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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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CORRECTION In the Sept 7 issue, we said anglers at the new Ray Roberts Reservoir could fish from the bank or from float tubes, but not boats. Corps of Engineers officials said non-motorized boats may be used. For more information, call Rex Boyd, project manager, (214) 434-1666

ANOTHER GOOD DEER SEASON ON TAP FOR HUNTERS

AUSTIN -- Texas hunters may be in for another record-setting white-tailed deer season this fall

Last year about a half-million hunters harvested about a half-million of the state's estimated 4.1 million deer

Deer hunting is on a roll in Texas, with hunters harvesting record numbers of whitetails every season since 1984. This fall may see another such year, as deer populations remain high and dry weather may increase deer movement and make them more visible to hunters, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Officials said the 1987 season will be hard to beat, since records were set in antlerless harvest, hunter numbers and hunter success in addition to total harvest. The 505,000 total harvest eclipsed the 445,000 harvest of

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the previous year.

This increase is attributed mainly to consistently high deer populations and regulations designed to increase harvest of the antlerless segment of the deer population, a necessity in many areas because of chronic overpopulation of the deer herds.

This year, the Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted regulations that make it even easier for hunters to take their legal allotment of antlerless deer. The either-sex bag limit system has replaced the landowner-issued antlerless deer hunting permit arrangement in most of the state's main deer hunting counties. This means that in either-sex counties, hunters are not required to obtain a "doe permit" from the landowner to take antlerless deer. Instead, the hunter simply tears the appropriate tag from his hunting license and attaches it to the carcass of any antlerless deer taken. The landowner, as in the past, still can specify the number and sex of deer to be taken on his property. Antlerless permits still are required in some counties where deer populations are concentrated in localized areas.

During the deer season, which is Nov. 5-Jan. 1 in most counties, and Nov. 12-Jan. 8 in South Texas. Hunters are allowed to take four white-tailed deer, no more than two bucks in most counties. There is a one buck limit in some counties, and hunters will be allowed to take only bucks in other counties.

Other recent innovations aimed at a higher antlerless harvest are a special early antlerless-only season Oct. 22-Nov. 4 in all or portions of

six East Texas counties, and a similar season for selected South Texas counties Jan. 14-29.

Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader, said hunters may not match the 1987 deer harvest although the deer numbers are sufficient to reach that level. "I don't expect the harvest in South Texas to be as large as last year, simply because of landowners' reactions to dry weather conditions. But I expect increased harvest in East Texas because of the additional counties coming under the either-sex program," Gore said.

Gore said Texas habitat is supporting "peak numbers" of deer in most areas, and the herds could be on the brink of a major die-off in the event of a prolonged drought. "A strong harvest of antlerless deer would be as beneficial to the herds as it would be to the hunter," Gore said.

Gore said the dryness of the habitat and the spotty mast crop should enhance the deer harvest. "I think the deer will be coming to supplemental feeders and oat patches very well, especially later in the season," Gore said.

Officials point out that the annual hunting season is important to more than just the hunting camp fraternity. It's a billion-dollar boon to the Texas economy, bringing outside revenue into rural communities and giving ranchers and farmers hunting lease income during a difficult period for Texas agriculture.

Hunting regulations can be found in the department's 1988-89 Hunting Guide, available free at department offices and hunting license outlets

across the state.

The following is a region-by-region wrapup of deer hunting prospects for the upcoming season:

EDWARDS PLATEAU

The Hill Country west of Austin is Texas' deer factory, producing the most whitetails of any ecological area and more than most states can claim. Last season was a banner one in the Plateau, with a total harvest of almost 230,000 deer, or an 18 percent increase over 1986. Hunters obviously took advantage of the either-sex regulation which was in its first year in most of the Plateau. The 107,500 antlerless deer taken represented a 26 percent increase.

This season's prospects are good in terms of prospective harvest, according to district biologist Max Traweek of Kerrville. Traweek said overall dryness of the range should contribute to hunting success. "I don't know if we will set another record, but there certainly are enough deer," he said. "If the weather cooperates and the hunters turn out in good numbers, we might break another record." Acorns, an important deer food during the fall, are in short supply in most areas, Traweek noted, causing deer to move around more during daylight hours.

