

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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CONSERVATION PASSPORTS TO GO ON SALE EARLY

AUSTIN--Public sale of the Texas Conservation Passport will begin on Aug. 26, six days earlier than expected. Park visitors who "buy early" will not have to pay state park entry fees on the Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30-Sept. 1.

"We were able to advance our schedule for selling the Texas Conservation Passports so our Labor Day weekend visitors could get a break on entry fees," said Ron Holliday, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's public lands division. The sale of Conservation Passports previously was set for Sept. 1.

The \$25 annual passport provides a waiver of park entry fees, camping and other discounts, and is a way for everyone to contribute directly to the preservation and enjoyment of Texas' natural resources.

Visitors purchasing a Texas Conservation Passport will receive the entry fee waiver and camping discount benefits immediately. Entry fees will be waived beginning Aug. 30 but camping fees will not be discounted until Sept. 1, the start of the state's new fiscal year.

Revenues from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses help support wildlife and fishery management by the department. Now revenues from the sale of the Texas Conservation Passport will be used in a similar manner: retiring the principal and interest on Park Development Bonds; operating state parks and wildlife management areas; and acquiring, leasing or developing public lands.

Holders of the Texas Conservation Passport, as partners in the outdoors, will receive additional benefits such as entry to park lands currently being developed, entry to wildlife management areas, discounts on TPWD items such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine and news of special outdoor programs.

Texas Conservation Passports are being sold at all state parks. For more information call your local state park or TPWD headquarters in Austin at 1-800-792-1112.

EC 8/23/91

TWO RE-ARRAIGNED IN WHOOPER SHOOTING

AUSTIN--Billy Dale Inman pleaded guilty to shooting a whooping crane during a re-arraignment and plea bargain hearing Aug. 19 in federal court here. Co-defendant Curtis Collier Sayers pleaded guilty in a re-arraignment hearing Aug. 14.

Inman and Sayers, both from Marble Falls, originally were arraigned May 10 before Magistrate Stephen H. Capelle for shooting an endangered crane April 15 in Lampasas County. Inman was charged with shooting the whooper in the neck with a 12-gauge shotgun during a fishing trip along the Colorado River. Sayers was charged with aiding and abetting in the killing. Both men are out on bond.

During today's hearing, Inman pleaded guilty to killing an endangered species. In return there will be no more charges filed against him. Assistant U.S. Attorney Palmer Kelly said the government will recommend a civil restitution charge to the state of Texas of \$8,100 and a criminal fine not to exceed \$30,000. Inman also could receive up to a year in prison and must forfeit the 12-gauge Winchester Model 12 shotgun used in the shooting.

No date has been set for sentencing. With no plea bargain the federal penalty for killing an endangered species is up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000. Civil restitution of up to \$11,000 can be charged by the state.

"He didn't know it was a whooping crane (when he shot it), but that's no defense. It was an unfortunate day for Billy," said Jimmy Parks, Inman's attorney. "I think it was an unfortunate mistake, an unfortunate accident. I think if there's a lesson to be learned he'll learn it."

Sayers agreed to fully cooperate with the government against Inman, had it gone to trial. He still is subject to civil restitution of up to \$11,000, a criminal fine up to \$100,000 and up to one year in prison.

There are fewer than 140 whooping cranes known to exist in the wild, and the bird is protected by the federal and state Endangered Species acts. The dead whooper apparently was part of a small group of birds migrating north from their wintering grounds at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Rockport.

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HUNTERS, ANGLERS GETTING READY FOR NEW YEAR

AUSTIN--The first day of September may mean more to hunters and fishermen than it does to the general public. To millions of Texas sportsmen it marks the end of the dog days of summer and the beginning of a new year of outdoor activity.

To enjoy this recreational bounty, sportsmen have to purchase their new hunting and fishing licenses now, especially if planning to enjoy the traditional Sept. 1 opener for mourning dove season in the North and Central zones. Texas licenses expire Aug. 31 each year.

Stamps, which are late because the printer had major problems acquiring suitable paper, should be available in a few days. The department began mailing them Aug. 21 and they should go on sale as soon as the license deputies and department offices receive them.

Getting the new license, along with literature on hunting and fishing regulations, is more than just routine. It helps fuel anticipation for coming seasons and imparts a feeling of stewardship for Texas' natural resources, since most license money is spent to enhance the very resources sportsmen so ardently enjoy.

