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texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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HUNTERS, FISHERMEN GETTING READY FOR NEW YEAR

AUSTIN -- The first day of September may mean more to hunters and fishermen than it does to the general public.

To millions of Texas sportsmen it marks the end of the dog days of summer and the beginning of a new year of outdoor activity. Whether it's hunting the popular white-tailed deer in the Brush Country, casting a topwater lure for bass at Sam Rayburn or wading a post-front November surf for spotted seatrout, autumn is a great time to be in the Texas outdoors.

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

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

sportsmen so ardently enjoy, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

One change that will be noticeable to fishermen is the new Texas Recreational Fresh & Saltwater Fishing Guide. Freshwater and saltwater regulations previously were covered in two separate guides. The Texas Hunting Guide also has been redesigned for clarity.

The regulations guides are available from all department offices around the state as well as the many retail outlets that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

Most license and stamp requirements are the same as last year, and prices also are generally unchanged. The resident combination hunting/fishing license is \$15, resident hunting is \$10 and resident fishing is \$8. For the avid sportsman, resident Lifetime Licenses are available. The Lifetime Combination Hunting/Fishing License is priced at \$500, and Lifetime Hunting and Lifetime Fishing Licenses are priced at \$300 each.

This year, Texas hunters and fishermen have some new regulations to be aware of.

The first major hunting season opening day is Sept 1, for mourning doves in the North and Central Zones. The South Zone season starts on Sept 20. There are no basic changes in mourning dove regulations, but hunters participating in the two-weekend white-winged dove season Sept 2-3 and 9-10 in the Special White-winged Dove Area of the South Zone are

advised that the number of mourning doves they can take depends on whether they are hunting north or south of Del Rio. South and east of the International Bridge and U.S. 277 Spur at Del Rio, the daily bag limit during the special whitewing season is 10 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped (white-fronted) doves in the aggregate, to include not more than five mourning doves and two whitetips. North and west of Del Rio the limit is 10 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, not to include more than two whitetips.

White-tailed deer hunters also need to check the hunting guide to determine if bag limits have been changed in the county they intend to hunt. The season limit has been reduced from four whitetails to three in 26 counties. While a majority of the state's deer range has an either-sex deer bag limit not requiring department-issued antlerless permits, a few counties still have the permit requirement. In those counties requiring antlerless permits, they may be obtained from the landowner.

Deer hunters also need to check page five of the Hunting Guide to learn about some changes in the deer tagging regulations. The 1989-90 hunting license has four deer tags, each with different applications for tagging deer in various counties and situations.

The general white-tailed deer season is Nov. 4, 1989, through Jan. 7, 1990, in most of Texas. In all or portions of 28 South Texas counties, the season is Nov. 11, 1989, through Jan. 14, 1990. The special late antlerless-only season in South Texas is Jan. 20-Feb. 4. The boundary for the South Texas deer hunting zone has been changed in three counties. It

now is U S Highway 90 in Medina, Kinney and Uvalde Counties, rather than the northern borders of those counties The early antlerless-only season for Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches (South of State Highway 7), Polk, Trinity and Walker Counties is Oct 21-29

Hunters planning to hunt turkey gobblers next spring can enjoy a season that is a week longer than the 1989 spring season The dates for the 1990 spring season are April 7-May 6, except in East Texas where the spring season is April 7-22

The archery season for both mule and white-tailed deer this year is Oct 7-Nov 5, and as in the past a \$6 State Archery Stamp is required to hunt deer or turkey during this archery-only season

There are only a few fishing regulation changes to keep in mind starting Sept 1 Lake Texoma striped bass fishermen will be allowed to retain only one striper measuring 20 inches or longer per day as part of the 15-per-day bag limit Anglers formerly were allowed to keep five 20-inch-plus stripers per day

Also on Lake Texoma, anglers will not be allowed to "cull" striped bass after Aug 31 Fish caught from the lake must either be kept or immediately released, rather than being saved in a livewell or on a stringer and released later when a larger striper is caught

Another freshwater fishing regulation change increases the minimum size limit on red drum from 18 to 20 inches for fish taken from Braunig, Calaveras, Colorado City, Fairfield, Nasworthy and Tradinghouse Creek

Reservoirs There is no maximum size limit for red drum in these six reservoirs only

The main regulation change in salt water is a first-ever bag limit on sharks The daily limit is five sharks in the aggregate per day, meaning an angler can retain only five sharks of any species each day New minimum length limits for billfish have been established for fish caught from state waters of the the Gulf of Mexico or possessed in Texas Anglers should be aware that the state length limits are based on total length, while federal limits are based on lower jaw to tail fork length These are fully explained in the department's Fishing Guide.

