

texas parks & wildlife news

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FIRST TEXAS WILDLIFE EXPO SUCCESSFUL

AUSTIN--More than 7,000 people of all ages shot guns, watched birds of prey in flight, tasted wild game, heard several hunting seminars and visited about 130 booths during the initial Texas Wildlife Expo '92 on Oct. 2-3 at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters here.

The Expo, presented by TPWD, was designed to celebrate the role hunters have played in conservation and to promote hunting and conservation to others.

A near sellout crowd of about 600 attended the celebrity sporting clays shoot and banquet on Oct. 2.

Baseball legend Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers and Travis Zibilski, a 15-year-old world champion skeet shooter from Austin, won the celebrity sporting clays shoot, each hitting 12 of 15 clay pigeons. Other participants included former University of Texas and National Football League lineman Doug English, rock star and avid bowhunter Ted Nugent, professional golfer Bill Rogers of San Antonio, House Speaker Gib Lewis, Sen. Ken Armbrister of Victoria and others.

George W. Bush, son of President Bush and owner of the Texas Rangers, acted as emcee of the banquet. Ryan also presented lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses worth \$800 to winners of the Expo poster and essay contests. Winners of the first Texas Big Game Awards Program also were honored.

President Bush addressed the crowd via videotape. The keynote address was given by Gov. Ann Richards, who kept the crowd in good humor with an extended story about her successful turkey hunting trip last spring.

On Oct. 3, about 7,000 people, mostly families, visited the Expo. More than 800 adults participated in two five-stand sporting clays stands. Another 2,500 participated in youth events, including sporting clays, air rifle, air pistol, bow and arrow and muzzleloader.

Some of the most popular events were John Karger of Last Chance Forever and his birds of prey show, a shooting demonstration by former International Skeet Shooting Champion John Satterwhite, the live snake exhibit and the sporting dog demonstrations. Visitors also were able to visit 131 hunting or outdoor related booths and hear Ted Nugent discuss the positives of hunting and perform some hunting songs.

"Most of the people that came to the Expo were families, which was our goal, said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "This event was designed to reach out to the youth of this state who may not have been exposed to wildlife and the outdoors. I believe we accomplished that.

Major sponsors for the Expo were Coors and Chevron. Sponsors included Academy Stores, Barton Creek Properties Inc., Bliss-Murski, Boone and Crockett Club, Browning-Ferris Industries, Bushlan, Crosman, GSD&M, Hill Country Wholesale Inc. Keystone Steel & Wire, McBride's Guns Inc., Mike Davis Associates, Mossy Oak, Parker Drilling Co., Philip Morris U.S.A., Remington Arms, Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas, Temple-Inland, Texas Bighorn Society, Texas Wine Alliance, Thompson/Center Arms Co. and Winchester/Olin.

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FRESHWATER HATCHERY FINALISTS NAMED

AUSTIN--The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc. announced Oct. 2 that three proposals for sites for the Texas Fresh Water Fisheries Center have been selected for further review.

Corsicana, Athens and Longview, all with bids with an apparent cash value in excess of \$1.5 million, were chosen from among a list that also included Beaumont, Hardin County, Livingston, Mount Pleasant, Paris, Quitman and Wood County and Tyler.

The bids will be studied with diligence to make sure they adhere to bid specifications and completeness, said Ed Cox Jr., president of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc. Valuation of all cash and in-kind contributions will be considered with special attention toward current values/front end cash in order to facilitate a timely start for engineering and construction.

Technical analysis of site proposals, water and environmental issues also will be reviewed, Cox said.

The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc., a tax-exempt entity established to develop and secure private resources for special, worthy projects within the scope of interest to the Foundation, and Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker Inc., are leading the way for a new hatchery. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is serving as technical advisor for project specifications.

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, expected to cost \$10 million to \$12 million, will facilitate research while emphasizing the production of Florida largemouth bass for stocking public waters in Texas. Designed to be an educational interpretive center featuring aquaria and other exhibits, the hatchery will focus on management and conservation of Texas' freshwater fisheries resource. A Fishing Hall of Fame and historical museum are expected to be included in the project.

Final site selection will be made on or before Nov. 15.

"The foundation would like to express appreciation to all those communities who worked so hard to prepare a proposal, Cox said. "Hopefully, there will be other projects in the future in which we can involve you.

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TEXANS HEADING FOR GOOD DEER SEASON

AUSTIN--Deer across Texas are in good shape with most areas of the state receiving sufficient rainfall for the second consecutive year. Most of these same areas, though, have been dry for weeks and could use more rain before winter

Even with the recent dry weather, most regions of the state have good vegetation which could make hunting difficult.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists began annual deer census surveys in mid-July and results won't be complete until some time in late October. However, biologists who are conducting the field surveys are aware of current conditions in their particular area.

