

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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(NOTE TO MEDIA: TPWD officials will provide a hunting forecast at a press conference during the lunch break of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting Aug. 26. A brief prediction will be given for each species and several regions. The department's top biologists for each species will be available to answer questions about the seasons.)

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON SEA CENTER TEXAS

LAKE JACKSON--Gov. Ann Richards presided at the Aug. 13 groundbreaking for Sea Center Texas, an \$11 million marine development, aquarium and educational center near Houston expected to attract up to 250,000 visitors a year.

The 75-acre project is jointly sponsored by Dow North America, the Gulf Coast Conservation Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

GCCA will raise almost \$1 million in private and corporate contributions as seed money for the facility, as well as contract for its construction. Dow has donated the land for the facility. The combination of cash and land donations will enable the project to receive federal matching funds to cover construction costs. TPWD will operate the facility upon completion.

"This project is great news for both marine conservation and Texas coastal tourism," Richards said. "Its educational and visitor benefits make it one of the most important projects on the Gulf Coast. Plus, it's a powerful example of teamwork, of what state government can do when we join forces with private enterprise."

The world-class marine fisheries center will boast a hatchery with the capacity to produce 20 million fingerlings annually, primarily red drum and spotted seatrout, for release into Texas coastal waters. The complex will include 35 one-acre rearing ponds, nine half-acre ponds, a saltwater marsh demonstration project, a 20,000-square-foot hatchery building and a 15,000-square-foot visitors center.

The center will have two "touch tanks" for visitors to study certain animals, wall displays on marine life, two 500-gallon aquariums, two 900-gallon aquariums and one 50,000-gallon aquarium.

"The visitors center will rival many of the state's zoos and aquariums in size and sophistication," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director.

The facility will accommodate up to 300 visitors per hour. There will be no charge for admission.

"This facility will go a long way toward meeting the state's coastal conservation goals for the next century," said Kevin Daniels, GCCA executive director. "Resource managers and conservationists alike are learning that education is the key to sustaining and enhancing our coastal resources."

The facility, 45 miles south of Houston, will be built at the intersection of Plantation Drive and Medical Drive in Lake Jackson. City voters recently passed a \$400,000 bond package to construct a bridge to the site.

"This new Sea Center Texas underscores the value of working together," said Larry Wright, Dow Chemical Co. vice president for manufacturing and engineering. "This center opens the door to future conservation efforts involving not only redfish but other fish populations such as tarpon, speckled trout and striped bass. We are proud to be one of the three partners involved."

The center will provide approximately 17 permanent jobs for operations, said Gene McCarty, TPWD's coastal fisheries branch chief. GCCA members and others will augment the full-time staff as volunteers.

The first phase of Sea Center Texas, which includes the visitors center and hatchery building, is scheduled for completion by the summer of 1995.

TH 8/20/93

HARVEST INCREASES FOR ALL SMALL GAME

AUSTIN--Data from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's small game harvest survey shows what may be a reversal of the decline in number of hunters pursuing game animals. The number of hunters, harvest and hunter days (number of days hunters spent afield) increased for all game animals surveyed.

Harvest figures for most small game animals remain well below the numbers from a decade ago, but if Texas has many more hunting seasons like 1992-93 it won't take long to match those numbers.

The bobwhite quail harvest increased almost 800,000 and the blue quail harvest more than doubled.

The bobwhite harvest increased from 1,171,652 in 1991-92 to 1,937,938 last year, but remains 21 percent below the 2,457,959 birds harvested 11 years ago. Hunter numbers increased from 176,717 in 1991-92 to 218,748 this past season, the first year hunter numbers have been more than 200,000 since 238,978 in 1987-88. Hunter days increased from 496,215 to 676,601, the highest since 1987-88.

More than 69,000 hunters harvested 348,005 blue quail, up from 169,205 the previous year, but down from 514,269 11 years ago. The number of blue quail hunters increased more than 19,000 since last year from 50,207 to 69,802.

"We had a super quail year," said Don Wilson, TPWD upland game program leader. "Quail hunters are opportunistic. Hunter numbers and the harvest go down when we have a bad quail year. What we're seeing here is a response to the population. I'm not surprised to see this."

Hunters harvested 48,662 turkeys this spring, up 210 percent from 1981-82 with 15,705. The number of spring turkey hunters (94,359) this year is 132 percent above 1981-82 (40,635) and halts a two-year slide after numbers peaked at 100,000 in 1989-90.

"We've seen a significant increase in spring turkey hunting in the last decade," Wilson said. "In 1980, a lot of the prime turkey country wasn't open to hunting yet. After the Wildlife Conservation Act was passed in 1983, we opened spring turkey hunting to all counties that had a fall turkey hunting season."

After dropping significantly in 1991-92, the squirrel harvest made a nice recovery this year. Hunters harvested 618,328 squirrels in 1991-92, down from 717,980 the previous year. This year, hunters harvested 751,157 squirrels, the largest harvest since 1 million were taken in 1987-88. Hunter numbers climbed to 145,343, the highest number in four years.

