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SPRING TURKEY HUNT APPLICATIONS STILL AVAILABLE

AUSTIN -- Prospective spring turkey hunters have until Feb. 17 to submit applications for public hunts on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife management areas (WMAs) during March and April.

Herb Kothmann, public hunt coordinator, said approximately 400 permits will be issued after hunters are selected by computer drawing. Hunts are planned on six WMAs, and a fee of \$20 will be charged each hunter selected.

Application forms and instruction sheets are available from regional wildlife or law enforcement offices and wildlife management areas. They also may be obtained from Austin headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112.

Completed cards must be received in the Austin office by 5 p.m. Feb. 17. Kothmann said the standby hunter program will be in effect on all areas to make hunting available to standbys in the event that some applicants selected in the drawing do not accept their hunts.

Applicants for hunt vacancies should report in person to the check station location indicated for respective areas at 11 a.m. on hunt start 2

Permits are issued for a two-day hunt beginning at noon the first day and ending at noon the third day Bag limit will be one turkey gobbler per hunter

The WMAs to be hunted, the dates and number of permits to be issued are

-- James E Daughtrey WMA, Live Oak and McMullen Counties, March 20-22, 27-29; 80 permits

-- Gus Engeling WMA, Anderson County, April 10-12

80 permits

-- Gene Howe WMA, Hemphill County, April 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 60 permits

-- Honey Creek WMA, Comal County, April 4-6, 6-8 20 permits

-- Kerr WMA, Kerr County, April 4-6, 9-11, 16-18 80 permits

-- Matador WMA, Cottle County, April 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 80 permits

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STATE RECORD BLUEFISH CAUGHT IN GULF

AUSTIN -- A 16-pound, 10-ounce bluefish caught from the Gulf of Mexico off Freeport on Jan 11 has been certified as a new state record

Alex Koumonduros of Houston caught the fish about 45 miles offshore The former record bluefish weighed 11 pounds, seven ounces

Other saltwater records recently certified include a two-pound, 10-ounce cutlassfish caught by H J Smith of Houston on Jan 1; a four-pound, three-ounce almaco jack caught by Rusty Schwartz of Houston on Nov 22, 1986, and a two-pound, 11 8-ounce unicorn filefish caught by Stan Kruse of Arlington during May 1986

Persons catching prospective state record fish should obtain application forms from a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office JC 2/4/87

LONE STAR LUNKER GETS FOURTH BIG BASS

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TYLER -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department now has what is believed to be the largest collection of trophy-sized largemouth bass in the world at its Tyler Fish Hatchery

"As far as we know, there never have been four 13-pound-plus bass under one roof anywhere," said Bill Rutledge, TPWD hatchery chief. "And the best part is that all of them are alive and extremely healthy "

There now are four fish in the group, thanks to Dan Berg of Hilltop Lakes, who caught a 13-pound, eight-ounce largemouth at a private lake there Sunday and donated the fish to the "Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker" program. His fish joins two 13-pounders and Mark Stevenson's 17-pound, 11-ounce state record bass already at the hatchery

Unlike the previous fish, Berg's lunker was not caught on a jig-and-worm combination, but rather on a live shiner

The program is a joint effort by the TPWD and three corporate sponsors -- Lone Star Brewery, Cajun Boats and Jungle Labs, Inc Donors of 13-pound-plus bass receive publicity and the opportunity to eventually receive the fish mounted free, or they can elect to release the fish back into the lake and accept a fiberglass replica

The department's payoff is promotion of the concept of catch and release as well as the opportunity to use the big fish in hatchery production, where the genetic potential for growth may be passed on to offspring to be stocked in public waters

Rutledge said the state record fish and a 13-pounder, both caught from Lake Fork, were moved into a new 3,500-gallon tank purchased by the corporate sponsors on Monday

Also, Rutledge said that Gimble Alarm Services Co. of Tyler has installed an alarm system at the hatchery which will alert hatchery personnel of any power or equipment failures or attempted burglaries at the facility United Telephone Systems of Texas donated a pager system as a further safeguard for the fish

"The corporate sponsors are delighted that other individuals and companies are taking interest in the lunker program," Rutledge said

Persons catching bass that might qualify for the program may call tollfree 1-800-792-1112 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays After hours, call (512) 389-4848 in Austin, or the Tyler Hatchery at (214) 592-7570 JC 2/4/87

