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texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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SOUTH TEXAS DEER-QUAIL PROGRAM ATTRACTS EXPERTS

LAREDO -- Landowners in South Texas and elsewhere might profit from some of the concepts discussed in the South Texas Deer and Quail Seminar held in Laredo on Oct 5-6, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

The seminar was hosted by the TPWD and A R "Tony" Sanchez of Laredo, a member of the Parks and Wildlife Commission

White-tailed deer and quail represent the backbone of a hunting lease system that comprises a multi-million-dollar industry in South Texas. The region's private ranches are known worldwide for their wildlife management programs and hunting opportunities, especially for trophy-class whitetails

The seminar featured presentations by wildlife biologists from government agencies as well as several representing private ranching concerns

Dale Elrod, biologist for the La Paloma Ranch, told the group his management program features experienced guides for hunting clients in order to assure that bucks of the proper age class are harvested. He also said

that he considers supplemental feeding important for hunting success, but that comparisons of deer in fed and non-fed areas indicate feeding of corn has no measurable effect on deer body condition

Dr Charles DeYoung of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute dealt with the controversial subject of buck "culling" in his presentation. He said there currently is no data to support the idea of improving a deer herd's genetics by selective harvest of bucks in a free-ranging situation, and probably even within the confines of a large high-fenced area. He added, however, that removing lesser-quality bucks could be beneficial when the objective is keeping overall deer numbers within the carrying capacity of the habitat.

DeYoung noted that buck deer achieve most of their antler-growing potential by the time they reach 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years, and judging the age of mature deer in the field is a problem for hunters intent on culling inferior animals.

Dr Mick Robinson of Texas A&I University at Kingsville agreed with DeYoung's assessment, observing that unlike the management of a cattle herd, the sport harvest of deer is not generally intensive enough to have an impact on overall herd genetics. This is especially true in view of the fact that the female segment of the herd has as much influence on the herd's genetics as that of bucks, he said.

Al Brothers, biologist for several major ranches in South Texas, said assuming control over deer numbers is probably the number one management tool to be considered by game managers. When deer populations are kept

within the range's carrying capacity there is less need to be concerned with culling of bucks. He told the seminar participants that the buck population has a fairly high natural mortality rate each year, and that "stockpiling" of bucks is a unworkable concept in many situations.

Bob Cook, biologist for the Shelton Ranches in the Edwards Plateau and elsewhere, reviewed his experiences in managing exotic, or non-native, animals that are a growing presence in the Edwards Plateau and South Texas. Exotics such as axis, fallow and sika deer, and other ungulates such as eland, aoudad sheep and blackbuck antelope, present a special set of problems for the wildlife manager.

Cook said exotics serve to complicate the management formula, and control of their numbers and species composition is an absolute necessity in order to prevent them from out-competing and damaging native wildlife such as white-tailed deer. He recommended extreme caution in introducing exotics, citing scientific studies that have shown some of the species are able to survive range conditions that can no longer support whitetails.

Cook told the group that TPWD surveys indicate the numbers of exotics has grown from an estimated 13 species totaling some 13,000 animals in 1963 to 67 species numbering 164,000 animals in 1988.

Ernie Davis, a TPWD technical guidance biologist from Cotulla, said he and other biologists are available to assist landowners in setting up effective wildlife management programs on their properties, but he emphasized the need for landowners to have a firm commitment to wildlife management, establish goals for the program and keep accurate records to

assess progress

A recurring theme at the seminar was that landowners should seek professional help in setting up a wildlife management programs, then dedicate a sufficient length of time, approximately five years in most cases, before abandoning or modifying the program

JC 10/11/89

TEXAS, LOUISIANA SEEK MORE
UNIFORM REGULATIONS

AUSTIN -- A meeting between Texas and Louisiana officials Oct. 6 may ultimately result in more uniform fishing regulations on Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake and other border waters between the two states

The meeting, held at the North Toledo Bend State Park near Many, La , was the first such meeting of members of the fish and wildlife commissions of the two states