More than 6 million mourning doves were harvested this past season, the highest total since more than 7 million were taken in 1982-83. The number of hunters increased from 386,196 to 442,034 and hunter days was up from 1,365,015 to 1,525,708.

The following is a list of the statewide small game harvest figures.

<u>Animal</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hunters</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Hunter Days</u>
Bobwhite quail	1992-93	218,748	1,937,938	676,601
Bobwhite quail	1991-92	176,717	1,171,652	496,215
Bobwhite quail	1981-82	240,036	2,457,959	883,611
Scaled quail	1992-93	69,802	348,005	204,473
Scaled quail	1991-92	50,207	169,205	126,669
Scaled quail	1981-82	61,644	514,269	231,679
Rabbits	1992-93	100,899	387,111	283,165
Rabbits	1991-92	93,039	321,324	252,032
Rabbits	1981-82	208,333	1,119,281	791,736
Squirrels	1992-93	145,343	751,157	436,621
Squirrels	1991-92	123,815	618,328	369,657
Squirrels	1981-82	231,229	1,380,216	902,224
Mourning doves	1992-93	442,034	6,010,318	1,525,708
Mourning doves	1991-92	386,196	5,247,178	1,365,015
Mourning doves	1981-82	408,866	6,748,510	1,678,289
Spring turkeys	1992-93	94,359	48,662	178,600
Spring turkeys	1991-92	91,053	45,757	178,250
Spring turkeys	1981-82	40,635	15,705	94,404

Pheasants	1992-93	29,629	52,750	51,171
Pheasants	1991-92	27,940	41,424	43,860
Pheasants	1986-87	43,287	75,447	70,586

Additional notes from survey:

* Bobwhite quail hunters in the Rolling Plains and High Plains had the best year, harvesting 406,000 and 115,000 bobwhites, an average of 10.23 birds per hunter in the Rolling Plains and 9.78 in the High Plains. The 75,000-plus South Texas hunters also had a good year, averaging 9.58 birds per hunter.

* South Texas hunters (37,129) harvested most of the blue quail (193,401 of 348,005). Trans-Pecos hunters had the best average, harvesting 6.29 birds per hunter

* South Texas hunters (23,912) also topped the rabbit harvest with 107,098, the only ecological region with a harvest more than 100,000.

* Obviously, the squirrel harvest was dominated by the Pineywoods and Post Oak Savannah regions with a harvest of 394,094 and 182,030, respectively. The Pineywoods had 67,817 squirrel hunters who spent 216,476 days in the field, the Post Oak 37,406 and 106,393.

* South Texas was the only ecological region harvesting more than 1 million mourning doves in 1992-93, taking 1,409,759.

* The majority of turkeys harvested during the spring came from the Edwards Plateau (21,985) and the Cross Timbers (10,590). The Edwards Plateau had the most hunters (39,723, followed by Cross Timbers (24,112), South Texas (16,307) and Rolling Plains (10,453).

(See attachment for map of ecological areas of Texas and for the estimated land area by ecological area.)

LW 8/20/93

EXPO SHOOTING A HOT DRAW

AUSTIN--Of the many participatory activities at Texas Wildlife Expo '93, the shooting events may draw the largest crowds. People of all ages will be able to shoot sporting clays, bows and arrows and other alternate sporting arms during the event, scheduled for Oct. 1-3 here.

Last year, more than 3,000 people took turns shooting sporting arms - many of them for the first time - at Texas Wildlife Expo '92. More than 800 adults took part in two five-stand sporting clays stands. Another 2,500 participated in youth events, including sporting clays, and other shooting such as air rifle, air pistol, bow and arrow and muzzleloader. These and more will be included in this year's event.

This year's Expo will transform the grounds of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's headquarters into a colorful fairgrounds with hundreds of exhibitor booths, live wildlife events, fishing demonstrations, shooting and much more.

Winchester and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department each will sponsor a five-stand sporting clays facility. The event is open to anyone, whether novice or experienced, 17 and older. Participants will be able to shoot three times from a 12-gauge shotgun at targets which are designed to simulate actual hunting situations.

Winchester also will sponsor a youth shooting area for anyone 12 years old to 16 years old. Designed to simulate quail and dove hunting, participants will get three shots at a quail or dove going away.

Alternate sporting arms, which will be open to people of all ages, include air guns, black powder muzzleloaders and compound and recurve bows.

Sponsored by Crosman Airguns, shooters will get five shots with an air rifle or air pistol at balloons and small metal silhouettes. The Lone Star Bowhunters Association will sponsor archery shooting, which will allow people to shoot three or four shots at life-size decoys.

The black powder muzzleloader shooting, sponsored by Thompson/Center Arms Co., will allow participants to shoot a black powder rifle - minus the projectile - at life-size animal decoys. Volunteers also will be on hand in this area portraying life in a mountain man camp.

New to the Expo this year will be an activity which will allow experienced archers to test their skills in a video-portrayed simulated hunt, all contained in a semi-trailer. Sponsored by DART International, the participant will be given a hunting situation on a particular game species. Using a bow equipped with a rubber-tipped arrow, the shooter will watch a projection on the screen, then shoot at his target - the animal image projected onto the screen. After the shot, words flash on the screen informing the shooter how he did, i.e., whether or not he took a safe shot or if he hit the kill zone or missed altogether.