SAM RAYBURN FISHING HITS SPRINGTIME PACE

JASPER -- The calendar says it's still winter, but game fish at Sam Rayburn Reservoir are biting with springtime vigor, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Biologist Paul Seidensticker of Jasper said excellent catches have been reported recently for largemouth bass, white bass, hybrid striped bass and crappie

Department creel surveys, gill net samples and reports from anglers at the big East Texas lake all verify the spring surge

"Large female bass apparently are starting to move into shallower water (four to 10 feet) and getting more active as the water warms," Seidensticker said Recent catches include an 11-pound, two-ounce bass taken by Charlie Dixson of Jasper and a 10 8-pounder by Kelly Fight of Beaumont Gill net samples also produced a 9 6-pounder and several bass in the four- to sixpound class during January Numerous bass in the 15- to 18-inch length range also were collecteed, Seidensticker said

Crappie fishing has been outstanding in the river just above the main lake, with heavy catches reported from 10 to 18 feet of water Many limits of 25 crappie have been reported, and the fish are ranging from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 pounds, averaging 3/4 pound

Seidensticker said with the water temperature moving upward from the lower 50s, crappie will be moving into shallow areas and will stay there until late April

Large water releases from the dam are causing striped bass and hybrid stripers to congregate in the lower end of the lake, and good numbers of hybrids from four to 10 pounds are being caught

Fishing in the tailrace area below the dam also has been good for stripers and hybrids, with the largest recent catch being a 30-pound striper caught by Jim Powell of Jasper Other stripers ranging from 21 to 28 pounds also have been caught, Seidensticker said

Gill net collections reflect good numbers of white bass in the upper end of the lake as the fish are preparing for spawning runs up the Angelina and Attoyac Rivers Seidensticker said the fish should start moving up the streams during the next two to three weeks and continue spawning until

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early April

"Normally, fishing for one or two species of fish starts getting good this time of year, but this year it seems to all be happening at once," said Seidensticker "It would be an excellent time for anyone to get out and try their luck at Rayburn."

ANOTHER CONSERVATION RESERVE SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

AUSTIN -- Texas farmers and ranchers interested in participating in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) may apply during Feb 9-22, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The CRP is a program administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), offering landowners opportunity to receive payment for qualifying croplands taken out of production The CRP offers the dual benefits of erosion control and enhancement of wildlife habitat, said Ron George, CRP coordinator for the department

Interested landowners should contact their nearest ASCS office Also, a free leaflet explaining the program and its potential benefits for wildlife is available by writing the Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112

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AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by Parks and Wildlife for 2/4/87:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on crawdad colored jigs and cranks; hybrid striper slow; crapple slow, some landed; catfish fair to five pounds on night crawlers and stinkbait.

BELTON: Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass fair to two pounds on minnows and glitter worms; smallmouth bass fair to five pounds on minnows in the marina area; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair to 30 fish per string on white slabs; catfish fair to six fish per string to three pounds each on shrimp.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, normal level; black bass fairly slow to 3 1/2 pounds on artificials; striper slow; crappie good with good sized fish to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good but small on trotline baited with minnows.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on black jigs with pork rinds; striper fair to six pounds on white slabs in 35 to 45 feet of water; crappie fair with strings to 25 fish on minnows; white bass good with strings to 35 fish on silver spoons; catfish good to eight pounds on trotlines with shrimp.

CANYON: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass slow; smallmouth bass slow; crappie good to 40 fish per boat on minnows; striper fair to five pounds on jigging spoons in 45 feet of water; white bass excellent to 130 fish per string on slab spoons and Mann-O-Lures in 30-40 feet of water: catfish good to 4 1/2 pounds in baited holes in 45 feet of water.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 10 1/4 pounds on dark worms and lizards, spinners and jigs; crappie excellent day and night with limits easy on live minnows; catfish fairly slow. Good numbers of fishermen over weekend. GIBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear, 68 degrees, normal level;

GIBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass fair with three keepers to nine pounds on light colored spinners during week; good numbers of fish within the slot, some smaller keepers; crappie fair but not many fishermen; catfish fairly good on juglines to 16 pounds on liver; a total of 70 fishermen on lake midweek. No reservations needed, best to come early.