EDWARDS PLATEAU

Deer in the Edwards Plateau are looking good. The eastern half of the region appears to be in better shape than the western half because of a recent dry spell, said Roy Welch, TPWD wildlife biologist from San Marcos.

"It looks real good. Deer numbers are up a little from last year and fawn survival was good, he said. 'The eastern part of the Edwards Plateau is in better range conditions than the western part because they had a little more rain. Even with that, all the deer are in good shape.

The acorn crop is spotty across the region. Some areas have quite a few acorns while other areas have none.

"Where there are a lot of acorns it will be hard hunting because they won't have to search for food as much," Welch said. "The deer are going into the season in pretty good shape over here.

OAK PRAIRIE

As with most of the state, the Oak Prairie had good rainfall until about a month ago, providing good vegetation and cover for a deer population that remained stable overall in the area, according to Bob Carroll, TPWD wildlife biologist from La Grange.

"The deer are in pretty good condition because we had a good rainfall year he said. "It's dry right now, but the acorns are falling. That should give the deer a boost for a little while."

The acorn crop is spotty. There's not enough across the region to affect those hunting over deer feeders.

Carroll said fawn survival also is spotty, up in the coastal counties but down some in the northern part of the district. The same goes for the deer population, up in some counties but down in others. Antler production is average to above average.

"We had good rain up until the last month, he said. We got past our bad stress period, the summer. The deer are in good shape now and I believe they'll be in good shape when the season opens."

PANHANDLE

Once again timely rainfall produced suitable vegetation for the deer herd.

"I feel pretty good about the mule deer and the whitetails," said Danny Swepston, TPWD wildlife biologist from Amarillo. "It rained over the majority of our district at some time during the summer."

Swepston said the rainfall has helped in all areas. The deer are in good condition and the whitetail fawn crop seems to be up. Biologists also noticed some nice mule deer and whitetail racks during census counts.

"Things are getting a little dry, but what we're seeing now are in good shape, he said. "Whitetail hunting probably will be pretty tough because of the thick vegetation, at least until we have a heavy frost."

"I imagine we're going to have a good year, as good or a little better than last year."

PINEYWOODS

Good early rainfall helped the Pineywoods but dry conditions for several weeks continue to send range conditions downhill.

"We've had spotty rainfall since June. Some areas are holding well, some are dry," said Gary Spencer, TPWD wildlife biologist from Jasper. "If we don't get some rain quickly we'll have a pretty bad stress period for the deer. The deer are in pretty good shape right now, but the dry weather concerns me."

It's not all bad news, though. A good acorn crop is beginning to fall and if the dry weather stays, it'll definitely help hunters find the deer.

Spencer said preliminary information indicates a 40 percent to 60 percent fawn crop, the same as last year, and "pretty good for this area. The deer population remained stable."

"A few areas had increases and some had decreases. It was a mixed bag, he said. "The deer population has been going down since 1987. It seems like it's leveled off now. I think hunters will find more bucks this year."

POSSUM KINGDOM

The deer outlook in the Possum Kingdom region is excellent, said Larry Holland, TPWD wildlife biologist from Brownwood. Deer are in good shape, there is a good acorn crop and vegetation is doing well.

"I expect this to be an outstanding year, especially concerning the quality of deer," he said. "Some census lines should show an increase, some a decrease. Much of the decreases I'm attributing to reduced visibility caused by dense vegetation. I hope that's part of it."

The vegetation is excellent for this time of year. The region has received little rain the last couple of months but a good deal of ground cover remains. "We should go into the season with above average conditions," Holland said. "All of the deer are in very good shape. Often at this time of year they are poor and skinny."

"I would expect better fawn survival," he said. "The last couple of years the fawns have been harder for the predators to find. It should improve the fawning success."

POST OAK SAVANNAH

The Post Oak Savannah deer herd should be similar to last year. Decent rainfall during the year has helped vegetation, but like other areas, a lack of rain for several weeks is beginning to have its effects.

"Overall, we had some fair amounts of rainfall that resulted in fairly good range conditions. That's the largest reason why we'll have a sizable deer herd this year," said Nathan Garner, TPWD wildlife biologist in Tyler. "Rainfall affects nutrients and nutrients affect body condition. The better the body condition the better the reproduction rate and herd health in general."

Garner said the deer population is similar to last year's and the deer are in good condition.

"The summer hasn't been too bad. We haven't had rain in a month or so, but we did during the critical fawning period. Hopefully, it helped the fawn crop," he said. "If the mothers are in good physical conditions, it increases the survival chances of fawns."

The biggest problem hurting the deer herd, Garner said, is overgrazing the habitat. The Post Oak Savannah only has fair range conditions.

"We need rain, the sooner the better," he said.

SOUTH TEXAS

South Texas deer hunters could be in for one of the best seasons in years, according to Jay Williams, TPWD wildlife biologist from San Antonio.

'It looks real good. The deer numbers seem high. We had an excellent fawn crop and the range conditions are good, body conditions are good and antlers are good.