Before participating in a shooting activity, Expo visitors must go through a short safety orientation and get an Expo stamp. Officials may set up a safety orientation in one area for all events, then let the visitors go shoot, instead of having orientation at each area.

The initial two-day event, Texas Wildlife Expo '92, drew more than 7,000 people, including thousands of children. This year's event has been expanded to three days and includes fishing. Best of all, it's free to the public.

Jerry Jones, owner of the Super Bowl Champion Dallas Cowboys, and Gov. Ann Richards each will give remarks at the celebrity banquet Oct. 1. Radio personality Cactus Pryor will be the master of ceremonies. The banquet, which will have limited seating, will follow a celebrity sporting clays shoot featuring Doug English, Lee Roy Jordan, Bill Rogers, Gary Morris and Ted Nugent. Winners of the Expo poster, essay and poetry contest, the Texas Big Game Awards and the Share A Lunker program will be honored.

The Expo will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 2 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 3. There is no admission fee on Oct. 2 and 3. Banquet tickets vary from \$50 to \$75. Proceeds from the Expo will benefit the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc.'s Wildlife Scholarship Fund.

About 300 exhibitors representing all facets of the hunting and fishing industry and conservation groups, as well as several TPWD programs, will have booths set up at the event. Entertainer and singer Gary Morris will perform a one hour concert on Oct. 2.

Dozens of other events will be ongoing throughout the expo, including demonstrations, adult and youth shooting, casting clinics and demonstrations, youth fishing derby, seminars and others.

The Expo is designed to create public awareness to the importance of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation; focus public attention on the contributions hunters, fishermen and other outdoor users have made to preserve the abundant wildlife and natural resources of Texas; inform new generations of Texans about the history of hunting, fishing and the outdoors; and underscore the critical role of hunting, fishing and the outdoors in wildlife management and conservation.

Parking will be east of I-35 on Woodward Dr. A free shuttle will take visitors to and from the Expo.

For more information, contact Bob Hauser at Texas Wildlife Expo '93, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4472, or (512) 389-4472.

LW 8/20/93

COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL WILL BENEFIT FOUNDATION

AUSTIN--Budweiser, Travis Tritt, a host of other country music stars and the Fort Worth Stockyards will come together on Labor Day with a special concert benefiting the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas.

Tritt will headline the day-long event, billed as "Budweiser Country Rocks the Stockyards." Other entertainers scheduled to appear at the Sept. 6 concert are Suzy Boggus, Aaron Tippin, Little Texas, the Charlie Daniels Band and a special guest appearance by Marty Stuart. The concert will serve as the grand opening of Stockyards Station Park.

All proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, the charitable arm of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The concert is part of Budweiser's pledge this summer to raise \$2 million for the Foundation.

Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director, said the Foundation currently is supporting department initiatives to preserve bottomland hardwoods in East Texas, the Private Lands Conservation Initiative, which is jointly funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and conservation education.

"Just as public support for conservation has reached its peak, the demand on public resources is at an all-time high," Sansom said. "Partnerships with the private sector are critical to supplement the department's conservation initiatives. Anheuser-Busch's involvement with the Foundation provides a great boost in helping the department achieve its goals of managing and preserving our state's natural resources."

Most notably, the Foundation is involved with the building of the Freshwater Fisheries Center, a \$16 million hatchery, educational center and museum, in Athens and the newly named Share A Lunker Inc., the state's program to accept largemouth bass weighing 13 pounds and more for study and spawning.

'Budweiser is proud to present Travis Tritt on behalf of the thousands of country music fans in the Metroplex area who also appreciate the outstanding outdoor heritage of Texas, said Robert Signorelli, vice president of Anheuser-Busch's southwest region. "Budweiser is honored to be associated with the grand opening of the Stockyards Station Park. We can't think of a better way to break in the Stockyards Station Park than with an entire day of Texas-style music, with the proceeds benefiting the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas."

Live entertainment also will be featured on a second stage in the concert area with performances by Leandro, Killbilly, Randy Pelt and Kevin Eagan and Beyond Reason. In addition to the music, visitors can enjoy the western-styled children's amusement rides at Stockyards Park, visit the shops and restaurants of Stockyards Station Market or ride an authentic steam locomotive, the Tarantula, from downtown Forth Worth to Stockyards Station.

Gates open to the concert area at 11 a.m. The concert will run from noon to 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of the show. Special Country Club seating is available for \$50. Tickets are available at all Rainbow Ticketmaster ticket centers.

The Foundation, established in 1991, is a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation chartered by the state. It is designed to provide private support for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Foundation members raise funds and provide resources to the agency and supplement its needs where use of public funds is either prohibited or restrained by lack of funding.

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HUNTING/FISHING DAY FOCUSES ON URBANITES

AUSTIN--National Hunting and Fishing Day, scheduled for Sept. 25, will emphasize reaching out to urban America. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department likewise will work to introduce urbanites to the outdoors through Texas Wildlife Expo '93.