LBJ: Water clear to murky, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to three pounds on jig and eel up the Colorado arm; striper fair to five pounds on deep running cranks on lower end of lake; crappie fair with strings to 20 fish on minnows and white jigs; white bass good to 35 fish per string on silver cranks in shallow water of the Llano and Colorado arms; catfish good to 10 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, normal level; black bass fair slow; crappie fair; catfish fair; not many fishermen.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky, 3 1/2 feet high; black bass slow; striper fair over weekend to three pounds on minnows; crappie fair to one pound to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow to two pounds shrimp and Charly.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie good around marina, Cedar Gap Bridge, Bluff Park, on minnows; white bass slow due to lack of fishermen; catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 53 degrees, 18 inches high: black bass fairly good to 4 1/4 pounds in 10-20 feet of water on four inch grape worms, smoke glitter worms, smoke glitter grubs and live minnows in the middle of the day; striper slow; crappie fairly good in 20-40 feet of water: white bass fair up Colorado arm on slabs; catfish slow to three pounds on large minnows.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 47 degrees, normal level; black bass good up the creeks on jig and eel; striper good to 23 pounds in the creeks on one half ounce white jigs and Bomber Long A; crappie good under bridges and the river channel edge to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to three pounds up river trolling slabs and jigs: catfish good in 40-45 feet of water around state park to 4 1/2 pounds with limits. NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 54 degrees, overflowing one inch; black bass good through last weekend, picking up midweek again, with several limits to 7 1/2 pounds on big bladed spinners in chrome, bronze and copper in shallow water; Rogue and Devil's Horse have been good also in shallow water; crappie scattered and coming into shallow water under float set at two feet on minnows and jigs with limits of 25 fish fairly easily up the creek, in the coves; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 50 degrees, seven inches low; black bass fair to seven pounds in the creek channels on jig and pig and white spinners in five to six feet of water; crappie fair to 12 fish per string on minnows and jigs in 10 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish slow; not many fishermen out midweek.

BRIDGEPORT Water clear, 53 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 10 fish per string to 2 1/2 pounds each on shrimp and worms. Good numbers of fishermen during the good weather.

CADDO: Water slightly muddy, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly good to five pounds on black pig and jigs, females full of eggs; hybrid striper slow; crapple good at night to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; pickerel, pike, jackfish improving daily on topwaters and spinners; catfish fair on yoyo at night with minnows, not many catfishermen.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 53 degrees, normal level; black bass good to six pounds on Rat-L-Traps and jig and pig in 8-15 feet of water: crappie fair in 30-35 feet of water to 10 fish per string on minnows; catfish good in 15-18 feet of water cutbait and shrimp.

FDRK: Water clear, 54 degrees, one foot low; black bass good to 12 pounds. 2 ounces on black, blue and brown jig and pig; crappie good with good numbers of limits to 2 1/2 pounds per fish on minnows in 35 feet of water; catfish good to 10 pounds in baited holes on trotline.

LAKE D THE PINES: Water clear, 56 degrees, six inches high; black bass good to six pounds on chartreuse Model A Bomber, white spinners; crappie excellent with good numbers of limits on jigs and minnows; white bass good on white jigs, Model A to four pounds; catfish slow.

LAVON: Water clear. 50 degrees, 2.75 feet low; black bass fair to four pounds on chartreuse spinners in shallow water; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds minnows and black and chartreuse jigs in shallow water: white bass fair to six fish per string on slabs and L il Georges; yellow catfish good to 17 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp while fishing for crappie.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 11 pounds, 4 ounces on black lizards and worms in 10 feet of water or less; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows in 20 feet of water; catfish super to 12 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 44 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie slow; white bass fair to 12 fish per string on slabs in deep water; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Lake clear, murky above bridge, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass slow and small above 1971 bridge on white spinners; crappie good at night in Jones Branch on minnows with strings to 15 fish above 10 inches in length on minnows; catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds drifting along Boy Scout Camp on Canadian crawlers.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 52 degrees, six inches high; black bass good to seven pounds, nine ounces on black and blue jigs; striper slow; crappie good to 2 pounds with limits on jigs and minnows in shallow water; white bass slow; catfish fairly good on trotlines to 10 pounds on stinkbait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass good to eight pounds on jig and pig in 18 feet of water; striper fairly slow; crappie good to 20 fish per string to 1 1/4 pounds each on minnows; catfish good to 12 pounds bloodbait with trotline.

