

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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TEXAS STATE  
DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

## RED DRUM STOCKING ENHANCES BAYS

ROCKPORT--Recent data collected during monthly bag seines in the Upper Laguna Madre indicate that stocking red drum fingerlings into the bay may have enhanced the bay as much as 20 percent.

Based on year-round bag seine surveys, conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel, 20 percent of the red drum recruits caught in the 1990 year class were stocked fish, said Larry McEachron, TPWD marine biologist in Rockport. If the mortality of stocked fish is the same as naturally produced fish - TPWD officials believe it is - possibly 20 percent of those red drum could be stocked fish.

"This is one of the most conclusive pieces of evidence of how stocking is enhancing the population of red drum in Texas," he said. "Further analysis needs to be done in the other bay systems but we believe possibly the same could be true in other bays where stocking has occurred."

Red drum spawn in and around passes and in shallow Gulf areas. The eggs and young move into the bays on water currents. The Upper Laguna Madre is the only major Texas bay without direct access to the Gulf through a pass. McEachron said the trip is at least 30 miles by water for these young fish, so the odds of getting there are low.



"We've proven that 20 percent of the red drum in the Upper Laguna Madre are stocked," he said. "Parks and Wildlife marine biologists are very excited about this." Further analysis will be done by the department on other bay systems in the next year.

McEachron said it appears the numbers will be similar this year. "It looks like the same thing is happening with the 1991-92 recruits. We're watching the situation very closely. We'll know by the first of the year if the numbers are still that good. It looks promising."

The department has been stocking red drum into various coastal bays since the mid-1970s, although large scale stocking in all bay systems along the coast has occurred since 1990.

McEachron said he believes stocking has enhanced the population for two reasons: historical juvenile relative abundance has been higher than recorded during 1990-91 so the carrying capacity was not reached; and fish were stocked during summer so competition with natural fish did not occur.

"A 20 percent enhancement is exciting because during good years we can add more fish, but during bad years we can keep the population stable," he said.

McEachron believes the 20 percent figure is a minimum estimate because some fish were stocked in fall and could not be separated from natural fish.

Further analyses will help determine the impact on the future of sport fish catches. Spring gill net catches reveal that both stocking and regulations have increased the population above 1970 to early 1980s levels. "Stocking alone won't do it," McEachron said. "We have to have regulations and stocking. We have to have both to be successful."

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## **STATE PARK STAFF MEET WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

AUSTIN--State park staff are working to negotiate local co-management agreements for 25 parks facing budget reductions Dec. 1. The agreements are part of the new Partners In Parks program launched by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on Aug. 28 to build working partnerships with local communities.

The new program expands and intensifies community partnership efforts the department had already been pursuing vigorously for the last year and a half. State park superintendents and regional directors are continuing to hold meetings with elected officials and community leaders to seek creative management alternatives at sites slated for reduction.

At many sites, TPWD staff have found communities eager to come forward with ideas, volunteer support and additional funding to help keep their state parks open.

"What we're after is solutions," said Ron Holliday, TPWD public lands director. "We want to build working relationships with interested local constituencies. At this point, we have lots of suggestions, but we need active partners to achieve real, long-term solutions."

Partners In Parks was initiated after the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission voted August 27 to approve a budget that will take seven state parks off line and reduce or consolidate operations at 18 others. Park executives continue to stress that no park will be completely closed, since some form of public access will continue at each site regardless of cutbacks.

At the Aug. 27 meeting, TPW commissioners gave staff clear and firm direction to continue and expand efforts to meet with local communities. The commission passed a revised proposal that extended funding at the affected sites for 90 days to give staff and local officials more time to seek solutions.

Dozens of public meetings with local business owners, elected officials, and volunteer groups have yielded numerous positive ideas. TPWD's regional park directors are the point people in these meetings, which are open to anyone with constructive suggestions to contribute.

Management alternatives and ideas that have emerged from local community meetings across Texas include having volunteer and community service organizations work with managers on promotional programming, expanding the role of volunteers, starting Campground Host programs where a volunteer host would run or help run campgrounds and negotiating cooperative operation agreements where cities or other local entities would take over all or part of park operations.

Other ideas include consolidation of adjacent park sites, concession agreements where private groups would run part or all of park operations, local utility rate reductions where feasible to maintain visitor services and still achieve budget objectives, "Friends of the Park" organizations (these have formed at several sites with new volunteer numbers growing continuously), special events to increase visitation and cash flow, new usage fees to maintain visitor services and increase revenue, potential "Bed and Breakfast" operations to raise revenue at some sites, cooperative management and/or fund raising agreements with local historical societies and more.

In addition to the local meetings, broader, statewide efforts are also underway. TPWD staff welcome additional input along these lines from any interested parties, who may contact their local park superintendent or regional park director for information or assistance.

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### **EXPO TO RECEIVE TAPED MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT**

AUSTIN--The nation's number one sportsman will participate in Texas Wildlife Expo '92, scheduled for Oct. 2-3 at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters here, via videotape.

President George Bush has taped a special message to the sportsmen of Texas. The tape will be played during the celebrity banquet on Oct. 2. The tape also will be played several times during the Oct. 3 portion of the Expo.

The Expo is designed to celebrate the role hunters have played in conservation and to promote hunting and conservation to others.