This year's National Hunting and Fishing Day theme, "Put an Indoorsman in Your Shoes, was used successfully once before in the 1970s. Every sportsman is encouraged to observe National Hunting and Fishing Day by introducing one non-sportsman to hunting, fishing, shooting and conservation.

Bob Delfay, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a primary sponsor of the special day, said this could significantly increase the public's understanding and appreciation of these American traditions.

'Most Americans are now more familiar with an environment of glass, steel and concrete than they are with fields, forests and streams, and many have lost touch with nature, he said. 'There's a whole new world waiting for the new outdoorsman and sportsmen have the keys to unlock it. One of the greatest favors any sportsman can do for friends and relatives is to take the time to introduce them to his favorite sports. This is especially true for children since many have grown up without the traditional links to nature enjoyed by past generations."

National Hunting and Fishing Day will be marked by a wide range of activities nationwide sponsored by sportsman's clubs, conservation groups and civic agencies. Texas Wildlife Expo '93, while scheduled for Oct. 1-3, IS working toward the same end, introducing the young and old to the outdoors.

The Expo will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 2 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 3. There is no admission fee on Oct. 2 and 3. Tickets for the Oct. 1 banquet, with Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys as keynote speaker, are \$50. Proceeds from the Expo will benefit the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc.'s Scholarship Fund.

About 300 exhibitors representing all facets of the hunting and fishing industry and conservation groups, as well as several TPWD programs, will have booths set up at the event. Entertainer Gary Morris will perform a one hour concert on Oct. 2.

Dozens of other events will be ongoing throughout the expo, including demonstrations, adult and youth shooting, casting clinics and demonstrations, youth fishing derby, seminars and others.

The Expo is designed to create public awareness to the importance of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation; focus public attention on the contributions hunters, fishermen and other outdoor users have made to preserve the abundant wildlife and natural resources of Texas; inform new generations of Texans about the history of hunting, fishing and the outdoors; and underscore the critical role of hunting, fishing and the outdoors in wildlife management and conservation.

Parking will be east of I-35 on Woodward Dr. A free shuttle will take visitors to and from the Expo.

For more information, contact Bob Hauser at Texas Wildlife Expo '93, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4472, or (512) 389-4472.

National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1971 by congressional resolution to honor sportsmen for their historic and continuing contributions to wildlife conservation.

LW 8/20/93

BUESCHER STATE PARK LAKE DAM REPAIRED

AUSTIN--A dam that suffered a partial break in the 30-acre lake at Buescher State Park has been repaired and officials now wait for Mother Nature to help refill the lake.

On the morning of Jan. 28, 1991, a crevasse about 75 feet to 100 feet long developed from the cement spillway toward the earthen dam and sent water 10-12 inches deep past the park's headquarters and across FM 153 near Smithville. The break was created from increased pressure on the dam following more than 12 inches of rain during January 1991.

Ray Thaler, Region VII maintenance supervisor in Caldwell, said the contractors have completed all work on the dam and the final inspection was completed July 22. Park personnel are trying to supplement the contractor's work by planting grass and trees.

Several months of wet weather helped delay repair of the dam. The department also worked with the Texas Water Commission to make sure the right steps were taken in repairing the dam. Thaler said clay and dirt had to be keyed together on both sides of the break.

The lake is down about 15 feet, he said. In addition to waiting for rainfall to refill the lake, park authorities are using an old well to continually pump water into the lake.

Buescher State Park is located two miles north of Smithville off State Highway 71, one-half mile north on Farm Road 153 and onto Park Road 1. The park's camping areas were not affected by the break. Recreation facilities in the park include picnic areas, screened shelters, a recreation hall and 40 campsites with water and electricity.

For more information on the park or for camping reservations, contact the park at (512) 237-2241

LW 8/20/93

HOPE CELEBRATES 600 FISHING REPORTS

AUSTIN--For the past 30 years Paul Hope has worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department providing information to the public. Since 1982 he has compiled a weekly fishing report that is distributed and used by newspapers and other media statewide.

This week Hope has produced his 600th fishing report.

The first report was "called" in by telephone to the San Antonio Express-News on Jan. 12, 1982, who sent it to the Associated Press in Dallas who then distributed it to the major daily papers.

The first report included 10 lakes, about 250 words. The report has come a long way since then. With a standardized format, more lakes gradually were added, despite cautioning from AP to keep it short. The fishing report now has grown to include about 90 fishing holes, including saltwater, and some 4,000 to 5,000 words per week. Requests to add lakes continue to come in.

"When the fishing is good or extremely bad, your fishing reporter has a hard time finding anyone to get a report from, Hope said. "Most civic minded types would like to have their local lake publicized, but not everyone is so generous. One fisherman, in strong terms, did not want a fairly small, but good producing lake, on the report because he didn't want additional fishermen and the competition."

