

NON-CIRCULATING texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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SEPTEMBER OPENER LOOKING GOOD

AUSTIN--Hunters anxiously awaiting the beginning of fall hunting on Sept. 1 can expect a good opening. Mourning dove numbers are above the long-term average and, for the first time since 1987, Texans will get to participate in an early teal season.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department request for a nine-day statewide teal season. Blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal may be hunted Sept. 12-20. The daily bag limit is four teal daily, eight in possession.

The service will allow Texas teal hunters to hunt from 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset with the understanding that the department will conduct field evaluations of the shooting hour change. Teal shooting hours during past years have been sunrise to sunset.

"This is good news for Texas duck hunters," said Bob Jessen, TPWD waterfowl program leader. "Blue-winged teal breeding populations have increased in their northern U.S. and Canadian breeding grounds, making possible the reopening of teal season in Texas."

The September teal season was closed after the 1987 season because of concerns about poor production caused by extended drought conditions on the northern breeding grounds as well as concerns about "special" seasons. However, the USFWS now considers a September teal season to be an acceptable harvest management strategy. The 1992 estimated teal population is 4.2 million, up from 3.8 million in 1991, and now about equal to the average population from 1955 to 1992.

A four-day white-winged dove season was approved for Sept. 5, 6, 12 and 13 in the Special White-winged Dove Area. The four-day season has a daily bag limit of 10 doves that can include no more than five mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

May call-count surveys, conducted by TPWD personnel, indicated 360,000 whitewings nesting in the lower Rio Grande Valley, an 8 percent increase from last year but 18 percent below the 15-year average. In upper South Texas, 410,116 whitewings were nesting through a 16-county area, a 13 percent decrease over last year. In West Texas, about 28,000 whitewings were reported in salt cedar nesting habitat along the Rio Grande, 32 percent below 1991.

Ron George, wildlife branch deputy director, said nesting densities at San Antonio, Lake Corpus Christi, Medina Lake and Del Rio still rival or exceed some of the better nesting sites in the Valley. Whitewings also have been reported in Austin, Waco and several other Central Texas cities.

Whitewing hunters are reminded that beginning with the 1992-93 season the Special White-winged Dove Area will no longer extend northward from Del Rio. The area from Del Rio north to Fort Hancock has become part of the central dove zone.

The mourning dove population index declined about 2 percent from last year but still is about 14 percent above the 15-year average. The largest decline - about 10 percent - was in the central zone. The north zone increased 8 percent and the south zone increased 3 percent.

Mourning dove dates are: North Zone, Sept. 1-Nov. 9; Central Zone, Sept. 1-Oct. 31 and Jan. 2-10; and South Zone, Sept. 20-Nov. 12 (ends Nov. 8 in Special White-winged Dove Area) and Jan. 2-17. The statewide (except Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties) daily bag limit is 12 doves, including no more than six whitewings and two whitetips.

During the regular season, in the traditional white-winged dove counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties, the bag limit will remain 12 doves, including no more than two white-winged and two white-tipped doves per day.

Rails may be hunted Sept. 1-Nov. 9. Daily bag limit is 15 (30 in possession) for King and clapper rails and 25 daily (25 in possession) for Sora and Virginia rails.

The season for all species of gallinules (common moorhen and purple gallinule) is Sept. 1-Nov 9. Daily bag limit is 15; possession is 30.

The shooting hours for all early season migratory game birds is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

To hunt teal, hunters must possess a valid Texas hunting license, a Texas waterfowl stamp (\$7) and a federal waterfowl stamp (\$15). Teal may be hunted with steel shot only. White-winged dove hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license. However, with the expansion of whitewings into Central Texas and other areas, hunters may want to purchase a white-winged dove stamp (\$7). Hunters must have the stamp if they are in possession of a white-winged dove.

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CONFUSION ABOUT DOVE BAG LIMITS, IDENTIFICATION

AUSTIN--Each fall some hunters get confused about daily bag and possession limits for mourning doves and other species. Hunters also should be aware of which species of dove they are hunting.