Williams said he is reasonably sure the fawn crop is improved over last year and some good rains in parts of South Texas helped the vegetation. He said it's getting dry in some areas but range conditions are still in good shape.

'We're going into the season in very good shape,' he said. 'Hunting prospects this year are very good.'

TRANS-PECOS

As with all areas of the state, the Trans-Pecos received its share of spring and summer rains that have left range conditions in good shape, said Bob West, TPWD regional wildlife director from San Angelo.

'Ranger conditions are good. Deer body conditions look real good,' he said. 'I really don't know what they (biologists) are seeing relative to fawn survival, but I have no reason to believe that there won't be a reasonably good fawn crop on the ground.'

Although the Trans-Pecos has been dry for a few weeks, good moisture in the summer has left better than normal range conditions, West said.

'The deer are in good shape. It should be at least a good year for antler development. I wouldn't say it's excellent, but it should be good,' he said. 'Deer will be in good condition going into the season.'

The archery season runs through Nov. 1 statewide. The general whitetail season is Nov. 7-Jan. 3 for most of the state and Nov. 14-Jan. 10 in South Texas. The general mule deer season is Nov. 21-Dec. 6 in the Panhandle and Nov. 28-Dec. 13 in the Trans-Pecos. For bag limits check your local county listing.

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MEETINGS SET ON TEXOMA STRIPER OPTIONS

AUSTIN--The Lake Texoma Association is scheduled to host public meetings on options for changing Lake Texoma striped bass harvest regulations on Oct. 19 in Denison and Oct. 20 in Durant, Okla.

The meetings, scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., are scheduled for Oct. 19 in the Eisenhower Auditorium at Denison High School and Oct. 20 in the Bryan County Extension Building at the Bryan County Fair Grounds in Durant.

Current Lake Texoma regulations allow anglers to harvest 15 striped bass per day with only one allowed to be 20 inches or longer. Anglers are not allowed to replace stripers in a livewell or on a stringer with fish caught later.

"The striped bass population in Lake Texoma is biologically sound and is in no danger of depletion. Reproduction and recruitment are good and growth is satisfactory," said Phil Durocher, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's inland fisheries branch chief.

"The options are designed to consider anglers' desires for more large stripers (longer than 20 inches) and a reduction of the waste associated with mortality of caught and released fish, he said. "The options reflect the current striped bass population status that shows an abundance of stripers smaller than 20 inches but no improvement in the number of stripers longer than 20 inches."

The proposed options are:

Option 1 - From March 1 through Aug. 31, the daily bag limit would be five stripers, all stripers caught would have to be kept up to the daily bag limit (no catch and release) and no length limits would be in effect. From Sept. 1 through the last day of February, current regulations would be in effect.

Option 2 - From March 1 through Aug. 31, the daily bag limit would be five stripers, all stripers caught would have to be kept up to the daily bag limit (no catch and release), the use of natural baits - live or dead - for stripers would not be allowed (an angler could not possess stripers and natural bait at the same time) and no length limits. From Sept. 1 through the last day of February, current regulations would be in effect.

Option 3 - During the entire year, the daily bag limit would be five stripers, all stripers caught would have to be kept up to the daily bag limit (no catch and release) and no length limits or restrictions on natural bait use would be in effect.

Option 4 - Same as the current regulations except to prohibit the use of natural bait when fishing for stripers.

For all options, no chumming with natural bait or culling would be allowed.

The options were developed during discussions between fisheries and law enforcement officials from the TPWD and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Statewide striper regulations are an 18-inch minimum length limit, five daily bag limit and 15 in possession. On Lake Toledo Bend, there is no minimum length limit, the daily bag limit is five and no more than two stripers longer than 30 inches may be retained each day.

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40 CADETS SELECTED FOR GAME WARDEN SCHOOL

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's 43rd Game Warden Cadet School began its six-month training program Oct. 1 with 40 cadets. The school will conclude April 9.

The list of 40 was pared from 1,367 applicants who took a written test in March, the first step in being accepted into game warden school.

Cadets will undergo a physically and mentally intense training program, said Commander Royce Wells, training commander. They will be trained in game and fish enforcement duties, basic peace officer duties and fish and wildlife habitat and identification.

There are several steps that must be taken to be accepted into the academy.

First, cadets had to meet minimum eligibility requirements, including a degree from an accredited college or university or 60 college hours and a specific work history. Next, they had to finish in the top 27 percent of those taking a written exam. Then, the top 27 percent were taken after background investigations. Of the 208 that made it to Austin for a final interview, 40 were chosen.

The average age of the cadets is 29.6 years. Most of the cadets have college degrees.

"We've got a highly qualified group of cadets," Wells said.

"We're very excited to have this caliber of outstanding cadets join Texas Parks and Wildlife Department," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "We need people of this caliber to continue to protect and preserve our state's valuable resources."