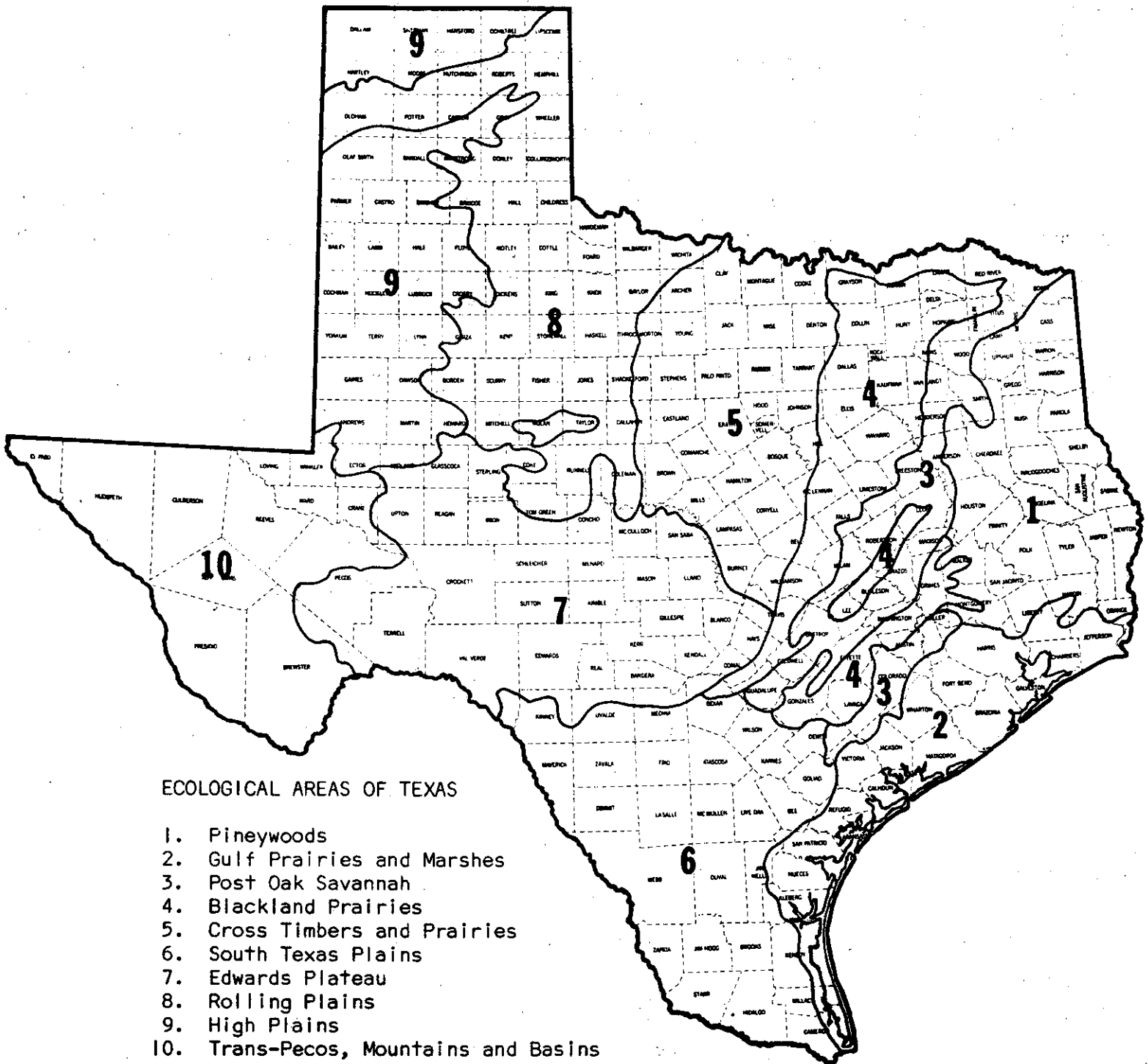
Since June 1986, Hope has produced the fishing report weekly, including holidays. (Hope probably is the only person on Earth who would work on a holiday to put out a fishing report.)

Technological advances have helped make Hope's job easier, but he still calls every lake on the report weekly. The first reports were called in by telephone to someone typing as fast as possible. Nowadays, in addition to being mailed in the weekly Texas Parks and Wildlife News, the report is sent to AP by computer and modem and uploaded to the TPWD Bulletin Board.

Hope recently received his 30-year plaque from the department, upon which TPWD Executive Director Andrew Sansom dubbed him, The Babe, for being king of the fishing reports.

Hope will not make it to 700 reports. He is retiring at the end of September. Happy anniversary Paul!

LW 8/20/93



ESTIMATED LAND AREA BY ECOLOGICAL AREA

Ecological Area	Land Area			Percent Land Area
	Square Miles	1,000 Ac	Units	
Pineywoods	23,548		15,071	8 90
Gulf Prairies	14,914		9,545	5 64
Post Oak Savannah	13,343		8,540	5 04
Blackland Prairies	18,053		11,554	6 82
Cross Timbers	26,687		17,080	10 09
South Texas Plains	31,396		20,093	11 87
Edwards Plateau	37,676		24,113	14 25
Rolling Plains	37,676		24,113	14 24
High Plains	31,396		20,093	11 87
Trans-Pecos	29,827		19,089	11 28
Statewide	264,516		169,291	100 00

Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.600
Aug. 18, 1993

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Aug. 18:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 92 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on black worms and topwaters; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 80 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 3/4 pounds on minnows, many are too short to keep; striped are schooling and are caught on spoons at night under lights; crappie are good to 10 fish per string on minnows, many small fish caught; white bass are schooling and are caught on spoons; catfish are slow to 18 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 88 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds, 11 ounces on worms; striped are good to 10 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are fair around Garrett Island and Paradise Point areas trolling or slabbing in schools; catfish are good up river and in baited holes using fresh shad and stinkbait.