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

Fall also is an excellent time to subscribe to Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine The full-color monthly publication contains information and pictures of interest to hunters and fishermen as well as anyone interested in the conservation and enjoyment of Texas' outdoor resources The magazine is priced at \$8 per year, \$15 for two years Send check or money order to Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

JC 8/30/89

DICK DOWLING DAY
OBSERVANCE SET AT SABINE
PASS

SABINE PASS -- The annual Dick Dowling Day Celebration is set for 10 a m. Sept 9 at the Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park

A memorial service and wreath-laying ceremony will be conducted at the Dick Dowling Monument by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Re-enactors in Civil War uniforms will participate in the service. The hour-long event will include a recounting of Dowling's defense of Sabine Pass in the face of superior forces

Lt Richard W Dowling led a band of 47 Confederates who occupied the ground fortification, Ft Griffin, to protect Texas from attack by sea. At daylight on Sept 5, 1863, with little more than an unfinished earthwork and only six cannons, he and his men repelled a Union force of 22 ships and 5,000 men

Sabine Pass Battleground commemorates the historic events of the Battle of Sabine Pass. The park is equipped with picnic tables, grills, restrooms, a boat ramp and fish-cleaning shelter. The park is located south of Port Arthur, one and a half miles south of Sabine Pass on FM 332. Call (409) 971-2559 for more information

JC 8/30/89

WEST TEXAS PARKS IDEAL FOR
STAR VIEWING

AUSTIN -- Most Texas state parks are located in rural settings away from city lights, and parks in West Texas especially share the wide open spaces and clear night skies that have made McDonald Observatory world famous for its "dark sky" star viewing

"Amateur stargazers looking for that excellent night-sky quality can find it from the Rio Grande to the Panhandle," said Bob Hauser, chief of park operations for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Dust, clouds and moisture, city lights and even moonlight can block a clear view of the stars."

The clean air and low humidity in West Texas help create brilliant daytime vistas and one of the darkest night skies in the world, Hauser said.

Campers are in for a treat if they have not seen an unobstructed night sky in a long time. Major constellations can be identified using a simple star chart. The weather usually cooperates, with temperatures that drop 20 to 30 degrees during the night.

Barring rain, the weekend of Sept. 27-29 will be optimal for stargazing. The new moon arrives on Sept. 29, making the weekend the darkest nights of the month.

Sagittarius will be low in the southern sky around 9 p.m. The Little Dipper, which contains the North Star as the last star in its handle, will be in the mid-sky, and the Big Dipper will be below it and to the west. The Great Square of Pegasus, which looks similar to the Big Dipper, will be in mid-sky to the east. Campers will find the Northern Cross and the Summer Triangle directly overhead around 9 p.m.

The full moon occurs on Friday, Sept. 14. Although it does obscure the stars somewhat, it has its own allure. The September full moon formerly was called the Comanche Moon in West Texas because it marked a time for Indian gatherings and ceremony.

Recreation parks in dark sky country include Balmorhea, Big Spring, Caprock Canyons, Copper Breaks, Davis Mountains, Fort Griffin, Lake Colorado City, Monahans Sandhills, Palo Duro Canyon and Seminole Canyon.

These state parks have standard campsite facilities including water, electricity, picnic tables, fire rings, restrooms with showers and dump stations for trailers. But each park also has its own special attractions.

Balmorhea has motel-like courts, some with kitchens, and a swimming pool. Indian Lodge at Davis Mountains State Park offers complete hotel service. Seminole Canyon has Indian pictographs preserved in its canyons, while Palo Duro and Caprock Canyons feature magnificent back-country settings. Fort Griffin has preserved historic structures and is home to the official state Texas Longhorn herd.

