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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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ANGLER CATCHES 16-POUND BASS AT POSSUM KINGDOM

TYLER -- Friday the 13th may be a bugaboo for some, but it was Scott Tongate's lucky day.

The 59-year-old Bedford contractor was fishing a plastic worm in Possum Kingdom Reservoir on the morning of Oct. 13 when he hooked the biggest bass of his life.

The 16-pounder he boated was not only the biggest ever caught in Possum Kingdom; it is the largest ever taken in the western half of the state and the ninth largest in Texas, according to the Texas Parks Wildlife Department.

The 26 3/4-inch-long bass is alive and swimming at the department's Tyler Fish Hatchery.

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FISH KILL INVESTIGATED ON
UPPER COLORADO RIVER

AUSTIN -- The Resource Protection Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is investigating a series of fish kills that began during August on the Upper Colorado River near Ballinger

David Sager, chief of the division's Environmental Contaminants Branch, said the first reports of dead and dying fish came from the river near Ballinger downstream to near the river's confluence with the Concho River at Leaday

The kill was again reported farther downstream during late September in the vicinity of the U S. Highway 190 crossing in Lampasas County

Sager said the problem apparently is caused by natural toxins produced by a microscopic plant called *Prymnesium parvum*, the organism also blamed for fish kills in the Pecos River in 1986 and 1988, and Paint Creek in Haskell and Throckmorton Counties in 1988-89

The extent of the Colorado River kill has been difficult to assess, according to Sager, because of the difficulty in reaching isolated parts of the river and the activity of scavengers such as vultures "In fact, the area of the river most affected by the toxin can be located by watching for the flock of 100 to 200 vultures circling over the river," said Sager

Investigators suspect the presence of the algae is related to elevated salt concentrations in the river resulting from water releases from E V Spence Reservoir

"This type of fish kill is a real concern to us," said Sager, "because we have now seen this toxin-producing alga in three major river systems -- the Pecos, Brazos and Colorado. Its presence is related to water quality conditions, some of which have undoubtedly been affected by man's activities."

Any questions concerning the investigation of this fish kill should be directed to Dennis Palafox at TPWD Headquarters in Austin, (512) 389-4726

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GULF COUNCIL PROPOSES
FEDERAL SHARK LIMIT

AUSTIN -- The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has proposed an emergency five shark per day bag limit for federal waters off the Texas Gulf Coast, which if approved would be consistent with the bag limit already in effect for state waters.

State waters are from the coastline to nine nautical miles offshore; federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are from nine to 200 nautical miles offshore.

Council officials told the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department they have recommended the change to the National Marine Fisheries Service. The emergency regulation would have to be approved by the Secretary of Commerce before taking effect.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted the five shark per day limit.

in a public hearing during May. It went into effect on Sept. 1. The Texas limit is the first sport fishing limit set for sharks in any of the Gulf states.

Increased sport and commercial fishing pressure on sharks as well as by-catch mortality from commercial fishing operations prompted the Gulf Council to recommend that Texas adopt a one shark per day limit. The commission decided instead to allow five sharks per day, since most of the sharks landed from the Gulf are caught in other states.

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GULF COUNCIL HEARING SET
FOR FISHING REGULATIONS

CORPUS CHRISTI -- Texas fishermen will have the opportunity to comment on several fishing regulation changes proposed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in a public hearing Oct. 23 in Corpus Christi.

The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. in the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center on State Highway 44, four miles west of the airport. Similar hearings are scheduled in all the Gulf states during October.

The Council proposes to set new limits for federal waters on cobia (ling) and dolphin and reallocate the Spanish mackerel quota to allow sportfishermen a larger percentage of the total harvest.

Proposed is a two per day per person limit on cobia, added to the 33-inch minimum length limit already in place for the species. A bag limit

of five dolphin (dorado) with a minimum size limit of 18 inches in fork length also is proposed. There currently is no bag or size limit on dolphin.

The Council also would reallocate the catch of Spanish mackerel from 57-43 percent commercial/recreational to 52-48 percent.

If eventually adopted, the changes would affect only federal waters from nine to 200 miles offshore.

These and other issues are explained in proposed Amendment 5 to the "Mackerel Plan," copies of which are available from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 W Kennedy Blvd, Suite 881, Tampa, FL 33609, (813) 228-2815.

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TPWD CERTIFIES NEW WATER
BODY FISH RECORDS

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has certified 59 new water body records for fish caught during 1989.

As with state records, water body records require the angler to complete the state fish record form. The fish must be weighed on certified scales with two witnesses. Some species that are difficult to identify must be examined by a department biologist.

The fish record forms are available from department offices and many tackle shops and marinas across the state.

Lake Whitney in Central Texas produced three impressive lake records this year, including the new state record smallmouth bass. The fish, caught by fishing guide Ron Gardner, weighed 7 72 pounds.