Upon graduation on April 9, the cadets will fill the 40 statewide vacancies, most of which are on the coast.

Names, hometowns and ages of those accepted as cadets are:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>AGE</u>
Marco A. Alvizo	Eden	27
Darla B. Barr	Whitesboro	24
Kris R. Bishop	San Antonio	34
Donald M. Blount	San Angelo	35
Michael C. Boone	Huntsville	25
Randall S. Brown	Eola	29
Patrick A. Canan	Wichita Falls	35
John W. Feist	Wallisville	36
Ernesto R. Garcia	Rosharon	27
Jeff D. Gillenwaters	Brazoria	32
Kevin L. Glass	College Station	26
Byron L. Green	Pottsboro	23
Christopher V. Green	Duncanville	31
Joseph L. Guidry	Fort Worth	23
Michael J. Hanson Jr.	Rusk	21
Calvin B. Harbaugh Jr.	San Antonio	24
Donna B. Hernandez	San Antonio	36
L. Brent Isom	Idalou	24
David P. Janssen	Bay City	26
Thomas F. Jenkins	Marshall	34
Grahame L. Jones	Houston	23
Robert P. Kana	Palacios	29
Hector S. Leandro	Eagle Pass	28

Neal R. McCarn	Corpus Christi	44
Scott D. McLeod	Devine	27
Joe D. McMahan	Electra	30
David L. Modgling	Junction	26
Kyle D. Morris	Jasper	25
Michael J. Morse	Lampasas	33
Paul D. Muller	Marble Falls	46
Penelope "Penny" Nixon	Del Rio	33
Jeffery T Parrish	Calliham	37
Kerry L. Peterson	Mason	32
William J. Plumas	San Antonio	24
Alan D. Teague	Portland	27
Robert J. Waggett Jr.	Highlands	26
Wesley W. Wagstaff	Sour Lake	30
Michael S. Wheelington	San Antonio	38
Malcolm L. Wilkes	Rockdale	32
John G. Williford	Austin	25
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WHITETAIL MANAGEMENT TAGS HEARINGS SET

AUSTIN--The public will have an opportunity to provide input on a proposed pilot program to implement white-tailed deer herd management tags during eight public hearings scheduled around the state.

Deer herd management tags are designed to prevent habitat degradation through overpopulation of deer. Under the proposal, tags will not be issued until a department approved management plan that specifies the need to harvest 40 or more antlerless deer is presented.

The tags will allow a designated harvester to take deer in excess of his daily bag limit, up to the number of tags issued to the landowner. Landowners will have to pay to get into the program and pay a set fee per tag.

Meat from deer with these tags will be contributed to charity at the landowner's expense. The landowner will provide one guided quality buck hunt of no more than three days to a public hunter chosen by the department by random drawing.

Deer herd management tags will be available to the first 20 eligible landowners who apply for the 1992-93 season.

The meetings, all scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., will be at:

- * Alice, Oct. 20, Jim Wells County Courthouse, Commissioner's Courtroom.
- * Austin, Oct. 19, TPWD Hearing Room, 4200 Smith School Road.
- * Bryan, Oct. 21, Brazos County Courthouse.
- * Llano, Oct. 19, Llano County Courthouse, District Courtroom.
- * Nacogdoches, Oct. 20, Nacogdoches County Courthouse, District Courtroom.
- * San Angelo, Oct. 19, Tom Green County, J.P. Court, Room 122.
- * Stephenville, Oct. 19, Erath County Courthouse.
- * Uvalde, Oct. 23, Uvalde Civic Center, 300 E. Main.

The management tags proposal will be voted on by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its Nov. 5 meeting in Austin.

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STATE PARKS AWAIT FALL COLORS

AUSTIN--October and November will set Texas forests ablaze with red, orange and gold as tree leaves make their annual color transformations, and state parks offer some of the best sites to witness nature's annual pageant.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff have set up a brand new Fall Color Hotline for Lost Maples State Natural Area, one of the most popular Texas locations to see the autumn leaves turn. The hotline number is (512) 389-4738. It will offer recorded information that will be updated each Thursday and will run through the end of November. The hotline will pertain to Lost Maples only.

Generally, trees in Texas begin turning color in late October and reach maximum color by mid-November. Carotenoid color pigments that produce red, orange and yellow are always present in leaves, but for most of the year they are masked by the dominant green of chlorophyll. In fall, the trees go dormant and chlorophyll withdraws from the leaves, leaving behind the brilliant colors of fall.

Here is a regional breakdown of expected fall color highlights in Texas:

East Texas Pineywoods

This is the heart of Texas forest country, and it features some of the finest fall colors in the state. Evergreen trees mixed among the bottomland hardwoods provide a deep green backdrop against which the colors of autumn unfold.

