

TxD
P400.6 P235n 89/1/18

NON-CIRCULATING

TEXAS STATE
DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the Jan 18, 1989 issue

Big Bass Grows Past State Record Weight	1
Walleyes, Hybrid Stripers Caught At New Ballinger	3
Eastern Turkeys From Iowa Released In East Texas	4
White Rock Lake Offers Urban Crappie Fishing	6
1988-89 Texas Deer Harvest May Show Downturn	7

BIG BASS GROWS PAST STATE RECORD WEIGHT

TYLER -- Austin college student Troy Johnson can now claim he owns the biggest largemouth bass ever caught in Texas. But the big fish is not a new state record.

Johnson's fish was caught almost exactly a year ago at Gibbons Creek Reservoir near Bryan. At that time, the 16-pound, two-ounce lunker was the fourth-largest bass ever caught in Texas.

Johnson loaned the big female to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's "Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker" program headquartered at the Tyler State Fish Hatchery.

The big fish adapted to aquarium life so well she spawned five times last spring and still had enough vigor to gain more than two pounds during the year.

This week hatchery superintendent David Campbell had to do maintenance work on the 3,000-gallon aquarium, so he took the opportunity to weigh the prize fish. At 18 pounds, 13 28 ounces, the big fish is one pound, 2 5 ounces heavier than the current state record bass caught by Mark Stevenson.

U OF NT DEP LIBRARIES 76203

from Lake Fork in November 1986.

Thus Johnson has bragging rights to the state's biggest bass but no state record since the fish's weight when legally caught is the only valid weight for the record book

Bill Rutledge, chief of the department's Hatcheries Branch, said Johnson's bass continues to amaze biologists "This fish is only eight years old, which is still relatively young for a bass," said Rutledge, "so it makes you wonder just how large she can get " Rutledge believes the fish was one of the original group of fingerling Florida-strain bass stocked at Gibbons Creek in 1981

For comparison, Stevenson's state record bass, which weighed 17 pounds, 10.7 ounces, was nine years old when caught in 1986. Rutledge said bass are known to live longer than 10 years, but determining exact age by counting rings on the fish's scales becomes difficult with the older fish

The all-tackle world record largemouth bass is the 22-pound, four-ounce monster caught by George Perry in 1932, from a lake in Georgia. Introductions of the fast-growing strain of largemouth found in Georgia and Florida have been responsible for increased catches of big bass in Texas, California and other states, Rutledge said

The Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker program, now entering its third season, is now open. Anglers catching 13-pound-plus largemouths can allow the department to use them for spawning. Participating anglers receive fiberglass replicas of their fish, and in most cases the fish are returned

to their lakes of origin after the spring spawning season. Fishermen catching prospective lunker fish should call the Tyler hatchery at (214) 592-7570.

The lunker program is supported by four corporate sponsors: Lone Star Brewing Co., Jungle Labs, Inc., Skeeter Boats and Honey Hole Magazine.

JC 1/18/89

WALLEYES, HYBRID STRIPERS
CAUGHT AT NEW BALLINGER

BALLINGER -- The stocking of walleyes and striped bass by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1985 now is paying off for fishermen at New Ballinger Reservoir in Runnels County.

Biologist Billy Follis said fry of both species apparently had good survival and growth rates. Crews stocked about 15 million walleye and 57,300 hybrid striper fry in the lake located near the city of Ballinger.

"Fishermen have been catching good strings of these fish," Follis said. "They are catching both species by trolling crankbaits and spoons along rocky shoreline areas." He said five-pound-plus fish of both species are not uncommon.

Walleyes grow well in Texas waters, Follis said, but they need very cold water for the eggs to develop properly. This has kept walleyes from producing self-sustaining populations in many Texas reservoirs.