Chuck Nash of San Marcos, chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, co-chaired the meeting with his counterpart Dr Don Hines, chairman of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Also representing Texas were commission members Peter Beck of Dallas and Delo H Caspary of Rockport, and other department staff members

Hines described the meeting as "a very historic occasion to meet and discuss matters of mutual concern "

High on the list of priorities for future change is the problem of bag and length limits on the two border lakes, where the current limits represent a compromise between the two states' regulations. For instance, in most Texas waters, the daily bag limit for largemouth bass is five, with a minimum length limit of 14 inches. On Toledo Bend and Caddo, the daily limit is 10, with a 12-inch minimum length limit on both the Texas and Louisiana sides of the reservoirs. Variations also exist on bag and length limits for crappie and catfish in the border lakes.

"Louisiana officials gave every indication that they wish to move toward fishing regulations that are consistent with standard regulations now in effect in Texas waters," said Dr. Gary Matlock, director of the TPWD's Fisheries Division.

Also discussed at the meeting were duck bag limits related to native species such as wood ducks, and maintenance and improvements planned by Louisiana for Toledo Bend.

JC 1011/89

FISH HATCHERY PRODUCTION
HAS BANNER YEAR

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fish hatcheries had an excellent production year in 1989, with more than 17.7 million fingerlings of 18 species and about 95 million fry stocked in the state's waters.

Gene McCarty, assistant hatchery chief for the department's Fish Hatchery Branch, said most of the game fish species stocked have seen increases in numbers over 1988. "Overall, the system has worked well, especially since the new A. E. Wood Hatchery in San Marcos and new ponds at the GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center went on line," McCarty said. He added that another successful program was the first-ever stockings of more than 34,000 paddlefish into B. A. Steinhagen Reservoir in the department's only scientific area as part of the paddlefish restoration program.

The department has stocked almost 2.8 million Florida largemouth bass this year, McCarty said. New reservoirs such as Richland-Chambers and Ray Roberts received more than 1.8 million of the fingerlings. "Production was extremely good again this year, allowing us to stock excellent-quality fingerlings," said Pat Hutson, Florida bass program leader.

Bill Bowling, native fish program leader, said overall production of catfish, sunfish and crappie increased by some 30 percent over 1988. "More than 1.2 million channel and blue catfish fingerlings and about 1.6 million sunfish and crappie fingerlings have already been stocked, and more stockings of some sunfish species will be added later," he said.

Production of striped bass and hybrid striped bass fry and fingerlings was also higher this year. Joe Warren, hatchery striped bass program leader from the Dundee Hatchery at Electra, said the striped bass program has improved every year in some way that has increased numbers and quality of fingerlings produced. "This year's total striped bass production exceeded 10.2 million fry and fingerlings, and hybrid (white/striped) bass

fry and fingerlings were over 4 4 million," Warren said

Production of red drum for stocking in the state's coastal bays also was excellent this year, according to Mike Ray, red drum hatchery program leader "We have already stocked more than 6 2 million fingerlings and 70 million fry, and we expect our final production cycle to push us near the 10 million fingerling mark," Ray said

Ray noted that the first-time use of plastic-lined ponds, along with the use of municipal water to lower salinities in the ponds, had positive results

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ARCHERY, GUN DEER SEASONS
OVERLAP TWO DAYS

AUSTIN -- This fall will be the first time that the statewide archery-only deer season will overlap with the general (firearms) white-tailed deer hunting season in Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said the final two days of the archery season, Nov 4-5, coincide with the first two days of the general season in much of the state

"It has been traditional to open the archery season on the first Saturday in October for 30 consecutive days," said Bobby Alexander, acting director of the department's Wildlife Division "This was done to offer more hunting opportunity, since it includes five full weekends for

archers "

In 1987 the commission authorized the department to open the general whitetail season on the first Saturday in November in most of the state. This means that because of calendar variations there are some years in which the two seasons overlap during two days. That's the situation this year "

Alexander said some bowhunters have expressed concern that the overlap in effect removes two days from the bow season, since they have to compete with gun hunters during those two days. Bowhunters may hunt with archery equipment during the general deer season as well as the bow season.