Trees which change color in autumn here include sassafras, which turn orange-red; hickories, which turn varying shades of yellow to gold; sweet gum, which turns brilliant yellow; black gum, which turns scarlet red; and sycamore, which turns yellow. Other trees include oaks, maple, sumac, dogwood, green ash and white ash, which turn various shades of yellow and red.

Beautiful sites for fall color in this region include the following state parks: Jim Hogg State Historical Park and the Texas State Railroad near Rusk, Cassells Boykin and Martin Dies, Jr. near Jasper, Lake Livingston, Mission Tejas, Caddoan Mounds near Alto, Huntsville, Tyler, Atlanta, Daingerfield, Martin Creek Lake and Lake Bob Sandlin.

Central Texas Hill Country

This area near San Antonio and Austin is a spectacular part of the state for fall color.

Of special note is Lost Maples State Natural Area, perhaps the best known fall color site in the state. This site is famous for its big-tooth maples, which move through a striking panorama of color changes in autumn. These maples usually turn yellow in mid-October, orange by mid-November, and hit their full color burst of mostly red by late November, though climate conditions can vary this schedule.

Another interesting site note: Palmetto State Park near Luling offers a striking contrast toward the end of the color season between the evergreen dwarf palmetto (from which the park gets its name) and its deciduous neighbors, oaks, pecan, cedar elm, sycamore, sugarberry, cottonwood, bald cypress and anaqua.

Here are some other trees that provide special autumn viewing in this region:

The choke cherry's leaves turn bright yellow, and it also shows a colorful berry. Sumacs turn bright red in mid-October. Spanish oaks turn darker red later in fall during late-November or early December. The soap berry turns yellow. The larger leaves of the post oak turn reddish-brown. The leaves of the river bottom sycamore show less color, but are very noticeable due to their larger size.

Bald cypress trees, especially visible at Kerrville and Garner State Parks, turn from green to bronze in fall. Other trees that turn color here include black walnut, cedar elm and pecan.

Great sites for fall color in this area include the following state parks and natural areas: Honey Creek, Guadalupe River, Blanco, McKinney Falls, LBJ State Historical Park, Pedernales, Enchanted Rock, Kerrville, Lost Maples, Palmetto, Hill Country and Garner.

West Texas Edwards Plateau

Although better known for its desert vastness, the part of this region closer to the hill country does offer its own brand of autumn beauty.

Trees which offer pockets of fall color in this area include pecan, post oak, Spanish oak, elm, scrub oak, walnut, hackberry and various small woody plants. These turn bright yellow, orange and red in late October or November.

The best state parks for fall color in west Texas are South Llano River, Fort McKavett and Devils River State Natural Area.

(NOTE: Color slides of state park fall colors are available to the news media. Contact Tom Harvey at 512-389-4453.)

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VOLUNTEERS CLEAN BEACH AT MATAGORDA ISLAND

PORT O'CONNOR--Matagorda Island State Park is considerably cleaner in the wake of the recent Beach Trash Off. The all-volunteer effort was critical since the island is only accessible by boat or plane and there is no regular waste disposal service available.

Twenty-four local volunteers removed 4,000 pounds of trash from one mile of the most heavily visited stretch of beach. Items collected ranged from rope to 55 gallon drums to plastic to glass.

The Beach Trash Off was made possible by the donation of a 40-yard transport container provided by Waste Management Inc. of Victoria. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided a motor barge for the project and the volunteers got a free ride to the island aboard the Matagorda Island State Park ferry.

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Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.555
Oct. 7, 1992

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Oct. 7:

CENTRAL

BELTON: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 6 pounds, 9 ounces on spinners, Ring Rascals and Crinkle Cuts in deep and shallow water; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good on Flea Flies in 8-10 feet of water; white bass are fairly good on topwaters, no limits caught; catfish are good to 7 pounds on shrimp.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair from 2 to 5 pounds under lights at night on jigs and live bait; crappie are fair off docks on chartreuse and brown and red jigs early; white bass are fair late, with some schooling in deep water; yellow catfish are good to 30 pounds on live bait with trotlines; channel catfish are good from docks in deep water on shrimp.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 79 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are good through 6 pounds, 12 ounces on pigs and jigs; striper are good through 10 pounds on live bait, limits daily; crappie are good in 10-12 feet of water on structure with minnows; white bass are good around Garrett Island on slabs and jigs under birds; catfish are good up river on trotlines baited with fresh shad.