Those attending the Expo on Oct. 3 also will be able to sign up for prize drawings. Expo officials will give away two Mossberg 20-gauge shotguns to youngsters under 17 years old, two Mossberg 12-gauge shotguns available to anyone and Persian ibex hunt on Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area. The ibex hunt is for a party of one or two individuals and is scheduled for Jan. 25-27. Selected hunters will not be assessed a special permit or tagging fee. The bag limit is one Persian ibex and two aoudad sheep, either-sex.

Drawings will be at 5 p.m. on Oct. 3. Applications to enter drawings will be available at the Expo. You need not be present to win.

Several celebrities will get the first ever Expo going with a bang, beginning with a celebrity skeet shoot at 5 p.m. on Oct. 2. Celebrities include baseball legend Nolan Ryan, former University of Texas and National Football League football player Doug English, professional golfer Bill Rogers, George W. Bush, son of President Bush and owner of the Texas Rangers, rock star and avid hunter Ted Nugent, State Comptroller John Sharp and Travis Zibilski, a 15-year-old world champion skeet shooter at Austin Westlake High School.

Zibilski and Nugent also will be available on Oct. 3 during the all-day portion of the Expo. Zibilski will be available at the youth sporting clays area to answer questions and help youngsters interested in shooting. He also will conduct a shooting demonstration at the youth sporting clays area. Nugent will be featured with "The Spirit of the Wild" presentation and a mini-concert from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The banquet also 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. Posters and essays will be on display during both days of the Expo. Top winners of the first Texas Big Game Awards program also will be honored.

The banquet, which costs \$50 per seat or \$400 for a table of eight, has tickets available. The featured speaker will be Mike Hayden, assistant secretary of the Interior Department. Proceeds will go to the Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Wildlife Scholarship Fund.

Shooters and hunters contributed \$21.6 million to Texas wildlife and habitat management last year, 16 percent of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's budget. Since 1937, all sporting arms and ammunition excise taxes collected have been used by states' fish and wildlife management agencies to acquire wildlife habitat, manage wildlife populations, provide for appropriate public use and research of those wildlife populations and promote responsible hunting through education.

The Expo will run from 8 a.m. to dark on Oct. 3. Visitors can participate in several hunting and outdoor-related events, including shooting events using archery, primitive and modern firearms for youths and sporting clays fields for youths and adults. Shooting events are sponsored by Winchester, Remington Arms, National Sporting Clays Association, U.S. Sporting Clays Association, Thompson/Center Arms and Crosman Airguns.

Other events include:

- \* Snakes - by Heart of Texas and South Texas Snakehandlers, learn about poisonous and non-poisonous snakes.
- \* Tree Stand/Tower Stand Educational Displays - by API Outdoors and Wilderness Country, learn the proper hunting techniques; youth will learn proper methods of safely entering and exiting several styles of elevated stands.
- \* Birds of Prey - by Last Chance Forever Inc. and John Karger, learn about birds of prey, a static display of actual birds and a flight demonstration.
- \* Sporting Dog Demonstrations - by various sporting breed clubs and field trial and training experts, witness use, handling, training and field demonstrations.
- \* Live Animal Exhibition - by various exhibitors, learn more about wild animals, regulations regarding ownership, habits, behaviors, rehabilitation efforts, animal damage and management programs.

The Expo will be on the grounds of TPWD headquarters. To attend, park adjacent to the I.R.S./V.A./Treasurer complex east of I-35 on Woodward St. On Oct. 3, turn your radio to 1510-AM for parking directions. A free shuttle will bring you to TPWD headquarters for the Expo. Admission is free. For more information contact TPWD at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4472, or (512) 389-4472.

Major sponsors for the Expo are Coors and Chevron. Sponsors include Academy Stores, Barton Creek Properties Inc., Bliss-Murski, Boone and Crockett Club, Browning-Ferris Industries, Bushlan, Crosman, GSD&M, Hill Country Wholesale Inc., Keystone Steel & Wire, McBride's Guns Inc., Mike Davis Associates, Mossy Oak, Parker Drilling Co., Philip Morris U.S.A., Remington Arms, Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas, Temple-Inland, Texas Bighorn Society, Texas Wine Alliance, Thompson/Center Arms Co. and Winchester/Olin.

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## **'DUMB FISH' AND OTHER MARVELS OF AQUATIC BIOLOGY**

INGRAM--Nestled into a Texas Hill Country valley by a flowing spring, the Heart of the Hills Research Station is creating the next generation of super fish. Super, not for their brains or brawn, but for their catchability. Fish bred to be easier to catch, hence, to some anglers, "dumb fish."

"We can genetically engineer our fish to stack the deck in favor of the angling public," said Dick Luebke, research station director. "This has obvious practical benefits for events like children's fishing derbies, where we want the kids to catch fish and have fun. It's one of those things, pardon the pun, that can help get people hooked on fishing."

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists essentially cull out fish more easily caught in a holding pond and breed them for the project, hoping they can pass the trait of catchability on to succeeding generations.

Heart of the Hills has put together a public tour of this project and various other research programs, part of a new series of aquatic tours at state fish hatcheries, marine labs and research stations across Texas. These tours are a major addition to the new Texas Conservation Passport fall schedule, showcasing the state of the art in fish farming, genetic science and modern fisheries management.

Other research projects at Heart of the Hills involve endangered species like the paddlefish, a prehistoric relic that's been around since before the dinosaurs, and the Guadalupe bass, the state fish of Texas. Thanks to aquatic research and aggressive restocking programs, both of these rare species are now making comebacks in Texas.

