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STUDY SHOWS HIGH SURVIVAL OF TOURNAMENT BASS

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) officials said a recently-published study by fishery biologists at Auburn University found that largemouth bass caught by tournament anglers and later released have a high rate of survival

Researchers with Auburn's Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station designed the experiment to closely duplicate fishing tournament conditions

The study's purpose was to determine the survival of bass released immediately after capture as compared to bass held in livewells for several hours before release. The effects of a chemical water-conditioning additive of a type commonly used by tournament anglers also was evaluated

Nick Carter, chief of Inland Fisheries for the TPWD, said the study results should be interesting to Texas anglers, since more bass tournaments are held here than in any other state. "The Auburn study was an excellent

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one, because it duplicated the stress factors that affect tournament-caught fish at various times of the year," Carter said

The simulated tournaments were held on a 10-acre pond, using volunteers fishing from the bank with artificial lures. The "tournaments" were held at three-month intervals from August 1986 to July 1987

Immediately after capture, the bass were measured and subjected to the following treatments (1) 90 bass were placed in a transport tank, then released into a small pond within 30 minutes (immediate release group); 87 were placed in a 75-liter livewell with pond water only (unconditioned water) and released into the pond after three to nine hours, and (3) 85 were placed in a 75-liter livewell with pond water and one milligram of commercially-available water conditioner per liter, then moved to the pond after three to nine hours. All fish were marked for later identification

Overall, bass released immediately experienced the highest survival, at 98.9 percent. There was 96.5 percent survival of the group held in conditioned water and 90.8 percent survival of those held in unconditioned water

Water temperature was an important factor in bass survival, the investigators concluded. The highest survival of released fish was after the February tournament, when all the fish were recovered from the holding pond. The next highest was after the August 1986 tournament, when the only death was a fish in the unconditioned water treatment. Cool water added to the livewells may have increased survival during this tournament period. The lowest survival occurred after the July 1987 tournament, when water

temperatures were highest; survivals were 94.4 percent in the immediate-release group, 93.3 percent in the conditioned-water group and 86.7 percent in the unconditioned-water group

Researchers said that although there were slight differences in the survival of bass either held in livewells or released immediately, the study pointed out that largemouths have greater chances of survival after release if they are handled properly

Investigators warned that survival rates for tournament-caught fish may be different from those in the study because livewells in the study were stationary and probably less stressful to fish than wells in bass boats "Secondly, fish used in this study were not handled like fish caught during tournaments," the report said "Tournament sponsors should encourage participants to learn how to handle fish carefully, which will improve survival " The report also said sponsors of catch-and-release tournaments should try to avoid holding the events during the warmest part of the year

JC 3/15/89

STRIPED BASS FOOD HABIT
STUDY COMPLETED

AUSTIN -- An intensive five-year study of food habits of striped bass in Lake Texoma shows that stripers have almost an exclusive preference for shad, and in some cases will starve rather than shift to other fish species for food

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials believe the study, conducted by scientists of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station and Department of Zoology, yields persuasive evidence that introduced striped bass have little or no adverse impact on largemouth bass or other native game fish. The study, conducted on the Oklahoma side of Lake Texoma, was sponsored by the Bass Research Foundation and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The study is one of an ongoing series of studies on the relationship between striped bass and the black basses, according to W. J. Matthews, one of the investigators. He said future research will deal mainly with potential overlapping of striped bass with largemouth and spotted basses, as well as further studies on migratory patterns of striped bass in Lake Texoma

Investigators in the striper food habit study at Texoma used a combination of electrofishing, shoreline seining, gill netting and stomach analysis. The contents of 1,845 striped bass stomachs were analyzed

Threadfin and gizzard shad combined made up 83.3 percent of the total volume of fish that could be identified to at least genus level

The investigators said no other fish species approached shad in importance, as the next most important fish found in the striper stomachs was inland silversides, comprising only 4.3 percent of the total