Deer body condition is reasonably good in most of the Plateau because of summer rains, but parts of the northern section including San Saba and McCulloch county are extremely dry. In those areas deer are beginning to reflect the stress of poor range conditions. Traweek believes antler

development will only be average this fall in most areas, and below average in dry areas. SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

South Texas produced an all-time record doe harvest in 1987, due largely to the late antlerless season held during January in nine counties. The buck harvest of 55,600 was only a three-percent increase, but it included many quality animals with outstanding racks, according to district biologist W. J. Williams of San Antonio. "Weather conditions were perfect for growing antlers last year," Williams said. "This year I think antler development will only be average, because the weather was dry during the critical antler-growing period in the spring." This dropoff in quality, however, probably will not be noticeable to the average hunter, he added.

South Texas hunters will see large numbers of yearling bucks this fall, resulting from an outstanding fawn crop in 1987. Body condition should be fair to good, with conditions improving due to increased rainfall during late summer.

"The habitat looks good," said Williams of the famous South Texas brush country located roughly south and west of San Antonio. "The deer came through the summer in better shape than a lot of people expected, so I see no reason why we shouldn't have a typically good South Texas deer season."

EAST TEXAS PINEYWOODS

Although white-tailed deer populations have reached a saturation point in some areas, the Pineywoods herd continues to expand faster than those in other parts of the state. District biologist Gary Spencer of Jasper said dry weather this year may have caused a leveling of the deer population, with a lower fawn crop.

"We have had barely adequate moisture this year, and this has resulted in below-average range conditions," said Spencer. "The acorn crop is below average, and browse conditions are only fair." This means another record harvest is possible if deer are forced to forage more actively. "Our hunting success in East Texas is largely dependent on the weather, as rains early in the season can reduce hunter access and participation," Spencer explained.

The Pineywoods harvest likely will set a third successive record, since the either-sex bag limit system this year includes most of the region's traditional deer hunting range.

GULF PRAIRIES AND MARSHES (OAK PRAIRIE)

This flat region roughly between Houston and San Antonio is not known for high deer populations, with habitat consisting of scattered oak groves. Timely rains in the region during the summer have maintained deer in fair to good condition, according to district biologist Bob Carroll of LaGrange.

"We had a good deer season last year, and we should have another good one this year," said Carroll. "There won't be much tall weed growth to

hinder hunting, and the deer should be moving around quite a bit." Bucks should have average to better-than-average antler development, he added.

CROSS TIMBERS AND ROLLING PLAINS

The 1988 deer season in this varied ecological region of North and West Texas may be as good as the outstanding 1987 season for numbers of deer, if not quality, according to district biologist Larry Holland of Brownwood. "Deer populations may be a little higher than last year, because of an excellent 1987 fawn crop," said Holland, "but body condition and antler development won't be up to last year's standards."

Dry weather during April and May suppressed antler development and continued dry weather in some areas is probably causing some losses of deer, Holland believes. "We are in danger of losing some deer in the near future, so it's extremely important for hunters to take all the antlerless deer they are allowed by regulations and landowners." He said the most critically dry counties in his region are Coleman, Brown and Mills.

On the bright side of the dry-weather situation, deer will be coming readily to food plots planted with oats or other greenery, Holland said.

TRANS-PECOS

The normally dry Trans-Pecos has received unusually high rainfall amounts during the past two years. This year started out dry, but late summer rains revitalized the habitat and made conditions fairly good for the region's mule deer herd, according to biologist Tim Bone of Alpine.

"I expect about an average hunting season this year, with the deer in reasonably good body condition and antler development about average," Bone said.

The 1987 mule deer harvest in the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle combined was 6,700 animals, for a 28 percent increase over the previous year. Bone said hunters may be able to have comparable success because the dry habitat may cause deer to move during the daytime, and also because the mule deer season was lengthened from nine to 16 days this year.

POST OAK SAVANNAH

This scenic region is located roughly between the Blackland Prairie and the East Texas Pineywoods. Its rolling, oak-studded hills provide good deer habitat, with the most productive areas being in Freestone, Anderson, Leon and Robertson Counties.