CANYON: Water clear, 83 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair in the 2-3 pound range in Tom's Creek on worms; striped are good in the 2-8 pound range near the dam on live bait; crappie are slow, some caught at night and early morning on minnows; white bass are good in number but small in size and are on minnows; yellow catfish are fair to 7 pounds on live bait in Turkey Cove. COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on worms and live bait; yellow catfish are fair to 12 pounds on live bait.

DECKER: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 8 1/2 pounds on dark worms; hybrid striped are excellent to 9 pounds on slab minnows and perch at 20 feet; crappie are excellent on minnows; catfish are good through 7 pounds on stinkbaits and shrimp; perch are excellent on crickets and worms.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear, 89 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 10 pounds on minnows; crappie are fairly good on minnows in 12-13 feet of water; blue catfish are good to 65 pounds on jug lines baited with perch; catfish are good in the 1-3 pound range on rod and reel baited with shrimp and stinkbait.

LBJ: Water clear, 87 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 5 pounds, 9 ounces on chartreuse worms; striped are fair up the Colorado River on live bait; crappie are good around docks with structure, limits caught daily on minnows; white bass are fair on lower end of lake around the dam, watch for schools on top, best to use topwaters and slabs; catfish are good to 6 pounds on baited holes with stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 94 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair early on buzz baits and Jawtec Terminator worms later in the day, some caught over humps on Mudbugs; crappie are good on minnows in 13-22 feet of water with several limits; white bass

are slow; catfish are fair but trotlines have to run frequently to keep fish from dying because of hot water.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water clear, 86 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on lures; crappie are fair and undersized in deep water; white bass are slow; catfish fairly good in the 2-8 pound range on trotlines baited with live perch.

SOMERVILLE: Water a little off color, 90 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are slow; striped are slow; all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 96 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Rattle Traps and worms; crappie are slow; white bass slow; catfish are slow to in the 5-6 pound range on minnows.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 87 degrees, 8 1/4 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 3 pounds on chrome topwaters and salt and pepper ringworms; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 inches on same baits; crappie are slow; striped are slow; white bass are good to 50 fish per half day per boat on Tiny Traps and Crippled Herring spoons; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on cut bait.

WACO: Water off color, 88 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms; striped are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fair with 10-15 fish per string on minnows; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 85 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 8 pounds early and late on topwaters and buzz baits; smallmouth bass are good to 6 pounds off rocky points on buzz baits; striped are fair to 18 pounds on shad on downrigging; crappie are good in the lake, a few limits but some quality catches made on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow to good to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs schooling early; channel catfish are fair to good to 4 pounds on shrimp.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 90 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are fair to 5.51 pounds on worms; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on nightcrawlers.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds in 14 feet of water around brush and rocky points with minnows; white bass fair on a wide variety of baits; catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on PopRs and worms; striped are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds in Buzzard Bay; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 2 pounds on trotlines in the river baited with goldfish and small bream.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 90 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 9.3 pounds on black worms; crappie are good with limits on minnows in 25 feet of water; catfish are good to 10 pounds on nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 100 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are slow; striped and all fishing is slow due to heat. Very few fishermen were out midweek.

FORK: Water clear, 90 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 10 pounds on cranks, jigs and

Carolina rigs; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on PopRs, chartreuse buzz baits early and late near creek channels in 5 feet of water; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in number on Tiny Torpedoes and 1/4-ounce blue backed chrome Rat-L-Traps; catfish are fair to 8 1/2 pounds on shrimp and shad.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 91 degrees, 4 inches below normal level; black bass are slow, some caught early and late on topwaters and dark worms; crappie are fair in 15 to 20 feet of water on minnows; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on nightcrawlers.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 83 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are running but nobody is fishing; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 79 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 2 ounces on Slug-Gos; crappie are hitting in the mouth of coves in 10 feet of water, sometimes fish are hard to find on minnows; catfish are good to 7 pounds on nightcrawlers and minnows; bream are good on crickets and worms.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 7 1/4 pounds on worms; crappie are fair to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are good in schools, some limits caught on cranks and spoons; catfish are good to 12 pounds on rod and reel and trotline with cut bait, catalpa worms and nightcrawlers.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 9 1/2 pounds; crappie are slow; catfish are fair in the 2-3 pound range on variety of baits.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 83 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass are excellent to 10 pounds on red shad Power Worms and red shad Ringworms; crappie are good on minnows in 16 feet of water; white bass are poor; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 8 pounds in shallow water early and late on spinners; crappie are fairly good in 10-16 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good in 15 to 20 feet of water on slabs, fish are schooling morning and afternoon; catfish are good to 15 pounds on trotlines with live shad, shrimp and perch.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 82 degrees, 20 inches low; black bass are slow; striped are excellent to 28 inches or 8 pounds on Allison Jigs with white grub trailers; crappie are good through 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on Tailspinners; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on bloodbait and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on pig and jig combinations, worms and floating lizards; striped are good to 15 pounds on slabs, live bait and topwaters; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are good surfacing on topwaters and small spoons or slabs; catfish are good to 44 pounds on cut bait with good numbers of channel catfish caught on a wide variety of baits.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear, 88 degrees, 1 foot below summer time