Prospective visitors may call the individual parks for information and

reservations A brochure containing complete information on state park facilities can be obtained by writing the TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112

<u>PARK</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Balmorhea State Park	Box 15 Toyahvale, TX 79786	915-375-2370
Big Spring SRA	Box 1064 Big Spring, TX 79720	915-263-4931
Caprock Canyons SP	Box 204 Quitaque, TX 79255	806-455-1492
Copper Breaks SP	Rt 2, Box 480 Quanah, TX 79252	817-839-4331
Davis Mountains SP	Box 786 Fort Davis, TX 79734	915-426-3337
Fort Griffin SHP	Route 1 Albany, TX 76430	915-762-3592
Lake Colorado City	Rt 2, Box 232 Colorado City, TX 79512	915-728-3931
Monahans Sandhills	Box 1738 Monahans, TX 79756	915-943-2092
Palo Duro Canyon	Rt 2, Box 285 Canyon, TX 79015	806-488-2227
Seminole Canyon	Box 820 Comstock, TX 78837	915-292-4464

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WEST TEXAS LAKES GETTING
INTO BIG BASS RACE

SAN ANGELO -- A few years ago, a fisherman almost had to be within sight of a pine tree to catch a trophy-sized largemouth bass. Big East Texas reservoirs were the center of lunker bass action during the 1960s and 1970s.

Now there is mounting evidence that the chances of catching a 10-pound-plus bass may be just as good on several of West Texas' resurgent reservoirs.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery biologist Billy Follis of San Angelo said local fisherman Sam Keel set a record for Lake O C Fisher, located on the northwest outskirts of San Angelo, with a 12 23-pounder caught on July 4.

The fish, caught on a jig and craw-worm, bettered the old lake record 11-pounder caught in January 1984. Another bass weighing 10 9 pounds was caught during a recent bass tournament.

Big fish also are appearing with regularity at nearby Twin Buttes Reservoir just southwest of San Angelo. Follis said that during a recent tournament, bass weighing 10 2 pounds, 9 6 pounds, and several in the seven-pound range were brought in. The lake produced a nine-pounder during another bass tournament.

Follis said a combination of factors have contributed to the trophy bass production and improved overall bass fishing success on the two lakes Florida-strain largemouths have been stocked by the department starting in 1974 "The big bass caught recently probably were some of the original stockers, or their early offspring," said Follis, adding that Florida bass have a proven track record of being able to grow to larger sizes than native bass

"Another factor is the growing awareness of catch-and-release bass fishing," Follis said, "including more catch-and-release tournaments " Both lakes have the standard bag limit of five bass per day and minimum length limit of 14 inches

West Texas lakes also are benefiting from higher water levels than in the past few years, increasing their fertility and potential for future bass production

JC 8/30/89

TROUT SURVIVAL AT MEREDITH
DAM SURPRISES BIOLOGISTS

AMARILLO -- Most rainbow trout fisheries in Texas are a put-and-take proposition because trout normally cannot survive warm summer water temperatures But Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists have documented what amounts to a year-round trout fishery below the Lake Meredith Dam in Hutchinson County

Biologist Joe Kraai said the 13-acre stilling basin below the dam was stocked with 3,000 catchable-sized rainbows during January. "Fishing success was good during the winter and spring, but angler participation dropped off when summer arrived, because they figured the water would be too warm for the trout to survive," Kraai said.

Persistent reports from local bait dealers, however, indicated that fishermen continued to catch trout in midsummer.

During August, personnel from the department's fisheries office at Canyon conducted a gill net survey. They collected five rainbows, ranging in length from 13 to 14 inches and a half pound to 3/4-pound in weight. The fish appeared to be in very good condition, Kraai said. Examination of their stomach contents revealed they were feeding primarily on aquatic insect larvae.

Water temperature and oxygen profiles showed the temperature was a chilly 50 degrees at 62 feet, with an oxygen content of 4.2 parts per million. "These are suitable conditions for trout surviving through the summer," Kraai said.

Kraai noted that fishermen are restricted to bank fishing only, and they cannot fish near the concrete structures at the west end of the basin, or near the swimming area on the east end. "A substantial portion of the basin is unreachable for anglers, which probably assures some annual carryover of trout," said Kraai. "If water temperatures and oxygen concentrations continue year-to-year, and stocking programs continue, a substantial trout population with large individuals could develop."

Lake Meredith is located in the Panhandle region north of Amarillo. Officials remind anglers that those required to have a fishing license must also have a State Freshwater Trout Stamp to take trout.

JC 8/30/89

SUNFISH PROVIDING SPORT AT
LAKE O' THE PINES

LONGVIEW -- Creel surveys conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department indicate anglers are catching large numbers of sunfish at Lake O' the Pines near Longview.

Biologist Mike Ryan of Tyler said 35 fishermen were interviewed in four separate creel survey days. "They caught 343 sunfish, for an average of 10 fish per angler," Ryan said. "Most of the harvest was six-inch-plus bluegills, but large redear sunfish and warmouths (goggle-eye) also were represented."