The fishing and hunting guides have been printed in color again this year, at no cost to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The regulations guides are available from department law enforcement offices around the state as well as many retail outlets that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

Most license and stamp requirements are the same as last year, but prices have changed. The resident combination hunting/fishing license is \$25. Resident hunting and fishing licenses are \$13 each. For the avid sportsman, resident lifetime licenses are available. The lifetime combination hunting/fishing license is priced at \$800, the lifetime hunting license is \$500 and the lifetime fishing license is \$400.

TPWD law enforcement officials remind sportsmen that Operation Game Thief offers cash rewards to persons whose information leads to the conviction of game and fish law violators. The 24-hour, toll free number is 1-800-792-GAME, and callers may remain anonymous.

Fall also is an excellent time to subscribe to Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine. The full-color monthly publication contains information and pictures of interest to hunters and fishermen as well as anyone interested in the conservation and enjoyment of Texas' outdoor resources. The magazine is priced at \$10 per year \$18 for two years and \$26 for three years. Send check or money order to Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-937-9393, 24 hours a day to subscribe.

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DEPARTMENT RE-INTRODUCING SALTWATER STRIPERS

PORT ARTHUR--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has worked for years to re-introduce striped bass to coastal waters. Officials, though, said they need the public's help to collect data and monitor the program's success.

At one time, stripers were part of the coastal fishery, said Terry Stelly, coastal fisheries harvest team leader from Port Arthur. Historical data shows commercial landings occurred from Sabine to Brownsville until the 1940s.

It is believed stripers left coastal Texas because of a combination of pollution, dams being built and overfishing. Today, all five Gulf states are trying to restore the striper fishery to historical levels.

"We're all trying to reestablish stripers, not just to put fish back into the water but to have them reproduce," Stelly said. "We want to get a population that can maintain itself."

TPWD began stocking stripers along the coast in 1975. Stripers have been stocked in freshwater impoundments since 1960. To date, the department has stocked Texas' bays with about 2 million fingerlings, 22 million fry and 10,000 sub-adult fish left from annual stockings.

The stripers are primarily being stocked along the upper Texas coast (Sabine and Trinity rivers) because biologists believe those water conditions are best suited for survival. The fish come from the state's A.E. Wood hatchery in San Marcos and Dundee Hatchery near Wichita Falls, and from federal hatcheries in San Marcos and Oklahoma.

More recently, officials have begun tagging stripers to try to document the success of stockings, Stelly said. Stripers have been tagged, or marked, using several methods. Officials have used oxytetracycline, an antibiotic that stains the otolith (ear bone); coded wire micro tags, small pieces of wire 1/2-1 mm long and the diameter of a straight pin placed on the gill cover and abdominal tags (yellow streamers put in adult fish).

"Hopefully, in years to come people catching stripers will turn them into us," he said. "We don't want to keep their catch, but we'd like to recover the otolith from the fish's head, a few scales and the internal organs. If they don't want us to touch the fish we'll live with that, too. We're just trying to recover data and we'll work with them."

The tagging method allows the department to record biological data about the fish and when and where the fish was released. "We'd like to have all the tags, the fish, whatever the angler can give us," he said. Anglers can help by freezing the fish, then calling a coastal field station.

There have been several catches from recreational fishermen the past few years, but officials haven't been able to recover much information, Stelly said. Many of the stocked fish, those with and without tags, are now growing into keeper-size (18 inches). Officials recently received a tag from a striper. The fish was released in the Brazos River and caught in the same area nine days short of a year from being released. The angler also caught four other keepers that didn't have tags.

"In the next couple of years we could be missing a lot of data if people don't help us now," he said.

Biologists have learned some information, though. They know that the fish migrate between bays; they just don't know how long it takes. They also know there is some natural reproduction in the Trinity River. In future years, the department would like to use radio tags to follow spawning runs and to see where stripers spend summer and fall.

"We think we will have some success in bringing stripers back to coastal waters," Stelly said.

Stelly said posters are being printed to inform the public as to where they may call to report striper landings. Until then, there are several field locations to call and arrange for a biologist to inspect the fish. Coastal fisheries offices are located in Seabrook (713-474-2811), Palacios (512-972-6253), Port O'Connor (512-983-4425), Rockport (512-729-2328), Corpus Christi (512-973-6323), Brownsville (512-350-4490) and Port Arthur (409-983-1104).

