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GOOD 1989 SPRING TURKEY SEASON IN STORE

AUSTIN -- Prospects are excellent for the April 1-23 spring turkey hunting season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Ironically, high expectations for the spring season follow one of the poorest production years on record, according to Don Wilson, turkey program leader "Even though hen-poult counts during summer 1988 were extremely low we still have high turkey populations in most areas because of excellent production during 1987," said Wilson

Wilson said a current statewide turkey population estimate is not available, but he guessed that the total is close to the January 1988 estimate of 600,000 birds

Turkey hunting in both fall and spring are growing in popularity, Wilson said, judging from record harvests in the fall season of 1987-88 (63,000 birds) and spring 1987 (43,000 birds)

Last summer's hen-poult count of 35 poults per hen contrasted with the previous year's 2.61 Wilson said the average count is around one poult

per hen

One of the reasons for the popularity of spring hunting is that hunters can sometimes use turkey calls to lure gobblers during the birds' mating season. Only gobblers may be taken during the spring season. Bearded hens, which can be taken in some counties during the fall season, may not be taken in the spring. The bag limit for Rio Grande turkeys is three per year. Hunters may take two turkeys in the fall season and one in the spring or vice versa.

In certain East Texas counties where eastern turkeys have been restocked, a spring gobbler season is April 1-16. The limit is one gobbler only for eastern turkeys, and they may be hunted with shotguns only.

Prospective eastern turkey hunters should consult the department's 1988-89 Hunting Guide to determine which counties have a spring eastern turkey season.

Wilson said the spring Rio Grande turkey season has been lengthened to 23 days to give hunters more opportunity to hunt during the peak gobbling activity. "There's no way to predict when the peak will be, but historically it happens most often during April," Wilson said.

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MEDINA RIVER WATER
POLLUTION CASE SETTLED

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will receive \$146,000 as part of an out of court settlement for damages caused by a Southern Pacific Transportation Co train that derailed and spilled sulfuric acid into the Medina River

The TPWD estimated that the 1985 incident was fatal to more than 167,000 fish in the stretch of river just southwest of San Antonio in Bexar County

Fish killed by the acid spill included channel catfish, common carp, alligator gar, smallmouth buffalo, largemouth bass, white crappie, sunfish and numerous forage fish species

The Texas Attorney General's Office represented the TPWD and the Texas Water Commission in their efforts to recover damages, investigation costs and attorneys fees associated with the case. A total of \$175,000 was recovered by the state. The \$146,000 awarded the TPWD was for damages to aquatic life and investigation costs

Officials said the TPWD has authority under both the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code and the Texas Water Code to recover the value of aquatic life or wildlife injured or killed by pollution of state waters. During 1985, the TPWD developed a system to estimate the cost to replace fish killed, the value of lost recreational opportunities the fish represented, and the lost recreational value during the water body's recovery period

Larry McKinney, director of the TPWD's Resource Protection Division, said Texas is the first state in the nation to use such a system for evaluating pollution damages. The Medina River case is the largest settlement the department has collected since the valuation procedure was established in 1985, Palafox said.

Persons witnessing suspected pollution incidents affecting fish or wildlife can call the 24-hour, toll-free Operation Game Thief number, 1-800-792-GAME. Information regarding specific cases may be obtained by calling Dennis Palafox, TPWD, (512) 389-4726, or Ken Cross at the Attorney General's Office, (512) 463-2012.

JC 3/22/89

LAKE TEXOMA STILL A TOP
CATFISH PRODUCER

DENISON -- Lake Texoma, which already has produced a number of state and world record catfish, is still a hotspot for the catfisherman.

Biologist Bruce Hysmith of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said nine anglers from Wichita Falls recently caught 27 blue catfish on a juglining trip in the Mill Creek area near Preston Peninsula. The fish ranged in weight from 9 8 pounds to 44 3 pounds.

Hysmith said seven catfish over 67 pounds each have been caught from Texoma since 1984, ranging from 67 pounds, 14 ounces to 118 pounds, eight ounces. The latter fish, caught on a jugline May 1988, is the Oklahoma state record in the unrestricted division for fish caught on legal gear.

other than rod and reel. The Texas state record blue catfish, also in the unrestricted division, is a 116-pounder caught on a trotline at Texoma in 1985.