normal; black bass are slow to 5 pounds, 2 ounces on worms, jig and pig combinations, cranks, spinners and buzz baits; crappie are slow, some caught on jigs and minnows; white bass are fair and scattered, some schooling early and late; catfish are fair to 23 pounds drifting and on trotlines with live bait, catalpa worms and stinkbait.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 92 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 8.6 pounds early and late on cranks on the north end and worms on the south end of the lake; white bass are scattered, quite a few caught on cranks, white bass are beginning to school; crappie are good in 12-18 feet suspended over brush on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 5 pounds in 5-7 feet of water on shrimp.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 4 ounces on topwaters, buzz baits, Long As and Torpedoes; crappie are fair to 12 fish per string on minnows in the creek channels and by the islands; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 12 pounds in the dam area on worms.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 92 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are slow to good to 5 pounds; striper are slow; crappie are fair around boat docks and in sloughs to 5 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fair on slabs and trolling; catfish are fair to 30 pounds on trotline, some on rod and reel in the 7-8 pound range.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 91 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are slow to 6 1/4 pounds on grape Wacky Worms, few fishermen out; crappie are slow, some caught early on minnows; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 89 degrees, 3 feet low and falling; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good in baited holes in deep water on shiners; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 35 pounds on trotlines in 35 feet of water.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 80 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass are fairly good in the 3-4 pound range on deep diving cranks and Power Worms in the afternoon in 30-36 feet of water, buzz baits, PopRs are good early; striper are fairly good to 22 pounds trolling Rat-L-Traps in the evening; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good around Marker 20; catfish are fairly good in 12-30 feet of water on cheese baits and nightcrawlers.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 95 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in number to 11 1/2 pounds, most are too small to keep; striper are fair to 4 pounds on chicken liver; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on worms and shrimp; channel catfish are good to 2 1/2 pounds on shad; redfish are good to 19 pounds on tilapia and spoons.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 95 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow to 4 pounds on chicken liver and artificial baits; channel catfish are good to 1 pound each and blue catfish to 5 pounds and yellow to 24 pounds; redfish are good to 16 1/2 pounds on live perch and Rat-L-Traps; corvina are good to 15 pounds, 5 ounces on live perch.

CHOKI: Water clear, 87 degrees,

normal level; black bass are fair to 8 1/2 pounds on topwaters early and white buzz baits, shad colored PopRs and Tiny Torpedoes in 3-8 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are slow in 25 to 40 feet of water near the dam; white bass are fair in the shallows of Huisache Flats on small cranks; catfish are fair to 25 pounds early around trees around roosting birds in 3-8 feet of water just east of Calliham Point, fish are feeding on small clams, cheese bait and liver have been producing larger fish.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 10 pounds on spinners and worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 20 feet of water; catfish are good to 20 pounds on live perch.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clearing, some dinginess in the upper end, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are picking up in the deep end of lake on downriggers; crappie are good in deep water around structures and around state park piers and old dam; catfish are good on trotlines deep in middle of the lake on live perch; yellow catfish to 32 pounds are beginning to hit; white bass are plentiful under the birds in the upper lake, fish are a little larger than earlier.

FALCON: Water clear, 85 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass are good through 9 1/2 pounds on cranks, Crawworms and Bass Assassins; striper are fair to 15 pounds on Knocker Spoons in 25 to 50 feet of water; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 5 1/2 pounds on shrimp; white bass are good on Roadrunner jigs and spoons.

MEDINA: Water clear, 87 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on topwaters; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

TEXANA: Clear in creeks and rivers, main lake murky, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 3 pounds on plastic worms; crappie are good to 20 fish per string in Sandies Creek; white bass are fair in creek on chrome Rat-L-Traps; catfish are slow.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky, 84 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are good through 5 pounds on buzz baits, spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on minnows and Rat-L-Traps; catfish are slow.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 95 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on buzz baits; striper are fair to 12 pounds on live shad; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds on Mr. Whiskers Cheese Bait in baited holes, fish are suspended at 8 feet.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 79 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are good though 5 1/2 pounds on minnows; crappie are fair on minnows 30 feet or less of water; white bass are good with limits on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 8 1/2 pounds on shrimp, minnows and worms; walleye are good to 4 1/2 pounds on minnows.