"Although numerous other kinds of forage fish are present in the reservoir (Texoma) and potentially available as prey, no other species of fish made up more than a trace of the diet of striped bass," the report said. Only one small largemouth bass was found in a striper stomach

The investigators said in the report they had no scientific explanation for stripers' extreme selectivity for the shad family as forage at Texoma. This selectivity was demonstrated most dramatically in the summer of 1982, when a winter kill the previous January reduced availability of shad. Physical condition of the striped bass at that time was the poorest observed during the five years of the study, with individuals being "emaciated, with sunken abdomens, and so little musculature remaining on the head and nape that the bones were clearly outlined." Despite the scarcity of shad and ready availability of other prey species, the striped bass "did not switch significantly to other fish species that were available," the report said.

While striped bass are known to be predators on shad, the Texoma study showed that an important food item during spring and summer is insect larvae or nymphs, especially mayflies.

Another finding in the report that may be of interest to striped bass fishermen is that striped bass in the Texoma study appeared to prefer shad in the smaller, one- to three-inch class as prey, even though gizzard shad eight inches and longer were collected in large numbers in net surveys

In their conclusion, the investigators wrote that " although striped bass might have a relatively limited suite of non-clupeid (other than shad) fish species to which to switch for forage in open waters offshore, there are many potential prey species of an appropriate size to be consumed by it in inshore waters of the reservoir. However, even individual striped bass that we have gill netted in or near these inshore waters appear to have little or no proclivity for taking these alternative prey species "

JC 3/15/89

TIP AIDS GAME WARDENS IN
NABBING TURKEY POACHERS

RUSK -- Information from local Cherokee County residents helped game wardens locate and arrest two men who killed an eastern turkey hen in the Neches River bottom

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement officials said the two suspects were fined \$500 plus court costs each on March 8 after pleading guilty to taking a wild turkey out of season

Maj David Palmer said he believed the arrest was made possible by efforts of the department to educate the public on the reintroduction of eastern turkeys to East Texas habitat. "The Wildlife Division has stocked

hundreds of turkeys in East Texas with the assistance of the Wild Turkey Federation, forest products industries and others," said Palmer "I think East Texans realize the importance of this, and support the program by reporting anything that hinders this restoration effort "

Game wardens were able to locate the turkey carcass after interviews with local residents, Palmer said Information provided by the residents also helped the game wardens locate the suspects a short time later

Eastern turkeys, which differ genetically from the more abundant Rio Grande turkey found in the western two-thirds of the state, once roamed most of East Texas They were extirpated by the turn of the century and are just now making a comeback made possible by the restoration program

JC 3/15/89

WILDFLOWER DAY SLATED AT
MCKINNEY FALLS PARK

AUSTIN -- State parks officials are planning a colorful "Wildflower Day" at McKinney Falls State Park near Austin on April 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Joining the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in conducting the event will be representatives of the National Wildflower Research Center and the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation

Planned events include wildflower tours and lectures, displays of live wildflowers, wildflower art, special activities for children and a photography workshop

As many as 100 specimens of wildflowers will be displayed at park headquarters, and a talk will be given on planting and selecting wildflowers for home use

McKinney Falls State Park is located approximately 13 miles southeast of the State Capitol at the confluence of Onion and Williamson Creeks. To reach the park from Interstate Highway 35, take the William Cannon exit east to the Nuckols Crossing intersection; go straight, then turn left on Bluff Springs Road which becomes Scenic Loop Road. The park entrance is on the left. From U. S. Highway 183, take Scenic Loop Road west to the park entrance.

All standard entrance and facility use fees will apply, but the wildflower day activities will be free. For further information call the park at (512) 243-1643.

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DANCE CELEBRATION PLANNED
AT LANDMARK INN

CASTROVILLE -- A "Heritage Dance Celebration" is set for 1-3 p.m. April 8 at Landmark Inn State Historic Site in Castroville.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said three groups will perform authentic German, Alsatian and Mexican folk dances, representing the three ethnic groups that settled Castroville.