District biologist John Wallace of Tyler said deer populations remain at fairly high levels, and their body condition is fair to good in spite of fairly severe drought in some spots. "We probably have an average acorn crop on the upland species such as post oak, but the bottomland trees don't have many," said Wallace. The "soft mast" crop, including fruits and berries, is only average, he added.

"I would recommend that hunters take their antlerless deer early in the season, because the dry range could deteriorate rapidly as the fall progresses," said Wallace. Last season, the Post Oak Savannah was the only

ecological area posting a lower total deer harvest than the previous year, but Wallace said deer populations are sufficient to have a good hunting season in 1988.

PANHANDLE

For the second year in a row, range conditions in the Panhandle region are better than average. Mule deer in the Palo Duro Canyon, along the Canadian River and in the rugged country below the Caprock are in good body condition and have good antler development, according to district biologist David Dvorak of Amarillo.

White-tailed deer occupy a widespread area of the High Plains, primarily along river and creek drainages. Dvorak said ample rainfall during the past several months has been beneficial to whitetail populations which have remained fairly stable.

JC 9/28/88

WILD TURKEYS HAD POOR
NESTING YEAR IN 1988

AUSTIN -- Hen-poult counts conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists indicate spring 1988 wild turkey production was the lowest in recent history.

Extremely dry weather during the critical early spring period cut into nesting success and poult survival, according to Don Wilson, upland game program leader.

However, hunters still should see plenty of turkeys during the upcoming fall and spring hunting seasons. "This year was a bad one for production, but 1987 was outstanding," Wilson said. This means there are enough holdover birds to keep overall populations fairly high, he noted.

The statewide average count of poults per hen this year was 0.25, compared to 2.67 poults per hen in 1987. Wilson said that of the 6,021 hens observed during 1988 surveys, only 469 were seen with poults.

This lack of production was consistent throughout the state's turkey range. Counts averaged less than one poult per hen in the five major ecological regions that comprise most of the state's turkey range.

The fall turkey hunting season runs concurrently with the white-tailed deer season. In most of Texas the regular season is Nov. 5-Jan. 1. In South Texas, the whitetail season is Nov. 12-Jan. 8.

JC 9/28/88

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
MEETINGS SET

AUSTIN -- The Comprehensive Planning Branch of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has announced a series of meetings across the state to obtain public comments on the 1990 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan (TORP).

The TORP is used by recreation providers at all levels to guide and coordinate outdoor recreation planning. It also is used as a guide for allocation of federal Land and Water Conservation funds, and state Local

Park, Recreation and Open Space funds. These two funds are awarded on a 50-50 match basis to eligible recreation providers.

The TORP is published ever five years and incorporates data from federal, state, county, municipal and private sector representatives.

<u>CITY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
ABILENE	9 a.m.	Oct. 4,	N. 7th & Pine
ALPINE	10 a.m.	Oct. 13	309 W. Ave D
AMARILLO	10 a.m.	Oct. 6	2736 W. 10th
ARLINGTON	9 a.m.	Oct. 18	616 Six Flags Dr.
AUSTIN	1 p.m.	Oct. 21	2520 S. IH 35, Suite 100
BEAUMONT	10 a.m.	Oct. 25	Civic Center Main & College
BELTON	10 a.m.	Oct. 4	302 Central
BRYAN	10 a.m.	Oct. 24	3006 29th
CORPUS CHRISTI	1 p.m.	Oct. 20	2910 Leopard St.
DENISON	9 a.m.	Oct. 12	10000 Grayson Dr.
EL PASO	10 a.m.	Oct. 12	123 Pioneer Plaza
FT. CLARK SPRINGS	10 a.m.	Oct. 14	Officers Club
GARLAND	9 a.m.	Oct. 14	5th & Austin
HOUSTON	10 a.m.	Oct. 27	3555 Timmons Ln.
LAREDO	10 a.m.	Oct. 13	Laredo Airport Bldg. S-1
LUBBOCK	9 a.m.	Oct. 5	1323 58th St.
LUFKIN	10 a.m.	Oct. 20	300 E. Shepard
McALLEN	1 p.m.	Oct. 21	301 S. Main at Chicago
MIDLAND	10 a.m.	Oct. 11	Midland-Odessa Regional Airport
SAN ANGELO	1:30 p.m.	Oct. 3	5014 Knickerbocker
SAN ANTONIO	9 a.m.	Oct. 5	Three Americas Bldg. Travis & Broadway
TEXARKANA	10 a.m.	Oct. 18	3200 W. 7th
TYLER	10 a.m.	Oct. 19	125 S. College
VICTORIA	1 p.m.	Oct. 26	Regional Airport Building 102
WACO	1 p.m.	Oct. 19	320 Franklin Ave.
WICHITA FALLS	9 a.m.	Oct. 13	2101 Kemp Blvd