Ron George, deputy director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's wildlife branch, said a daily bag limit is defined as, "the maximum number of the indicated species that legally may be killed, taken or possessed during the permitted shooting hours in one calendar day." A possession limit is defined as, "the maximum number of the indicated species permitted to be possessed by one person when lawfully taken in the United States.

"A person cannot legally shoot a daily bag limit of doves in the morning, then go out in the afternoon and shoot more doves," he said.

Texas has three species of doves with legal hunting season, all with different daily bag limits.

Whitewings, which have distinctive white stripes across each wing, should not be confused with white-tipped doves, which are named for the white on the tip of the tail. Both are a legal game species in Texas, as are mourning doves, but whitetips most likely will be found south of a line from Corpus Christi to Laredo.

For more information on dove identification ask for the TPWD leaflet, "Know Your Doves." Write to TPWD, Literature Section, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4566 or (512) 389-4566.

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FRANKSTON MAN GETS FOUR MONTHS IN EAGLE KILLING

AUSTIN--Kimball Glenn McKinney of Frankston was sentenced Aug. 6 to four months in federal prison and one year of supervised release after pleading guilty to killing a bald eagle in December 1989.

Federal Magistrate Judith Guthrie of Tyler also awarded McKinney, 28, to pay the state \$3,850 in civil restitution.

McKinney was indicted April 22 in district court in Tyler for violating the federal Eagle Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The penalty for each count is up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000.

The eagle was found, minus its talons, alongside a Farm to Market road near Lake Palestine and reported to authorities in December 1989. Game wardens Mike Warren and Mark Davis, both of Athens, investigated the case with few leads.

In January 1992, game warden Jerry Chilton of Tyler received information that led to the identity of the suspect. The case was jointly investigated by TPWD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials.

The eagle was shot twice with a shotgun. The talons were never recovered.

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DPS TO HONOR THREE GAME WARDENS

AUSTIN--Three game wardens who used their training in water related rescue operations to aid winter and spring flood victims will be honored by the Department of Public Safety at 10 a.m., Aug. 14 at the agency's Waco office.

Dee Litteken of Bosque County, Mike Urban of Hill County and Butch Shoop of McClennan County will receive the Director's Award, the DPS's highest civilian award.

On Dec. 20, during flooding of the Bosque River in Clifton, Litteken and Shoop rescued a 76-year-old woman while maneuvering their boat in the treacherous river. The wardens had to maneuver through a mile of swirling waters, dodge logs and other floating debris and avoid whirlpools. Twice they became hung on a barbed wire fence.

Litteken, Urban and Shoop saved the life of a Bosque County resident who had been swept away during a downpour May 16 on the flooded Steele Creek in rural Bosque County. A vehicle occupied by two Erath County residents was swept away at a low water crossing on FM 926. A man drowned but his wife had grabbed a limb and was rescued by the wardens.

"Using their boat and expertise in water rescue operations, the game wardens responded immediately and performed their responsibilities at considerable risk to themselves while succeeding in their life-saving effort," said Charles Hensley, TPWD law enforcement division director.

The Director's Award is given for acts of heroism or good works in the assistance of a DPS trooper, said Maj. Bob McKamie of the DPS office in Waco. Sgt. Robert Kucera nominated the wardens for the award.

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HUNTING/FISHING DAY FOCUSES ON YOUTH

AUSTIN--National Hunting and Fishing Day, scheduled for Sept. 26, will emphasize youth involvement this year, a major shift from the traditional open houses at sportsmen's clubs and displays at shopping centers. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department likewise will promote youth involvement in the outdoors with the Texas Wildlife Expo '92.

This year's National Hunting and Fishing Day theme, "Even Old Traditions Need New Beginnings. Start Tomorrow's Sportsmen Today," calls on individual sportsmen's clubs to plan special programs and one-on-one activities to introduce today's youth to their American sporting heritage.

"Every one of today's sportsmen owes a debt to the hunters and anglers who have gone before, especially the men and women who introduced us to the joys and wonders of the sportsman's world," said Dave Howery, national coordinator for National Hunting and Fishing Day. "This year we're encouraging sportsmen to repay that favor by passing on the sportsman's conservation heritage to America's next generation."