As a result of this concern Alexander indicated that the staff would review the situation during the development of regulation proposals for the 1990-91 hunting season.

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BIG TRAVIS BASS WAS
FLORIDA LARGEMOUTH HYBRID

AUSTIN -- Ordinarily it would not be newsworthy that an eight-pound, 11 1/2-ounce bass caught from a Texas reservoir is found to have Florida largemouth genetics. The Florida-strain bass have been stocked in scores of Texas lakes because of their propensity for growth.

But when Leslie Jackson caught the new lake record for Lake Travis west of Austin on May 15 it was assumed that the fish was a native bass. Travis

was not stocked with Florida bass fingerlings until 1988

Biologist David Terre of San Marcos said Jackson's fish was examined electrophoretically and found to be a first-generation hybrid between a Florida and native (northern) largemouth bass

"In a way it was surprising, because Travis wasn't stocked with Floridas long enough ago to grow a fish that large," he said "On the other hand, Lakes LBJ and Buchanan upstream from Travis were stocked in 1976 and 1978 and some of those fish or their offspring could have found their way to Travis "

Terre added that Florida fish could have entered the lake by other routes "Sometimes private ponds overflow during floods, and Florida bass could have escaped into Travis that way," he said "Some also could have been stocked by the public "

Terre said it is illegal to place game fish into any Texas public waters without a permit from the Parks and Wildlife Department

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HALLOWEEN EVENTS SET FOR
MONUMENT HILL PARK

LA GRANGE -- A jack-o-lantern carving contest and spook walk will be held at the Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery State Historical Parks on the weekend of Oct 28-29, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials

Those interested in entering carved pumpkins in the contest may bring them to park headquarters between 2-5 p m. Oct 28 Pumpkins will be judged and prizes awarded Sunday

On Sunday the candle-lit pumpkins, ghosts and other spooky characters will haunt a park trail between 3 p m to 5 30 p m

Children are welcome to wear costumes and young children should be accompanied by an adult "The spook walk is along a trail to the old brewery ruins, so sturdy walking shoes are necessary," said Ellen Buchanan, park superintendent

The parks preserve the memorial of both the 1842 Dawson Expedition and the 1843 Mier expedition as well as the Heinrich L Kreische homestead Kreische Brewery was a successful enterprise in the 1870s, and the structure is architecturally unique due to Kreische's talent as a stonemason

This Halloween event is sponsored by the Kreische Brewery Docent organization

Park entry fees are 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children 6-12 There is no additional charge for the carving contest or spook walk

The park is located one mile south of LaGrange off U S Highway 77 on Spur 92; follow the signs on Highway 77 Call (409) 968-5658 for directions and information

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QUILT EXHIBIT PLANNED FOR
LANDMARK INN

CASTROVILLE -- Quilts and wall hangings stitched by the Medina County Quilt Guild will be displayed at Landmark Inn State Historical Park on Oct 14, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The free exhibit will be open to the public from 10 a m to 4 p m. in Landmark Inn's south yard

Landmark Inn, on the Medina River in Castroville, is operated as a hotel facility by the department. The building, which dates to the 1850s, has served as an inn for more than a century. The prestigious "Letters From Abroad" presented Landmark Inn its 1988 Surprise of the Year award as an international "underrated treasure."

The inn is located 25 miles west of San Antonio on State Highway 90 in Castroville. Reservations may be obtained by calling (512) 538-2133

EC 10/11/89

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for October 12

CENTRAL

BASTROP Water clear 8 inches low; black bass fairly slow; crappie slow; catfish fair Few fishermen out midweek.

BELTON: Lake clear water stained up river, 79 degrees normal level black bass good to 3 pounds on black jigs with black Craw Worms. average string is 3 keeper sized fish in 5-10 feet of water; hybrid striper good to 8 pounds to 4 keepers per string trolling Jigging Spoons crappie good to 20 fish per string on minnows in 20-28 feet of water; white bass fair to 12 fish per string on chrome Jigging Spoons and slabs catfish fair to 11 pounds on dough bait and frozen shad.