JC 9/28/88

SEEPAGE BOGS TO BE SUBJECT
OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY

AUSTIN -- Hillside seepage bogs in East Texas are host to diverse plant communities, including a number of rare plant species found in only a few locations in the world.

These natural bogs are the subject of a cooperative study being launched by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Natural Heritage Program and the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Forest Experiment Station.

Bogs in the Angelina National Forest in East Texas will be studied during 1989. These "hanging" bogs are common over the Catahoula Formation on the Angelina and Sabine National Forests. They originate when water percolates freely through coarse sands on the hills, then strikes a relatively impermeable layer, forming seeps.

Officials said the species composition and ecology of the suite of habitats within hillside seepage bogs are relatively unknown, as are the variations in water flow and quality. In addition, fire is apparently necessary to maintain diverse, open bogs, and unburned bogs show a decrease in diversity of herbaceous species and become shrubby over a period of a few years.

Investigators hope the new study will shed some light on the diversity, ecology and function of these East Texas bogs.

JC 9/28/88

RELEASING TAME TURKEYS CAN
HARM WILD FLOCKS

AUSTIN -- Releases of pen-reared wild turkeys by private individuals in Houston County will delay eastern turkey restoration efforts in that county, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Charles Allen, Wildlife Division Director, said no wild-trapped eastern turkeys will be released for at least one year in those portions of the county where pen-raised birds were released. The department has a policy of not releasing wild-trapped turkeys in any area where pen-raised birds occur.

Pen-raised birds can jeopardize wild eastern turkey flocks in several ways, Allen said. "The pen-reared birds have the potential of introducing domestic poultry diseases into wild flocks, and they can reduce inherent wildness in wild turkeys by genetically polluting the offspring with characteristics that ultimately reduce their ability to survive in the wild. These concerns led to the passage of a state law, effective Sept. 1, 1988, prohibiting the release of pen raised turkeys."

Obtaining wild-trapped eastern turkeys for release in East Texas is expensive, with trapping and transplanting costs ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 per bird. "To knowingly jeopardize wild-trapped birds by putting them in areas where pen-raised turkeys have been released would not be in the best interest of the sportsmen or the eastern turkey restoration

effort," Allen said. "I know that some releases may have been done by well-meaning people, but they need to understand that pen-raised birds are not suitable for introduction to the wild, and can be a real threat to the true wild turkeys."

Temple-Eastex Inc., Champion International Corp. and Kirby Forest Products, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Louisiana-Pacific Corp., have provided financial support for the eastern turkey restoration effort, donating a portion of their income from the Type II public hunting program.

JC 9/28/88

HUNTERS DRAWN FOR TYPE II ANTELOPE HUNTS

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have announced the names of 16 persons selected by computer drawing to participate in public pronghorn antelope hunts on the Rita Blanca Wildlife Management Area.

The hunt for buck antelopes will be held Oct. 6-9, 1988. Hunters drawn were: J. L. Shepherd and Roy Shepherd of Balch Springs, David G. LaCaze and Ken Terrell of Amarillo, Robert Behle and Tom Marek of Amarillo, John Arthur Smith of Houston, David M. Moody and Ty Christopher Bailey of Arlington, Robert Richey of Austin, Gary David Lee and Mark Jenkins of Fred, Lauren J. Mouton and Thomas V. Parks of San Antonio, Jacky Ray Ramsey and Rickey Ramsey of Nocona.