Texas Wildlife Expo '92, scheduled for Oct. 2-3 at TPWD headquarters here, will celebrate the legacy of hunting and the role hunters have played in conservation efforts in the state. Special efforts will be made to provide the chance to shoot a shotgun to youths and others who have never had the opportunity.

From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 3, two five-stand sporting clays facilities, sponsored by Winchester and Remington, will allow novice and experienced shooters a chance to try this shooting opportunity. Winchester also will sponsor a children's shooting area that will allow young people to shoot sporting clays that simulate a springing teal, exploding quail or darting rabbit.

The Coors Outdoor Skills Center will be on hand with its many seminars and demonstrations. There also will be an opportunity to shoot alternative sporting arms such as black powder rifles (no projectiles) from Thompson Center Arms Co., compound bows from the Lone Star Bowhunters Association and air rifles from Crosman Airguns.

A banquet scheduled for Oct. 2 will reward essay contest winners in grades seven through college and poster contest winners from kindergarten through 12th grade. Winners will receive a lifetime hunting and fishing license valued at \$800. The banquet, which costs \$50 and has limited seating, also includes a celebrity sporting clays shoot with Nolan Ryan, George Strait, George W. Bush, Ted Nugent, Doug English and others.

For more information on purchasing a booth at the Expo or to purchase tickets, contact TPWD at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4472, or (512) 389-4472.

National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1971 by congressional resolution to honor sportsmen for their historic and continuing contributions to wildlife conservation.

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HOLIDAY SWIMMERS SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS

AUSTIN--Drowning typically is the leading cause of water and boating fatalities in Texas and during the upcoming Labor Day weekend many water enthusiasts will engage in that last hurrah of the summer.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urges those heading for the water Labor Day to use extra precautions and common sense while enjoying any of the many water related activities.

There are some precautions to take around water that can protect you, Harris said. "One, don't go into the water alone. Swim with companions, friends and relatives. Two, make sure to wear a life jacket if you can't swim, even when only wading. Finally, don't go near the swimming pool unless there is a lifeguard on duty."

Harris also suggests avoiding alcohol while participating in water activities. "Alcohol is a major factor in drowning. Many victims have significant levels of alcohol in their blood. Water does not help 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 personal flotation device 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 and education call the department at 1-800-253-4536 or (512) 389-4999.

The department has scheduled several boater education courses across the state for anyone who wants to learn more about their sport and, in some instances, receive boat insurance discounts. Below is a list of upcoming boater education courses by town, date course begins, instructor's name and telephone number(s).

- * Alvin - Sept. 15, Raymond Newsom, (713) 534-4198.
- * Arlington - Sept. 22, Russell Clapp, (817) 244-7251
- * Austin - Aug. 25, Eugene Frith, (512) 929-3004.
- * Beaumont - Sept. 1, Everett Campbell, (409) 835-8461, also, Oct. 1
- * Belton - Aug. 28, James Lorenz, (817) 778-2851

- * Cedar Creek Lake - Aug. 22, Joel Moore, (214) 235-0405.
- * Clear Lake City - Oct. 8, Raymond Newsom, (713) 534-4198.
- * Corpus Christi - Aug. 25, Donald Birchum, (512) 852-6800; also, Sept. 14, Richard Reinhart, (512) 887-8298 or 883-0376.
- * Dallas - Sept. 15, Champ C. Herndon III, (214) 240-2736.
- * Ellington Field - Sept. 10, Vaada Smith, (713) 468-9644.
- * Fort Worth - Aug. 25, Mike Mayfield, (817) 292-0842.
- * Grand Prairie - Sept. 17, Joel Moore, (214) 641-0849 or (817) 967-9569.
- * Killeen - Sept. 24, Allen Smith, (817) 698-4427 or 699-5343.
- * League City - Oct. 10, Raymond Newsom, (713) 534-4198.
- * Mount Vernon - Aug. 29, E.C. Withers, (903) 537-4536.
- * Pilot Point - Aug. 26, J.W. Todd, (817) 686-5166.
- * Plano - Sept. 28, Brinkley Snowden, (214) 578-7111
- * San Antonio - Sept. 9, Larry Dickinson, (512) 599-1758 or 650-5329; also, Sept. 19, Ernest Galan, (512) 922-6450 or 925-7017; Oct. 17, Galan.

