good to 10 fish per string on minnows; catfish good to 4 pounds on chicken livers, stinkbait and worms with rod and reel near the dam.

MONTICELLO: Water clear. 90 degrees, normal summer level; black bass good to 9 1/4 pounds on 8-inch black worms and 8-inch black and blue lizards in 8 to 30 feet of water; crappie poor; catfish very good on Canadian crawlers and shrimp on the deep end of the lake.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear. 80 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie slow; white bass fair to 12 fish per string on slabs and Bayou Boogies; catfish good to 5 pounds each to 20 fish per string on cheese, shrimp and nightcrawlers.

MURVAUL Water clear, 81 degrees, 16 inches low; black bass fair to 6 pounds 1 ounce on dark worms, a few smaller fish on topwaters not many fishermen out midweek; crappie slow under the bridge, a few keeper fish caught on small minnows catfish fair to 4 pounds on trotlines baited with minnows and nightcrawlers; bream good on crickets and worms.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass very good to 9 pounds 2 ounces on Fat Getzits and PopRs; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

RAY HUBBARD Water clear 78 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass slow, some in the north end shallows; striper fairly good to 15 pounds with some limits on live shad and bream; crappie fairly slow white bass spotty; catfish excellent to 6 pounds, many fish in the 1 1/2 pound range on shrimp, liver and bloodbait.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 6 inches below spillway level black bass fair to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on wide variety of baits striper fairly good to 7 pounds, mostly 3 pounds and lower on L'il Georges, Gay Blades and Hellbenders with jig trailers, crappie slow in 20 feet of water on minnows, white bass good along with striper; catfish good to 37 pounds on trotline with live bait, blue catfish good to 10 pounds, channel catfish good in the 2-10 pound range on trotline.

TAWAKONI Water clear normal level black bass slow; striper slow to 11 pounds 3 ounces on white slabs, crappie slow; hybrid striper good in the 6-11 pound range trolling live baits and slabs; white bass good; catfish slow.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 77 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on worms, cranks and pig and jigs; striper good to 17 pounds, fish are feeding on the surface; white bass good on live bait, Bayou Boogies and topwaters with good strings in Little Mineral, catfish good to 14 pounds on stinkbait, worms and shrimp just off the deep water channel and from the banks.

WELSH Water clear, 102 degrees average on top, 2 feet low; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on dark worms in 8 feet of water mostly in the evening; crappie slow due to lack of fishermen; catfish good to 4 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers bream excellent on worms and crickets

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE Water Clear 80 degrees 18 inches low black bass generally slow and small on 4-inch smoke blue tail worms red and purple metal flake worms and chrome Rat-L-Traps, largest bass weighed 9.17 pounds in 8-18 feet of water over structure; crappie slow white bass fair trolling chrome Rat-L-Traps near 1097 bridge; channel catfish very good to 2 pounds on nightcrawlers after chumming with rabbit pellets.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 75 degrees normal level black bass fair to good to 8 pounds on black worms with some limits in 18 feet of water; striper slow, crappie fair to 1 1/2 pounds fish are scattered; catfish good to 12 pounds on trotline

LIVINGSTON Water clear 18 inches low; black bass slow late but a few to 4 pounds caught early on black worms with a chartreuse tail striper excellent to 9 pounds on minnows at night in deep water; crappie good in the deeper holes to 10 fish on minnows; white bass good with ice chests full day and night on slabs Vortex lures and minnows at night; catfish good on trotline and rod and reel to 30 pounds.

RAYBURN Water clear 78 degrees 2 feet below pool level; black bass good on topwaters early and late around edges of moss beds on worms biggest fish was 8 pounds striper slow; crappie good with fish moving into deep water holes in 20-25 feet of water on jigs with some limits white bass spotty off points, yellow catfish good to 30 pounds on trotline with live bait; channel catfish fairly good in the 2-3 pond range on Catfish Charlie, shrimp and worms.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass fair in the 12 inch range on motoroil worms and Boy Howdys; striper slow to 23 pounds on Hellbenders near the dam; catfish slow; crappie fair at night to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass slow.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, 76 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fair to good to 3 pounds on worms and Rat-L-Traps in 10 to 20 feet of water striper good to 8 pounds on Banana Head Jigs with shad or

bucktail jigs larger sized striper should begin hitting anytime; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fairly good in 6-20 feet of water on shrimp and cheesebait.