JC 9/28/88

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for September 28:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 83 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass good to 5 pounds on topwaters and minnows; crappie slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on perch.

BELTON: Water clear, 82 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on pumpkin seed 4-inch Ringworms and clear topwaters, 1/4 ounce buzz baits in 3 feet or less of water; hybrid striper good to 6 pounds drifting shrimp in 20 feet of water; crappie good to 20 fish per string in 10 feet of water on small minnows; white bass good to 20 fish per string to 2 pounds on clear or chrome topwaters or clear or chrome Rat-L-traps; channel catfish fair on Legal Limit dough bait or shrimp; yellow catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 2 1/2 feet below spillway; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good with limits to 1 pound each on minnows; white bass fair early and late and under the lights to 35 fish per boat on slabs, Hotspots; channel catfish fair drifting shrimp; yellow catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 82 degrees, 8 feet low; and falling; black bass fair to 4 pounds on black torpedoes and chartreuse Skipjacks; striper fair to 8 pounds on white jigs and silver slabs; crappie fairly good around lighted docks at night; white bass good to 25 fish per string on topwaters and L'il Georges; catfish fair in the 1-3 pound range on cut shad.

CANYON: Water clear, normal level; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on double buzz baits early and plastic worms later in the day; striper fair to 10 pounds on live perch; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish good to 59 pounds on trotline with live bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 88 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass some improvement with a couple of fish over 6 pounds or 21 inches, many slot sized fish, on dark worms and Boy Howdies; crappie slow; catfish fair to 27 pounds on jug lines with live bait.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 83 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass very good within the slot or below, many schooling fish, few keepers, on Rat-L-Traps, Fat Getzits, worms and buzz baits early and late; crappie very good with limits to 1 pound each on minnows; catfish are excellent to 13 pounds on rod and reel with shrimp and chicken livers

LBJ: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on black and chartreuse Crawworms in shallow water; striper fair in the 5-8 pound range on silver slabs and chrome Hellbenders; crappie improving around lighted piers at night; white bass good to 20 fish per string on topwaters and Tom's Minners; catfish good to 2 1/2 pounds on cut bait and chicken livers.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass fairly good to 7 pounds on blue worms in 9-10 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 42 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie fair to 14 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on slabs; catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 81 degrees, 13 feet low; largemouth bass good to 3 pounds on chrome Crazy Shad, chartreuse spinners and smoke glitter grubs; Guadalupe bass good to 14 inches on same baits with only one keeper sized Guadalupe all week; striper fair to 15 pounds dowering in 70 feet of water; crappie and white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on shrimp and live crawfish.

WACO: Lake clear, north Bosque flats off color due to winds, 15 inches low; black bass good to 5 pounds on white topwaters and buzz baits early, red salt and pepper 4 inch Ringworms good midday; striper slow; crappie good in the baited holes and brush in 16-20 feet of water on minnows; white bass very good early in 8-10 inch length on slab type baits, Rat-L-Traps or Hotspots and chrome Whizbangs; catfish good drifting shrimp at night to 4 pounds, trotlines are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 78 degrees, 11 feet low: largemouth bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on dark worms in shallow water and in creeks; smallmouth bass good to 3 3/4 pounds on silver Pico Pops around the rocky bluffs; striper good on live bait with some limits in the 6-14 pound range; crappie fair to good with limits to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass good with plenty of limits on Kastmasters; catfish fair on trotlines baited with perch and worms in the 2-5 pound range.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 75 degrees, 19 inches low: black bass good to 5 pounds on medium running cranks such as Tiny Torpedoes and Rat-L-Traps, surface plugs and worms; crappie very good with good numbers of limits on minnows and jigs around brush piles in 20 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish very good on trotlines to 13 pounds; channel catfish slow on shrimp, live bait and nightcrawlers; sunfish excellent in 6 feet of water on top of the bottom moss on crickets and red worms.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low: black bass fairly good to 8 pounds on buzz baits, dark worms, and topwaters early and late; crappie picking up to 18 fish per string to 3 pounds each on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair on trotlines baited with live bait and blood bait to 25 pounds.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 77 degrees, 49 inches low: black bass fair to 4 pounds in 3-10 feet of water around structure on worms and Rat-L-Traps; striper fairly good along with white bass; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows in the main channels around bridge pilings; white bass good with plenty of surfacing around 6 p.m.; catfish slow on south end of lake.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear 75 degrees, 2 feet low: black bass fairly good late afternoon and evening to 6 1/2 pounds on dark worms in 3-7 feet of water; crappie very good in 25 feet of water on minnows and white jigs; catfish fair in 15-18 feet of water on large minnows and shrimp.