Texoma boasts four of the 15 world line-class records for blue catfish listed by the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, Hysmith said.

Big blue catfish usually concentrate in deep water during the winter, then migrate up the Red and Washita River channels during the spring, Hysmith said.

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WHITE BASS INCREASING IN LAKE PALESTINE

PALESTINE -- White bass populations have grown to unprecedented levels at Lake Palestine, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery biologist Richard Ott.

Ott said creel surveys indicate fishermen caught approximately 725,000 white bass during a 12-month period beginning Dec 1, 1987, compared to only 18,400 during the previous 12 months.

Standardized gill net surveys also reflect the increased abundance of white bass in the 25,500-acre lake. Catch rates in 1986 and 1987 were 3 and 5 per net night, respectively. By 1988 the catch rate increased to over 12 white bass per net night. Ott said 75 percent of the whites collected in the 1988 net sample were over the 10-inch minimum length.

limit The daily bag limit is 25 per person, and the possession limit is 50

Ott said the best catches have been reported along the west side of the lake from State Highway 155 to the dam

JC 3/22/89

PURTIS CREEK PARK HAS
ENJOYED ALL-STAR DEBUT

EUSTACE -- It's been a storybook opening for one of Texas' newest state parks

Purtis Creek State Park, boasting only 1,533 acres, has hosted almost 80,000 visitors since its gate swung open Nov 9

The attraction, in a word, is fishing

Totally within the borders of the state park is 355-acre Purtis Creek State Park Lake, an impoundment that has generated fishing interest far out of proportion to its size

Fishing has been exceptional for crappie and catfish, but the main reason for the crowds is the largemouth bass fishery "I would guess that more than 75 percent of the people who come here are going after bass," said Park Superintendent Jess Ramsey, "and I would also guess that a fair percentage of those folks caught the biggest bass of their lives here "

The unique feature of Purtis Creek's bass fishing is that while everyone

can have a chance to catch a trophy-sized bass, anglers must release all largemouths back into the lake alive. This is part of an experiment to see if a trophy bass fishery can be sustained through catch-and-release in the face of heavy fishing pressure.

Fishery Biologist Richard Ott said the catch-and-release bass fishery has turned out even better than he expected. "Fishermen are having a ball because they are catching large numbers of six-pound plus bass," Ott said, "and the good part is that they don't seem to mind releasing them."

Standard bag limits apply to other fish species. Ott said crappie fishing has improved recently, with two individual fish weighing in excess of four pounds each brought into headquarters, and six others larger than 3 1/2 pounds. Catfishing also has been spectacular at times, with large numbers of channel catfish over 10 pounds apiece brought in, he said.

Ramsey said fishing pressure has been intense during the park's first four months of operation, filling to the established limit of 50 boats on the lake at any one time. "We averaged 44 boats per day from opening day through December, and that's counting several rainy days when very few people got on the lake," Ramsey said.

The park's 59 campsites also have been operating at or near capacity since the first day as well, and all were booked during the recent spring break period.

Prospective visitors should be aware that advance reservations are not mandatory but usually necessary to get onto the lake or into a campsite.

Reservations for boat launching permits and campsites may be made up to 90 days in advance by calling the park at (214) 425-2332

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DAINGERFIELD PARK HOSTS
ANTIQUÉ CAR SHOW

DAINGERFIELD -- Antique cars will be displayed at Daingerfield State Park on April 8-9 for the 14th annual "Rod Run" sponsored by the Morris County Rod Club

The event will begin at 10 a.m. April 8, and will feature pre-1949 restored vehicles from Texas and several other states

Daingerfield State Park can be reached by taking U.S. Highway 259 north of Longview to Daingerfield, then turning east on State Highway 49 to the park entrance. For further information call the park at (214) 645-2921. A \$2 park entry fee is charged.

EC 3/22/89

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for March 23:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water slightly off color, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass fair in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on minnows and wiggley things; crappie fairly good to 10 fish per string crappie jigs; catfish slow.