Seabrook Marine Lab near Houston also is a new passport tour site. A major subject of this tour is Galveston Bay, including collection of data to evaluate the impact on the bay system of Houston ship channel deepening and widening. Visitors also can learn about problems with the bay oyster fishery, where 1,600 acres of 5,900 acres of oyster reefs are currently closed because of sewage pollution.

The Seabrook lab is home to three fisheries biologists who oversee a huge program of regular net sampling, one of the important tools scientists use to gauge the health of coastal marine ecosystems. Two resource protection biologists and a chemist at the lab deal with environmental problems such as fish kills and oil spills.

Tours at these and numerous other department aquatic facilities will give the public an inside look into current techniques and issues of aquatic species management. Water quality and quantity are becoming increasingly critical in Texas, and while the tours are designed to be fun, visitors are certain to come away with a better understanding of what's at stake today with Texas public waters and the animals that call them home.

For more information on the new Texas Conservation Passport tours of state aquatic facilities, consult the new Fall issue of the Passport Newsletter, which is mailed to each holder of the \$25 annual passport and also is available at point of sale. For general passport information contact any state park, game warden office or the outdoor goods stores REI in Austin and Whole Earth Provision Company in Houston, Austin and Dallas.

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### **PUBLIC WATERFOWL HUNT CHANGES**

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have made several changes in waterfowl hunt dates from those published in the 1992-93 Type I Hunting Opportunities Booklet.

The changes were necessary to correspond with the recently set waterfowl seasons and to provide ample waterfowl hunting opportunity. The Type I and II booklets must be sent to the printer before official dates are set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Changes were made for public hunts on nine wildlife management areas. The areas and their changes are:

- \* Gus Engeling WMA in Anderson County - only on Jan. 2, 3, 8 and 9 (page 43 of the Type I booklet).

- \* Guadalupe Delta WMA in Calhoun County - only on Nov. 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 28; Dec. 26, 29 and 31, and Jan. 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16 (page 43).

- \* Keechi Creek WMA in Leon County - only on Nov. 21 and 22; Dec. 9 and 10; and Jan. 9 and 10 (page 43).

- \* Mad Island WMA in Matagorda County - only on Nov. 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 28; Dec. 26, 29 and 31, and Jan. 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16. Goose only hunts, Jan. 21 and 23 (page 44).

- \* Matagorda Island WMA in Calhoun County - only on Nov. 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 28; Dec. 26, 27, 30 and 31, and Jan. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 (page 44).

- \* J.D. Murphree WMA in Jefferson County - only on Nov. 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 27 and 28; Dec. 26, 29 and 31, and Jan. 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16 (page 44).



\* Peach Point WMA in Brazoria County - only on Nov. 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 28; Dec. 26, 29 and 31, and Jan. 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16. Goose only hunts, Jan. 21 and 23 (page 44).

\* Richland Creek in Freestone and Navarro counties - only on Dec. 26, 27 and 30; and Jan. 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17

\* Sea Rim State Park in Jefferson County - only on Nov. 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27 and 29; Dec. 27 and 30; and Jan. 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 17 (page 44).

Legal shooting hours on these areas during waterfowl hunts will be from 30 minutes before official sunrise to noon. Bag and possession limits for waterfowl are as provided by the Late Season Migratory Game Bird Proclamation. Hunters must possess a valid Texas hunting license and the federal and Texas waterfowl stamps. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting waterfowl.

On Richland Creek WMA, a \$35 Type II/Annual Public Hunting Permit is required of each person 17 years old or older to hunt waterfowl. On the other eight listed public hunting areas, people 17 or older hunting waterfowl must first obtain a daily permit (available at the area) - the \$6 daily permit fee is waived for people possessing a \$35 Type II/Annual Public Hunting Permit.

No permit fee is assessed waterfowl hunters under 17 years old. However, they must hunt under the immediate supervision of a duly permitted and authorized supervising adult. An authorized supervising adult is defined as a parent or legal guardian of a minor age participant or an individual 21 years old or older who possesses written authorization signed by a parent or a legal guardian of a minor age participant to assume liability responsibility for the minor age participant.

For clarification of these regulations or other public hunting information call the public hunting program at 1800-792-1112, ext. 4505, or (512) 389-4505.

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## **OUTDOOR NOTEBOOK**

AUSTIN--After almost four years without an official largemouth bass record, Purtil Creek State Park Lake received its first official entry - a 10.99-pound lunker - on Sept. 9.

The new record, measuring 24 5/8 inches long, was caught by Robert McGivney of Mansfield. The unofficial record until McGivney's catch was 12.6 pounds and anglers have reported catching 15 pounders, but this is the first certified record.

Since the park and lake opened in November 1988 it has been under a catch and release regulation only for largemouth bass. This regulation has provided an exceptional largemouth bass fishery, but it has prevented anglers from certifying catches as potential records.

On Sept. 1, a new regulation went into effect allowing anglers to transport one largemouth bass at a time, at least 22 inches long, to a weigh station at the park for certification. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department constructed a new weigh station using a \$2,000 grant from the Texas Forestry Association.

In addition to McGivney's bass, several other species have been certified at the new weigh station. Donnie Stewart of Canton certified a 12.23-pound channel catfish as a new lake record and Kay Jackson of Eunice, N.M., landed a lake record bluegill weighing .62-pound.

\* \* \* \* \*

AUSTIN--Two Florida shrimpers who appealed a 1990 conviction for shrimping inside seven fathoms were found guilty in a jury trial on Sept. 10 and ordered to pay more than \$30,000 in penalties.