BUCHANAN: Water clear 74 degrees, 12 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds. 2 ounces on 4 inch Ring Worms in 4 feet of water; striper are good to 7 pounds downrigging jigs and Bombers; crappie are good around structure with limits on minnows white bass are very good around Garrett Island on slabs. channel catfish are fair to 5 pounds around baited holes with stinkbait, yellow catfish are good with limits of 5 fish to 14 pounds with trotlines with live bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear. 83 degrees normal level black bass have been good in number but only 2 over 21 inches in length over the weekend on Rat-L-Traps worms, Boy Howdies, best fishing is around submerged vegetation; crappie slow; bream are fairly good on worms; catfish fair to 17 pounds on live bait and worms

GIBBONS CREEK water clear, 75 degrees 8 inches low black bass are fairly good in number within the slot some schooling activity, no keepers for the week; crappie slow; catfish are fairly good to 25 1/4 pounds on jug lines most are in the 5-6 pound range on commercial baits.

INKS LAKE: Water clear 77 degrees normal level black bass are fairly slow to 4 pounds on buzz baits in shallow water striper slow to 9 1/2 pounds on chartreuse striper jigs with a down rigger in 16 feet of water; white bass spotty no birds yet; catfish fair in number but few fishermen out.

LBJ Water clear, 76 degrees, lake full black bass are good to 8 pounds, 3 ounces on chartreuse Getzits striper are fair to 26 pounds, 9 ounces on live shad; crappie are good around structure on minnows some limits caught; white bass are fair near dam on slabs under birds; catfish are good in the 4-5 pound range in baited holes.

LIMESTONE: Water clear 2 feet low; black bass are fair from 16 to 20 inches on white willow leaf spinners in less than 5 feet of water; hybrid striper good to 23 inches jigging Lil Georges in 30 feet of water crappie are good on minnows along the tree lines in 6-30 feet of water. no heavy concentrations anywhere, several in the 3-pound range have been caught; white bass slow; channel catfish are slow on shrimp and blood bait in the 1-2 pound range; a few on trotlines.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 1 1/2 inches low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 1-2 pound range on minnows and jigs with full strings. white bass slow; catfish have been good to 6 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp

STILLHOUSE: Water clear 75 degrees 2 feet low; black bass have been good to 3 pounds on plastic worms in 4-10 feet of water at night and early morn; striper slow crappie have been fairly good to 1 pound in 10-15 feet of water on minnows and white jigs white bass are fairly good to 10 fish per string to 1 pound each in 10 feet of water on crappie rigs as well as minnows channel catfish are slowing down.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 75 degrees, 24 1/2 feet low black bass are very good to 3 pounds on chrome topwaters chartreuse spinners early and firecracker grubs and Ringworms later in the day. Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches bass fishermen have been catching up to 50 fish per day per boat; striper slow; crappie slow white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with small bluegill and cut bait.

WACO: Water off color 75 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie are fair to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good to 15 fish per string on small Rat-L-Traps Hot Spots catfish slow.

WHITNEY Water clear. 72 degrees, 3 inches above normal level. black bass are good to 4 pounds on cranks and buzz baits in very shallow water. striper are slow on down riggers, most under 10 pounds; crappie are good on minnows in 20 feet of water in brush with strings to 18 fish; white bass are fair 1 1/2 pounds on small spoons. catfish are good on trotlines baited with minnows and worms

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear. 72 degrees 1 foot low. black bass good in number to 5 pounds but fish are generally small on topwaters and cranks in 8 feet of water. crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds with full strings on minnows in 20-25 feet of water in brush; white bass slow; catfish slow

BOB SANDLIN Water stained on upper end of lake, main body clear, 70 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 7 pounds on stick baits, jigs and worms in green moss areas in 10-12 feet of water. early and late fishing is best in edge of moss beds with stick baits and Zara Spooks, many school sized fish; crappie are good with limits on jigs and minnows under the bridges and in the peach orchard; white bass are fair on jigging spoons. catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, normal level; black bass improving with some to 6 pounds on worms and spinners off points in weed beds; striper poor; crappie are very good with limits on minnows; white bass fair early and late on topwaters and Rat-L-Traps. catfish are good to 8 pounds drifting shrimp and worms