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PRONGHORN POPULATION INCREASING

AUSTIN--Recent pronghorn antelope surveys by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department indicate a 6.8 percent increase in herd numbers from 1991 on the southern Plains.

This is the second consecutive year an increase has been documented through aerial and ground census techniques, said Lee Miller, wildlife biologist in San Angelo. A survey covering about 211,000 acres in Irion, Reagan, Sterling, Tom Green, Glasscock, Nolan and Runnels counties revealed a population of 1,492 antelope, up from 1,397 in 1991

The population structure included 601 bucks, 502 does and 389 fawns, a 1:0.84 buck/doe ratio. The 78 percent fawn crop is the second highest since 1987, he said. "The annual harvest of pronghorns is comprised mainly of bucks. However, does with fawns are victimized in greater proportion by natural disasters such as drought, which may account for the near even sex ratio."

Reflective of present range conditions, antelope are in good physical condition.

The 1992 season is scheduled for Oct. 3-11 with a bag limit of one antelope by permit only. Permits are issued to landowners based on the results of annual surveys conducted by the department.

For more information on antelope and hunting opportunities contact Mike Hobson (Trans-Pecos), 1600 W. Hwy. 90, Alpine, Texas 79830, or (915) 837-2051, Danny Swepston (Panhandle), 3409 S. Georgia #25, Amarillo, Texas 79109, or (806) 353-3141, or Lee Miller (San Angelo), 3821 Wildrye Tr #A, San Angelo, Texas 76904, or (915) 944-4580.

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SEVEN ENTRIES PLACE IN ACI CONTEST

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department placed seven entries, including two firsts, in the Association For Conservation Information 1991 awards recently at Sun Valley, Idaho. That's the most awards ever won by TPWD at the national competition.

The department's "Open Line" employee video newsletter placed first in the Internal Communications category. The other first place was in the Television Public Service Announcements category, titled "Nongame Program." "Know Before You Go," a boating safety public service announcement which includes Gov. Ann Richards, tied for third place in the same category.

Two entries received second place awards for news. A special release on hunter safety received second in the Print News category, while a release on the Rigs to Reefs program finished second in the Video News category.

"The department's television show, "Texas Parks & Wildlife" tied for second with program 55 in the Television Program category. Program 55 examines egrets, herons and other birds that congregate each spring along the Texas Gulf Coast, takes a look at the softer side of cacti, takes the viewer along the Mission Trail in South Texas and concludes with a visit to Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area. Veteran photographer Leroy Williamson, who is retiring from the department Aug. 31, won second place in the Color Photography category for his photograph "Scenes from the Natural World of Texas."

Fifteen other department entries finished in the top 10 in various categories.

"I'm very pleased that once again we have done so well in this national competition," said Bill Rutledge, conservation communications director "It certainly showcases the quality of programs and material produced by the department's staff."

ACI is an organization comprised of conservation communicators from across the U.S. and Canada.

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

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 90 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to good to 5 pounds on topwaters and live bait, crappie are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds on Bill's Sponge Bait

BELTON: Water clear, 86 degrees, 4 feet above normal level; largemouth bass are good to 4 pounds on spinners, buzz baits, worms and red Bloodline Ring Rascal worms; small mouth bass are fair to 6 pounds, 1 ounce on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent with limits on the sand flats with jigging spoons on the bottom and double rigged small jigs above that, catfish are fair in the 2-3 pound range on prepared baits and worms.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 79 degrees, 1 foot below spillway level; black bass are slow, a few caught on topwaters; hybrid striper are fairly good on spoons, slabs with jigs at night under lights; crappie are fair in number on minnows at 15 feet in 35 feet of water; white bass are good schooling on L'il Cleo Spoons, jigs are good at night under lights; catfish are slow in the 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds from the docks on shrimp and chicken livers.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair through 4 pounds, 9 ounces on white spinners; striper are fair to 12 pounds on downriggers; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair through 5 pounds in baited holes on stinkbait.