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FALL PRIME TIME FOR AFLATOXIN

AUSTIN--As fall rolls around, hunters begin preparing themselves for the taking of doves, quail, turkeys, deer waterfowl and other game. In some years, fall also brings aflatoxin.

Aflatoxin, produced by the fungi *Aspergillus flavus*, can be found on most grains, such as milo, corn, rice, cottonseed and wheat that's grown under drought or stressful conditions. It is frequently found in nuts, particularly peanuts. In large amounts the toxin can lead to dieoffs among waterfowl and other birds. Aflatoxin depresses the immunosuppressive system in deer and may result in deer mortality from other related causes.

According to Texas Department of Agriculture information, human consumption should be limited to 20 parts per billion. Milk products are limited to .5 ppb while feed for beef cattle can go up to 300 ppb. Birds are most susceptible and can be harmed at levels as low as 20 ppb.

Grain sorghum, although considered less troublesome than corn, also can contain high levels of aflatoxin. An article in the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* quoted the manager of one grain company as saying that 50 to 60 percent of the truckloads of grain sorghum shipped during the 1990 harvest from this company to the Port of Corpus Christi was rejected because of aflatoxin.

Half the corn tested during 1990 by TDA contained the toxin, said Billy Don Davis, wildlife biologist from Winters. Eighteen percent of the samples had levels greater than 300 ppb and 31 percent had levels at least 20 ppb.

"Chances are that if 31 percent of the corn had aflatoxin levels greater than 20 ppb and corn is fed several times during the year, then wild turkeys have a good chance of being exposed to harmful levels," Davis said. "Turkeys themselves help contribute to the problem as they range widely and make extensive use of feeders.

"One of the main problems aflatoxin presents to wildlife is there is no minimum set for grain, seeds or nuts sold for wildlife feed, Davis said. "A lot of the grain with aflatoxin levels too high for livestock may be marketed as deer corn." Deer feeders usually do not exclude use by birds such as turkey and quail.

Farmers are encouraged to plow corn and peanut residue in susceptible areas, Davis said. They can have their crop tested at a cost of \$15 to \$36 per sample by contacting the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab, P.O. Drawer 3040, College Station, Texas 77841, or by calling (409) 845-3414.

Hunters also are encouraged to only purchase deer corn that has been tested and shown to be free of aflatoxin or has less than 20 ppb. This will reduce the potential of exposure of wildlife to harmful levels of the toxin.

Anyone spotting dead or dying birds this fall should report the die-off immediately to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at either a field office or calling the disease hotline at 1-800-432-5099.

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HOLIDAY SWIMMERS, BOATERS SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS

AUSTIN--Drowning, the leading cause of water and boating fatalities in Texas this year increases during holiday periods. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials urge swimmers and boaters to take extra caution during the Labor Day holiday, the final summer fling for many.

Drownings are divided into three classifications: swimming or playing in the water; non-swimming, including falling into the water from docks, bridges, shores and during ship repair, home accidents and on-home premises; and boating. During Labor Day weekend, many Texans will engage in these activities.

"Don't become part of the statistics," warns Jack Nasworthy, TPWD boater education specialist.

Nasworthy lists some precautions to take when hitting the water. One, don't go into the water alone. Swim with companions, friends or relatives. Two, make sure to wear a life jacket (personal flotation device) if you can't swim, even when only wading. Three, don't go near the swimming pool unless there is a lifeguard on duty.

He also suggests avoiding alcohol while participating in water activities. "Alcohol is a major factor in drowning. Many victims had significant levels of alcohol in their blood. Water does not help to sober up a person, only time will do that. Alcohol reduces coordination, senses are distorted and eyesight is blurred."

Boaters are reminded that every recreational water vessel must carry at least one U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD for each person on board. Texas requires those under 13 years old to wear a PFD while a motorized craft is underway. Boaters also should carry a fire extinguisher, be able to display running lights after sunset and before sunrise and carry a bell or horn on board.

For more information on boating safety contact Nasworthy at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4372, or (512) 389-4372.