CADDO Water clear normal level. black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds; white bass are fair with 10-12 fish per string on minnows; striper slow; crappie are fair in number to 12 fish per string on minnows. catfish are fair. mostly on trotlines

CEDAR CREEK Water clear. 73 degrees 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on black worms with chartreuse tails. hybrid striper slow; crappie are good with limits to 2 pounds on minnows in 15-18 feet of water in stump fields and around bridge pilings; white bass good with late afternoon surfacing. limits on chartreuse Rooster Tails and chrome Lil Georges. catfish are slow

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear. 76 degrees, normal level. black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on Bloodline worms and chrome blue backed Rat-L-Traps off the points in 18-20 feet of water. crappie are good to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs in shallow brush piles and in 20-25 feet of water around points. catfish fair on chicken livers and chicken parts and big minnows to 13 pounds.

FAIRFIELD Water clear 85 degrees. 8 inches low. black bass poor; striper poor; crappie poor; catfish good on trotline; redbass are fair.

FORK: Water clear. 78 degrees, 9 inches low; black bass are good to 9.46 pounds on black jigs; crappie are good with limits to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows. catfish have been fair to 8 pounds on live perch

GRAPEVINE: Water slightly off color 75 degrees, 15 inches low; black bass have been spotty to good to 4 1/2 pounds on worms and cranks and spinners from shallow to 20 feet of water. crappie slow; white bass spotty. some are in 20-25 feet of water. few fishermen; catfish have been slow to good drifting shrimp in 25 feet of water.

JOE POOL: Water clear 79 degrees. normal level; black bass are fair in number to 7 1/2 pounds on chrome cranks. white spinners and electric blue worms in 10-14 feet of water. crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and red and white jigs in 8-12 feet of water; catfish are good to 9 pounds on shrimp and blood bait in 6-12 feet of water

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear. 79 degrees, normal level. black bass have been fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds on blue worms in 3-10 feet of water with some limits. fish are good in number but most are small in size on small jigs; crappie have been good to 3 pounds on minnows in 8-12 feet of water. white bass have been schooling, most fish are small. best bait are small cranks and white jigs; catfish have been fair in number to 8 pounds on goldfish and cut bait. Bream have been fairly good on worms around boat houses. Fairly good numbers of bluewing teal spotted in the lake area.

LAVON Water clear. 76 degrees, normal level. black bass have been good in numbers to 4 pounds in 6-8 feet of water on purple and spotted worms, most fish are caught near the railroad trestle; striper slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds around the stumps on minnows and jigs. white bass are very good on the points and in the

flats on L il georges several good strings of 2-2 1/2 pound fish caught early; catfish are good to 6 pounds in fairly good numbers drifting shrimp around the island in 20-22 feet of water.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear. 1 foot low; black bass are good to 5 pounds with many limits in shallow water on white spinners; striper slow; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on jigs and minnows; white bass are slow; catfish slow

MONTICELLO: Water clear. 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 ponds, 10 ounces on 8 inch black or purple worms; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows in 15 feet of water; catfish are good to 9 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear. 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds on shrimp and chicken liver fished on the bottom.

MURVAUL: Water clear. 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in number to 9 1/4 pounds on dark worms. Tiny Torpedoes and buzz baits; crappie are good at night under 1971 bridge as well as boat docks on minnows; catfish have been good to 4 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with minnows.

PALESTINE: Water clear. 18 inches low; black bass are good to 6 1/4 pounds on topwaters, cranks, worms and spinners; striper are fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds on live bait; crappie slow; white bass are good with some schooling around Caney Creek; catfish have been good 10 3/4 pounds on blood bait and catalpa worms.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear. 18 inches low; black bass fairly good in the 3-3 1/2 pound range; crappie have been fairly good to 2 pounds on minnows; most in the 1/2 to 3/4 pound range; white bass have been slow; catfish are fairly good to 17 pounds on shrimp and worms.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear. 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on white spinners; striper good to 6 pounds on big chartreuse slabs; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds with many limits on minnows; white bass are good on white slabs with many limits; catfish have been fair in number to 5 pounds on shrimp.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear. 74 degrees, 2 foot, 10 inches low; black bass have been good with some limits to 3 pounds on worms primarily; white bass are good with strings on Rat-L-Traps and spoons; crappie good with many limits on minnows and jigs; catfish are good in the 4-6 pound range on minnows.