CANYON: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 10 feet of water; striper are good on minnows also; white bass are fair on minnows; catfish are slow.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on plastic worms and spinners; striper are poor; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows and small spinners; white bass are fair to 8 fish per string on spinners and crappie jigs; yellow catfish are good to 42 pounds on trotlines with live bait; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds on worms and shrimp.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 8 pounds all week on topwaters, worms, lizards, slabs and water dogs; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are excellent to 19 pounds on rod and reel with water dogs and slabs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair and improving to 6 pounds on spinners and buzz baits early and late, Carolina worms and cranks are good during the day; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; catfish are good to 4 pounds on rod and reel baited with catfish bait and shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear, 78 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 9 pounds, 12 ounces on chartreuse DB#3s; striper are slow; crappie are good off docks with structure with minnows, limits daily; white bass are good in main lake under birds; catfish are good in baited holes with stinkbait and shrimp.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 3 feet low and falling; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on chartreuse Bulldog spinners and Jawtec Wacky Craws; crappie are slow; white bass are schooling early and late at the

dam on Rattle Traps and spoons; catfish are slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; all fishing has been slow due to low number of fishermen.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good with schooling in shallow water on Rattle Traps and many other baits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 78 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; largemouth bass are excellent to 75 fish per day per boat to 4 pounds on chrome topwaters, orange bellied cranks and gold Rogues; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on same lures with frequent limits; striper are slow; crappie are fair on live minnows in 20 feet of water around docks; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on freshly cut bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 76 degrees, 2 foot, 10 inches low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on Western Worms and spinners; small mouth bass are good to 6 1/4 pounds on same baits; striper are good to 12 pounds on cut bait, live bait and downrigging white jigs; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds on minnows up river; white bass are good to 2 pounds on slab spoons; catfish are slow.

NORTHEAST

CADDO: Water clear, 6 inches low; black bass are slow; crappie and all fishing has been slow; only fair numbers of fishermen on the lake.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on black and blue Craw Worms; crappie are good with limits caught on minnows in 18-20 feet of water; catfish are good to 15 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 inches below normal level; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on topwaters; hybrid striper are slow to 10 pounds on shad; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on blood bait; redfish are slow to 20 pounds on cranks.

FORK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 3 feet low due to dam repairs; black bass are fair to good to 9 pounds on plum colored worms; crappie are good with limits in 16 to 25 feet in 35 feet of water, mostly around bridges; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 76 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on 3/8-ounce black and blue jigs in 10 feet of water, good numbers also caught on white spinners and medium diving cranks in shallow water; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are good around boat houses in 20 feet of water on dark colored jigs and live minnows; white bass are fair around the island in 20-25 feet of water on slab spoons and topwaters early and late; catfish are slow, some small catfish caught in 15 to 20 feet of water on shrimp and dead shad.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on Carolina rigged worms; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 18 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on crawfish.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal winter level; black bass are fairly good to 7

pounds on Carolina Rigged French Fries, buzz baits, Texas rigged black neon Ring Rascals; crappie are fair in 12-15 feet of water along the river channel on minnows; catfish are good to 12 pounds on nightcrawlers drifting; white bass are fair on small cranks.

LAVON: Water clear, 76 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are excellent to 5 1/2 pounds; crappie are very good with a few limits on minnows and or jigs in 14 feet of water around stumps; white bass are good at times, some limits, fishing generally spotty on slabs, spoons and L'il Georges; catfish are excellent to 7 pounds on live bait and jug lines.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 76-82 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on worms and spinners in shallow water; striper are good to 8 1/2 pounds on live shad; crappie are good on minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass are good early and late; catfish are good to 14 pounds on shrimp and cut shad.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps and DB#3s; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 7 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are good to 8 fish per string on minnows and jigs in 6-8 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 72 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 10 pounds, 8 ounces on worms and buzz baits early and late, several to 7 pounds on topwaters and worms; crappie are picking up on minnows under the bridge and piers; catfish are good to 4 pounds on night crawlers and cut shad; bream are slowing down, some caught on worms.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10.19 pounds on black lizards; crappie are food at night on minnows; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on dough baits.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 4-5 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 20 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds in 30 feet of water on jigs and pigs, others at 18 feet on spinners; crappie are good and suspended at 12 feet around cedar trees; white bass are fair along the dam on Rattle Traps and slabs; catfish are good to 8 pounds on frozen shad, live perch and shrimp.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 78 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners and topwaters, good numbers of undersized schooling bass caught; crappie are good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fair on slabs, fish seem to be moving a good bit; catfish are excellent in baited holes with cheese baits on rod and reel, shad and perch are good on trotlines.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 78 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 2 pounds on worms and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are good to 2 pounds on slabs and jigs at night; catfish are excellent to 4 pounds on