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Free federal sandhill crane permits will again be required for all Texas sportsmen who hunt sandhill cranes. Permits can be obtained by writing to any of the following Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Fish and Wildlife Service offices:

Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
Refuge Manager
P.O. Box 228
Umbarger, TX 79091
806/499-3382

Muleshoe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
Refuge Manager
P.O. Box 549
Muleshoe, TX 79347
806/946-3341

TPWD Field Office
281 North Willis
Abilene, TX 79603
915/673-3333

TPWD Field Office
2736 South Georgia
Amarillo, TX 79109
806/355-9246

TPWD Regional Office
214 Main
Brownwood, TX 76801
915/646-0440

TPWD Regional Office
5400 Airport Freeway, Suite E
Fort Worth, TX 76117
817/831-3128

TPWD Regional Office
10700 North Freeway, Suite 180
Houston, TX 77037
713/931-6471

TPWD Regional Office
5104 Avenue T
Lubbock, TX 79452
806/744-0213

TPWD Field Office
4500 W. Illinois, Suite 206
Midland, TX 79703
915/699-4649

TPWD Regional Office
3407 South Chadbourne
San Angelo, TX 76901
915/655-2014

TPWD Regional Office
9503 Southton Road
San Antonio, TX 78223
512/633-3220

TPWD Field Office
1601 E. Crest Drive
Waco, TX 76705
817/799-2446

TPWD Field Office
100 Fremar Valley
Wichita Falls, TX 76301
817/723-7327

TPWD Headquarters
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
512/389-4978

TPWD Field Office
3727 Dilido, Suite 132
Dallas, TX 75228
214/328-5493

TPWD Field Office
1200 Golden Key Circle
El Paso, TX 79925
915/598-4741

Persons requesting permits should include the name and address of each individual that will be hunting. Please allow two weeks for processing.

The earliest crane season in Texas is proposed to begin the second Saturday in November. After the hunting season, a sample of the permittees will be contacted with a questionnaire concerning their crane harvest.

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Aug. 22:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 94 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on Tiny Torpedoes and dark worms with a red fireball; crappie are slow; catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on Bill's Sponge Baits in holes baited with swollen wheat.

BELTON: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in the keeper range at night with small worms and Salty Sensations around 20 foot, a few limits landed; hybrid striped are good to 8 pounds on topwaters and slabs; crappie are slow, a few caught on small worms and minnows; white bass are good while schooling on Tiny Torpedoes and Skipjacks; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow since the rain; striped are slow generally, some caught at night around docks; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in 15-20 feet of water; white bass are schooling, best bait is a spoon with a trailer; catfish are slowing, several fish were caught in the 2-3 pound range from the docks on minnows and worms; trotline fishing has been fair in the same size range on shrimp, liver and frozen shad.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 86 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; striped are fair through 14 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are good on the upper end of the lake around Tow, fish are schooling mid afternoon; catfish are good to 34 pounds on trotlines baited with fresh shad.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 91 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 7 1/4 pounds on white spinners and dark worms in 8-10 feet of water around the grass, fish seem to be moving into shallow water; crappie are slow; catfish are fair on rod and reel to 7 pounds on live minnows and goldfish; bream are excellent on worm parts.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 90 degrees, 4 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 10 pounds, 1 ounce on worms in 7 feet of water; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 40 pounds on jug lines baited with live perch.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair on topwaters and chartreuse worms; crappie are poor; striped are fair to 10 pounds on live bait; white bass are fair with early morning schooling; catfish are fair in shallow water; LCRA says there is no oxygen below 15 feet.

LBJ: Water clear, 84 degrees, lake full; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fair on minnows around docks with structure; white bass are good around Lighthouse Point towards the dam on topwaters; catfish are good in baited holes through 6 pounds on stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 89 degrees, 7 inches low; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on Jawtec Wacky Craws, a 5-fish limited weighed 14.20 pounds; crappie are fair on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are good early and late at the dam on slabs and Rattle Traps; catfish are slow to 7 pounds on perch baited trotlines.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 97

degrees, normal level; black bass are improving in 15 feet of water on Rattle Traps, spinners and shrimp; smallmouth are good in 0-30 feet of water on crawdads, shrimp and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair in 30 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good in the 3-7 pound range on stinkbait and shrimp in 5-40 feet of water.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good around docks at night to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good around docks to 1 pound just after dark on minnows; catfish are improving on bloodbait, cheese bait and dough bait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 85 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass are good early and late to 35 fish per boat per day to 4 pounds on chrome topwaters, chartreuse spinners and smoke glitter grubs; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 1/2 inches on the same baits; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; yellow catfish are fair to 6 pounds on live bait with rod and reel; blue catfish are fairly good to 4 pounds.