FORK: Water clear, 87 degrees 8 inches low: black bass good to 10 3/4 pounds on dark worms; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows; catfish good to 8 pounds on shrimp.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear 78 degrees 2 feet below normal; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on frogs and worms; crappie fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows to 10 fish per string in 10 feet of water; white bass schooling some with strings to 25 fish on small cranks; catfish slow.

LAVON: Water murky, 5 feet low: black bass slow; crappie fair to 1 1/4 pounds to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass fair to 1 pound to 12 fish per string on slabs; catfish fairly good to 4 pounds on shrimp and shad.

LEWISVILLE: Water fairly clear 87 degrees 13 feet low: black bass fair to 3 1/4 pounds with some limits of 5 fish on jigs and minnows; striper fair to 5 pounds; crappie excellent with full strings on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fairly good from the rocks on pole and line.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 4 feet low: black bass good but few keeper sized fish; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good on rod and reel.

MONTICELLO: Water clear 91 degrees normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds, 7 ounces on fire tiger Rat-L-Traps in 5 feet of water; crappie slow; catfish excellent to 8 1/2 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline baited with Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 79 degrees, 2 feet low: black bass slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 8 pounds on chicken livers, shrimp and cheese bait.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds, 12 ounces on dark worms, several 3s and 4s caught on buzzbaits as well as topwaters around moss; crappie improving under 1971 bridge to 1 1/4 pounds with some limits on minnows; catfish fair on trotlines to 5 pounds with cut shad.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear 79 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low: black bass excellent to 10 1/4 pounds on red Salt and Pepper worms, Tequila Sunrise worms; white spinners with willow leaf blades; crappie good to 3 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 2 1/2 feet low: black bass good to 6 1/4 pounds on dark worms and spinners; striper fairly good to 7 pounds on spoons and cranks; crappie slow; white bass good to 2 pounds

on cranks, slabs and spoons; catfish good to 12 pounds on trotlines and some on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers and stinkbait

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 84 degrees, 42 inches low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on plum curly tailed worms; striper good to 12 pounds on 3 inch Sassy Shad in 18 feet of water; crappie good under the bridges with minnows in 12 feet of water; white bass good while schooling early and late, best baits are popping corks with jigs, catfish fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds on shrimp.

TAWAKONI Water clear, 84 degrees, 30 inches low; black bass very good to 5 1/2 pounds around boat docks and over moss beds on spinners and dark worms. striper slow; crappie very good to 2 1/2 pounds to 20 fish per string on minnows in 22 feet of water white bass slow; catfish very good to 5 pounds on cut shad, shrimp, worms and bloodbait

TEXOMA. Water clear, 79 degrees, 2 feet low: black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on worms and topwaters striper fairly good on topwaters and slabs to 11 1/2 pounds, average sized fish is 2 1/2 to 3 pounds under birds crappie slow around baited holes on live minnows in 15 feet of water. white bass fair with some surfacing with stripers catfish good from the bank with full strings on stinkbait, worms shrimp and cutbait

WELSH: Water almost clear, 92 degrees 2 feet low; black bass fair to 7 pounds on cranapple worms crappie slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on cutshad and shrimp.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear 74 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass fair to slow to 7 pounds but most fish are below are 14 inches on a variety of lures and cranks early in shallow water worms good later; crappie fair to 5 fish per string on minnows catfish good from 1 1/2 pounds to 4 pounds on earthworms, stinkbait and shrimp Bream excellent but fairly small White amur good to 18 pounds on Papa Earls dough bait.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 85 degrees, 2 feet low: black bass good to 6 3/4 pounds on black 4-inch Ringworms in 6 feet of water; good numbers of small bass at night crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds near the marina white bass fair catfish fair on trotlines baited with live perch A single bream weighed 12 ounces