CANYON: Water clear, 73 degrees, 6 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 7 1/4 pounds on topwaters, large minnows, Phantom Lures and topwaters; striper are slowing down, some caught trolling Phantoms and live black goldfish; crappie are good at night to 1 3/4 pounds; white bass are fair off minnows trolling Phantom Lures; catfish are good on trotline with live perch and goldfish, some smaller fish also caught.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, normal level; fishing has been slow due to lack of fishermen.

GTBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear, 86 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 8 1/4 pounds on cranks; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 33 pounds on jug lines baited with live perch.

LBJ: Water clear, 86 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair through 5 pounds, 11 ounces on chartreuse Getzits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair mid lake around noon, watch for topwater action; catfish are good in the 5 pound range in baited holes in 25-28 feet of water on shrimp and stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 88 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on Bulldog Spinners, buzz baits and worms; crappie are good in 20 feet of water on minnows around isolated trees; white bass are good early and late on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 10 pounds on live perch in the creek channels.

SOMERVILLE: Water a little murky, 78 degrees, 5 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on live minnows while

fishing for crappie; striper are fairly good in the 3-4 pound range on live minnows and trolling Tony Accetta Spoons; crappie are good on minnows, but slowed down midweek; white bass are good with limits caught on ghost minnows and Tony Accetta spoons trolling near island and near the dam; catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on liver and home made stinkbait.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 91 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good in the 2-8 pound range on Mister Whiskers Cheese Bait in 38 feet of water.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 6 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 2 pounds on worms and shrimp; ramps are open at Stillhouse Marina and Cedar Gap Park.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 4 pounds to 40 fish per day per boat on silver Jerkin' Sams early, salt and pepper Ringworms are good in the middle of the day and live minnows in 22 feet of water; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on same baits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on slab spoons early off points; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on cut bait.

WACO: Water off color, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on Craw Worms and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 1 pound on slabs; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on worms.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 85 degrees, 1 1/4 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds early and late on buzz baits, cranks and spinners; smallmouth are good on the same baits to 6 pounds; striper are fair to 14 pounds on live bait with early and late schooling; crappie are slow to good on minnows with short strings to 1 pound each; white bass are good on Tiny Torpedoes and Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 4 pounds on shrimp.

NORTHEAST

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 11 inches on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with live bream.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, near normal level; black bass are good in number; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 8-10 feet of water around the brush; white bass are fair and small; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on shrimp, worms and bloodbait.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on black worms with fire tails; crappie are good to 1 pound at the 43 river bridge on minnows; white bass and striper are slow; catfish are fair to 2 pounds at night on trotlines baited with shrimp, liver and minnows.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow with good numbers of small fish, a few keepers caught on black Bloodline worms and Luner Lures; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds with strings to 10 fish on minnows at 24 feet; white bass are very good early and late on chartreuse Roostertails and L'il Georges; catfish are good on

jug lines set at 12 feet baited with chicken livers and blood bait.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 90-95 degrees, 4 inches low; black bass are slow on Wing Dings; hybrid striper are slow to 10 pounds on live shad; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on liver and bloodbait; redfish are fair to 20 pounds on DB#3s.

FORK: Water clear, 81 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 9.92 pounds on Mud Bugs; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on cranks and worms in 12-15 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are slow, a few caught on minnows around marinas at night; white bass are fair on jigs and spoons in 30-35 feet of water; catfish are good to 7 pounds at night along the dam on shrimp.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 85-90 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on carolina rigged worms; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fair to 15 pounds on crawfish and bloodbait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 86 degrees, 3 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds, 12 ounces on black and blue jigs and black and blue neon Ring Rascals, some schooling bass caught on Rattle Traps; crappie are fair in 15 feet of water on minnows; white bass are schooling and are caught on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 8 1/2 pounds on rod and reel as well as rotline baited with nightcrawlers.