WACO: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on Craw Worms; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 10 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds each on slabs; catfish are fair to 20 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

WHITNEY: Water murky, 84 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good 4 pounds on Western Worms and grubs in shallow water; smallmouth bass are fair at night to 3 pounds on Western Worms, no limits landed; striped are fair to 18 pounds on topwaters with good numbers of small and/or non keeper fish caught; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds in the afternoon and early evening, a few limits landed, on minnows; crappie are suspended in 14-18 feet of water; white bass are excellent to 2 pounds on Hub Chubs and Tiny Torpedoes; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds on worms and cut bait.

NORTHEAST

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 90 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good in size and number; striped are good with limits; crappie are very good on minnows; white bass are good in number; catfish are fair in number by drifting bait.

CADDO: Water fairly clear, 6 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 2 pounds on Craw Worms in black and purple; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair mostly on the Louisiana side with minnows and Catfish Charlie.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 80 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on black and blue lizards in deep water; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 12 pounds on nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water muddy, 95 degrees, 3 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 10 pounds on worms; catfish are good to 10 pounds on live bait and trotline; redfish are good to 20 pounds plus on cranks.

FORK: Water clear, 90 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 10.05 pounds on Zoom Centipedes in 25 feet of water; all other fishing has been slow due to heat and lack of fishermen.

JOE POOL: Water stained around creeks, 83-86 degrees, near normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on cranks and worms; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on shad gizzards

and bloodbait.

LAKE O THE PINE: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on buzz baits and dark worms; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 7 1/2 pounds on nightcrawlers off river channels.

LAVON: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on cranks; crappie are very good in 20 feet of water on minnows around stumps, a few limits caught; white bass are excellent with many limits on slab spoons and L'il Georges; catfish are very good to 4 pounds on jug lines baited with live shrimp.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fair on minnows under the bridges in 15 to 18 feet of water; catfish are fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good above the 1 1/2 pound range on plastic worms; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good on trotlines baited with worms.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on 8-inch black worms; crappie are good on medium sized minnows in 12 feet of water; catfish are excellent to 15 pounds on trotlines and drifting large minnows and goldfish.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on stinkbait, cheesebait and bloodbait.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on worms around hydrilla beds, many fish caught are in the 2-3 pound range also caught; crappie are slow due to the lack of fishermen; yellow catfish are fair on trotlines to 25 pounds on small perch; channel catfish are fairly good 4 pounds on cut bait; sunfish are excellent.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on worms; striped are fair to 6 pounds on deep diving cranks and slab spoons; crappie are slow; white bass are good with some limits on spoons or schooling; catfish are good to 30 pounds on rod and reel and trotline baited with catalpa worms, bloodbait and shrimp.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on Rattle Traps; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fair late to 12 pounds on a variety of baits.

RAY HUBBARD: Water murky, 87 degrees, 14 1/2 inches low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on plastic worms at the weed beds in the wee hours; striped are slow due to lack of fishermen; crappie are picking up, a few fish were caught from the barge and in the lake to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows, many 7-8 inch fish have been landed; white bass are good while schooling, fish stay up about 30-45 minutes early and around 7-7:30 p.m., best fishing is south of I-30 bridge; catfish are good to 6 pounds on worms; drum are good to 30 pounds on rod and reel baited with crickets while fishing for sunfish.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms; crappie are good to 3 pounds on minnows; white bass are good to 2 pounds on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 3 pounds on live perch with a 10 pound test line.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 inches above normal; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on worms, spinners and cranks; white bass are fairly good while surfacing on slabs, spoons and L'il Georges; crappie are fairly good on minnows inside the brush; catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 86 degrees, 13 inches low; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners in 7-8 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are excellent to 3 pounds on Flat Flutterers and minnows at night; catfish are excellent to 9 pounds on bloodbait, worms and shrimp.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on worms and cranks; striper are fair to 10 pounds, mostly in the 3-5 pound range, on topwaters; crappie are poor; white bass are excellent to 3 pounds on popping corks and slabs; catfish are good to 3 pounds on cut bait, worms; a flathead catfish weighing 19 pounds, 10 ounces was caught on a 6 pound test with a crappie jig.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 4 pounds on Rattle Traps and worms; striper are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on L'il Georges; crappie are slow small in the 11-12 inch range and were caught on minnows; white bass average 1 1/2 pounds on L'il Georges; catfish are good to 9 pounds on catalpa worms and nightcrawlers, some limits landed.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 88 degrees 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on plastic worms rigged Carolina Style in deep water; white bass are slowing down, trollers with spoons behind deep running lures are catching a few fish; catfish are fairly good in baited holes and around boat docks.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on Power Worms in pumpkin seed, red shad and motoroil colors and any other lure with glitter; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string near the dam on minnows; white bass are good to 20 fish per string off the points near the dam; catfish are good to 30 pounds on trotline baited with perch near the island.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 88 degrees, 2 inches above normal level; black bass are slow due to lack of fishermen; striper are fair at night while fishing for white bass; crappie are slow at 14 feet in 25 feet of water; white bass are good with limits around Pine Island on slabs; catfish are fair to 13 inches from the bank.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on buzz baits and PopRs early, pumpkin seed or tequila worms are good midday in the grass beds; crappie are good to 2 pounds with limits on minnows; white bass are unpredictable on Rattle Traps at the surface; catfish are slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 88 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on worms, some schooling fish were caught on topwaters; striper are fairly good while school and some caught by trollers to 12 pounds; crappie are good in baited holes with live bait; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SOUTH