German dances will be performed by the New Braunfels Germanfold Dancers,

Alsatian by the Alsatian Dancers of Texas and Mexican by the Ballet Folklorico de Navarro

Castroville is 30 minutes west of San Antonio on U S. Highway 90 For further information call the park at (512) 538-2133

JC 3/15/89

WILDLIFE DIRECTOR HONORED
BY BIGHORN SOCIETY

AUSTIN -- Directors of the Texas Bighorn Society in a meeting Feb 3 selected Charles Allen, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Wildlife Division, recipient of the "Billy Bronze," sculpted by Tom Tischler

Daniel A. Pedrotti, president of the organization, said Allen was chosen to recognize his "extraordinary work in the program to restore desert bighorn sheep to the mountains of Texas "

Pedrotti said Allen and the department were able to obtain desert bighorns from Nevada in 1987 and 1988, resulting in free-ranging wild sheep herds in five mountain areas of Texas

The award will be presented at the society's banquet May 6 in Dallas, Pedrotti said

In a letter to Chuck Nash, chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, Pedrotti commended Allen for creating hunting opportunities for Texas sportsmen "Early in his employ Mr Allen realized that hunter

numbers in Texas were declining in spite of our great hunting heritage and steady increase in population," Pedrotti wrote "He correctly attributed this to the high cost of hunting leases and lack of public hunting lands in Texas

"To alleviate some of the adverse effects of this situation Mr Allen utilized the Type II permit system, obtained public hunting rights on thousands of areas in Texas and made it possible for additional hundreds of Texans to enjoy the sport of hunting for the nominal cost of \$35 plus usual hunting license fees The program returned a profit to the state of Texas during its first year and started a reversal of the declining trend in hunter numbers "

JC 3/15/89

HENDERSON'S TROUT PROGRAM
PROCLAIMED A SUCCESS

HENDERSON -- A "Kids Fishing Day" program featuring rainbow trout fishing at a city swimming pool was a success, according to City of Henderson and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials

Department biologist Richard Ott said 1,000 catchable-sized trout purchased by the city were shipped from a Missouri hatchery to the department's Tyler Fish Hatchery where they were held for delivery to the pool

Officials said 50 young anglers five to 12 years of age were allowed to fish for an hour, or until he or she caught eight trout At the end of

each hour anglers and their partners were replaced by another group

In all, 419 youngsters got to participate, and Ott said city officials indicated they hope to stage similar events in the future

JC 3/15/89

IT'S 'ALL ABOARD' FOR
STATE RAILROAD'S SEASON

RUSK -- Travelers can again take scenic trips on the vintage Texas State Railroad when the new spring season begins Saturday (March 18), according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials

The State Historical Park in Rusk and Palestine preserves the experiences of the golden age of railroads for modern travelers. Restored steam-powered engines pull the 19th Century train along a 25.5-mile run through the East Texas Pineywoods. Depots reflecting turn of the century architecture are located at each end of the line.

The railroad originated in 1896 when the state prison system began construction on the track as part of a plan to support the state's ironworks at Rusk with rail transport to Palestine. Regular passenger service by the state was discontinued in 1921, and the line was used for freight until 1969. The bulk of the Texas State Railroad was conveyed to the Parks and Wildlife Department in 1972.

The train makes weekend trips between depots until Memorial Day (May 28) when it starts running five days a week from Thursday through Monday. In

the fall, it again operates on Saturday and Sunday only until it closes for the winter in November

Special "moonlight runs" in April, May and September will leave the Rusk Depot at 6 p.m. The trip takes a leisurely one and a half hours through wooded scenery. The round trip includes a one-hour layover and takes four hours altogether.

Advance reservations are recommended during the spring when trains are usually booked on weekends. Although the trains run more frequently during the summer, reservations are advisable.