Ryan said he was not surprised at the fishing success, since electrofishing samples during December 1988 on the 18,700-acre reservoir showed high population densities of bluegills. He said crews collected 32 bluegills in the six-inch-plus size class per hour and 19.5 redears per hour in the same size range.

He said much of the panfish action was above the State Highway 155 bridge in the upper end of the lake. Most fish were being caught in shallow water near vegetated banks, he said.

Ryan reminded anglers that there are no length or bag limits on sunfish, but they should keep only enough for their own consumption. Lake O' the Pines is located about 30 miles northeast of Longview.

JC 8/30/89

RED DRUM PRODUCTION
GETTING INTO HIGH GEAR

CORPUS CHRISTI -- Production of red drum (redfish) at the GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center at Corpus Christi apparently will surpass last year's 6.2 million fingerlings, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

With two-thirds of the production year complete, approximately 7 million red drum fingerlings have been stocked in six Texas bay systems.

Gene McCarty, assistant hatchery chief for the TPWD, said improved red drum production this year was made possible by construction of 19 acres of additional rearing ponds at the facility, and improved pond water quality due to a new aeration pond that removes chlorine from city water.

"We always have had to fight excessive salinity levels in the rearing ponds," said McCarty, "and the ability to add municipal water to the ponds really saved the day for us this year."

Redfish are spawned at the Corpus Christi facility, then reared to fingerling size in ponds there and at satellite ponds provided by Dow Chemical Co. at Freeport.

Bay systems already stocked this year, and numbers of fingerlings are East Matagorda, 1 million; Aransas, 500,000; San Antonio, 1 million, and Corpus Christi, 1 million

McCarty said crews have just begun stocking the first of an eventual 3 million fingerlings in Galveston Bay, and so far about 2 million of an eventual 3 million have been released in Matagorda Bay. Later this fall crews plan to stock the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre and Sabine Lake

The GCCA-CPL facility was built with funds provided by the Gulf Coast Conservation Association on land provided by Central Power and Light Co. of Corpus Christi. CPL also provides most of the water used for red drum production. The facility is staffed by Parks and Wildlife Department personnel

JC 8/30/89

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for August 31:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 98 degrees, normal level, black bass fair early and late to 3 pounds on plum worms with yellow tails; crappie slow; catfish slow

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 88 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair to 10 pounds trolling jigs late evening, some on live bait; crappie fair, some limits; white bass good around Garrett Island mid day on slabs and topwaters; catfish good to 5 pounds on stinkbait around baited holes with limits, yellow catfish good up river to 50 pounds on live bait.

CANYON: Water clear 80 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 5 pounds early on spinners, worms fished in 20 feet of water are good later in the day; striper slow; crappie fair at night with minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 6 pound average, some larger fish on trotlines baited with live perch.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 96 degrees, 6 inches low black bass fair with some schooling early to 18 fish per boat, most fish are in the slot, on plastic worms and Rat-L-Traps and Boy Howdies; live bait is hard to keep alive because of the heat; crappie slow; catfish fair to 15 pounds at night on trotline baited with goldfish.

GIBBONS CREEK Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass slow; crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds to 25 fish per string on minnows in 12 feet of water, catfish fair.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 5 pounds on worms in 6 feet of water along shoreline; striper good to 20 pounds near the dam on medium sized shad within a half mile of the dam; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow

LBJ Water clear, 85 degrees, lake full black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on buzz baits early; striper slow; crappie fair in submerged trees and brush; white bass good from highway 29 bridge to the dam on slabs and topwaters, catfish good in baited holes to 4 1/2 pounds, limits on stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 85 degrees plus 8 inches low; black bass fair to good to 9 1/4 pounds on dark worms spinners and Poe's Ace in the Hole top water; crappie good with several limits on minnows; white bass fair to 2 1/4 pounds on Hellbenders and slab spoons; catfish slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, normal level black bass slow; hybrid striper fair to 10 pounds trolling; crappie good on minnows with limits; white bass good on topwaters; catfish fair.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear 84 degrees 1 foot low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 1 pound to 15 fish per string on minnows at night in 4-6 feet of water; white bass to 1 pound with the same baits in 10 feet of water; catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 20 feet low; black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on chrome topwaters early, firecracker Getzits and Ring Worms are good in the middle of the day; striper slow; crappie and white bass slow; catfish slow

WACO: Water off color 85 degrees normal level, black bass slow; striper extra slow; crappie fair to 1 1/2 pounds to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass fair in number to 12 fish per string on slabs and small jigs, some on topwaters; catfish fair to 20 pounds on trotline baited with live baits.