HUBBARD CREEK: water clear, 4 feet low; black bass are slow to 6.7 pounds; striper are good to 5 pounds on jigs and small perch; white bass are slow; crappie are good in shallow water on minnows; catfish are slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair

in the 3-4 pound range on topwaters; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent to 25 fish per string on minnows and shad; catfish are good to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers and live shad; walleye are fair to 6 plus pounders on jigs tipped with a minnows and slabs.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow to 5 pounds; crappie are slow; white bass are fair trolling; catfish are good to 4 pounds on chicken livers.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 82 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good on topwaters very early or spinners and cranks mid morning, plastic worms, slabbing or jigging live minnows is good in 30-40 feet of water midday, big trees along main channel are best sites; small mouth bass are fair to good jigging or worming on points in 30-40 feet of water; crappie are good on minnows in 30-40 feet of water along brushy bluffs and along main channel around big trees, Concho River area of lake has been productive; channel catfish are good in baited holes on worms and stinkbait, some limits caught; white bass are poor to fair with some caught occasionally in feeding schools; yellow catfish are poor in 25-30 feet of water on trotlines.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 86 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on topwaters, PopRs; striper are good to 6 pounds on topwaters, Pencil Poppers, Zara Spooks, Baby Torpedoes; striper are good to 6 pounds on Zara Spooks, Tiny Torpedoes and Pencil Poppers; white bass are fair to 10 fish per string with several schools in the mid lake area; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows in 20 feet of water; catfish are good to 4 pounds on shrimp and liver.

PROCTOR: Water clear, 89 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on spinners; striper are fairly good on live shad; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 27 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on chartreuse buzz baits; striper are good with limits trolling to 15 1/2 pounds each on Hellbenders and jigs; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 3 pounds on rod and reel and trotline; white bass are good with surfacing all over the lake, fish are caught on Poppers and Rat-L-Traps.

STAMFORD: Water murky, 3 feet low; black bass are good to 4 pounds on chartreuse buzz baits; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 pound on minnows in 12 feet of water; catfish are good to 20 pounds on minnows.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Some redfish caught in the evenings; some specks, drum and a few sheephead, croaker, gafftops and flounder also caught; redfish are caught south of Sydne's and Stewart's Islands and some along the Louisiana shoreline; limited live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Specks and flounder are very good around the jetties on mullet and live shrimp, chartreuse soft baits are good also; ship channel fishing is fairly good; the causeway area is also producing around the reef and flounder are caught around the

bridge; live bait shrimp are hard to find commercially but cast nets produce live shrimp; minnows and mullet also good baits right now.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of red snapper to 26 pounds on squid at the offshore banks and around far offshore rigs; limits of snapper, mackerel and dolphin caught, inshore waters producing good numbers of trout from the beach front, scattered trout in the bays and scattered redfish and flounder in the same area; great numbers of jackfish caught on shrimp from the piers, jetties and in the ship channels; live bait shrimp available in the \$10 to \$12 range.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish are hitting around Green's Bayou, Barroomn Bay and Blackberry Shore; redfish are hitting also on Dewberry Shore; good sized trout caught in the surf when fishermen can get there; Grass Island, Boggy Bayou, Army Hole and Pringle lake good for waders; flounder caught day and night, offshore fishing is fantastic for snapper, king, ling amberjack, dolphin; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart; croaker also available at \$3.50 per dozen.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of redfish in the keeper range, with some oversized fish, caught under the draw bridge on live finger mullet; limits caught every day in West Matagorda Bay on live finger mullet, gold spoons and Hogies Swimming Jacks; East Matagorda has good numbers of birds working with good numbers of specks caught on live shrimp and strawberry Hogies; surf fishing has been slow due to dirty water; some flounder caught in the river on live mud minnows; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Weather has been good; winds fairly light; fishing has been fairly slow even though there have been good numbers of fishermen; good numbers of trout caught in the surf at Matagorda Peninsula when fishable, fish are in the 5-6 pound range; good numbers of redfish from undersized to 23 inches in Cotton's and Green's Bayou areas; fairly good numbers of trout in the keeper range around the Port O'Connor and Matagorda wells on live shrimp; flounder action is slow; north side fishing has been slow; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Fishing is excellent in Aransas Bay, Redfish Bay, Copano Bay; trout and redfish are excellent with many oversized redfish; many trout in the 20-22 inch range on purple and red Cacohoe minnows; a few flounder also caught; winds light; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Offshore fishing has been good for red snapper on 12 hour trips; shorter trips are bringing in kingfish which are fairly slow; private charters are catching limits of kingfish and snapper; good numbers of dolphin, blackfin tuna and wahoo; some shark, but no great numbers.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Back bay fishermen are catching redfish and trout on live bait, which is hard to find. No live bait shrimp available.

PORT MANSFIELD: Past week's action was from fair to excellent; west shoreline from piers to Oak Motts provided steady action for trout to 6 pounds for waders and drifters; redfish action good around East Cut for herds; fair numbers of oversized fish found in this area; the pipeline ditch is

good for trout to 6 pounds in deeper water; red touts or pumpkin seed shad are best baits; west side, south of port is producing fair to good numbers of redfish; water level is low, caution is necessary in areas prone to shoaling; offshore fishing excellent for kingfish and snapper; a few blue marlin hooked, but none landed; live shrimp scarce at best.

SOUTH PADRE: Fairly good numbers of trout caught from Holly Beach north to the Wildlife Refuge; flounder have been slow, some caught along the channel; redfish have been fairly slow; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; some fish caught at night on the piers.

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