BELTON: Water clear, 54 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on June Bug Crawworms and strawberry Crawworms in 5 feet of water; hybrid stripers slow; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass fair to 12 fish per string on powder blue hair jigs in 10 feet of water around Mother Neff. catfish fair to 10 fish per string to 3 pounds on earthworms with rod and reel.

BROWNWOOD Water murky, 3 1/2 feet below spillway; black bass good to 5 pounds, 12 ounces on a wide variety of baits from black jigs to worms in 8 feet of water; striper fair to good to 9 pounds, most in the 6-7 pound range on shiners and jigs. crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds with limits on minnows; white bass fair to 2 pounds on jigs and spoons; catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 55 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass good in number to 4 pounds on worms and spinners in 2-5 feet of water; striper are excellent in number to 18 pounds, 9 ounces on live shiners; crappie good under the docks with limits on minnows, some are caught on the sandy points and rocky points white bass fair trolling diving spots, Hot 'n Tots from Silver Creek to the Highline area; catfish fair to 2 1/2 pounds on worms and stinkbait.

CANYON: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level. black bass very good to 7 pounds on cranks, spinners and jig and pig striper slow; crappie good with some limits to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass good to 2 pounds on minnows at the rapids with some full strings; catfish good to 6 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level. black bass fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds on minnows, water dogs, dark worms and lizards; crappie fairly good to 20 fish per string on minnows at 4 feet in 12 feet of water; catfish good to 7 pounds through Friday; several to 12 pounds during the weekend.

GIBBONS CREEK Water muddy from runoff, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass and fish slow due to rain midweek; bass keepers to 11 pounds over the weekend on a wide variety of lures; crappie fair catfish fair.

LBJ Water clear, 59 degrees, lake full. black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on buzz baits; striper fair to 29 pounds, 2 ounces on live shad; crappie fair around docks, fish are beginning to move into shallow water, best bait is a minnow; white bass good up the Llano arm trolling Hotspots and Hot 'n Tots; catfish fair to 3 pounds on worms and stinkbait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 49 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass slow to 3 1/2 pounds on medium diving chartreuse Bombers; hybrid striper fair to 5 1/2 pounds on silver slabs, minnows and shrimp; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows and white jigs around marina at night and around Cedar Gap Bridge and Bluff Park in 6-10 feet of water; white bass good to 25 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and white jigs; catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 60 degrees, 10 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds, most in the 1 1/2 pound range, shallow water spawning action is good in 3-8 feet of water, best baits are Baby Bass Tom's Minners, crawfish colored cranks, chrome Redfins striper fair in number to 15 pounds near Lakeway on white jigs with a pearly white trailer grub, big striper beginning to show while chasing shad schools; crappie good in 10-12 feet of water in coves around brush on minnows and chartreuse jigs; white bass fair with some in the creeks area and major sloughs, the front midweek should slow the white bass; catfish fair with some steady trotline activities.

WACO: Water clear, 57 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on spinners and jigs; striper poor; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows and yellow redhead jigs very shallow water early and around 4 feet at noon; white bass good up the North Bosque on chrome cranks around Highway 185 Bridge and the male fish are good

on jigs in the shallows. catfish poor.

WHITNEY: Lake Clear, creeks murky, 51 degrees, 7 3/4 feet low; largemouth bass fair to 5.4 pounds on jigs, spinners and cranks up the creeks in 4-5 feet of water; smallmouth fair to 5 pounds on spinners and cranks in 12-15 feet of water; striper good to 27 pounds with strings over 100 pounds in the creeks on shad, deep diving cranks; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs to 1 3/4 pounds. white bass good 2 1/2 pounds on Hotspots and Roadrunners up the river; catfish good to 22 pounds on worms; channel catfish good to 4 pounds. Few fishermen out midweek, good numbers were fishing before the front.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear. 60 degrees, 1 inch overflow; black bass good to 11 pounds on a wide range of 3 treble hook stick baits and lizards; crappie good up the creeks with limits on minnows and jigs in 3 feet of water; white bass and hybrids excellent in coves on chrome Rat-L-Traps; catfish slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water murky, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass good with 5 tournaments weighing in 1860 pounds of bass total over the weekend, many 7s,8s,9s, 10s on lizards, red Rat-L-Traps, black and gold Rogues, white or chartreuse spinners with copper blades and brown jigs with a trailer; crappie good near the railroad bridge in 35 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 10 pounds off points near creek channels and in the mouth of coves.