BRAUNIG: Water murky, normal level; black bass are fairly good in

number to 5 1/2 pounds on live perch; hybrid striper are good to 5 1/2 pounds on live perch; catfish are good in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range on chicken liver and shad, cheese baits and shrimp off the bank; yellow catfish are fair to 28 pounds on shad with rod and reel from the jetty; redfish are picking up to 9 pounds on live perch, cranks, spoons.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 95 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are slow to 4 pounds on artificials; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 2 pounds on shad, chicken livers and cheese baits; redfish are fair to 13 pounds on tilapia and artificials; corvina are good to 10 pounds from the shore and from boats on live and artificials.

CHOKO: Water clear, 91 degrees, 16 1/2 feet low; black bass are good early in the 9 pound range on Rattle Traps and topwaters; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair with many small fish in the 6-14 inch range caught in 25-40 feet of water near the river channel on cheese bait and shrimp.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps, plastic worms; and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 pound each on minnows in 15 feet of water; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on live perch and soap.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water is fairly clear, 87 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 1/2 pounds off the main points on black Hula Poppers and Slug-Gos early, purple worms are good in the middle of the day in 8-10 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good on minnows off the state park piers and around trees standing in 12-14 feet of water; white bass are fair around Hog Island and the buoy marker on chrome slabs and minnows; blue and channel catfish are good to 4 pounds over baited holes in the river on prepared cheese baits.

FALCON: Water clear, 85 degrees, 15 feet low; black bass are fair to good to 11 pounds, 1 ounce on worms and to 9 pounds on topwaters early and late; white bass are good in numbers; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp in 40 feet of water.

MEDINA: Water clear, 39 feet below normal; black bass are slow to 2 pounds on Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on stink bait.

TEXANA: Water murky, normal level; black bass are fair in the jungle area to 4 pounds on dark worms; crappie are fair on minnows in the Navidad River; catfish are slow.

WEST

BAYLOR: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 3/4 pounds on Craw Worms, worms, topwater buzz baits and other topwaters; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds near the dam on water dogs.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good to 3 pounds on minnows in 8-15 feet of water; white bass are good in 18-20 feet on minnows, some schooling; catfish are good to 22 1/2 pounds on nightcrawlers from the bank at night and early morning; walleye are good to 28 inches on nightcrawlers and chartreuse spinners.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 7 3/8 pounds on topwaters and spinners; striper are fairly slow to 4 pounds

on spoons; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are good in shallow water on small spoons; catfish are good to 48 pounds on trotline live bait.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on minnows; striper are good to 11.4 pounds, a possible lake record, on shad colored Rattle Trap; crappie are fair to 1/2-pound each on minnows and worms; white bass are slow; channel catfish are good to 2 pounds on minnows and chicken livers; yellow catfish are slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 80 degrees; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good from midnight to 3 a.m. on minnows; white bass are fairly good with some schooling, best baits are slabs while fish are schooling; catfish are fairly good to 10 pounds on liver and minnows.

MILLER CREEK: Water clear, 79 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are poor; crappie are poor on minnows; white bass are good with limits on minnows; catfish are fair to 20 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch; carp are good to 12 pounds on dough bait.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on chicken livers.

PROCTOR: Water murky, lake full; black bass are slow; striper are slow; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds on shad and shrimp; crappie are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 36 feet low; black bass are good to 8 1/2 pounds on cut shad; striper are slow, good numbers of smaller fish to 11 pounds, 5 ounces were caught on shiners and shad; crappie are slow; white bass are good with Castmasters near stickups on the southside; catfish are very good in the river channel on rod and reels baited with nightcrawlers and shrimp.