In 1990, the Captain Lee and the Lady Dorothy shrimp boats were apprehended by the U.S. Coast Guard for shrimping inside seven fathoms. They were turned over to Barry Eversole and Danny Flores, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens from Galveston County.

The wardens confiscated 1,762 pounds of brown shrimp from the Captain Lee and sold it for \$5,375. Another 2,238 pounds were confiscated from the Lady Dorothy and sold for \$6,700.20. The case was turned over to J.P. Court in Galveston and the state won.

The defendants appealed and a Galveston County Court jury found them guilty on Sept. 10. Each boat/owner was fined \$190 and ordered to pay restitution. Restitution for brown shrimp is \$7.70 per pound, totaling \$30,792.

\* \* \* \* \*

AUSTIN--The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that beginning with this hunting season, 11 national wildlife refuges in the Southwest, including one

in Texas, will expand their requirements for hunting with nontoxic shot to include species other than waterfowl and coot.

The only Texas refuge involved in the new requirement is Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Umbarger in the Panhandle. Nontoxic shot will be required during public pheasant hunts there in December.

The requirement is being implemented to reduce lead poisoning in waterfowl, said Michael J. Spear, regional director of USFWS in Albuquerque, N.M. "Although waterfowl hunting has been the primary source of lead in wetlands on national wildlife refuges, hunting of dove, quail and other species continues to put lead into refuge wetlands."

Other species covered by these requirements include snipe, woodcock, sandhill crane, rabbit, squirrel, pheasant and turkey.

"Deposition of toxic lead shot in refuge habitats is simply not acceptable," Spear said. "Lead poisoning continues in waterfowl and it must be reduced."

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### **GOOSE HUNTING DATES CORRECTION**

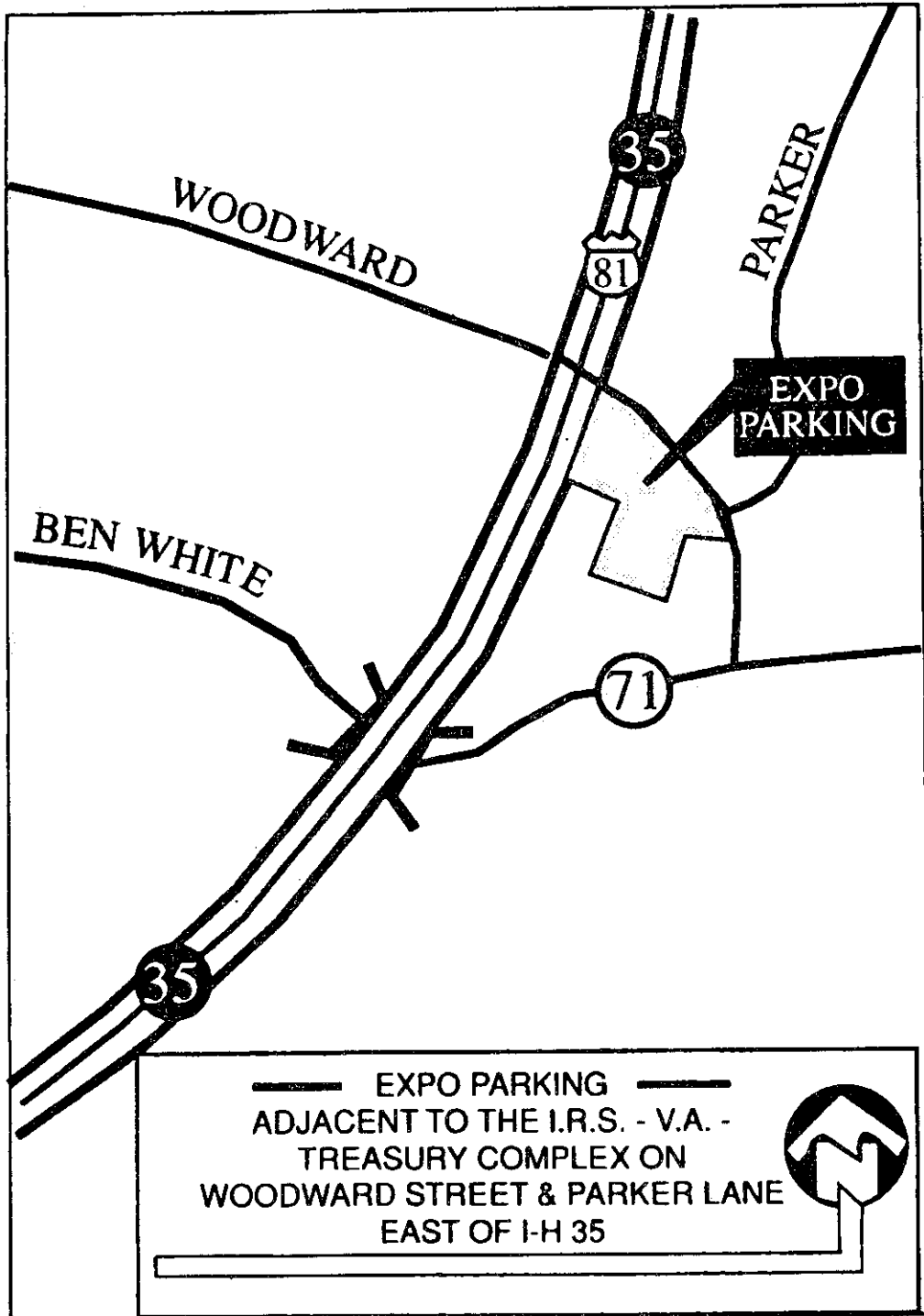
The Sept. 18 issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife News incorrectly reported the 1992-93 goose hunting dates and regions.