BRAUNIG: Water murky. 80 degrees, normal level black bass good but no keeper sized fish on black plastic worms striper excellent to 7 pounds on Tony Accetta Spoons, crappie slow, catfish good to 3 pounds on chicken liver; redfish good to 15 pounds on crawdads off the banks and trolling Tony Accetta spoons; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 84 degrees 1 foot low; black bass poor; striper fair to 5 pounds downrigging silver spoons; catfish good to 5 pounds on cutbait; redfish fair to 8 pounds by the railroad bridge on tilapia; corvina excellent to 7 pounds on shad and tilapia along the dam, 9 fish caught from the bank.

CHOKER: Water clear, normal level black bass excellent in the 3-6 pound range with limits on a variety of worms; striper slow; crappie fair in the deeper parts of the lake on minnows, white bass slow; catfish excellent on rod and reel in the 5-8 pound range on cheese bait; trotline fishing slow.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 pounds on rod and reel mainly on bloodbait.

FALCON: Water clear, 10 feet low; black bass very good but hard to get out of the brush to 8 1/2 pounds on cranks and worms; striper fair to 15 pounds trolling diving baits and jigging spoons; crappie fair to slow; white bass excellent with all you want around the state park the dam and Marker 5 on slabs, catfish good in number but small in size on trotlines baited with frozen shrimp.

EDINA: Water clear, 76 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass good to 3 pounds on worms in 15 to 20 feet of water; striper slow; crappie picking up to 3/4 pound on minnows in deep water; white bass fair under lights at night on minnows and silver spoons; catfish good on trotline and rod and reel to 4 pounds on stinkbaits, liver.

TEXANA: Water clear in main lake 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners and buzz baits early and late around moss beds; striper and white bass slow; crappie fairly good on minnows to 1 1/2 pounds each, no limits; blue catfish excellent to 17 pounds on trotline with live bait.

#### WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clear, normal level black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fairly good to 8 fish per string on minnows white bass fair; catfish fair on trotline and live bait.

BAYLOR: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level black bass excellent to 9 pounds 2 ounces, mostly in the 3-9 pound range, on purple Firetail worms chartreuse and black worms, black jigs in 4-5 feet of water; crappie slow; catfish excellent to 18 pounds on rod and reel baited with water dogs, shrimp, stinkbait and large worms.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 75 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass fair in the 18-24 inch range on artificials and minnows; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string on minnows and Flea Flies; white bass fair to 18 fish per string on Flea Flies; catfish excellent to 18 pounds on trotline baited with live perch. Walleye fair to 20 inches on Model A Bombers hybrid; striper good to 14 pounds, also on Model A Bombers.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass slow to 5 pounds on PopRs and other topwaters early; striper slow; crappie slow in 18 feet of water around bridge pilings; white bass good to 20 fish per string trolling around moss beds; catfish slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 74 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds 3 1/2 ounces on black worms in 15 feet of water; hybrid striper good to 5 pounds on live perch or silver slabs; crappie slow 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass plentiful late on any shiny lure; catfish very slow.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on black and chartreuse worms; PopRs; striper fair to 11 1/4 pounds on PopRs Hotspots; crappie fair; white bass slow; catfish slow to 1 1/4 pounds.

MEREDITH: Water clear and rising. 73 degrees, 3 feet above normal level. black bass slow; crappie slowing to 10 fish per string on minnows. white bass fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; catfish excellent to 51 pounds on live bait.

OAK CREEK: Water clear. 76 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 pounds, 2 ounces on dark worms; crappie fairly good at night around docks on minnows with strings of fish to 3/4 pounds each; white bass good at night on minnows to 25 fish per string; catfish fairly good but small on trotline baited with cutbait. Dan Hayes of Blackwell caught a 3 foot swimming rattle snake on a buzz bait. Live snake was brought home in the live well.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear. 74 degrees. 13 feet low; black bass fairly good in keeper size to 5 7 pounds on dark worms; striper good in the 12-14 pound range on topwaters and Pencil Poppers. hybrid striper fair to 7 9 pounds on topwaters; crappie good to 2 pounds on minnows. white bass excellent with all you want on slabs. catfish good to 5 pounds on trotline.

PROCTOR: Water murky. 76 degrees, 6 feet above normal level and dropping. black bass fair and small. striper slow; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows. catfish good on live perch and shad.