TAWAKONI: Water slightly off color. 79 degrees, normal level; black bass have been good to 6 pounds with limits; most are in the 2-3 pound range at the edge of moss beds with worms and Rat-L-Traps; striper are slow; crappie slow; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on slabs mostly; catfish are good to 7 pounds on shrimp and blood bait.

TEXOMA: Water clear. 77 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks and worms; striper are fair to good to 12 pounds on slabs, live baits and topwaters; crappie are good to 1 1/2 to 2 pounds on live bait with full strings; white bass are fair to 2 pounds to 10 fish per string on slabs and popping corks; catfish are good to 23 pounds on cut bait.

WELSH: Water clear. 85 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 7 3/4 pounds on dark worms and topwaters in 4-12 feet of water. best bets are along creek channels and in moss beds; crappie are fair on tube jigs and minnows in 15 to 30 feet of water near the dam; catfish are good to 3 pounds with rod and reel baited with shrimp and shad in 4-12 feet; bream are good to 1/2 pound on EurOlarvae and wigglers in 8-15 feet of water in brush piles around sandy points.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water slightly off color. 76 degrees; 18 inches low; bass are slow to fair to 10.65 pounds at 10 feet in 30 feet of water on 4-inch smoke, black or plum worms with blue tails; crappie are slow; white bass fair trolling; catfish are still good; White amur are good to 18 pounds with Papa Earl's bait. Sunfish are good during warm weather; fish disappear during colder days; best baits are pieces of nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear. 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on black Devil Horses, spinners, black and blue Craw Worms and silver Rat-L-Traps around the islands; striper slow; crappie are good on minnows with limits; white bass slow; catfish slow to 5 pounds minnows.

RAYBURN: Water clear. 70 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good

in the 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 pound range on Weird 82 worms raspberry black flaked worms and Rat-L-Traps in deep and shallow water; striper slow; white bass are beginning to school. catfish are slow; crappie are good in 20-22 feet on minnows

TOLEDO BEND. Water clear 75 degrees, 3 3/4 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and chartreuse crappie jigs. white bass slow; catfish good to 7 pounds in baited holes with Catfish Charly shrimp.

SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fair in number to 8 pounds on topwaters and buzz baits early and late, purple worms with chartreuse worms good in the middle of the day; striper are good early and late to 15 pounds on topwaters Zara Spooks with black bucktail trailers from the dam to Marker 8 crappie slow; white bass are beginning to show up on the Pecos River on slabs and minnows catfish are good on shrimp worms and Roger's Cheese Bait in 50 to 100 feet of water around holes baited with soured wheat just off drop offs

BRAUNIG Water murky, 86 degrees normal level, black bass poor; striper slow to 6 pounds on tilapia channel catfish good to 5 pounds with 18 fish weighing 65 pounds on chicken parts and shad; redfish good to 27 pounds 12 ounces a possible new lake record on a Tony Accetta Pet silver spoons, corvina slow.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass have been fair to 6 pounds on plastic worms and cranks; striper have been good to 5 pound average on silver spoons, catfish have been good to 15 pounds on shad mostly and tilapia; redfish have been very good to 11 pounds on cranks and shad; corvina have been good to 8 pounds on spoons and cranks.

CHOKO: Water clear, 80 degrees, 13 feet low black bass beginning to stack up on the lower end near the tank dam, the humps. Highway 72 roadbed and ridges best times are early from 7 to 10:30 a.m. best baits are Rat-L-Traps and cranks, spinners and worms as well as topwaters in the river channel striper slow; crappie good in 15 to 20 feet of water about 5 feet off the bottom with minnows and jigs near brush points, humps and tanks catfish good off the river channel in the main lake suspended at 25 to 30 feet in 40 to 50 feet of water a few are caught in Possum Creek in 20 feet of water, best baits are cheese baits blood baits and shrimp. Cooler nights should increase quality fishing

COLETO CREEK Water clear, 79 degrees 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds but most fish are undersized and are caught on worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs, most fish are small some to 1 1/2 pounds; catfish are good in the 2-3 pound range on shrimp and blood bait.