East of U.S. 81, the light goose season is Oct. 31-Feb. 14 and the season for all dark geese is Oct. 31-Jan. 10. A special extended Canada goose season continues from Jan. 11-17

West of U.S. 81, the goose season is Oct. 17-Jan. 31

We apologize for the error.

LW 9/25/92



EXPO PARKING  
ADJACENT TO THE I.R.S. - V.A. -  
TREASURY COMPLEX ON  
WOODWARD STREET & PARKER LANE  
EAST OF I-H 35



Paul Hope/Tex Parks and Wildlife Dept  
512, 389-4570

OUTDOOR CALENDAR 1992-93

Sep 1-Nov 9--North zone, mourning dove season  
Sep 1-Nov 9-- Rail and gallinule seasons, all of Texas  
Sep 1-Oct 31--Central Zone, mourning dove season  
Sep 5-6,12-13--Whitewing dove season, Rio Grande  
Sep 12-20--Teal duck season, all of Texas  
Sep 10-30--Alligator season, Southeast Texas, permit only  
Sep 20-Nov 12--South zone, mourning dove season  
Oct 1-Nov 1--Archery season, deer and turkey  
Oct 1-Feb 28--Javelina season, most of Texas  
Oct 2-3--Wildlife Expo 92, TPWD Headquarters, Austin  
Oct 3-11--Antelope season, TransPecos, Permian, Panhandle  
Oct 1-Jan 15--Squirrel season, East Texas  
Oct 17-18--Prairie chicken season, North Texas only  
Oct 17-Jan 31--Goose season, west of US Hwy 81  
Oct 24-Feb 7-- Common snipe or Jacksnipe season  
Oct 31-Feb 28--Quail season, statewide  
Oct 31-Feb 28--Pheasant season, coastal  
Oct 31-Feb 28--Chachalaca season, South Texas/Rio Grande  
Oct 31-Feb 14--Eastern light goose season  
Oct 31-Jan 17--Eastern dark goose season  
Nov 7-Jan 3--White-tail deer, turkey seasons most of Texas  
Nov 7-Nov 15--White-tail deer season, Hunt County  
Nov 7-Jan 17--Aoudad season, 8 Panhandle counties only  
Nov 8--Mourning dove season closes in special whitewing areas  
Nov 14--Nov 29--Eastern duck season, first segment  
Nov 14-Feb 14--Sandhill crane season, Zone A  
Nov 14-Jan 10--White-tail deer, turkey seasons, South Texas  
Nov 21-Dec 6--White-tail deer season, 4 Panhandle counties  
Nov 21-Jan 10--Duck and coot season, High Plains  
Nov 21-Dec 6--Mule deer season, Texas Panhandle  
Nov 28--Dec 13--Mule deer season, Trans-Pecos  
Nov 28--Jan 31--Woodcock season  
Dec 5-Feb 14--Sandhill crane season, Zone B  
Dec 12-27--Pheasant season, Panhandle  
Dec 26--Jan 17--Eastern duck season, final segment

1993

Jan 2-10--Central zone winter season, mourning Dove  
Jan 2-17--South zone winter season, mourning dove  
Jan 2-Feb 7--Sandhill crane season, Zone C  
Jan 16-31--Late white-tail doe season, South Texas only  
Apr 3-May 2--Rio Grande turkey season, most of Texas  
Apr 3-18--Eastern turkey season, East Texas  
May 1-31--Squirrel season, East Texas

PH 8/27/92

Note This calendar contains the duck,coot and goose seasons as set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife commission Aug 27, 1992



# TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

*a television series for all outdoors*

## October 1992 Broadcast Schedule

STATION	DATE	PGM	TIME
KACV Amarillo Ch 2 (806) 371-5222	NOT SCHEDULED		
KLRU Austin Ch 18 (512) 471-4811	Sat/3 Sat/10 Sat/24 Sat/31	46 47 48 50	8:30p
KAMU College Station Ch 15 (409) 845-5611	NOT SCHEDULED		
KEDT Corpus Christi Ch 16 (512) 855-2213	Sat/3 Sat/10 Sat/17 Sat/24 Sat/31	46 47 48 50 51	5:30p
KERA Dallas Ch 13 (214) 871-1390	NOT SCHEDULED		
KCOS El Paso Ch 13 (915) 747-6500	NOT SCHEDULED		

KMBH	Sat/3	40	6:30p
Harlingen	Sat/10	41	
Ch 60	Sat/17	42	
(512) 421-4111	Sat/24	43	
	Sat/31	44	

KUHT	NOT SCHEDULED		
Houston			
Ch 8			
(713) 748-8888			

KNCT	Fri/2	45	8:00p
Killeen	Fri/9	46	
Ch 46	Fri/16	47	
(817) 526-1176	Fri/23	50	
	Fri/30	51	

KCTF	Sat/3	62	4:30p
Waco	Sat/10	63	
Ch 34	Sat/17	64	
1-800-792-3348	Sat/24	42	
	Sat/31	43	

KTXT	Thur/1	46	1:00p
Lubbock	Thur/8	48	
Ch 5	Thur/15	51	
(806) 742-2209	Thur/22	52	
	Thur/29	54	

KOCV	Sat/3	11	8:30p
Odessa	Sat/10	12	
Ch 36	Sat/17	13	
(915) 335-6336	Sat/24	14	
	Sat/31	15	

KLRN	NOT SCHEDULED		
San Antonio			
Ch 9			
(512) 270-9000			

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

#### CENTRAL

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 75 degrees, 2 feet below spillway level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on yellow jigs at 3 feet in 20 feet of water; hybrid striper are good on small silver spoons trolling in 20 feet of water, hybrids striper and white bass are mixed, both are schooling on top; crappie are fair in 20 feet of water to 8 fish per string on minnows and jigs, many are undersized; white bass are schooling on tops, limits are fairly easy to catch on spoons and topwaters; catfish are fairly good to 6 pounds on shrimp, worms and perch in 25-35 feet of water; yellow catfish are very slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair through 5 pounds, 6 ounces on chartreuse spinners; striper are good through 15 1/2 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are good around west bank of Garrett Island; catfish are slow.