LIVINGSTON: Water clear 5 1/2 feet low black bass good in the 3-4 1/2 pound range on spinners in shallow water striper fair in the lake to 6 pounds on yellow and white slabs; crappie fair to 8 fish per string around 8 feet in 25 feet of water on minnows; white bass fairly good to 8 keeper sized fish per string, many fish too small to keep catfish good on trotlines with near limits on cut shad

RAYBURN Water clear 7 feet below pool level black bass good to 6 pounds on topwaters worms, grubs and spinners around the edges of the hydrilla in the deep creek channels. striper slow; crappie fair on minnows white bass spotty, very little schooling; channel catfish good on rod and reel as well as trotlines to 3 pounds on Catfish Charlie and big worms. yellow catfish slow.

TOLEDO BEND Water clear, 85 degrees 5 feet low; black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on Tiny Torpedoes Boy Howdies and motoroil worms in 25 to 30 feet of water striper fairly slow to 6 pounds near the dam on jigs crappie good on live bait early; white bass slow; catfish fair on rod and reel to 6 pounds

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 79 degrees, 3 feet above normal level black bass excellent to 8 pounds on topwaters early and plastic worms during the day in 5-15 feet of water striper slow to 8 pounds on 2-ounce Bananahead jigs, crappie and white bass slow; catfish excellent with limits of 25 fish to 7 pounds on stinkbait and cheesebait

BRAUNIG Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; striper slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on chicken livers, shrimp and tilapia on trotline redfish excellent to 25 pounds on tilapia and gold Tony Accetta spoons; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level black bass slow to 2 pounds on plastic worms; striper slow to 4 pounds on spoons; crappie slow; channel catfish fair to 4 pounds on shrimp; blue catfish fair to 14 pounds on tilapia; yellow catfish fair to 17 pounds, 10 ounces on tilapia; redfish have been fair to 13 pounds,

13 ounces on tilapia, orange mouth corvina fairly good.
CHOKE Water clear 1 foot low; black bass fair to 7 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows night or day in 20 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish very good around 4 pounds each; cheesebait on rod and reel, trotline slow.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair to 6 1/2 pounds on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows, fish are mostly small; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MEDINA: Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 10 pounds on trotlines baited with perch, shrimp and liver.

TEXANA: Water slightly murky, 2 feet low; black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners and worms around mossbeds; striper and white bass slow; crappie fairly good on minnows up Sandies Creek, no limits; catfish good on trotlines to 12 pounds on cutbait.

WEST

BAYLOR Water murky, 78 degrees, 4 feet above normal level; black bass good in the 2 1/2 to 4 pound range on black and chartreuse worms and dark worms; crappie slow on minnows; catfish very good to 13 pounds on water dogs and stinkbait.

GRANBURY Water clear, 83 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds, 2 ounces on black and blue jigs with black pork trailer; striper slow; crappie very good to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish very good to 4 pounds on liver and shrimp.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass good in the shallow water to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners; crappie slow; white bass good with limits trolling minnows at night; catfish excellent to 10 1/2 pounds on cut shad; walleye beginning to hit to 3 pounds nightcrawlers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass very good to 6 pounds on spinners and topwaters; hybrid striper fairly good to 5 pounds on slabs and spinners; crappie very good with full stings on minnows; white bass fairly good and mixed in with the hybrid stripers; channel catfish very good on chicken livers; trotline fishing is very slow.

MCKENZIE Water clear 72 degrees normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; yellow catfish fair to 12 pounds on trotline with nightcrawlers.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on worms and Tennessee Shad colored Bombers; crappie fair on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good off the docks as well as trotlines.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 80 degrees, 11 feet low; black bass picking up with good numbers of small fish and some keepers on topwaters; striper fairly good to 15 pounds on slabs; crappie fairly slow; white bass excellent on slabs; catfish slow.