CORPUS CHRISTI Water clear, 79 degrees, 6 feet low black bass are good to 6 1/4 pounds in 3-5 feet of water on 6 inch dark curly tailed worms and chartreuse spinners; striper slow; crappie are good at Sunrise Beach and state park piers as well as Alice Pump House area in 10-12 feet of water on minnows white bass are good with near limits under the birds on white jigs and chrome slabs; blue catfish good to 29 pounds on trotlines baited with lye soap and shad in 2-3 feet of water set near islands and in coves yellow catfish good to 32 pounds on trotlines set in river channel and baited with live Rio Grande perch.

FALCON: Water clear to slightly off color, 83 degrees 19 feet low; black bass are good to excellent to 8 1/2 pounds on dark worms in 4 to 12 feet of water striper slow, some around the dam, crappie are slow; white bass are slow catfish have been fairly slow.

MEDINA: Water clear 40 feet low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on topwaters no limits all other fishing is slow.

TEXANA: Water murky in lake clear in the creeks and rivers 80 degrees 1 foot low; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on buzz baits around moss beds; striper slow; white bass slow, crappie are good up the Sandies Creek on minnows, a few limits caught, blue catfish good to 12 pounds on trotline with live bait.

WEST

ARROWHEAD Water clear, 68 degrees lake full black bass poor; striper have been fair to 7 pounds on Israeli carp; crappie have been fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in 10 feet or more of water white bass have been poor; catfish have been good to 4 pounds on liver.

BAYLOR: Water clear. normal level black bass are good to 8 pounds, 2 ounces on worms; crappie fairly slow on minnows; catfish good to 7 pounds. 14 ounces on water dogs, most catfish are smaller.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water slightly off color, 70 degrees. normal level. black bass are good to 5 pounds on Jig and Pig. hybrid striper have been good to 5 pounds; crappie have been good to 25 fish per string on minnows white bass have been fairly good; catfish are good to 5 pounds

GRANBURY: Water clear. 72 degrees 3 feet low; black bass fair to 1 pounds on minnows and spoons striper slow; crappie slow; catfish have been fair in number.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear 68 degrees 6 feet low; black bass slow; striper are good in the 4-6 pound range on small perch and small silver spoons crappie are good to 25 fish per string in 8-12 feet of water on minnows; white bass are beginning to run, strings to 25 fish on plastic minnows. catfish are good to 62 pounds on trotlines baited with live carp.

MCKENZIE: Water clear. 68 degrees black bass slow; striper have been good to 9 pounds, 3 ounces on jigging spoons; crappie improving in 10 feet of water in the creeks on minnows and worms catfish are good to 15 3/4 pounds on live bait; walleye are good to 4 1/2 pounds on perch.

OAK CREEK: Water clear. 71 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass have been good to 7 pounds, 2 ounces on cranks; crappie have been good with limits on minnows in 25 feet of water. white bass have been good trolling with limits of 25 fish; catfish have been slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear lake full black bass have been good to in the 2-8 pound range on minnows and topwaters striper are good from 6 to 14 pounds on slabs and Pencil Poppers; crappie slow; white bass are good on slabs with limits; catfish are good in the 4-6 pound range on perch and blood bait.

SPENCE: Water clear 72 degrees 32 feet low black bass are fair to 5 pounds on spinners plastic worms. striper slow crappie slow; white bass improving. catfish good to 5 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp baited rod and reel.