Texas residents can call 1-800-442-8951 for reservations. Callers outside Texas should dial (214) 683-2561. The office is open seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

In addition to the train ride, picnicking, hiking, camping, playgrounds, concessions and souvenir shops are available at the park. Both locations are adjacent to U.S. Highway 84. One is 2.5 miles west of downtown Rusk and the other is 3.2 miles east of Palestine.

EC 3/15/89

SMALL FISHING LAKE OPEN AT
CHOKE CANYON PARK

CALLIHAM -- A 90-acre fishing lake stocked with Florida-strain largemouth bass and native fish species is now open at the Calliham Unit of Choke Canyon State Park.

The park is located off State Highway 72, about halfway between Three Rivers and Tilden

Officials said the new lake, impounded less than two years ago, was designed to provide bank fishing for park visitors who choose not to fish the waters of 13,000-acre Choke Canyon Reservoir

No boats will be allowed on the 90-acre Calliham Lake Bob Hauser, chief of park operations for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said the lake is a catch-and-release fishery for largemouth bass Other species of fish such as crappie, catfish and sunfish may be retained under standard bag limits Most of the fish in the lake are small now, but the catch and release regulation for bass is expected to result in a trophy bass fishery in a few years

Hauser said brush and trees were left in the lake bed to provide good habitat for game fish, and three earthen jetties were built along the shoreline to assist bank fishermen "Youngsters are going to love fishing there," said Hauser "It has plenty of pan-sized fish and was designed for bank fishing " Standard park entrance and facility use fees are in effect, but there is no extra charge for fishing

Also in the newly-opened portion of the Calliham Unit are 19 new walk-in tent campsites adjacent to the lake and the main reservoir Each campsite has a sheltered picnic table, fire ring, stand-up cooking grill and water nearby A fish-cleaning table also is in the camping area

Reservations may be made by calling the park between 8 a.m and 5 p.m

at (512) 786-3868.

JC 3/15/89

UVALDE DENTIST CATCHES BIG
AMISTAD BASS

DEL RIO -- A Uvalde dentist Saturday caught what is apparently the biggest largemouth bass ever landed in the western half of Texas when he boated a 15 1/2-pounder at Lake Amistad

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden Alan Masloff of Del Rio said Dr Jay Hiler caught the fish on a jig and pork rind combination Saturday afternoon in the Castle Canyon area of the Texas-Mexico border reservoir

Masloff said Hiler weighed the fish on certified scales and will submit lake record forms to the department. If certified, the fish will be a new lake record for Amistad and will rank among the top 10 largest bass ever caught in the state. It measured 27 inches long and 23 1/2 inches in girth

JC 3/15/89

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for March 16

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 69 degrees. normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on small jigs in 8 feet of water crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds to 25 fish per string on minnows and chartreuse jigs; catfish fair to 8 pounds on live perch

BELTON: Water clear 58 degrees 4 feet low; black bass good to 3 pounds on pumpkinseed Crawworms in 5 feet of water hybrid striper slow; crappie fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass fair to 20 fish per string on chrome Rat-L-Traps in 20 feet of water; catfish fair to 7 fish per string on dough bait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear 4 feet below spillway level. black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on black jigs; striper slow. a few under lights at night; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs; catfish slow; white bass slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear. 52 degrees. 10 feet low; black bass good in number to 6 pounds in 2-6 feet of water on worms and topwaters; striper good in the 12-13 pound range on live bait; crappie good under the docks and some activity up the river in shallow water on minnows; white bass have been fair in front of the highline area and around the falls. catfish fair.

CANYON: Water clear 58 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 pounds on spinners mostly off the points in brush; striper poor; crappie good at night with minnows; white bass good up the river to 25 fish per string on minnows and flea flies; catfish slow.

COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 68 degrees, 7 1/2 feet low; white bass fair to 4 fish per string average on chartreuse and white jigs; all other fishing slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 62 degrees. normal level black bass fairly good to 7 pounds plus, several over 6 pounds as well as many slot fish on live bait, worms, cranks black and blue jigs with pork trailers crappie fairly good since Friday in 4-12 feet of water on minnows. catfish fairly good to 57 pounds, many small fish; also a 15-pound gaspergou on live bait.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. 68 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; crappie fair to 2 1/2 pounds, some limits over the weekend; white bass slow; catfish good to 10 pounds on rod and reel baited with stink bait

LBJ Water clear 56 degrees lake full black bass good in 2-5 feet of water on buzz baits and spinners some limits to 8 pounds each; striper fair up the Colorado arm of the lake; crappie good around docks and some in shallow water with limits on minnows white bass good up the Llano arm in the running water on white fleafly under popping corks. catfish good on trotlines baited with shad and worms in 8-16 feet of water

SOMERVILLE: Water clear. 2 1/2 feet low black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows and jigs. white bass slow; catfish slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear. 43 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; hybrid striper fair to 4 1/2 pounds in 10 feet of water on silver slabs; crappie good on jigs and minnows in 6 to 15 feet of water to 15 fish per string; white bass good to 25 fish per string on minnows, jigs and white slabs; catfish slow due to lack of fishermen.

TRAVIS: Water clear 57 degrees 10 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds in 25 feet of water on black and green jig and pig also in 10 feet of water on Baby Bass, Tom's Minners and plum worms; striper slow crappie fair around docks in 10-15 feet of water on white fleafly jigs; white bass running early and late on minnows and small jigs catfish slow.

WACO: Water off color, 62 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass slow, some on dark worms. striper slow; crappie fair on yellow and white jigs; white bass picking up on Rapalas and Mister Twisters in the Bosque; catfish fair in number but good sized on shrimp.

WHITNEY Water clear, 47 degrees 8 feet low; black bass fair to 4

1/2 pounds on cranks; striper are good to 28 1/2 pounds on live bait crappie good to 1 3/4 pounds with good numbers of keepers and limits; white bass good to 2 pounds on Hot Spots, most fish are scattered; catfish good on worms and nightcrawlers with blue catfish good to 22 pounds and channel catfish to 4 pounds.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear 57 degrees 1 inch overflow; black bass good to 8 pounds, 6 ounces mostly on Stanley jigs with Crawworms and Rat-L-Traps. crappie good on jigs and minnows in 18 inches of water near the weeds and grass and in some creeks; white bass good with limits of 25 fish per string on Roadrunners, spinners, jigs slabs and spoons catfish slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water muddy on upper end, clear on dam end, 62 degrees, normal level black bass good to 13 1/4 pounds a new lake record caught by Gary Grissom on Duncanville fish donated to the Lone Star Lunker Program; the largest stringer weighed 36 pounds, 3 fish over 10 and 7 fish over 9 pounds. good numbers of 6-8 pound fish on spinners, Long As, lizards and jigs crappie good under railroad bridge and around the Monticello Dam on minnows and white jigs; white bass good in 1-3 feet of water in good numbers on spinners; catfish good in the middle of the coves on trotlines to 15 fish per string to 7 pounds.

BRIDGEPORT: Lake clear, river muddy 51 degrees, 13 feet low; black bass are improving to 4 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; striper slow to 6 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; crappie good and moving into shallow water with most fishermen getting limits of 25 fish spawning expected in 2 weeks. white bass good to 25 fish per string on slabs; catfish fair to 23 1/2 pounds last Saturday many small fish caught from the bank.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 58 degrees 8 inches low; black bass fair in the 7-10 pound range on black lizards, chartreuse spinners in 2-6 feet of water; hybrid striper slow; crappie slow; white bass are moving up the creeks, some caught off the sandbars on Lil Georges and Bangtail spinners; catfish are slow

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water slightly stained 50 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 9 pounds, 2 ounces on jig and pig with a red Crawworm trailer; crappie fair in 25 feet of water on minnows; catfish slow.

FORK: Water clear, 68 degrees lake full black bass good to 13 pounds, which was donated to the Lone Star Lunker Program, on white and chartreuse spinners in 4 feet of water; crappie slow; catfish slow.