CANYON: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on topwaters; striper are fair to 8 pounds on downriggers; crappie are good at night on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on liver, shrimp and worms. Trotline fishing has been slow.

COLORADO BEND: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 25 pounds on live bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds early on live bait and Bass Assassins, night fishing is good with live bait and plum worms; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 15 pounds on slabs and water dogs.

INKS LAKE: Water a little murky, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass and all fishing have been slow.

LBJ: Water clear, 82 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 6 pounds, 2 ounces on pumpkin seed colored Ring Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair mid lake under birds; catfish are slow.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 85 degrees before the front, 26 1/4 inches low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on Bulldog Spinners and buzz baits; crappie are slow; white bass are fair with some schooling early and late on Rattle Traps; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on live perch in the creek channels.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 88 degrees, near normal level; black bass are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps and worms in 8 to 30 feet of water; smallmouth bass are fairly slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on Mr. Whiskers Cheese Bait, minnows and worms in 6 to 20 feet of water; some walleye caught this month.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 15 inches on artificials; crappie are good on minnows at 14 feet around the marina, fishing is spotty; white

bass are good in the 11 to 14 inch range on nightcrawlers; catfish are fair to 12 inches on worms.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 82 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; largemouth and Guadalupe bass are excellent in number to 66 fish per day per boat with about half large enough to keep on chrome topwaters, chartreuse spinners and strawberry Ringworms; striper are slow; crappie slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 11 pounds on cut bait with rod and reel and trotline.

WACO: Water off color, 80 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs; catfish are slow to 10 pounds on stink baits.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 1/4 feet low; largemouth bass are good to 5 pounds on spinners, cranks and worms; striper are good to 14 pounds on live bait in 25 feet of water; white bass are good while schooling around the bridge to 2 pounds, best baits are spoons; catfish are good on worms; channel catfish are good to 12 1/2 pounds on worms.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/4 pounds in number but most are too small to keep on a wide variety of baits; crappie are fair and beginning to hit at night around the bridge on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good on rod and reel baited with worms.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 4 pounds on worms; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds in 8-15 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on worms and shrimp.

CADDO: Water fairly clear, 4 inches low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Tequila Sunrise worms; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 81 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are fair in number to 4 pounds in 6 to 8 feet of water on Bloodline worms and white spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good early and late, fish seem to be moving up the creeks; catfish are good on jug lines baited with shrimp and chicken livers.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 12 3/4 pounds on black and blue Craw Worms, five black bass over 12 pounds caught in the past two weeks; crappie are fair at 16 feet in 25 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good in the 4-6 pound range from the bank in 3-6 feet of nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 80-90 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are slow to 4 pounds on purple worms; hybrid striper are fair to 8 pounds on shad; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on live bait; redfish are slow to 20 pounds on live perch.

FORK: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 13 plus pounds in a tournament over the weekend; crappie are good on minnows and jigs; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 81 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 3 pounds on medium diving cranks in 7-10 feet of water, good numbers of small

fish caught on topwaters early; crappie are fair on minnows and chartreuse and black jigs in 20 feet of water; white bass are fair along the dam in 30-35 feet of water on 1 ounce white Critter Getter spoons; catfish are good to 10 pounds in Denton and Marshall Creek areas in 10-20 feet of water on shrimp and prepared catfish bait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on buzz baits, Slug-Gos and black neon Ring Rascal worms; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on small cranks; crappie are fair in 15 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 9 pounds on minnows with rod and reel.

LAVON: Water a little murky, 79 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on black worms; crappie are good with limits to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good on slabs; catfish are very good to 9 pounds on jug lines and rod and reel baited with live shad.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 76 to 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners, topwaters and Power Worms early; striper are good to 23 inches on live shad near the gravel pits; crappie are fair on minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass are good early and late on slabs; catfish are good to 10 1/2 pounds on shrimp and shad.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 98 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on Rattle Traps in 15 to 20 feet of water; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds on worms and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly slow; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds each on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 4 pounds at night on shrimp and stinkbait.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 81 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on worms and topwaters; crappie are fair around the bridges and around boat houses, some keepers caught on small minnows; catfish are steady on trotlines baited with cut shad, creek channels also producing some catfish.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms and cranks; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good with some limits caught on spoons and cranks; catfish are good to 18 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline with catalpa worms, nightcrawlers and bloodbait.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on Slug-Gos; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are fair in number late in the afternoon on a variety of baits.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 75 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are good to 3 pounds on topwaters and Texas Rigged worms; striper are improving; crappie are good with many keepers on minnows and jigs; white bass are slowing down; catfish are very good to 1 1/2 pounds each.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 85 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 8 1/2 pounds on red shad Ringworms; crappie are good to 2.3 pounds with limits caught easily on or near brush piles; white bass are

good in schools near the dam, most caught on PopRs and topwater lures; catfish are good to 18 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

**RICHLAND-CHAMBERS:** Water clear, 82 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds with many in the 3 pound range on worms and cranks in 2 to 9 feet of water; crappie are good in 25 feet of water on minnows in the heavier timber; white bass are slow, some on slabs, little surface activity; catfish are good

to 25 pounds in 10 feet of water on jug lines and trotlines baited live perch and shad.