bloodbait.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 76 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good through 5 pounds on dark worms and topwaters; striper are good to 12 pounds on live bait, slabs and topwaters; crappie are good through to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are excellent with schooling all over the lake, best baits are Sassy Shad; catfish are good to 24 pounds on shad and cut bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water discolored on south end, clear up north, 72 degrees, seasonal normal level; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps, worms, jigs, spinners and deep diving cranks; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on jigs, fish seem to be moving into clearer and deeper water; white bass are good in the main lake and below the dam in the discharge area; catfish are fair to 18 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait, shad, catalpa worms and nightcrawlers; bream are good in the main lake and below the dam on red wigglers and crickets.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 72 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are improving with several 4s and 5s on a wide variety of baits with spinners early and worms later in the date; crappie are fair to good under bridges, fish seem to be moving toward shallow water; catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on catfish baits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on 8 inch black worms near the dam; crappie are good to 25 fish per string to 14 inches each on minnows; catfish are good to 5 pounds on rod and reel with live worms at the island.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 72 degrees, 3 inches below pool; black bass are moving into the creeks, many limits to 6 1/2 pounds early and late caught on buzz baits, cranks early and late, worms good in the middle of the day; striper are slow; crappie are improving in the creeks and from boat docks on minnows to 15 keepers per day; white bass are good a half hour before dark all over the lake while chasing shad on the surface, limits are fairly easy during surfacing; catfish are fairly slow, most are caught in the river channel in deep water.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are slow; striper slow; crappie and all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen; catfish are good to 3 pounds from the dock on catalpa worms.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 73 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 1/4 pounds on topwaters, spinners and worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair on shiners and crappie jigs in 16 to 33 feet of water; catfish are fair to 50 pounds on live bait, worms in baited holes.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 3/4 pounds on spinners, buzz baits early and late in shallow water, Bombers and Power Worms are good in the middle of the day; striper are picking up to 10 pounds on Bananahead jigs and larger slabs; crappie are fair, no great numbers caught, on minnows; white bass are good all over the

lake on slabs, spoons minnows; catfish are good in 10 to 70 feet of water on stinkbait, cheese bait, shrimp and night crawlers.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in number but no keepers caught on spoons and Power Worms; catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on liver; blue catfish are fair to 22 pounds; redfish are fairly good to 17 pounds from the boats trolling gold spoons with some red and live perch.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 4 pounds, 12 ounces on artificials; striper are slow; catfish are fairly slow; redfish are slow to 3 pounds; corvina are slow to 12 pounds, 14 ounces on live perch.

CHOKO: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3/4-foot low; black bass are good through 10 1/2 pounds early on spinners, Rattle Traps and topwaters in 2-6 feet of water in the grass beds; striper are slow; crappie are fair to good in 30 feet of water at the dam and 99 bridge and Possum Creek and Four Fingers Cove on live minnows; white bass are fair to 2 pounds trolling in the dam area; catfish are good to 5 pounds on rod and reel; blue catfish are good in the 10 to 50 pound range on cheese bait, cut bait, shrimp and live bait on jug lines.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 83 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 14 inches on spinners; crappie are fair to 13 inches on minnows; catfish are fair to 9 inches up on live perch and liver.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds in 3 feet of water on chartreuse willow leaf spinners, Berkley Power Worms are best later in 5-8 feet of water; crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows off state park piers and at the buoy line and Alice Pump House in 12 to 15 feet of water; striper are slow in lake, striper are good below the dam on white Bananahead jigs and live shad; blue and channel catfish are improving to 22 and 3 1/2 pounds respectively on trotlines baited with shad and soap.

FALCON: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on red shad Power Worms; striper are slow; crappie are small on flies and minnows around the docks; white bass are good with limits on Knocker Spoons; catfish are fairly slow to 3 pounds with some limits caught on shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on PopRs and Long As early and Power worms later in the day; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on little Georges trolled; catfish are good to 3 pounds on night crawlers and shrimp.

TEXANA: Water stained or murky, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the jungle area to 5 pounds on Slug-Gos; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string in the Navidad on minnows; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on live perch baited trotlines.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on buzz baits and spinners; striper are poor; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are poor; catfish are poor.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 5.83 pounds on artificials; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows up the rivers; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

KEMP: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair on artificials; crappie are slow; white bass slow; yellow and blue catfish are good to 5 pounds on dead shrimp.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 3 1/2 pounds on lures and minnows; crappie are good under shad around 3 a.m. on minnows; white bass are good in the same area at the same time; catfish are good to 23 1/2 pounds on liver and small perch; walleye are good to 6 1/4 pounds on minnows in shallow water near brush.

O.H. IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 73 degrees, lake full; black bass are excellent to 20 inches on worms and buzz baits in 2 to 20 feet of water in the upper end around 1929 bridge and along the ridges and points either trolling or casting, some boats released up to 90 fish per boat per day with good numbers caught all over the lake; small mouth bass are good in number; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 10-20 feet of water along brushy ridges; channel and blue catfish are good to 5 pounds on trotlines and rod and reels on the flats and up rivers; yellow catfish are fair to 15 pounds up river on trotlines with live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 77 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on soft plastic jerk baits and Bass Assassins worked slowly; striper are schooling and spotty, some are hitting topwaters; crappie are fair under brushed docks and in baited holes to 15 inches; white bass are good late while schooling on jigs and topwaters with white buck tails; catfish are slow, a few small channels caught under the docks; trotline activity is slow.