LAKE O THE PINES Water clear, 60 degrees 4 inches above normal level black bass fairly good to 8 1/2 pounds caught Monday on with spinners and jig and pig with some limits crappie slow with some caught around boat houses; white bass good with some limits above 259 bridge and below the dam on Little Fishes and white jigs; catfish fair to 18 pounds on cut bait and live bait.

LAVON Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 8 pounds in 8 feet of water on Roadrunners hybrid striper fair in numbers in the creeks; crappie good with several limits on minnows and jigs; white bass good in the creeks with some limits in the creeks; catfish good to 6 pounds on shrimp, blood bait on trotlines.

LEWISVILLE: Water stained but clearing, 49 degrees, normal level black bass slow; striper slow; crappie improving to 12 fish per string on jigs, some on minnows; white bass, fair in deep water; catfish fair in the old lake in 4-8 feet of water in the flooded areas on minnows and Bill's Stink bait.

MONTICELLO: Water slightly off color 65 degrees normal level; black bass good to 8.3 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and DB#3s in 10 feet or less of water; crappie fair in number to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 8 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear 49 degrees, 4 inches above normal level; black bass slow; crappie good in number but small in size on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water fairly clear, 55 degrees normal level black bass fair to 6 pounds, 14 ounces on worms lizards and jigs; crappie fair around 1971 bridge, best at night on small minnows catfish slow to 4 pounds on cut shad and Canadian crawlers

PALESTINE: Water clear. 57 degrees, 4 inches above normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on dark worms. striper are fairly good to 8 pounds on cranks in the river in 10-12 feet of water; crappie picking up in 18 feet of water on minnows white bass picking up in to 10-14 feet of water some surfacing; catfish slow.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 53 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds on spinners; crappie slow; catfish fair before the cold front, slow since.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on spinners; striper fair to 16 pounds on 6 inch Sassy Shad and live shad; crappie are good to 20 fish per string to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs. white bass fair to 2 pounds on at the power plants on minnows, slabs catfish are good drifting cutbait or shrimp.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 49 degrees, spillway level; black bass fair to 6 pounds on dark worms, lizards and jigs; striper fair to 13 pounds on white jigs and worms crappie good to 20 fish per string to 2 pounds each on minnows and jigs. white bass fair to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs; catfish good to 6 pounds on shrimp and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 44 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 5 pounds on cranks striper fair to 12 pounds on chartreuse jigs; crappie fair to good in numbers to 2 1/4 pounds on live bait and jigs; catfish good to 56 pounds on a trotline and cut bait.

WELSH: Water clear, 72 degrees, lake full, black bass fair to 7 3/4 pounds on worms and topwaters; crappie fair on minnows and jigs; catfish good to 16 pounds on worms and liver; sunfish good on worms and jigs.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds in fair numbers on black and blue worms in 3-10 feet of water; striper slow; white bass slow but fish returning to the lake; crappie fair under 1097 bridge, fish are full of eggs; catfish beginning to move into shallow water

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 63 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 10 pounds on black and blue Stanley Jigs and a jig and pig in 4 feet of water, no limits; crappie good in 12 feet of water; white bass good on minnows in 12 feet of water; catfish good on live bait, shiners and water dogs on trotlines