SPENCE Water clear 72 degrees, 25 feet low; black bass good to 8 pounds on worms and topwaters; striper good to 11 pounds on topwaters; crappie slow; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on slabs and topwaters; catfish fair to 4 pounds on marshmallows, nightcrawlers.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 8 feet low; black bass good to 5 3/4 pounds in good numbers on cranks as well as gray and silver Pico Pops; crappie good to 10 fish per string to 1 pound fish on minnows and jigs; white slow; catfish slow.

WHITE RIVER Water clear, 74 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters in shallow water early, deeper water good with worms in the afternoon; crappie fairly good in 15 feet of water on small minnows; catfish good to 7 pounds on stinkbait baited rod and reel; walleye slow due to lack of fishermen.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE Redfish fair to 7 pounds in the marsh on gold spoons; redfish slower in lake with shrimp; specks have been good to 7 pounds with many throwbacks; the average is about 3 pounds; sandtrout are good sized and plentiful; good numbers of croaker; fairly good numbers of flounder to 3 pounds; good numbers of drum to 23 inches on shrimp, average drum weighs 3-4 pounds; sheephead scarce; gafftop slow; live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE Redfish fair to 6 1/2 pounds over the shell reefs and north of Blue Buck Point on dead shrimp and large mud minnows; speck fishing has been slow, a couple of limits caught.

near the jetties to 5 pounds on MirOlures; trout in lake are small; flounder fishing good at cuts coming from marshes into the lake; good numbers of golden croaker from the bank around the ship channel; some drum to 7 pounds on dead shrimp; water clear, fishing should be good before and after the cold front

GALVESTON: Good numbers of croaker on the beachfront, in the channels at Rollover Pass, North and South Jetties, San Luis Pass, Texas City and Galveston ship channels; good numbers of bull reds around Seawolf Park and from the lighted pier at the end of Texas City Dike, most all are too large to keep some keeper redfish in the bays to 27 1/2 inches on live shrimp, some on Kelley Wigglers; scattered flounders to 3 pounds on mud minnows and shrimp; best trout fishing is in East Bay along Hanna Reef and in Trinity Bay; water clear along the beach front but there are not many trout; live bait available

PALACIOS: Water clear, tides remain consistently high; evening fishing is good redfish good with about half too small to keep on moving tides and in rivers and along grassy bay shores on fresh dead shrimp and gold spoons; speck catches are moderate in the various bays and around Matagorda Peninsula on artificials and live shrimp live bait shrimp scarce but should improve. Local dove hunting has been excellent especially around water holes Still fair numbers of teal in the around area grain fields

PORT OCONNOR Redfish fairly good over the weekend with several limits in the 22-25 inch range, or about 8 1/4 pounds around the jetties, Green's Bayou specks were fairly good around Evert Reef, Grass Island and Pringle Lake; some snapper around 18 mile rigs; live bait shrimp available

ROCKPORT: Redfish excellent since tides began falling last Sunday; redfish much longer than 28 inches, several limits on croaker in Redfish Bay; redfish good on the reefs in St. Charles Bay; trout fishing good in the 14 to 17 inch range on live shrimp and touts; flounder good to 4 pounds on spoons and shrimp; live bait shrimp available.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish good to 28 inches in South Bay on perch and live shrimp, frozen finger mullet; specks have been scarce water clear; tides down some croaker flounder improving. Horace Caldwell Pier fishermen have been catching specks to 19 1/2 inches, small shark and good numbers of golden croaker

CORPUS CHRISTI Some redfish to 28 inches in Upper Laguna Madre on artificials; small specks to 17 inches in Corpus Christi Bay and in Upper Laguna Madre, some flounder to 4 pounds showing up around Corpus Christi, a few croaker in the Bay and in the Humble Channel live bait still very scarce. Oso Pier fishermen catching a few golden croaker, a few trout late at night, some flounder at night and before sunup a couple of drum to 9 pounds no bait shrimp available

PORT MANSFIELD. Redfish scarce trout fishing very good to 22 inches on live shrimp and touts snapper fishing excellent off the rigs to 15 pounds; live bait shrimp are available

SOUTH PADRE. Specks and flounder scattered and generally slow with some limits some redfish to 25 1/2 inches off Gaswell Flats live bait shrimp available. Offshore fishing is fairly slow.

PH 9/28/88