Hybrid striped bass are a cross between striped bass and white bass Follis said they provide a game fish that is easy to catch like white bass, but grow to larger sizes because of the striped bass genetic influence

JC 1/18/89

EASTERN TURKEYS FROM IOWA
RELEASED IN EAST TEXAS

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists have released 115 wild-trapped eastern turkeys from Iowa at release sites in two East Texas counties

This represents the largest number of eastern turkeys ever brought into Texas and released at one time, according to Charles Allen, director of the department's Wildlife Division

The birds, mainly hens, were released at six sites in Henderson County and two sites in Cherokee County

The birds were purchased in part with funds donated by the Texas Wild Turkey Federation to the Texas Public Hunting Lands Foundation and by donations from the forest products industry through the Type II program. The foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing public hunting and promoting the wise use of wildlife resources in Texas. Corporate sponsors of the foundation are Lone Star Brewing Co. of San Antonio, Winchester-Olin Corp. of East Alton, Ill. and Carter's Country of Houston.

Last year 397 wild-trapped eastern turkeys were imported from other states and released in East Texas. The birds were purchased with funds provided by three forest products companies, Temple-Inland, Kirby Forest Products, Inc and Champion International, Inc. The forest products companies returned funds they had earned under the Type II public hunting program to the department for the turkey project.

"Without these sponsors' returning substantial amounts of their revenues gained through the Type II program, the stocking efforts for eastern turkeys could not have been accomplished," Allen said. He added that without creation of the Texas Public Hunting Lands Foundation, funds for the purchase of wild turkeys would have been much less.

Allen estimates there is as much as 23 million acres of suitable eastern turkey habitat in East Texas without turkeys. "We hope to reintroduce the birds into most of their traditional range east of IH 35 during the next five years," Allen said.

Eastern turkeys were extirpated from their East Texas range by the turn of the century, due possibly to overhunting and habitat changes. Several counties in East Texas have a limited spring-only gobbler season, set this year for April 1-16, as a result of the department's restocking program. Prospective hunters should check the department's 1988-89 Hunting Regulations Guide for boundaries of the turkey hunting area.

JC 1/18/89

WHITE ROCK LAKE OFFERS
URBAN CRAPPIE FISHING

DALLAS -- Nestled in a Northeast Dallas residential area, White Rock lake is a haven for the jogger, bicyclist and Sunday afternoon motorist

Now it appears the 79-year-old lake deserves attention from fishermen as well

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Bobby W Farquhar said recent surveys indicate the 1,120-acre lake has excellent and basically underutilized populations of largemouth bass, catfish and crappie

Crappie especially are abundant, Farquhar said, judging from frame-net samples Five nets set overnight collected 373 crappie, and 166 of them were over 10 inches in length, Farquhar said "We collected crappie up to 13 inches long and two pounds in weight, as well as a good representation of young crappie in the two- to four-inch class," said Farquhar This suggests that White Rock crappie are having reproductive success, he said

Farquhar said one reason White Rock gets little attention is the 10 5-horsepower limit on boat motors However, he believes anglers with small boats or who fish from the bank will find surprisingly good fishing There also are several fishing piers on the lake, Farquhar said A public boat ramp is located on the lake's west side near the intersection of Fisher Road and Lawther Drive

White Rock is bounded roughly by Garland Road, Buckner Blvd and Northwest Highway

JC 1/18/89

1988-89 TEXAS DEER HARVEST
MAY SHOW DOWNTURN

AUSTIN -- After four years of record white-tailed deer harvests, hunting may have returned to more normal levels during the 1988 regular season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader, said he expects the harvest to be 10 to 15 percent below the 1987 harvest of approximately 505,000 deer. "We won't know for a couple of months from now, but judging from field reports it appears hunting was slow because of weather conditions," Gore said

Unusually warm, windy conditions prevailed during much of the early part of the deer season when the largest numbers of hunters traditionally are in the field. "There was less deer movement than normal because of the warm weather and a surprisingly good acorn crop in many areas," Gore said

Dry weather also had a negative effect on hunting, as oat patches and other food plots failed to produce enough greenery to attract deer in numbers, he added