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level black bass fair in the 2-5 pound range on spinners and worms; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 53 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 9 pounds on Rat-L-Traps worms, jigs and some spinners in shallow water; striper slow; crappie fair in deep water, some in shallow water; white bass slow; catfish fair up the river no trotlines.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 60 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass good to 4 pounds on spinners; striper slow; crappie fairly slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on trotline.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 feet above normal level black bass good in number to 15.58 pounds, a new lake record on a jig and pig by Jay Hiler of Uvalde in 15 to 20 feet of water; striper good to 30 pounds with full limits in the 8-10 pound range on white Roadrunners and large floating Redfins; catfish excellent in the 3-8 pound range with many limits on cheese bait in 7-20 feet of water under corks.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 54 degrees, 18 inches above normal; black bass slow; striper picking up to 8 pounds on liver and shad; channel catfish slow; blue catfish fair to 7 pounds on liver; yellow catfish fair to 23 pounds on shad; redfish good to 16 pounds on gold spoons; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 61 degrees, normal level black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds on plastic worms and jigs; striper very good on chicken liver and silver spoons to 2 pound average; catfish good to 31 pounds on shad, shrimp and chicken liver with strings to 35 pounds caught on trotlines, redfish are good to 12 pounds on crawfish in the warm water discharge. corvina good with strings to 25 pounds on green grubs and silver spoons

CHOKE: Water clear, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass fair in number to 7

1/2 pounds on spinners and worms. striper slow; crappie good on minnows in 5-10 feet of water. white bass fair in the river channels near Bracken boat ramp to 4 pounds each; catfish are good to 6 pounds on rod and reel. a 55-pound yellow catfish was caught on a trotline baited with perch.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear. 58 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass good to 3 pounds, many undersized fish. in shallow water on plastic worms; striper slow. crappie good on minnows at night to 1 pound. white bass slow; catfish good to 12 pounds on trotline using bloodbait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear near the dam, milky in the upper part, 60 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds on black lizards with many limits in 2-5 feet of water on white spinners with gold No. 7 Colorado blades; striper fair in number to 9 pounds around the state park and Hog Island on 3/4 ounce Ponyhead Jigs fitted with a 4-inch white curly tailed grub; crappie excellent with full strings for those fishing in the back of coves on jigs and minnows in 2 feet of water from noon to 5 p.m. white bass good at night up the river with many limits. some large fish between 7-10 a.m. trolling white or chrome Rat-L-Traps and Bomber small As. blue catfish fair to 4 fish per string in the 2-5 pound range on rod and reel with cut shad at the buoy marker at the dam; yellow catfish good to 34 pounds on trotline baited with goldfish.

FALCON: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass good to 10 pounds. 6 ounces on a Salty Sensation worms in 4 feet of water. striper slow; crappie slow. white bass good near the rapids in the Rio Grande on small cranks, L'il Georges, grubs. catfish fair on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 58 degrees, 21 feet low; black bass good in the 14-19 inch range on small grubs and other small baits; striper slow. crappie fair. white bass fair. catfish slow.

TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, clear in the jungle area, 57 degrees, 1 foot low. black bass good in the jungle area to 5 1/2 pounds on jig and pig; striper and white bass slow; crappie fair up the Sandies and Navidad on live minnows. catfish good to 25 pounds on trotline baited with shad.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water slightly murky. 42 degrees. 7 feet below spillway; black bass fair to 4 pounds on spinners. striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on rosy red minnows. white bass slow; catfish slow.

BAYLOR: Water clear, 49-53 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds. 3 ounces in good numbers on chartreuse spinners, black jigs with a crawdad colored pork frog on jigs and Rat-L-Traps; crappie slow to 15 fish per string to 1 1/4 pounds. catfish slow to 5 1/2 pounds on stink bait.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 54 degrees, 9 feet low; black bass fair in the 4-6 pound range on jigs. crappie good to 25 fish per string on jigs and minnows. white bass fair to 14 fish per string on jigs and minnows; catfish slow. walleye slow.