PROCTOR: Water a little murky, 3 feet above normal level; black bass are improving to 2 pounds on plastic worms; striper are poor; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; catfish are slow.

SPEENCE: Water clear, 77 degree, 23 feet low; black bass are hitting around the mouth of Paint Creek, biggest fish were in the 5-6 pound range and were caught on plastic worms; striper are good to 14 pounds on slabs, cut bait; crappie are slow; catfish are good on trotlines to 6 pounds on shiners and nightcrawlers.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Tides have been high, some roads have been covered; some redfish, specks and undersized drum and very large sheepshead along the Louisiana bayous and at the mouth of the intake canal; good numbers of fish caught south of the islands; live bait shrimp available at 6 cents each.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has been improving; limits of redfish caught around the jetties, causeway bridge, blue Buck Point and in the ship channel; limits of specks caught over the reef in the south end of the lake; flounder are good near the causeway bridge and in the ship channel; live bait shrimp scarce.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of flounder caught in the channels

and around the jetties; best catches are made on mud minnows; good numbers of pan fish, such as golden croaker, spot croaker and whiting; specks are scarce; good numbers of bull redfish caught in the surf and at the jetties; good numbers of snapper limits from offshore; good numbers of shark caught offshore; live bait shrimp available in the \$10 to \$12 range; bay and gulf waters are in good shape; weather is pleasant.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishermen caught good numbers of snapper Sunday and Monday to 20 pounds with several more than 10 pounds about 50 miles offshore; several kingfish in the 12 to 18 pound range also landed in the same area; good numbers of vermillion snapper also caught.

PORT OCONNOR: Offshore fishing is excellent when boats can get out with limits of big snapper, good numbers of shark and Spanish mackerel; bay fishermen are catching redfish, trout and big sheepshead around the jetties; redfish and trout are caught at the jetties, Cattle Pens and at the Cedars; Fish Pond, Mule Slough, Big Pocket, Pringle Lake and the Lighthouse; Boggy Bayou producing redfish and trout to 6 pounds; tides dropping midweek and fishing should improve; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart, live pinperch also available.

MATAGORDA: The mouth of the Colorado has good numbers of trout with a few keeper sized fish which are caught on chartreuse green Hogie's Swimming Shad; redfish are in abundance in West Matagorda with most fishermen getting limits of 26-28 inch fish on live finger mullet; fairly good numbers of flounder caught from the rivers, bays and canals; good numbers of sandtrout and a few specks caught in the new Matagorda Harbor; the jetty walkway has been producing redfish and trout; overall fishing has been good due to weather and high tides; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Good catches of redfish and trout from Green's Bayou, Middle Ground and Camp Hulen shoreline; best baits are live mullet and strawberry Swimming Shad with white tails and golden Johnson Sprites; good numbers of small trout showing up under the lights at the Pavilion, Turtle Bay and Carancahua Bay; trout and redfish are beginning to show up in the Carancahua and Tres Palacios Rivers; winds have been light and variable and tides have been 1 to 3 feet above normal level; live bait shrimp are scarce.

ROCKPORT: High tides had fish scattered over the weekend; tides seem to be dropping midweek; some trout and redfish caught in Aransas Bay and the flats of Redfish Bay; most all fishing has been drifting with live bait and/or chartreuse touts; a few flounder showing up; the cold front should cause a lot of activity; live bait shrimp are available at \$10 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Specks caught in Corpus Christi Bay; tides are still high midweek, water has a lot of floating grass; some redfish caught in the flats; not many fishermen out; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart. Offshore fishermen have been catching snapper to 26 pounds, most are in the 3-4 pound range, and amberjack which are slowing down some; tuna slow also; water has turned murky since the

north winds; four sailfish caught last weekend by the Sapphire and Bottom Dollar.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Fishing has been slow in the Upper and Lower Lagunas; Baffin Bay water is murky. Tides have been high. Back Bay fishermen are catching redfish between the two power lines on live shrimp or live finger mullet; trout are caught along the causeway and Indian Point on live shrimp or live croaker; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing has been fairly slow; tides are very high; scattered fish are found north of the East Cut; good numbers of undersized specks caught, scattered redfish and trout caught south of Port Mansfield; live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of herd redfish caught in front of the condos north of the new causeway; most were oversized; fishing the herds should continue until the next front; trout picking up to 5 pounds, a few limits averaging 3 pounds, mostly on the west side, south of Unnecessary in the potholes, good numbers also caught off Walt's Bar; good numbers of redfish to 27 inches north of Cullen's House; jetties are producing good numbers of golden croaker and small blacktip, fantastic numbers of sandtrout; few kingfish and good numbers of bonito offshore; off the pier, good strings of sandtrout, some whiting, great numbers of golden croaker to 1 pound and mangrove snapper to 3/4 pound; plenty of live bait shrimp at \$10 per quart.

PH 10/7/92