**TAWAKONI:** Water murky, 79 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners and worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair on jigs and minnows in 12 feet of water around docks; white bass are good with limits caught on slabs and spoons; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on bloodbait and stinkbait.

**TEXOMA:** Water clear, 77 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good through 6 pounds on worms and topwaters; striper are fair to 8 pounds on slabs, topwaters and live bait; crappie are good on minnows around the boat houses; white bass are excellent with many limits on slabs, spoons and topwaters; catfish are good to 45 pounds on cut bait, shad and shrimp.

#### SOUTHEAST

**CONROE:** Water clear, 86 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to good to 11.11 pounds along with a couple of 8 pounders on cranks, worms and spinners; white bass are good in number and size on small spoons, L'il Georges and small Rattle Traps; crappie are good sized; catfish are fair in number.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on Crazy Shad and June Bug worms with a trailer; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 pounds near the pump station and at the island on minnows; white bass are good along the north shore on minnows; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on rod and reel and worms.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 3/4 pounds with several 5s and 6s, most fishermen got limits on cranks and spinners early and jigs and pigs and worms in the middle of the day; striper are fair; crappie are picking up at boat docks with good numbers of throwbacks; white bass are good in number but most are too small to keep; catfish are fair around the old river channels, few catfish in shallow water.

**RAYBURN:** Water clear, 86 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are good to 10 1/2 pounds on green and white Slug-Gos, good numbers of fish caught on topwaters, Redfins, Slug-Gos and other topwaters; crappie are fairly good in the baited holes in deep brush piles on minnows; catfish are fairly good on rod and reel.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear, 82 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on worms, jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair on jigs and live bait; catfish are slow to 10 pounds on trotlines.

#### SOUTH

**AMISTAD:** Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 11 1/2 pounds on red, black, purple and pumpkin seed colored

Power Worms; striper are picking up around the dam to 12 pounds on Roadrunner jigs with a white trailer; white bass are scattered; catfish are very good to 3 pounds on cheese baits.

**BRAUNIG:** Water murky, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; catfish are improving to 9 pounds on tilapia and shad; redfish are good to 21 pounds with several limits on live perch, spoons and shad; corvina are slow.

**CALAVERAS:** Water murky, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 8 pounds, 9 ounces on tilapia; striper are slow to 3 pounds on artificials; crappie are slow; channel catfish are fair to 2 pounds and yellow catfish are good to 8 pounds on liver, perch, shad and cheese baits; redfish are slow to 16 pounds on tilapia.

**CHOKI:** Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 9 3/4 pounds early on topwaters, buzz baits and spinner baits in 2-6 feet of water around the grass beds; good action during the day on Rattle Traps, Slug-Coc and spinners around the brown grass; deep diving cranks and plastic worms are good in 10 to 18 feet of water; crappie are fair on live minnows at 99 bridge and at Possum Creek; white bass are fair to 2 pounds trolling in the dam area with deep diving cranks early; striper are slow; catfish are good and are leaving their summer pattern and concentrating in shallow water around tank dams and points on cheese baits, chicken livers and shrimp; jug line and trotline fishing are as the water begins to cool.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water clear, 83 degrees, 1.2 feet low; black bass are good above 14 inches on Slug-Gos and spinners early in shallow water; striper are poor; crappie are fair to 13 inches on minnows at night; catfish are fair above 9 inches in baited holes on live perch.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Water clear, 84 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on white spinners; striper are good to 6 1/2 pounds trolling chrome Bombers from the dam to the state park points; crappie are good off both state park piers with minnows and pink jigs; white bass are good under the birds from Hog Island to Fiesta Marina on Rattle Traps and white slabs; catfish are good off Sunrise Beach Pier and KOA point on chicken livers and prepared cheese baits. Norther blowing midweek.

**FALCON:** Water clear, 83 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are excellent to 7 1/2 pounds on red shad Power Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are excellent to 10 pounds on frozen shrimp.

**MEDINA:** Water clear, 7 inches low; black bass are good to 4 pounds on topwaters early, plastic worms are good later in the day; striper are slow; crappie are fair but no limits to 1 pound each on minnows; white bass are fair in number but no limits caught, on L'il Georges; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines baited with perch; on rod and reel catfish are good to 3 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

**TEXANA:** Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the jungle to 5 pounds on worms; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fair to 25 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

#### WEST

**ARROWHEAD:** Water clear, 1 foot below spillway level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; white bass are good trolling chrome slabs; crappie are good off pier at night on minnows; catfish are good to 3 pounds on stinkbait.

**FORT PHANTOM HILL:** Water clear, 78 degrees, 6 inchoc above normal level; black bass are good to 17 inches on buzz baits and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good on top early and late with topwaters; catfish are good through 4 pounds on cut shad with trotlines; blue catfish are fairly good to 8 pounds on cut shad also.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on cranks; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 7 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water fairly clear, lake full; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are picking up to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are beginning to hit on trotlines baited with live bait.