BRIDGEPORT: Water muddy up river, clear otherwise, 13 1/2 feet low; black bass slow and small; striper fair to 6 pounds; crappie good to 25 fish per string around crappie house and up Dean Creek on minnows and jigs; white bass slow to 6 fish per string; catfish good to 23 pounds on trotline baited with live bait; some snow early Tuesday, most melted by noon, the front was followed by sunshine.

CADDO: Water clear, 6 inches above normal level, front hit about midnight Monday with butterbean sized hail and heavy rain; black bass good to 4 pounds on a black worm with a blue tail, no limits; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass good with limits on spinners; catfish slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water stained, 52 degrees at 10 feet, 8 inches low; black bass good to 11 pounds on chrome Rat-L-Traps and black lizards in 6-10 feet of water; hybrid striper slow; crappie good on the north end of the lake in the shallows; white bass are good at night in the creeks on minnows; catfish slow.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water stained, 48 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 9 pounds, 6 ounces on chartreuse and blue spinners over last weekend; crappie good in 25 feet of water on jigs and minnows. catfish slow. Rains and hail hit early Tuesday.

FORK: Water clear, 50 degrees, lake full. black bass good to 15.38 pounds on a moccasin colored plastic lizard in 5 feet of water, most of the bass were in the 6-7 pound range and were caught on lizards and black, white, chartreuse, blue and white spinners; crappie fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; catfish slow.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 66 degrees, 2 inches above normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds on chrome blue backed Rat-L-Traps, spinners, lizards and Bang-O-Lures. crappie good in shallow water on small spinners. white bass good with schooling fish biting small cranks around bridges; catfish slow.

LAVON: Water slightly stained, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass good in the 5-8 pound range in shallow water off the points on minnows; hybrid striper good in the 4 1/2 to 9 pound range below the dam on minnows; crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs in shallow water near the banks, in the creeks and around boat houses; white bass good in the creeks and close to the banks on jigs and minnows. catfish good on worms and shad, stinkbait and shrimp mostly in the 2-3 pound range, a few in the 5-6 pound range.

LEWISVILLE: Water dingy, 56 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; striper slow; crappie spotty on rubber tube jigs and minnows; white bass beginning spawning runs in creeks; catfish good to 5 1/2 pounds on stinkbait.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 62 degrees, 18 inches high; black bass good to in the 3-6 pound range on Rat-L-Traps in 12 feet of water; striper good in the 4-5 pound range; crappie slow. white bass slow; catfish good in the 2 1/2 to 7 pound range near the discharge on stinkbait.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds on lizards and topwaters before the front, slow since the front; crappie slow; catfish good to 35 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water slightly murky, 49 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie good to 2 pounds to 10 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 9 pounds, 1 ounce on topwaters Redfins, lizards with several 6s and 7s; crappie good with some movement toward the shallows around 1971 bridge; catfish slow to 4 pounds. Front hit around dark Monday.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 4 pounds on yellow or chartreuse spinners in 8 feet of water; striper fairly good to 6 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 25 fish per string minnows under the bridge at night; catfish fair to 2 1/2 pounds on chicken livers.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 49 degrees, 1 inch high; black bass good to 7 pounds in 2-4 feet of water on jig and eel striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish good to 6 pounds on bloodbait, cheese bait and shrimp.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 49 degrees, 15 inches low; black bass good to 10 pounds, 14 ounces on spinners; striper slow; crappie fair in number to 2 pounds, 11 ounces on live bait; white bass slow; catfish good to 36 pounds on cutbait.