WHITNEY Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level black bass good on jigs and spinners with a few limits to 4 pounds in shallow water; striper are fair to good in 25-30 feet of water to 12 pounds each on shad; crappie are very good to 1 1/2 pounds with strings to 17 fish in 22-24 feet of water on minnows channel catfish on good on cut perch and worms; yellow catfish are slow; blue catfish are good to 17 pounds on shad and worms.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear 80 degrees 7 inches below overflow; black bass fair to 9 1/4 pounds in 12-18 feet deep with worms, most are around 2 1/2 pounds; crappie fair on minnows in 25 feet of water over brush; white bass fairly good with schooling on shad chrome and topwaters are good baits; catfish slow; bream fishing excellent on worms and crickets.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 89 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass poor; crappie fair with some limits in the tree lines on minnows; white bass poor; catfish fair in the creek channels along the tree lines to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp, chicken hearts and livers as well as night crawlers.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, lake full; black bass slow in keeper sized with good numbers of undersized fish on cranks and worms; hybrid striper fair and small sized, some caught along with white bass; crappie good in 15 to 20 feet of water but mostly small in size on minnows and jigs; white bass good early and late around Wise County Park and around Steel Island; catfish good drifting shrimp and worms

CADDO: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on worms; crappie fair to 1 pound with some limits in the river bed on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good at night on cut bait and minnows

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 1/4 pounds, most average 2-3 pounds on cranks; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs in 17 feet of water; catfish good to 8 pounds on chicken livers and big minnows

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass fair in the 3-4 pound range on worms; crappie slow; catfish good on trotline to 5 pounds; redfish good early to 11 pounds on L'il Georges and cranks.

FORK: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 10.44 pounds on a black jigs, black and blue Craw Worms in 10 feet of water; crappie fair on minnows in 18-22 feet of water; catfish fair to 16 pounds on bream.

JOE POOL: Water slightly murky, 72 degrees at 7 feet, normal level; black bass good in number but most are too small to keep on cranks along the drop offs in 20 feet of water; crappie fair under the bridges and over the brush piles with minnows; catfish are fair on blood bait and Catfish Charly along the drop offs in 18 feet fishing on the bottom. Few boats are out midday, most fishermen come out at night.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds mostly on chuggers and dark worms as well as cranks in 3-12 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fairly good on trotlines in 10-12 feet of water on minnows and cut bait; bream are good on crickets and worms in 5-15 feet of water

LAVON: Water clear, 84 degrees, 5 feet above normal level; black bass slow; crappie are excellent in number to 1 3/4 pounds with several limits in 12-20 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on the points and near the dam trolling spoons with fairly easy limits; some schooling; catfish good to 5 pounds on shad on and reel early.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 87 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on dark worms in 4-8 feet of water; hybrid striper slow; crappie slow; white bass good trolling with limits in 15-20 feet of water, little schooling; catfish fair to 7 pounds on shrimp and a variety of catfish baits.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 99 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds, 5 ounces on Punkin Seed Craw Worms in 22 feet of water; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows and jigs; catfish good to 9 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; channel catfish good to 12 pounds on shrimp, chicken livers and chicken gizzards; blue catfish slow

MURVAUL: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass have been fair to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on cranks and worms; crappie slow; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen and hot weather; bream are good on crickets and earth worms.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 8 pounds on dark worms and topwaters; striper are fairly good to 8 pounds on live bait in 20 feet of water; crappie are improving on minnows; white bass are fair on cranks; catfish are good to 22 pounds trotline with minnows and catalpa worms.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass good in the 6-8 pound range on dark worms; crappie good to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish good to 6 pounds on blood bait and shrimp.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 pounds on white and chartreuse spinners in 8 feet of water; striper fair to 12 pounds on live shad; crappie good with several limits on minnows; white bass are schooling during mid afternoon on popping corks and jigs; catfish good with many limits on cut shad in 18 feet of water.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 84 degrees 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on dark Salty Sensations in 25 feet of water with some limits; white bass are plentiful with many limits on slabs and Rat-L-Traps crappie slow; catfish good to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with commercial catfish bait and blood bait.