**KEMP:** Water a little murky, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are good in the 6 pound range; white bass are good; catfish are good up to 12 pounds on live perch.

**MCKENZIE:** Water clear, 70 degrees, 93 feet; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

**MEREDITH:** Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; smallmouth bass are good with several keepers to 15 inches on minnows; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are spotty on minnows; catfish are good on the bottom with minnows and chicken liver; walleye are fairly good to 7 pounds on minnows.

**OAK CREEK:** Water clear, 78 degrees, 6 1/2 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds, 3 ounces with many in the 3-5 pound range on worms, Tiny Torpedoes and Skip Jacks; crappie to 1 1/2 pounds are beginning to hit minnows; white bass are still schooling with limits fairly easy to catch; catfish are good to 2 pounds on shrimp and chicken livers.

**O.H. IVIE:** Main lake clear, upper end murky, 77 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to excellent to 20 inches in 5 to 15 feet of water on spinners and plastic worms along points and ridges with deep water nearby, bass fishing slowed just a little with the passage of the weak front; small mouth bass are good to 15 inches along deep bluffs and points in 18 to 25 feet of water. crappie are fair to good to 1 pound along brushy points and ridges in 8 to 20 feet of water on minnows; channel and blue catfish are good to 5 pounds over baited holes in 10 to 20 feet of water; yellow catfish are fair on trotlines with live bait.

**PROCTOR:** Water murky, 4 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

**SPENCE:** Water clear, 80 degrees, 22 feet low; black bass are picking up to 5 pounds, 9 ounces on live bait; striper are good to 20 pounds trolling live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good on rod and

reel as well as trotline in the river.

STAMFORD: Water muddy, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on buzz and spinner baits; striper are slow; crappie are slow, few keepers caught on minnows; catfish are good to 8 pounds on live perch.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 78 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair in number; crappie are good with near limits on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has been slow due to high winds; some fish caught in protected coves along the Louisiana shore because most winds were from the southeast; some redfish, trout and drum caught; live bait shrimp available at 6 cents each.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Specks have been good around the Causeway Bridge; good numbers of sandtrout and croaker caught but only a few flounder; best fishing has been at the Causeway Bridge; live bait shrimp scarce.

GALVESTON: Fishing has been slow this week because of the wind; good numbers of flounder to 5 pounds caught in the pass and at the jetties, good numbers of oversized redfish hooked in the surf and at the beach front; good numbers of big gafftops caught in the passes and at the jetties along with sandtrout and whiting; live bait shrimp available at \$10 to \$12 per quart; when boats can get out, offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of snapper, dolphin and kingfish.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing boats have been hindered by high winds; some trips over the weekend produced good catches of snapper, blackfin tuna, kingfish. Most fish caught 30 to 50 miles offshore.

PORT OCONNOR: Fishermen are catching good numbers of keepers as well as oversized redfish at the big jetties, also at the Cedars and Cattle Pens, around Boggy Bayou, Bill Day Reef, Matagorda Island Shoreline, Pringle Lake and Conte Lake on live shrimp and live croaker; speck fishing has been good at Pringle Lake, along Matagorda shoreline and Conte Lake; weather has been bad all week; a few Spanish mackerel and gafftop caught this week; live bait shrimp available; croaker available at \$3.50 per dozen.

MATAGORDA: Fishing has been good all week with daily limits of redfish; fishing was slow Tuesday due to norther which pushed the water out of the bays; flounder fishing has been good on gig and hook with live mud minnows and shrimp; trout fishing has been slow due to tides; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Weather clear, bays smooth, a slight wind from the north; tides are high and fish are scattered all over the flats, fish are hard to find; some redfish caught on the south shoreline of Matagorda Peninsula around Green's Bayou on strawberry metal flake Hogies Swimming Shad with a white tail; north side bays are not fishable due to southwest winds; some redfish showing up in Tres Palacios and Carancahua Rivers; trout fishing has been slow due to winds; live bait shrimp are available. Fairly good numbers of mourning dove in the area; fairly good numbers of teal were

around for the season which closed Sunday.

ROCKPORT: Fishing has been slow since Saturday because of high winds; a few trout and redfish caught around Klondike in Redfish Bay, trout were caught in Copano Bay on live croaker and cacoho minnows; live bait shrimp are available at \$8 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Good numbers of big redfish caught at Morse Cummings Cut and in South Bay on live shrimp and live mullet; good numbers of oversized redfish caught on the East Flat and at the edge of the ship channel around Marker 13 on live mullet and live perch; fairly good sized trout caught around Traylor Island on live shrimp and live mullet; some good sized trout caught around Shamrock Cove on live shrimp; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Fishing has been slow in the Upper Laguna and in Baffin Bay. Back bay fishermen are catching fairly good numbers of speckled trout around Portland Reef and the second power line; the front hit Tuesday afternoon bringing heavy winds and rains; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents.

PORT MANSFIELD: Few fishermen out; scattered redfish and trout caught south of Port Mansfield; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH PADRE: Bay fishing has improved with good numbers of trout and redfish caught; redfish are caught mostly on the west side except some good herds spotted around the black pipe; good strings of trout with some limits caught south on the East Side near Big Hill in the pot holes; drum and flounder are spotty; whiting, sandtrout and big pompano caught in the surf with an occasional trout and redfish; jetties are producing a few kingfish; good numbers of bonito caught offshore; pier fishing is good for whiting, sandtrout and croaker during the day; at night pier fishing is good for trout on live bait; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 9/23/92