Deer movement in some regions was reduced to the point that some landowners were concerned about overharvest, especially in East Texas where

the either-sex system of bag limits went into effect for the first time "Our field biologists have kept tabs on the deer population, and they believe the difficulty in seeing many deer is caused by a lack of deer movement and not a scarcity of deer," Gore explained "The deer are present in high numbers just as they were last year "

Gore speculated that even if the harvest dropped 12 percent from the 1987 total, it still would be equal to the 1986 harvest "We had such good range conditions during the mid-1980s it almost became automatic that the harvest would set a record every year," Gore said "It seems the harvest this year is simply returning to a realistic level, mainly because of weather conditions "

Gore reminds hunters that the special post-season antlerless deer hunting season currently is open in South Texas, and will remain open through Jan 29.

JC 1/18/89

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Jan. 19:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level black bass fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds on chrome and crawfish colored Rat-L-Traps in 8-10 feet of water; hybrid striper slow; crappie fairly good at night under lights on minnows to 20 fish per string in 18 feet of water; catfish good to 23 pounds on live perch baited jug lines

BELTON: Water clear, 54 degrees, 6 1/2 feet below normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on black and chartreuse jigs with a pork crawdad trailer in 10 feet of water or less; hybrid striper fair to 5 pounds on chrome jigging spoons; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass fair to 12 fish per string on chrome Rat-L-Traps and L'il Georges in 15 feet of water; catfish slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 4 feet, 10 inches below spillway; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on black jigs; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows and a few jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CANYON: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level largemouth bass fair to 6 pounds on dark jigs with a pork trailer; smallmouth bass fair to 4 1/4 pounds on deep diving crawfish colored cranks and brown jigs and pigs; striper fair to 10 pounds on Mann-O-Lures while feeding with white bass; crappie good at night under lights on minnows; white bass very good to 2 pounds on Mann-O-Lures under birds with good numbers of limits; channel catfish fair; yellow catfish slow.

COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 54 degrees, 11 feet low; black bass poor; striper fair in the 13-20 inch range in 2-4 feet of water on a lead headed jig with a light colored twister tailed trailer; crappie poor; white bass fair in number with 5 fish in 30 minutes of fishing but all too small to keep; channel catfish fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on live bait, no limits. Water is 2-4 feet deep; few fishermen over the weekend.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level black bass good over the weekend through Monday to 6 3/4 pounds on black and blue Long As and Ringworms as well as live bait; crappie fair but no limits on minnows; catfish fair in the 20s on goldfish or perch baited juglines.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 58 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass slow, a single keeper weighing 9 pounds, 2 ounces caught last Sunday on a jig; crappie slow; catfish slow; only a few fishermen out midweek.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 60 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair near the dam over the weekend; crappie good during the day only on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 pounds on stink baited rod and reel

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 58 degrees, 12 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string at night and early morning in 10 feet of water on white jigs and minnows; white bass excellent on silver slabs in 15 feet of water south of the dam and at the marina around midnight; channel catfish good on trotline to 4 pounds on liver, shrimp and cut bait in 6-20 feet of water.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 57 degrees, 14 feet low; black bass good in number on bucktail jigs and crawfish colored or red cranks to 2 pounds but not many keepers; striper fair near Marshall Ford Dam to 4 fish per boat on big jigs in 35-40 feet of water; crappie slow; catfish slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 54 degrees 12 1/2 feet low; largemouth bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners and jigs; smallmouth fair to 3 1/2 pounds on cranks, spinners and jigs; striper good on live bait to 23 1/2 pounds, striper are moving to the creeks; crappie slow on minnows and jigs to 1 1/2 pounds with strings from 6-12 fish; white bass good on slabs with good numbers of limits in Bear and King Creeks; catfish slow.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 53 degrees, 7 inches below overflow; black bass good to 5 pounds with limits on L'il Georges, spoons and skirted jigs; crappie excellent in 43 feet of water around brush piles with