TAWAKONI: Water clear 89 degrees, 1 foot below spillway level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on cranks and worms; striper are good to 17 pounds on small Roadrunners, white grubs and live baits; crappie are fair in number but large in size on minnows; white bass are good with daily schooling during the middle of the day, good numbers of limits on slabs and Rat-L-Traps; catfish good to 12 pounds on shrimp and worms in 8 to 18 feet of water

TEXOMA: Water clear over most of the lake. murky in some areas, 81 degrees, 18 inches low. black bass good to 5 pounds with several limits on spinners, cranks and worms; striper good to 17 pounds on topwaters popping corks, small lures and live bait; most average about 3 pounds, some surfacing; crappie fairly slow in 20 feet or more of water on minnows white bass are surfacing along with striper best baits are Rat-L-Traps and Rattlin Spots up the Washita arm and around the islands. catfish are good in number for bank and boat fishermen on live bait, shrimp, worms stink bait to 26 pounds. most are in the 3-4 pound range.

WELSH Water clear. 103 degrees surface temperature at the ramp, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 7 3 pounds on worms in 6 feet of water along creek channels, several strings of 3-6 pound fish landed; crappie are fair but few fishermen are out, fish are caught in 22 feet of water on minnows and tube jigs catfish are fair to 6 pounds on shrimp, bream and shad. Bream are fairly good to 3/4 pound in 15-18 feet of water on red wigglers and EuroLarvae.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear. 86 degrees, 4 inches low; black bass are good to 9 3 pounds on a purple worms, others are caught on black and smoke worms with blue tails in 8-12 feet of water in rocks and brush; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish are fair to good on Bill's Cheese Bait, shrimp and nightcrawlers, best fishing is in baited holes; most are channel catfish in the 1 1/4-2 pound range Bass stocking in the lake should be completed by September 11. Few fishermen are on the lake because of the heat.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 79 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds near the pump station on live bait, cranks, Rat-L-Traps spinners and Zara Spooks. striper slow; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows in the same area white bass good in the same area with many limits on slabs, bream and shad; catfish slow.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear. 81 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fair to 6 pounds on dark worms and spinners striper have been good to in the 4-12 pound range near the dam under the birds on Kastmasters and chrome spoons; crappie slow; white bass good when schools can be located. many small fish, catfish fair on stink bait, dough bait and cut shad to 4 pounds trotline fish are fair in very deep water on live bait. Fishermen should check their trotlines often because catfish die if left on the lines very long in such hot weather.

RAYBURN Water clear 92 degrees 6 inches low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair on slabs and cranks around tree line catfish are very slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear. 86 degrees, 20 inches low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds in good numbers on chartreuse spinners, Boy Hogwdies and chuggers striper good to 15 pound near the dam and striper alley on dark jigs. crappie good in size and number on chartreuse crappie jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear. 81 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 6 pounds on purple worms off the points; striper are fair to 15 pounds, most are in the 10 pound range on Bananahead Jigs in 80-100 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish are slow, a few caught around baited holes.

BRAUNIG Water murky. 91 degrees, normal level black bass good

in numbers, small in size on worms. striper slow; catfish good to 4 1/2 pounds on chicken liver. shad, perch, shrimp; corvina slow; redfish slow.

CALAVERAS: Water clear. 90 degrees, 8 inches down; black bass slow; striper good to 4 pound average on silver spoons and green grubs; crappie slow; catfish are good to 15 pounds on shrimp and chicken liver. corvina good to 8 pound average trolling silver and gold Tony Accetta spoons as well as tilapia; redfish have been excellent to 15 pounds with a 10 pound average. on silver and gold Tony Accetta spoons and tilapia around the dam and crappie wall. From the bank, fishermen have been catching redfish and corvina to 10 pounds on gold and chrome Rat-L-Traps

CHOKO: Water clear 11 feet low; black bass slow to 11 pounds, 3 ounce midweek with several in the 5 to 6 pound range on worms mostly; striper slow; crappie are picking up considerably; white bass slow; catfish are good in number to 7 pounds on cheese bait with rod and reel.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass poor; striper poor. crappie are slowing down; white bass slow. catfish fair in number and small in size on trotlines.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear. 86 degrees 5 feet low; black bass fair to 6 pounds early off deep points on 6 inch black curl tail worms; striper slow; crappie good early at Sunrise Beach and State Park Piers with near limits on minnows; white bass good under lights on white slabs and Beetle Spins. good strings for those following the birds. blue and channel catfish good in number from the beach at KOA on cut shad and chicken livers. Blue catfish are good to 14 pounds on trotline in 4-6 feet of water on lye soap and shad; yellow catfish slow.