WELSH Water clear, 70 degrees, lake full; black bass fair on lizards and cranks to 7 1/2 pounds, no limits; crappie slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on worms and shrimp; bream good on worms.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 60 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass excellent to 9 pounds in shallow water before the cold front hit around dark Monday on 4-inch black blue tailed worms, cranks and spinners, live water dogs are best bait; striper slow; crappie fair around 1097 bridge and Satterfield Lake on minnows; blue catfish fair to 17 pounds on water dogs; channel catfish good to 13 pounds on cheese flavored stinkbait.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 12 pounds, 13 ounces on water dogs with several fish over 10 pounds; crappie good with strings to 25 fish; white bass good to 25 fish per string to 3 pounds, 10 ounces on minnows and Rogues; catfish fairly slow to 15 pounds on Pig and Jig in 18 feet of water.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level black bass good in the 2-6 pound range on chartreuse and white spinners in shallow water; striper fair only on minnows; crappie good in shallow water on minnows; white bass fair at night; catfish fair on trotline and rods and reel.

RAYBURN: Water discolored in the rivers and creeks 65 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 10 pounds on topwaters and worms, jigs, Crawworms, Rat-L-Traps in shallow water; hybrid striper fair in the 6-8 pound range near the dam on diving baits; crappie fair in shallow water, some around crappie houses; white bass slow; catfish fair on trotlines with live bait.

TOLEDO BEND: Water muddy from recent rains, 1 foot low; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on a Wacky Worms in 7 feet of water; striper good in the 4-5 pound range on Rattlin' Rogues and bone colored Redfins; crappie good on minnows in the river beds; white bass slow; catfish good to 3 pounds on trotline baited with live minnows.

SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, 2 feet above normal level. black bass good to 9 pounds with many fish heading to shallow water beds, best baits are Bomber cranks, dark worms, Crawworms; striper good to 25 pounds on topwater Redfins, limits of the smaller sized striper are fairly easy to get; crappie slow; white bass good up the Pecos River; catfish good to 7 pounds in 10-40 feet of water.

BRAUNIG Water murky, 54 degrees, 18 inches above normal level. black bass good to 8 pounds, 6 ounces, many undersized fish, on plastic worms and Rat-L-Traps in 6 feet of water; striper good to 8 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, liver, shrimp; crappie slow; catfish good to 5 pounds on worms, shrimp and shad; redfish good to 16 pounds, 12 ounces on nightcrawlers, chicken liver and shrimp.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds on jigs, Rat-L-Traps, Rebel and DB#3 cranks; hybrid

striper fair to 6 pounds on spinners, Tony Accetta spoons and liver; crappie poor in number in the 1-2 pound range on minnows; yellow catfish good to 31 pounds on liver and perch; blue catfish fair on shad baited trotlines; channel catfish good in the 4-5 pound range on liver, shrimp and shad; redfish good to 11 1/2 pounds on Tony Accetta spoons, crawfish, cranks; corvina good to 9 1/2 pounds green grubs, spinners and silver Tony Accetta spoons

CHOKO: Water clear, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 11 pounds on jigs and spinners in 2-15 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good to 2 pounds, a 3 pound, 12 ounce crappie was landed which is a new lake record; white bass good but spotty in the river channels above highway 99 Bridge; catfish excellent to 7 pounds on rod and reel with Bob's Blood Bait and cheese bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass good early to 14 1/2 inches on Rat-L-Traps and cranks; striper poor; crappie good on minnows in 5-6 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 2 pounds on trotlines baited with cut bait and blood bait, some caught on rod and reel in baited holes.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water milky with hard north wind midweek, 59 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass good before the front with many in the 4-6 pound range on purple worms with yellow curl tails in 3-5 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good with limits on minnows and jigs from the piers at Sunrise beach in the state park; white bass good with limits also at the state park; blue catfish good to 24 pounds on rod and reel and trotline on cut shad. Yellow catfish good to 12 pounds on sunfish; gaspergou plentiful to 6 pounds on cut shad near the dam.