STAMPORD: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on shrimp.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 80 degrees, summer normal and dropping; black bass are fair in 12-15 feet of water on worms and cranks; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good in 18 to 20 feet of water on minnows and small Castmasters; catfish are good to 10 pounds on frozen shad and goldfish.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing was good over the weekend; tides were moving at the wrong time; fairly good numbers of legal specks caught; redfish are good in the marshes; good numbers of croakers, drum, flounder and sheepshead were caught; live bait is fairly good at 6 cents each.

GALVESTON: Weather is hot and water is in good shape all over; heat is keeping a good number of fishermen away; some scattered trout caught along the beach front, bays and at the jetties; the largest for the week weighed 4 pounds; in the bays, good numbers of undersized redfish caught; sandtrout and croaker are plentiful; offshore snapper and king mackerel are good in number with limits caught; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$8.50 to \$10 per quart; some blue crabs caught along the beach front.

FREEPORT: First sail fish of the season weighing 78 pounds was caught Monday on ice fish around 30

miles offshore; snapper fishing has been good with many in the 3-6 pound range on squid about 40-50 miles out; kingfish have been fair to good in the 12-25 pound range; amberjack are fair in number in the 15 to 30 pound range on ice fish also or live bait; a couple of wahoo caught; a blue marlin weighing about 200 pounds was caught and released about 85 miles out; good numbers of triggers and porgies also caught.

PORT OCONNOR: Offshore fishing was good over last weekend for ling, king, snapper and bluefish; fairly good numbers of trout and redfish from the bays and the surf; the outside of the big jetties also produced redfish and trout; redfish caught in Conti Lake and Pringle Lake; some gafftop also landed in the deeper holds around the old Coast Guard station; flounder are fairly good with a gig; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart; plenty of frozen baits, fresh mullet, squid, ice fish and ribbon fish; most baits don't have a chance to get old.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of trout to 3 pounds each in the surf on strawberry Hogies Swimming Jacks and live mullet; a few redfish caught in the bays; flounder are fairly plentiful all over.

PALACIOS: Good catches of redfish caught in Carancahua River on small crab; good catches of reds and trout around Salt Lake in Carancahua Bay on chartreuse smoke Hogie Swimming Jacks; good catches around Green's Bayou on strawberry white tailed Swimming Jacks; live bait shrimp available; flounder are plentiful on rod and reel and gig.

ROCKPORT: Trout fishing is spotty, pardon the pun, around the wells in Aransas Bay on live shrimp or croakers; good sized trout caught on the southwest corner of Mud Island on live bait mostly croaker; good sized redfish caught in Hog Island Hole; Traylor island shoreline producing redfish and trout; flounder are excellent around all channels, most fishermen are getting limits in the 2-3 pound range; some live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 with early bird getting the shrimp.

PORT ARANSAS: Good numbers of redfish near the bait stand in the flat of Redfish Bay on mullet, perch and croaker and shrimp if you can find it; some flounder caught by gigs and with rod and reel near the mouth of the Lydia Ann Channel shell bank. Offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of kingfish in the 15 to 25 pound range with ribbon fish and Russell Lures about 25 miles offshore; good numbers of sailfish about 28 miles or 50 fathoms caught on Ballyhoo; some kingfish are caught with ribbon fish; party boats are catching grouper to 50 pounds, snapper to 3 pounds and amberjack to 22 pounds around 35 to 45 miles offshore; good numbers of small blue marlin tagged and released.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of specks caught at Long's Pier at Portland and around Ingleside as well as Indian Point on live bait, red plastic worms and gold and silver spoons; many limits landed; back bay fishing are producing some good sized redfish but most other fishing has been slow; live bait shrimp is available but not plentiful at \$8.50 per quart.

PORT MANSFIELD: Good numbers of keeper sized trout south of Port Mansfield on the sunken spoil dumps just off the Intracoastal; good numbers of redfish all over in shallow water; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH PADRE: Some specks in the 2-3 pound range caught near Three

Islands on live shrimp and touts; a few redfish with some oversized fish near Three Islands; a few Spanish mackerel caught in the same area; flounder are plentiful all over on live shrimp; good numbers of tarpon spotted in the bays; offshore fishermen are catching bonito, dolphin, and hammerhead shark; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 8/21/91