minnows with good numbers of limits; white bass slow, catfish slow.
BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 51 degrees normal level black bass good in 8-20 feet of water around moss and in creek channel to 5 pounds on black and blue jigs, black and chartreuse jigs, Rat-L-Traps and Crawworms crappie good with limits on minnows in 25-30 feet of water; white bass good around Highway 21 on jig and spoon with limits; catfish good in creek channels under Highway 21 bridge on regular catfish bait.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 16 feet low; black bass fair to 7 pounds on shad colored cranks in 13 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good on minnows white bass good to 13 fish per string on minnows; catfish slow.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water stained, 56 degrees, normal level black bass fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds on black and chartreuse worms in 2-6 feet of water; crappie good with limits on minnows in 25-30 feet of water, catfish fairly good in numbers to 7 1/2 pounds on minnows and big shrimp.

FORK: Water clear, 56 degrees, lake full, black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds on a jig and eel a 13 pound, 13 ounce black bass found floating Monday on the Big Caney end of the lake; crappie good to 2 3/4 pounds on minnows, catfish slow.

LAVON Water clear, 50 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds in 6 feet of water on Rapalas and jigs; striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds with some limits on minnows in baited holes, some crappie caught in 3-4 feet of water in the creeks, also on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 1 1/2 pounds on stink bait in 8 feet of water.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level black bass fair on Rat-L-Traps and spinners; striper good on discharge side of the lake; crappie slow; white bass fair with no full strings; catfish are excellent on chicken livers and rod and reel on discharge side, trotline excellent.

MONTICELLO: Water off color, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass excellent to 8 1/2 pounds with many limits on water dogs Rat-L-Traps and black lizards; crappie slow; catfish excellent in number to 10 pounds on Canadian Crawlers and prepared catfish baits.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear 49 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good to 4 pounds on jigs and pigs and purple tailed worms crappie excellent to 2 pounds with plenty of limits in deep water on minnows; white bass excellent on white and silver slabs in deep water with many limits; catfish slow.

MURVAUL Water clear 62, degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass good to 10 pounds, 1 ounce on jigs and spinners in 8-10 feet of water, spinners best in 4 feet of water, worms also productive; crappie fair under 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish fair on trotline to 5 pounds on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear 52 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good to 8 1/4 pounds on black and blue Stanley jigs around creek channels and on chartreuse Rat-L-Traps in 4-6 feet of water off the creeks; crappie good with limits in 40 feet of water near the dam with minnows fished at 20 feet; catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 6 inches below spillway; black bass have been fairly good to 6 pounds, 6 ounces in shallow water and in 10-15 feet of water; striper slow; crappie are improving with some around 155 bridge and around the dam on minnows; white bass slow; catfish have been fair to 10 fish per string on trotlines early.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear 1 foot low; black bass fair on north end of lake to 4 pounds over the weekend, mostly throwbacks since; striper slow; crappie fair with a few limits on minnows and jigs equally in 15 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pounds drifting chicken blood and shrimp.

TAWAKONI: Water clear 47 degrees, 21/2 feet low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on dark cranks, striper slow to fair on white jigs and worms crappie good in 38 feet of water with limits to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 9 1/4 pounds in 45 feet of water on stink bait and shrimp.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 50 degrees 3 feet low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on small 2 1/2 inch Sassy Shad and Pig and Jig in 4-20 feet of water; striper fair in number to 12 pounds on live bait, jigs or Sassy Shad, crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 20 pounds on cut bait with a rod and reel.