FALCON: Water clear, high north winds, 3 feet low; black bass good over the weekend to 12 pounds, 11 ounces on lizards; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair around the rapids; catfish good on frozen shrimp and sponge baits, fish seem to be increasing in size. TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, clear in the jungle area, 54 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 9 3/4 pounds in the jungle area on worms and topwaters with limits; striper and white bass slow; crappie fair up the Sandy Creek on minnows, no limits. catfish excellent to 30 pounds on trotline baited with shad

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 45 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair to 3 pounds on shad baits; crappie good to 2 pounds on minnow jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BAYLOR: Water clear, 53 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 8 pounds, 10 ounces on black jigs with blue trailers; crappie good with full strings on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 pounds on stink bait.

GRANBURY: Water stained, 51 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 5 pounds on Fat Getzits in 4-6 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good on minnows in 12 feet of water, many limits; white bass slow; catfish slow. A half inch of sleet and snow remains on the ground late Tuesday.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 50 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass fair in numbers in 6 feet of water on minnows. crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass good to 25 fish per string on slabs; catfish fair on worms to 5 1/2 pounds in deep water; walleye slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 7 feet low; black bass good in the 5-6 pound range with full strings on pig and jig, cranks; striper good with limits. crappie good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass slow; catfish beginning to hit trotlines baited with minnows and perch.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 55 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass fairly slow; crappie fair to 2 pounds on minnows. white bass slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on frozen shad.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 54 degrees, 12 feet low; black bass fairly good to 6 pounds, 7 ounces on cranks, worms and jigs; striper plentiful to 25 pounds on white Roadrunner jigs, 8-10 pound fish plentiful. crappie good in crappie houses on minnows; white bass good to 30 fish per boat on fleafly jigs; catfish slow. Cold front hit early Monday dropping temperatures to 30 degrees along with snowflakes and sleet.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie beginning to hit minnows in shallow water; catfish slow. The cold front hit at 2 p.m. Monday and brought sleet around 4:30 a.m. Tuesday; some ice and snow remained on the ground late Tuesday.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Good numbers of fishermen working the lake over the weekend and these caught good strings of redfish along with some trout; fishing has been slow since the front hit Monday night, bringing up to 2 inches of rain; some trout landed around Stewart's Island; dead shrimp and mud minnows were best baits; redfish caught around Stewart's Island, Hickory Cove and the Gulf States Outfall Canal on crabs; fishermen caught oversized as well as undersized redfish; croaker and drum fair in number while fishing for redfish; no live bait shrimp are available but live mud minnows and crabs are available

GALVESTON: Beachfront producing gafftop, a single jack fish, a number of oversized drum, a few oversized redfish; good numbers of drum in the ship channel and at the Texas City Dike, about half of drum are too large to keep; before the front, scattered redfish to 26 inches were caught in the bays, a few limits of specks in the 16-17 inch range; live bait hard to find; offshore fishing slow due to high winds.

ROCKPORT: Fishing very slow midweek due to lack of fishermen. Monday fishermen caught fair numbers of redfish on artificials along with a few scattered trout in Copano Bay mostly. Cold front hit at 2 a.m. Tuesday and fishing stopped. No live bait shrimp are available.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish good in the 24-26 inch range with limits on dead shrimp at Allan's Bight; some big drum along the Intracoastal area around Ingleside, drum caught on crabs, sheepshead good to 10 pounds around the end of the jetties from boats, also from piers; some whiting, pompano and trout from the beach; some live bait available early, best to call first. Horace Caldwell Pier fishermen caught sand shark in the 3 foot range before the front on cut mullet, few fishermen since the front.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Oso Pier fishermen catching drum to 8 pounds on dead shrimp; several redfish to 28 inches also caught on shrimp; Bob Hall Pier fishermen are catching good strings of whiting, a few drum in the 5-6 pound range, a couple of bull reds to 41 inches, which were released, some pompano, blacktip, Atlantic finetooth, bonnet nose shark and a single bull shark between 2 and 4 feet; a jack crevalle landed on Saturday, five others hooked and lost; good numbers of stingrays and a single manta ray landed by a 14 year old boy. The ray was 9 foot, 5 inches across and weighed an estimated 450 pounds.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing fairly slow due to bad weather; no live bait shrimp available. Weather cold, winds high midweek.

SOUTH PADRE: Front hits early Tuesday; winds have been high since the weekend; few fishermen out since the front.

PH 3/22/89