STAMFORD: Water clear 72 degrees 3 1/2 feet low. black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 pounds on minnows catfish are slow on trotlines and fair in number to 2 1/2 pounds on liver baited rod and reel

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear normal level black bass fair in number in the 6-10 pound range on Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie have been good with many limits on minnows in 15 to 20 feet of water; catfish slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Limits of good sized redfish keepers caught south of the Stewts and Sydnes Islands. Middle and East Pass. Hickory Cove and along the eastern shore of the lake on shrimp and gold spoons; specks have been good to 4 pounds but most are in the 18-20 inch range many throwbacks, birds are working some on live shrimp, pink touts with good numbers of limits; fairly good numbers of flounder; fairly good numbers of drum most are about 10 inches long the keepers are in the 3-4 pound range. some oversized drum; sheepshead are fairly good; croaker are running; fairly good numbers of fishermen out; live bait shrimp available at 6 cents each.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish are good to 8 pounds on pink and white touts in the south end of the lake near Blue Buck Point. croaker are good sized and in fairly good numbers in the lake and in the ship channel on dead shrimp; specks are good with limits on shrimp; a few flounder to 2 3/4 pounds on mud minnows live bait shrimp not available

GALVESTON West Bay fishermen are catching scattered limits of trout to 3 pounds on Kelly Long Johns and shrimp; a few trout in Chocolate Bay along with redfish; waders are catching trout in the guts behind San Luis Pass; GCCA weekend tournament caught good numbers of trout and redfish in Trinity and along the north shoreline of East Bay; live bait shrimp available at \$9 to \$9.50 per quart Whiting, pompano and sandtrout caught from the Gulf piers; croaker plentiful around causeway.

FREEPORT: Waters too rough to go offshore Sunday; snapper fishing has been good with snapper from 3 to 20 pounds from 40 to 60 miles offshore; grouper are slow; good numbers of sand shark along with snapper some kingfish and amberjack.

PORT OCONNOR Good sized redfish at the jetties. around Grass Island and at Pass Cavallo; offshore fishing has been good for snapper; kingfish are slow; trout slow but some good sized fish caught in the surf. live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart. Weather is beautiful midweek.

PALACIOS Redfish are plentiful in the 24-26 inch range on fresh dead shrimp and mullet in East Bay, South Bay and Carancahua Bay; trout are becoming more plentiful with a couple of limits this week on live shrimp, red touts and speck rigs; some flounder activity; croaker are slow; live bait shrimp are not available; no rains and bays are full of cabbage head jelly fish.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are fair to 28 inches on Cordell's Broken Backs with limits in the Hog Island area. a speck tournament was won by a 6 1/2 pound fish. total catch for 2 days during the tournament was 55 pounds. Live bait shrimp scarce.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish good in the keeper sizes, some oversized redfish along the jetties; trout good in Corpus Christi Bay in the 14-18 inch range on live shrimp; flats producing redfish in the keeper size range on piggy perch and golden croaker. offshore producing kingfish in the 15-20 pound range. blackfin tuna in the 15-20 pound range; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart. Head boats with 30 fishermen aboard caught 800 pounds of snapper and amberjack. on the 9 hour trip over the weekend; the 12 hour trip produced 1000 pounds of fish. no blacktips. a few Atlantic sharpnose shark. Spanish mackerel from the jetties; limits of kingfish around the jetties; waters are calm and clear midweek; a blue marlin caught, tagged and released over the weekend in 35 fathoms; fishing has been good, but not many boats are out.

CORPUS CHRISTI Most fish are caught around Bird Island Basin; redfish to 42 inches on a red Sassy Shad with a white tail fish released; a few trout hitting silver and blue Broken Backs. live bait shrimp are scarce; good numbers of croaker caught in the Intracoastal and in Humble Channel; overall fishing is fairly tough, tides are high and fish are scattered. Oso Pier fishermen are catching a few small drum and good numbers of golden croaker. fair numbers of keeper trout and a good number of throwbacks. live bait shrimp available at \$1.50 per dozen; weather is nice midweek.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout fishing has been fairly slow; redfish have been fairly slow. few fishermen out this week. offshore fishing has been fairly slow; weather is beautiful midweek and weekend fishing should be very good; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish have been fair in number to 28 inches. some oversized fish in the Three Islands area on live shrimp; fair numbers of trout in the 14 to 20 inch range on live shrimp; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 10/12/89