WELSH: Water clear 63 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 8

1/2 pounds on topwaters and lizards; crappie slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on cut shad and shrimp. Bream are good in number on earthworms and crickets.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, some color on upper end, lake level is 5 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on black and blue jigs or black and blue worms, Rat-L-Traps striper and white bass slow; crappie fairly slow; catfish good on earthworms and stink bait. There are few fishermen out because of the weather.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly good to 8 1/2 pounds on shiners, goldfish and water dogs in 12-18 feet of water; crappie good with limits on minnows in 20-35 feet of water; white bass fair with strings to 15 fish in 2-5 feet of water, some schooling; catfish good to 18 pounds in 12-18 feet of water around creek channels on water dogs and live perch.

LIVINGSTON: Water slightly off color, 52 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass spotty a few catches to 6 1/2 pounds but most are smaller on chartreuse spinners; striper good with several limits on live bait to 12 pounds crappie slow since the front, white bass slow; yellow catfish excellent to 73 pounds on live bait, blue catfish good to 30 pounds on shad; channel catfish good to 8 pounds on shad.

RAYBURN: Water discolored in the creeks, lake still fairly clear. 58 degrees 12 feet low and rising; black bass are good around edges of hydrilla beds on jigs and diving baits; striper slow; crappie good in number in the north end of the lake fishing in the river; white bass slow; catfish good in the river on the north of the lake.

TOLEDO BEND: Water muddy around the banks, clear in lake, 1 foot low; black bass slow to 3 pounds on spinners and red Rat-L-Traps; striper good with limits to 4 pounds near the dam; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pounds on trotline with live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 58 degrees, 3 feet above normal level, black bass are excellent to 9 1/2 pounds on jigs in 30-40 feet of water and plum and purple worms many limits of bass and most fish are good sized with some strings in the 19-22 pound range; striper are excellent with many limits in the 4-8 pound range, no large fish this week, on 1 ounce Horsehead Jigs and 1 ounce slabs, crappie slow; white bass excellent with many in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range on slabs and in 40-80 feet of water; catfish are excellent with many limits with fish ranging from 2-8 pounds on cheese baits in 2-50 feet of water, catfish are hard locate because of fronts.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass slow to 6 pounds, 12 ounces, the only keeper for the week, on artificials; striper slow to 3 pounds on chicken liver; catfish good to 5 pounds averaging 3 fish and 9 pounds per string on chicken liver shad and worms redfish good before the cold front, slow since in the 3-5 pound range; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 6 pounds on cranks in 10 feet of water; striper fair to 3 1/2 pounds with limits catfish good to 2 pounds each with half strings on shrimp; redfish excellent in numbers to 3 1/2 pounds on crawdads and shrimp; corvina good to 7 pounds 10 ounces on green grubs

CHOKER: Water clear, 62 degrees 3 feet low; black bass fair in the 6-7 pound range, some limits on worms in 7-12 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow in the river channel catfish excellent to 9 pounds on rod and reel baited with Roger's Cheese Bait in holes baited with soured wheat in 30 feet of water.

COLETO CREEK: Water slightly murky due to high winds, 63 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good early but most under 16 inches on cranks and jigs, striper fair in the 2-3 pound range on spoons early; crappie fair but mostly small on minnows at night, no limits; white bass slow; catfish good to 3-pound average at night on liver baited rod and reels

FALCON: Water clear, conservation level black bass fairly good to 8 pounds on worms, spinners and cranks in 4-5 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass good in number, fish are not as big as they should be mostly up the river; catfish good in the 1-4 pound range on shrimp and sponge baits

MEDINA: Water clear, 17 feet low; black bass slow; all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

TEXANA: Water muddy in lake, clear in the jungle area 57 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good in the jungle area to 6 pounds on dark

worms and jigs; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish are fairly good to 15 pounds on trotlines using cut bait.

WEST

GRANBURY: Water murky, 52 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on black and blue jigs; striper good to 16 pounds on live perch in 28 feet of water; crappie slow; white slow; catfish slow.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on cranks; crappie slow; white bass fair in number to 2 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; catfish good to 5 pounds off docks on minnows.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 50 degrees, 11 1/2 feet low; black bass fairly good to 6.1 pounds on cranks in 15 feet of water; striper fairly good to 7 pounds on slabs while fishing for white bass; white bass good with limits on slabs; crappie fair but no big strings on minnows; catfish slow.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 60 degrees, 4 feet low; fishing slow, few fishermen out.