FALCON: Water clear, 17 feet low and falling slowly; black bass fairly good to 7 pounds on worms and cranks. striper fair near the dam and state park areas trolling Hellbenders and jigs as well as Jigging Spoons; white bass good near the state park area; crappie slow; catfish fair with many small size fish on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear 33 feet low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on topwaters; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 6 pounds on nightcrawlers

TEXANA: Water murky in the main lake, clear in the creeks and up river. 82 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters around moss beds; striper and white bass slow; crappie fair on minnows to 1 1/2 pounds, a few limits from Sandies Creek; catfish good on trotline to 15 pounds on live carp.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 82 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on purple Ring Worms in shallow water; striper fair to 10 pounds on chartreuse shad baits; crappie poor; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on slabs; catfish good to 7 pounds on punch baits

BAYLOR: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds, 5 ounces with several 5s on white spinners, purple firetailed worms, Punkin Seed Craw Worms and black white spotted lizards. crappie slow to 8 fish per string to 1 1/4 pounds in 5-6 feet of water; catfish good to 10 1/4 pounds on water dogs.

GREENBELT: Water clear. 81 degrees, normal level. black bass fair to 4 pounds on minnows; crappie fair. white bass slow; catfish good from 4 pounds to 8 pounds on trotline baited with water dogs to 25 fish per string; walleye fair to 7 1/4 pounds on minnows

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear 90 degrees 6 1/2 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair in 20 feet of water; crappie are improving in 12 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 3 pounds at night on trotline.

MCKENZIE: Water clear. 78 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair to 3/4 pound on minnows and worms. catfish good to 9 pounds on minnows

MEREDITH: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass slow; smallmouth bass good to 6 pounds on live bait, minnows and Rapala Count Downs. crappie fair in 45 feet of water on minnows; white bass plentiful with many limits in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on minnows. catfish good to 24 pounds on trotline as well as rod and reel on live bait.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees 5 1/2 feet low; black bass have been good to 5 pounds on cranks; crappie are picking up to 15 fish per string in deep water on minnows. white bass schooling fish

near the wells around Ingleside. live bait shrimp available many small bait fish along shorelines. Offshore fishermen have been catching kingfish in the 25 pound range with limits along with a 42 and a 46 pound ling about 7 miles offshore near the shrimp boats; bonito to 12 pounds; chicken dolphin or dorado good in number from 1 pound to 10 pounds. blackfin tuna fairly good to 25 pounds between 14 and 20 miles offshore; some tarpon hooked, none landed; water clear some diving around oil rigs; snapper fishing has been good to 5 pounds, most average from 1/2 to 2 pounds some amberjack, and a few shark; a 350-pound bull shark caught over the week by Bobby Espinosa of San Antonio; live bait shrimp hard to get but piggy perch plentiful at \$3 per dozen. Horace Caldwell Pier fishermen catching bluefish, a few shark and Spanish mackerel, no specks or redfish.

CORPUS CHRISTI Fishing is great, catching is slow; some big redfish at the Humble Channel, but most are oversized. one fisherman landed 15 but had no keepers; a few trout caught along the edges of the Intracoastal; wade fishermen are doing fairly well along Dead Man's Pass; shrimp are beginning to show up. live bait shrimp available. Oso Pier fishermen catching a few specks, but most are too small to keep; good number of fish caught by waders between Oso Bridge and the naval base; live bait shrimp is available at \$1.50 per dozen. Bob Hall Pier fishing has been fairly slow; a few trout landed; most redfish are too large to keep. Daytime fishermen are catching fairly good numbers of Spanish mackerel, sand trout and whiting.

PORT MANSFIELD: The number of fishermen has dropped since school began. good numbers of trout of keeper size landed on the King Ranch shoreline north of Port Mansfield and north of the East Cut Channel; good numbers of redfish schools north and south of the East Cut Channel. fish are biting but most are oversized--some to 48 inches. No live bait shrimp available

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish have been fairly good in the 26 to 28 inch range along the flats around Three Islands on shrimp, touts trout have been fairly good mostly schoolie sized kingfish to 20 pounds about 3 miles offshore. live bait shrimp plentiful at \$10.50 per quart.

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