SPENCE: Water clear. 80 degrees, 22 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on plastic worms. spinners. striper good to 18 pounds trolling live bait; crappie slow; white bass fair on topwaters and Pico Pops. catfish good to 15 pounds on trotline baited with live bait.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear. 70 degrees. 4 feet low; black bass good to 9.6 pounds on dark worms. hybrid striper slow; crappie good with strings to 25 fish on minnows and jigs; white bass good with good numbers in deeper water on deep running Bombers. catfish good to 6 pounds to 4 fish per string on shad, shrimp, stinkbait and live bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear. 76 degrees. 4 feet low; black bass slow. crappie slow; catfish fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers mostly; walleye fairly good on nightcrawlers to 8 pounds.

#### COASTAL

UPPER SABINE LAKE: Redfish fairly good to 8 pounds. mostly smaller and good numbers of below keeper size fish on dead shrimp and live shrimp south of Sydnes Island and up the river. trout good over the weekend to 3 pounds on live shrimp mostly; good numbers of croaker and flounder on mud minnows. scattered sheepshead and a few gafftops. live bait shrimp and mud minnows available.

SOUTH SABINE: Redfish are good to 10 pounds with limits on live shrimp and mud minnows in the channel. trout scattered in the lake and in the channel to 7 pounds each on live croakers and mud minnows; flounder good to 3 1/2 pounds around Causeway Bridge. croaker fairly good on dead shrimp in the lake. no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Gulf Coast pier fishermen catching specks to 5 pounds. whiting. bluefish and flounder; good numbers of sandshark last week but slow this week; more than 400 specks caught this week, good numbers of jack crevalle; live bait shrimp plentiful. flounder beginning to pickup. 60 flounder to 3 pounds caught since Saturday.

PALACIOS: Redfish slow with short strings to 25 inches on fresh dead shrimp and mullet, fish are hard to locate; trout good to 18 inches with at least half keeper sized on live shrimp and various artificials. flounder catches slow. fishing pressure light except last Saturday; bays very salty due lack of rain up river. good numbers of shark and other predatory fish spotted and caught in shallow waters. three reports of sharks grabbing fish stringers. one from boat, two from waders; offshore slow.

ROCKPORT: Redfish fair to 30 inches. no limits. around Quarantine Islands on spoons. trout good in the 3-4 pound range around Shamrock Island with limits on croaker. Good numbers of large trout caught in Mesquite Bay on croakers also; live bait shrimp available.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish fairly slow; trout fairly plentiful to 5 pounds on live shrimp, pink touts and weedless spoons, live piggy perch; a few small shark and kingfish offshore. Horace Caldwell

Pier fishermen catching specks to 10 inches which have to be returned to the water; some small sharks; no live bait shrimp.

CORPUS CHRISTI Fishing very slow; no redfish; few specks to 6 pounds around Baffin Bay and Landcut, most fish are undersized and scattered over a wide area; whiting and sandtrout plentiful on dead shrimp; live bait shrimp scarce. Oso Pier fishermen are catching a few small specks, many too small to keep on live shrimp; live shrimp iffy on pier. Bob Hall Pier fishermen catching black shark to 5 feet on cut bait on the bottom; kingfish to 55 inches on live blue fish; jackfish bonito, tarpon, redfish good to 26 inches at night on live shrimp; good numbers of limits of trout to 10 pounds on live shrimp, most in the 2-3 pound range; flounder good under pier with live chubbies or live finger mullet; some redfish to 19 inches under the pier during the day; water clear, sand clean, sun hot. Number of fishermen up slightly from last year. Pier average 500 fishermen per day during the week and 1000 per day on the weekend.

PORT MANSFIELD: Good numbers of redfish to 30 inches caught with limits on gold spoons and strawberry Touts from Port Mansfield's East Cut Channel all the way to Green Island; excellent numbers of big fish spotted in the area; good numbers of kingfish and Spanish mackerel from the end of the jetties; no live bait shrimp midweek. Good numbers of trout to 4 pounds on Touts north of Port Mansfield on the King Ranch shoreline. An estimated 150 pound tarpon hooked and fought but lost at the jetties.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish slow but good sized all the way to 30 inches on Mel's Chubbies in red or white with pink tails and Redfins around Unnecessary Island and sandflats east of Three Islands. Trout good to 6 pounds, mostly in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range along the Intracoastal. Flounder good along the Intracoastal also; bonito plentiful offshore; some kingfish and a single tarpon to 100 pounds just off the jetties on a Russell Lure; live bait shrimp available.

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