LAVON: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on plastic worms in 20 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fair in number, no limits, on minnows; catfish are good on jug lines with live shad in 15 feet of water.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 89-93 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 6 pounds on 10 inch Power Worms; striper are good to 27 inches on live hickory shad and live perch; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on live minnows; white bass are schooling, best baits are chartreuse slabs and clear Baby Torpedoes; catfish are good to 15 pounds on cranks.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 100 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on 8 and 11 inch black worms; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 7 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 7 fish per string on ghost minnows and shad; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 84 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 1 ounce on worms, buzz baits and topwaters; crappie are fair early around 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish are picking up on trotlines to 44 pounds on trotline with live perch; some channel catfish to 4 pounds have been caught on nightcrawlers.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 8 inches low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on worms; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are good with a few limits, some schooling in the evening; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on blood baits, catalpa worms and shrimp.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on spinners; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on dog food.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are very good to 3 1/2 pounds on topwaters, plastic worms in 10-12 feet of water; hybrid striped and striped are good to 11 pounds on live shad mainly and were caught while drifting in schools of white bass; crappie are very good in number but most are small on minnows in 14 to 20 feet of water; white bass are good on topwaters and slabs while schooling; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines baited with cut shad; on rod and reel catfish are fair to 5 pounds on cut bait, shrimp and bloodbait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are good early and late to 7 pounds on Rebel PopRs, Ring Rascal Worms and red shad; crappie are good in 30 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on slabs and Rattle Traps; catfish are fairly good on the brush piles while fishing for crappie with minnows; trotline fishing has been good to 20 pounds on live perch.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 10 inches low, 86 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on worms; striped are fairly good on spoons and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are fair to 20 pounds with trotline and live bait.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 86 degrees, spillway level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on worms and spinners; striped are slow; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are excellent to 3 pounds with most fishermen catching limits on slabs; catfish are excellent to 12 pounds on bloodbait and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 83 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass are good to 6 pounds on worms, spinners and topwaters; striped are good to 10 pounds on topwaters, slabs and live bait; crappie are fair around the boat houses with live bait; white bass are excellent to 2 pounds on topwaters and slabs; catfish are excellent to 7 pounds on cut bait, shrimp and worms.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water muddy on the south end, discolored on the north end, 87 degrees, 4 1/2 feet above summer norm and falling slowly; black bass are slow to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks, spinners, buzz baits and Rattle Traps, PopRs, worms and jigs; crappie are poor to 1 3/4 pounds in shallow water on minnows; white bass are poor and small sized in main lake, white bass are fair in number below the dam in the discharge water with L'il Georges and Roostertails; catfish are fair to good to 25 pounds on trotline baited with catalpa worms, nightcrawlers, shad and stinkbait; bream are fair in main lake and good below the dam on crickets and red wigglers.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 88 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to 4.49 pounds on worms and some cranks early or late; white bass are slowing down and are scattered, trollers are doing better than jiggers; crappie are good under 1097 bridge on minnows and jigs; catfish are good but mostly small in the river channel on minnows and stink bait.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 73 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 7 1/4 pounds on black Ringworms, Craw Worms, spinners and topwaters; crappie are good to 50 fish per day with many undersized fish caught on minnows in 16 feet of water; white bass are good to 15 fish per string on minnows along the north shore; catfish are good in the 5-10 pound range near the dam on rod and reel baited with worms.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on spinners and purple worms with white tails; striped are slow; crappie are fair in deep water on minnows; white bass are schooling early and late, limits are fairly easy to get on slabs mostly; channel catfish are good on rod and reel mostly, trotline fishing is slow.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 85 degrees, 3 feet below normal level; black bass are fair to 7 1/2 pounds on Black Ghosts and weedless spinners; crappie are slow this week, and were fair over the weekend; white bass are slow; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen.

SHELDON: Water murky, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; crappie are poor; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on liver, cut bait on the south end of the reservoir. All fishing was slow due to heavy rain midweek.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on topwaters, larger fish are caught on worms around dropoffs; striped are slow near the generators to 12 pounds on jigs and spoons; crappie are slow on shiners; catfish are slow to 15 pounds on live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 82 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fairly good in the 2-6 pound range early on spinners and buzz baits, worms are good in the middle of the day; striped are slow and deep, those caught are on jigs; crappie are fair up the Devils River; white bass are fairly good all over the lake on slabs during the day and at night on minnows; catfish are good to 4 pounds in 5 to 20 feet of water on cheese baits.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on crawfish; hybrid striped are fairly good in the 5 1/2 pound range on spoons and liver; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds on chicken liver, shad and shrimp; yellow catfish are slow; blue catfish are good to 2 pounds on chicken liver and shad; redfish are picking up to 21 pounds on perch, nightcrawlers, shad and spoons; corvina are slow.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are fair to 4 pounds on artificials; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on shad; redfish are slow; corvina are excellent to 12 pounds on live perch.