TAWAKONI Water clear, 42 degrees, normal level; black bass

slow; striper fairly slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to two pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp and shad. Not many fishermen, on three fishermen on lake midweek.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 44 degrees, one foot high; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds in 50-60 feet of water on cranks, chuggers, shad; striper fair in six to seven pound range on shad; crappie slow; white bass fair averaging one pound each on shad; catfish good in five to eight pound range on cutbait and shad on trotline.

WELSH: Water muddy, 64 degrees, six inches high; black bass good to 8 pounds, 2 ounces with six seven pounders this week on nine inch dark worms; crappie fair to 10 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds each on minnows; catfish excellent to 15 pounds with live bait on trotline.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass good to five pounds in 2-30 feet of water on jigs, cranks, worms, spoons; hybrid striper fair to 9 3/4 pounds on chrome Rat-L-Trap in 16 feet of water; crappie off and on to 12 fish per string on minnows and green jigs, biting light; catfish fairly good on rod and reel in baited holes to four pounds on nightcrawlers, stinkbait. Not many fishermen midweek. Papa Earl still catching crass carp. Some hydrilla appearing in the upper reaches of lake.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level black bass good to seven pounds on jigs; striper slow; crappie excellent to 3 1/2 pounds to 25 fish per fisherman at night on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

LIVINGSTON: Water clearing, still a little off color, 51 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 9 pounds, 7 ounces on buzz bait; striper slow; crappie improving since last week to 10 fish per string to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass slow, still up the river; yellow catfish fairly good on trotline to 65 pounds on live bait; blue catfish good to 45 pounds on trotline; channel catfish good to three pounds on trotline with stinkbait, shad, goldfish.

RAYBURN: Main lake clear, up river muddy, 51 degree, one foot above pool; black bass good to nine pounds mostly in shallow water on spinners, topwaters, Rat-L-Traps; striper slow to six pounds in 45 feet of water on Rat-L-Trap; crappie real good up the river in 45-50 feet of water fishing at 15 feet on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair in three to five pound range on shrimp and Charly.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, normal level; black bass fair to 6 1/2 pounds on jig and eel, one string of 10 fish weighed 37 pounds; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, seven feet low; black bass good to three pounds, not many big fish but good numbers of two-three pound fish, on worms and cranks in shallow water; striper fair to good in medium size on white one ounce ponyhead jigs; larger striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fairly good on white slabs and white Roadrunners up the river; catfish good coming to shallower water, generally found in 40 to 10 feet levels on cheese baits.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 58 degrees, six inches high; black bass slow to seven pounds on artificial lures; striper good averaging around five pounds on shrimp and liver; catfish fair to five pounds on liver and shrimp; redfish fair to 12 pounds on shrimp.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 57 degrees, six inches high; black bass excellent to 9 1/2 pounds on plastic worms, jig and eel, cranks spinners, 18 fish over four pounds in first three days of month; striper very good to four pound average on Phantoms and spoons; crappie poor; catfish slow; corvina slow; redfish slow.

CHOKE: Water clear, normal level; black bass slow; striper good to 14 pounds on cranks deep in dam area; crappie good in north end of lake on minnows in 2-5 feet of water; white bass good between Mason and Highway 99 boatramp; catfish good around Mason Point in 12-15 pound range on live bait and blood bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water murky, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper good to 8 pounds, 15 ounces, a new lake record, on slab spoons and jigs: crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish average in two to three pound range on minnows and cutbait. FALCON: Water clear, 57 degrees, nine foot low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair around boathouses on minnows; white bass good to 200 fish per boat on slabs; catfish improving to nine pounds on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 58 degrees, lake full; black bass improving since weekend to four pounds on jig and pig; hybrid striper slow; crappie fairly good at night to 30 fish per boat on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 1/2 pounds on trotline with stinkbait.

TEXANA: Water clear in jungle area, main lake muddy, normal level; black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners and worms; striper and white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish fairly good to eight pounds on trotline baited with cut shad.

WEST

BAYLOR: Water clear, 39 degrees, normal level; black bass slow: few fishermen out.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 5 pounds, 12 ounces on silver Rat-L-Trap; striper fair in five to eight pound range early around the outlet when generating on live bait and grubs; crappie slow; white bass fair around Pintop and 377 Bridge; catfish slow.