GRANBURY: Water murky, 55 degrees, lake full; black bass good to 10.65 pounds, a new lake record caught Bill Bolden of Granbury. on Poe's cranks. striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/4 pounds on blue and white jigs in 16 feet of water. white bass good around Tintop on L'il Cleos and white jigs. catfish slow.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 48 degrees. normal level. black bass are beginning to hit on minnows and nightcrawlers. crappie good to 2 pounds on slabs and minnows off the dam and in Carrol Creek; white bass slow; catfish fairly slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 58 degrees. 6 feet low; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on spinners, Rat-L-Traps. worms; striper good in number, many throwbacks on spoons, Bombers and live minnows. crappie good in shallow water on jigs and crappie minnows; white bass slow; catfish improving on trotlines baited with cutbait and stinkbait.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 55 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass slow; crappie fair over the weekend; white bass slow; catfish good to 18 pounds on frozen shad; channel catfish beginning to bite around docks on small minnows.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 52 degrees. 12 feet low; black bass good on worms, cranks and spinners in 20 feet of water. striper good to 11 1/4 pounds on slabs and 1 ounce white Roadrunners;

crappie fair with full limits. white bass fairly slow. catfish good to 5 pounds on trotline baited with perch.
SPENCE: Water clear 50 degrees, 27 feet low. black bass good to 5 pounds on cranks, spinners and worms; striper good to 12 pounds; crappie fair in number to 15 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish slow.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 70 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass good to 9 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and a wide variety of lures; striper good to 14 7 pounds on black and silver slabs. crappie slow; white bass fair under gulls; catfish slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish have been plentiful, several just below keeper size and a few above keeper size; water in poor shape right now; best baits are small crabs and shrimp.

GALVESTON: Offshore fishing has been good. good snapper catches to 25.2 pounds along with Warsaw grouper to 54 pounds; drum run is on, fish range just above keeper size to oversize in ship channels, around jetties and along the Texas City Dike; limits of specks in West Bay, nothing real big, along with keeper sized redfish; scattered but good sized flounders in the 3-4 pound range; good numbers of whiting along the beach front; some live bait shrimp available; trout limits caught in East Bay along with redfish.

PALACIOS: Redfish have been slow for several days; very little live bait in the water. tides have been low. water levels are increasing midweek because of the southeastern wind. Fishing should be good again by the weekend.

PORT OCONNOR: Fairly good numbers of redfish in the 22-23 inch range since the weekend on dead shrimp; good trout and sheepshead; some drum in the 8-10 pound range no run yet; live bait crabs are available; water in fairly good condition; most fish have been caught around the jetties.

ROCKPORT: Redfish fairly good with some limits on live bait; waters are fairly murky midweek; trout were plentiful through Monday on a red worm behind a Mauler and silver spoon; live bait shrimp scarce.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish are beginning to show with some limits despite the winds; some trout are showing up in Corpus Christi Bay and around the wells on live bait; big sheepshead to 10 pounds from the jetties; several oversized black drum on silver dollar sized crabs; offshore snapper fishing has been good; southeast winds to 40 miles per hour have brought water back to the bays. winds calm midweek; scattered flounder; some live bait shrimp available but not plentiful. Caldwell Pier fishermen caught some bonnetnose shark and some sheepshead Monday; several reds caught Monday but most too small to keep; few fishermen so far this season.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Oso Pier fishing has been slow this week; some sandtrout and whiting caught over the weekend. no live bait available; dead bait shrimp are getting scarce. Bob Hall Pier fishermen caught good numbers of whiting; pompano to 3 1/2 pounds; drum to 7 pounds. sheepshead good around the end of the pier to 7 pounds; some bonnetnose, finetooth, blacktip shark to about 3 1/2 feet in length; a few gafftops; several stingrays; waters have been rough early this week but calming midweek; a few specks late last week; water temperatures to 62 degrees. some live bait shrimp caught in the Intracoastal. Laguna Madre producing trout in the 17-22 inch range from the Boat Hole down to Bird Island; some limits; a few redfish and a few flounder.

PORT MANSFIELD: Good number of keepersized redfish but fish are not biting very well. trout fishing slow; offshore slow; no live bait shrimp.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of redfish to 9 pounds, most in the 4-5 pound range, mainly around Rattlesnake Island on live bait; trout good along the channels from Marker 57 to 67 on live shrimp, fish just above keeper size; live shrimp hard to find at \$10 per quart; winds have been high, few fishermen out; a few flounder beginning to show up; some small schools of black drum showing up.