CHOKE: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair early to 10 1/4 pounds on plastic worms in 10-15 feet off of the humps near Mason point; striped are slow; crappie are fair at 99 bridge on minnows; white bass are fair near the dam; catfish are good in the 15 to 30 pound range on trotlines with cut bait and live bait in 5 to 15 feet of water.

COLETO CREEK: Water a little murky, 87 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on topwaters and worms; crappie are fair to 12 inches on minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds on liver.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 86 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds early on topwaters in the coves above 534 bridge on red shad and Power Worms are best later; striped are slow; white bass are good from Goat Island to Hog Island on white slabs and spoons; crappie are fair in 15 to 20 feet of water at the old submerged dam near the buoy line and Alice Pump House on Minners; blue catfish are good to 9 pounds on live and cut sunfish; pan sized channel catfish are good on dead shrimp from Mount Echo to KOA camp and off the deep points at the state park.

FALCON: Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 7.6 pounds on Power Worms in 10 feet of water; striped are excellent in the dam area on Knocker Spoons; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent in the dam area on Knocker Spoons; catfish are excellent to 5 pounds on rod and reel baited with frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 2 inches above normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers and cheese baits; few fishermen midweek.

TEXANA: Water fairly clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on Craw Worms; crappie are very good on minnows to 20 fish per string in the Navidad and Sandies; catfish are very slow.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are good in 12 to 15 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; striped are slow; catfish are good to 30 pounds on jug lines with live bait.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are good in 17 feet of water on minnows; white bass slow; catfish are slow.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 96 feet; black bass are good to 5 pounds on minnows; striped are fair to 10 pounds on minnows; crappie are fair to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds on minnows.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 81 degrees, 86 feet and rising; black bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; crappie and white bass are good on minnows; catfish are good to 24 pounds on live perch and water dogs; walleye are good in the 2-3 pound range in 1 to 5 feet of water on Rapalas and Rattle Traps.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are poor; crappie are fair to 3/4 pounds on minnows in 15 to 18 feet of water; white bass are excellent on minnows and spoons while schooling; catfish are good to 2 pounds on shrimp and chicken livers.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 81 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good on cranks and spinners early and late but worms are best most of the time, bass are caught at all depths; small mouth bass are fair in number in the 12 to 15 inch

range at points and bluffs in 10 to 30 feet of water; crappie are fair in 20 to 40 feet of water on minnows; channel and blue catfish are good over baited holes or on the flats; yellow catfish are fair on trotlines with live bait

PROCTOR: Water clear, 85 degrees, 10 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number in the 2-5 pound range on shrimp, worms.

SPENCE: Water clear, 83 degrees, 23 feet low; black bass are slow; striped are fairly good to 11 1/2 pounds on trolling Hellbenders and jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are plentiful but small and are caught on spoons, Kastmasters and Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 8 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

STAMFORD: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are good in number but most are small on minnows; catfish are fair to good to 9 pounds on trotlines baited with shad.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds in shallow water on Slug-Gos; striped are slow; hybrid striped are slow; white bass are good on the surface in the Middle Concho on Rattle Traps and topwaters; crappie are good near the cage and the dam; catfish are good to 14 pounds on trotlines with goldfish and perch.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair in 14 feet of water on minnows; walleye are good in the 4 pound range on minnows; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds on worms; yellow catfish are slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has been good; redfish are good with some oversized fish caught on touts, shrimp, mullet and small crabs in the marsh, south of Stewart's Island, around East Pass and the Louisiana Shore; some redfish and flounder caught along the road, mostly on shrimp; good numbers of specks caught south of Stewart's and southeast of Sydnese Island; flounder fishing has been good along the shoreline and south of the islands; birds are working; live bait shrimp are available at 6 cents each.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish are fair in number; speck fishing has been good around the jetties and around the bridge; some flounder also caught near the bridge mainly in the afternoon; a few croaker and drum also caught, mostly around the bridge on shrimp, touts and mud minnows.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of speckled trout caught in the surf, in the bays and at the jetties; also good numbers of sandtrout in the same area; at the beach front, good numbers of jack fish were caught; some good sized kingfish were caught offshore along with red snapper; a few good tarpon hook ups mainly off San Luis Pass; a few fishermen are working the beach front, piers and rock groins; fairly good numbers of thunderstorms this week; live bait shrimp is available at \$10 to \$12 per quart.