SPENCE: Water clear, 58 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass good to 10 pounds, 6 ounces a new lake record on dark plastic worms; striper good to 15 pounds live bait and slabs; crappie good with numbers of limits on crappie minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass good with a few limits on slabs; catfish slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish have been slow with only two keepers to 24 inches from the Gulf States Outfall just below the barricade; many undersized redfish caught in the canal; trout about the same on artificials; a limit of specks were caught in the middle of the lake last Sunday; sheepshead, drum and croaker caught at the east end of Sydnes Island; water still cold and very few fishermen out. Live bait shrimp and mud minnows available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Flounder fishing has been good on the south end of the lake drifting mud minnows over shell reefs and by the bridge on the Louisiana side; some trout in 12-17 feet of water on Gillraker worms tipped with shrimp parts, best colors have been dark with chartreuse tails; a few redfish to 8 pounds on red worms over the shell reefs by the sunken barges; water is sandy midweek; no live bait shrimp available. Bank fishing has improved with good numbers of black drum and redfish caught on fresh dead shrimp right on the bottom using 3 ounce lead weights. Gulf States Utility Outfall Canal is producing big redfish.

GALVESTON: Trout are fairly good to 3 pounds in West Bay, mostly on the island side of West Bay and behind Galveston Island State Park along with a few nice flounder to 3 pounds on strawberry Kelley Wigglers with a whitetail on Flex Jigs; redfish are very slow; good numbers sandtrout in the Ship Channel and whiting along the beachfront; good sized sheepshead in fair numbers around the jetties offshore slow due to weather; live bait shrimp are hard to find.

PALACIOS: Fishing has been slow due to the weather prior to the front, redfish catches were good to 25 inches in the rivers on frozen shrimp and gold spoons; few fishermen out midweek. No live bait, no fresh dead shrimp. Good speck catches to 3 pounds off city piers and in turning basins on plastic jigs and speck rigs. Goose hunting has been good but many hunters are tapering off; plenty of birds in the area. The winter dove season was very good, many doves are still in the area.

PORT OCONNOR: Most fishermen are catching a few reds in the 24-25 inch range on dead shrimp, Hogie's strawberry lures or Kelley Wigglers; some good trout to 6 3/4 pounds but most are smaller from the Army Hole and Pringle Lake. Good numbers of fishermen on the jetties offshore fishing has been good with snapper to 27 pounds, most are in the 2-3 pound range on squid.

ROCKPORT: A few redfish to 24 inches caught around Mud Island with some limits on chartreuse Kelley Wigglers; trout in fairly good numbers in the Turtle Pen area of Copano Bay on red worms behind a Mansfield Mauler; no live bait available.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish have been somewhat slow probably because there are few redfishermen; there are good numbers of sheepshead to 7 pounds; black drum; trout fishing has been good in the deeper waters such as Conn-Brown Harbor on live shrimp only; live bait scarce. Blue crabs are not plentiful right now though there seems to be good numbers of small crabs. Crab catches should be good again by April. Horace Caldwell Pier fishing has been fairly slow.

CORPUS CHRISTI Weather has been cold and rainy all week. Few fishermen out and few catches. Some bait shrimp available but not plentiful. Oso Pier fishermen are catching a few drum and redfish in the 5-6 pound range on dead shrimp; few pier fishermen out midweek.

PORT MANSFIELD Redfish has been fairly slow; limits of trout caught at the Land Cut before the last front; over the weekend snapper boats went offshore and made some fairly good catches. No live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH PADRE: Dove hunting was good during the winter season which ended last Monday; sandhill crane and goose hunting have been good.

PH 1/18/89