GREENBELT Water clear, 43 degrees, seven feet high: black bass slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow; walleye slow. Not many fishermen, area had 10 inches of snow. Weather improving.

HUBBARD CREEK Water clear, four feet low; black bass fair to six pounds on black four inch Ringworm in 3 1/2 feet of water around rocks; hybrid striper real good to six pounds with many limits on silver slabs; crappie slow; white bass fair; catfish fairly good to 51 pounds average about 10 pounds on trotline minnows.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 39 degrees, black bass slow; crappie slow; walleye slow; all fishing slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 58 degrees, lake full black bass fairly good in two to five pound range on pig and jig; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on slabs deep: catfish fair to 12 pounds on trotline while slabbing for white bass.

SPENCE: Water a little murky, 44 degrees, 16 feet low: black bass good to four pounds on chartreuse or yellow spinners; striper real good to 27 1/2 pounds on slabs and shiners; twenty fish above 20 pounds this past week; crappie fairly slow; white bass good to three pounds on slabs in 40-50 feet of water, fish right on bottom; catfish fairly slow, few fishermen out.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 44 degrees, lake full; black bass slow; all fishing slow, few fishermen.

COASTAL

SABINE LAKE: Good numbers of redfish and trout caught on the south end of the lake on touts and shrimp; good numbers of redfish and trout in the outfall canal, but fish stopped biting Monday; no live bait available. Weather nice, water in good shape midweek.

GALVESTON: Fishing up and down; West Bay best for specks to five pounds, most just over minimum size; many smaller fish are lightweight; most redfish caught in East Bay, three out of four under keeper size; most redfish caught on gold spoons; specks caught on strawberry Kelley Wigglers; sandtrout in all bays and around jetties; sheepshead plentiful to seven pounds at jetties; whiting good on Gulf Coast Pier; offshore producing good snapper catches at far banks to 10 pounds, most in 1 1/2 to 2 pound range; good numbers of gulf trout at short rigs; some warsaw to 40 pounds at the banks; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per guart.

FORT OCONNOR: Weather bad over weekend; a few trout and redfish in the back bays, no limits; a single flounder in Intracoastal; hardhead catfish coming in early, normally hardheads come in around Easter; gafftops and drum should start soon; live bait shrimp available \$7.50 to \$9.50 per quart.

PALACIOS: Redfish catches spotty and scattered; speck catches in good numbers to four pounds from the turning basins and deeper waters; wade fishermen are catching specks when tides in, tides have been fairly low lately; artificials in white and chartreuse best: live shimp scarce; weather balmy, calm winds.

ROCKPORT Trout good in 17 to 19 inch range along the old Copano Causeway on purple and red worms; the north end of California Hole producing limits of trout in two hours to 21 inches on white worms and purple master minnows; the Honey Hole near Hog Island producing good redfish to 25 inches on silver spoons with red or purple worm trailers; outside of Yucca Cut producing good numbers of trout on green worms with a silver spoons; sheepshead fairly good around Italian Bend in Copano Bay on dead shrimp; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50. Tides fairly low.

FORT ARANSAS: Redfish fairly good in 22-25 inch category with limits on live shrimp Redfish Bay and California Hole; trout fair around north jetties to 18 inches on live shrimp; live bait shrimp available at \$7 per quart. Bob Hall Pier producing a few trout to three pounds on Mir-O-Lures; a few whiting and croakers, a few sandtrout; some shark; gulf water beginning to warm up some live bait available.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of keeper size trout to 2.1/2 pounds, a few scattered redfish just above keeper size and a few flounder in the Corpus Christi area; Baffin Bay and Landcut producing specks to 30 inches with limits and good sized redfish to 26 inches and good sized flounder; some redfish along gulf on jetties and piers; live bait shrimp available from 8-12 cents each. Dso Pier producing whiting and a few trout most just above keeper size. Weather clear midweek.

BRDWNSVILLE: Redfish to 30 inches spread all over flats, Three Islands, West Bay; large groups of 16-18 inch fish sighted in the same areas, these should be keepers by fall; good sized trout in the flats; live bait available from \$7.50 to \$8.50.

PORT ISABEL: Trout good to four pounds and redfish to eight pounds around Three Islands, some limits on redfish; strawberry worms and tout best baits; bay party boats fairly slow; snapper good at close and far banks averaging 1 1/2 pounds each, some to eight pounds; live bait available at \$10 per quart. PH 2/4/87