PORT OCONNOR: Trout fishing has been good to 4 1/2 pounds in the surf on croaker and live shrimp; good numbers of redfish to 48 inches, many limits of keeper

sized fish; fishing has been good at the Cattle Pens, the Cedars, Pringle Lake, Boggy Bayou, Broad Bayou, Bill Day's Reef, Green's Bayou and at the wells in the middle of Matagorda Bay; kingfish and snapper are good in the gulf, limits of kingfish are easy to catch close in around the first platforms; good numbers of flounder have been caught in the lakes, giggering has been fairly good; live bait shrimp and croaker are available.

MATAGORDA: Flounder are good on gig as well as rod and reel in the 2-3 pound range along the south shore line of both bays, in the Intracoastal Canal and in the Colorado River; some limits of redfish have been caught in the new river channel; scattered trout were caught along the reefs in East Matagorda Bay; wade fishing has been fair in West Bay; live bait shrimp is available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Fair numbers of trout caught in Turtle Bay on 2 1/2 inch pearl with firetail Hogies Swimming Shad; fair numbers of good sized trout caught in Keller Bay on the same baits; good numbers of redfish and trout caught on the south shoreline of Matagorda Peninsula, fish are caught on strawberry metal flake Hogies Swimming Jacks with white tails; good numbers of drum to 6 pounds showing up in Green's and Cotton's Bayous; trout fishing at the wells is improving with good numbers and good sized fish caught on live shrimp and live croaker; surf fishing on the Matagorda Peninsula have been good with trout to 5 pounds on Mir-O-Lures and croakers; live bait shrimp is available at \$10 per quart; several bait camps in the area are carrying live croaker around \$3.50 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of trout to 23 inches were caught in the surf on live bait; good numbers of keeper redfish were caught around Hog Island in Redfish Bay; great numbers of undersized redfish are everywhere, most should be keepers by fall; some trout were caught in Copano last week, but activity has been slow there this week; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 to \$8 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Some redfish caught late in the evening in Redfish bay; good sized trout caught near the wells near Ingleside; some trout caught near Mud Island; some flounder also caught while fishing for redfish and trout; live bait shrimp is available; live croaker, perch and mullet are also available.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Back bay fishermen are catching limits of specks and redfish on the west side of the causeway especially at night under lights; some drum and redfish caught between the power lines in the back bay; Portland Reef fishermen are catching some good sized trout on live shrimp; live bait shrimp are available at \$10.50 per quart or 15 cents each. PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish are good north of the East Cut; trout are being caught on the Community Bar north of Port Mansfield; trout and flounder are caught on the west bank north of Port Mansfield; good numbers of small have been trout caught in the Land Cut; redfish and trout are scattered from pipeline to Green Island; offshore fishing has been excellent with kingfish and spanish mackerel off the jetties; during the evening, trout are good in the East Cut between Markers 21 through 24;

live bait shrimp is available but not plentiful at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout fishing is good south of the Gaswell Flats and south of Unnecessary Island to the Observation Tower; trout and flounder are good along the Intracoastal from Marker 67 all the way to the Arroyo Colorado; redfish are improving, some oversized fish caught around the east side near the black pipe and in Air Base Cove; some schools of black drum showing up; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

Offshore fishermen are making kingfish catches offshore; surf and jetties have produced sandtrout and whiting; some specks caught on the north end near the beach; pier fishing has been good for sandtrout and whiting early and good for specks at night along with sandtrout, flounder and croaker.

PH 8/12/92

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