Whitney also produced a 39 69-pound striped bass which was about four pounds below the state record. It was caught by Mark Turkali of Laguna Park on May 14. A 41 5-pound blue catfish caught on a trotline during April is a new Whitney record for that species.

Lake Travis fishermen set four lake records this year, the most of any Texas reservoir. They were for hybrid striped bass, 13 75 pounds; largemouth bass, 8 75 pounds; striped bass, 21 pounds; and white bass, 2 88 pounds.

The biggest largemouth bass setting a lake record this year was a 15 58-pounder taken by Jay Hiler of Uvalde at Amistad Reservoir at Del Rio. Officials said Hiler's bass was the second largest ever caught in the western half of the state. A 16-pound bass caught at Possum Kingdom on Oct 13 may prove to be the biggest lake record if its captor, Scott Tongate of Bedford, submits an application to the fish records committee.

There were several other impressive water body records in the striped bass category, including a 40 88-pounder from the Red River below Lake Texoma and two 35-pounders, one from Lake Kemp in Baylor County and the other from the Colorado River.

Hybrid stripers entering the lake record book included a 17 69-pounder from Lake Austin, a 15 12-pounder from Possum Kingdom and a 13 82-pounder

from Lake Granbury

A four-pound, eight-ounce smallmouth bass caught recently in the San Marcos River at Martindale established a record for that stream.

The water body records also featured a bass caught by a Bass, as William Bass landed a 11 75-pound largemouth on Jan 25 to set the Lake Fairfield record

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STAGECOACH TO JOIN
FANTHORP INN EXHIBITS

ANDERSON -- A handcrafted stagecoach will arrive Oct 29 at Fanthorp Inn State Historical Park to be installed for permanent exhibit, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials

A brief public celebration at 2 p.m. will mark the event. Rides in the coach and free tours of the restored Fanthorp Inn will follow.

Fanthorp Inn, located on Main Street in Anderson, Grimes County, was a crossroads for several stage lines before the Civil War, according to Jo Frances Greenlaw, park superintendent. The new stagecoach is a close replica of those commonly seen on Texas roads a century ago, she said.

Henry Fanthorp opened his frontier home to travelers in 1834, before the Texas Revolution. By the 1850s, his establishment had grown to include a two-story hotel with attached dining hall, a ticket office for several stage lines and a post office. The inn continued in full service until

Fanthorp's death from yellow fever in 1867

Craftsman J Brown of Weatherford built the new coach using molds of antique parts for accuracy Barry Hutcheson, interpretive planner for the Parks Division, said Brown used fiberglass instead of wood to keep costs down. However, all metal parts were hand-tooled by a blacksmith and the wheels were built in Indiana by Amish craftsmen The coach is suspended by leather straps

Fanthorp Inn is located about nine miles northeast of Navasota off State Highway 90 For additional information call the park at (409) 873-2633

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HALLOWEEN PARTY PLANNED AT
FULTON MANSION

FULTON -- The fourth annual "Spirit of Halloween" celebration for children is set for the evening of Oct 28 at Fulton Mansion State Historical Park, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The halloween activities, including apple bobbing, storytelling and costume parades, will be held on the mansion lawn from 6 30 to 8 30 p m. The lawn and grounds will be decorated for the event, according to Diana Kirby, park superintendent

There are no fees for the program, and the mansion itself will be closed

Fulton Mansion, built in the 1870s by George Ware Fulton, is an example of the French Second Empire style. It is an authentically restored and furnished historic site.

The park is located three miles north of Rockport, off State Highway 35, at the corner of Henderson Street and Fulton Beach Road.

During regular operations the mansion is open for guided tours Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a. m. to 3 30 p. m., with an admission price of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 6-12. Groups of 10 or more are requested to make reservations, and guests are asked to wear flat, soft-soled shoes to prevent damage to carpets and floors. For information call (512) 729-0386.

EC 10/18/89

WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS
SHOULD BE REPORTED

AUSTIN -- Endangered whooping cranes may be making their annual appearance in Texas now as they migrate from their Canadian nesting grounds to their winter home on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials asks persons who spot any of the rare birds to avoid disturbing them and report the location to the department or U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as soon as possible.

USFWS officials said the cranes apparently had another excellent production year, with 12 to 18 chicks adding to the flock at the nesting grounds at Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories. The

migrating flock, including the yearlings, numbers about 145 birds, officials said

The past five years of good production are encouraging to state and federal biologists, since only 16 whoopers survived in the wild 48 years ago

Adult whooping cranes are white with black wingtips and red forehead. In flight, the bird's long neck is held straight forward and their long black legs extend beyond the tail. The adult's wingspan may be more than seven feet, and whoopers stand as tall as five feet. Juveniles have white and rusty brown body feathers and black wingtips.

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RESTITUTION PROGRAM HITS
POACHERS' POCKETBOOKS

AUSTIN -- Persons who violate fishing, hunting and water pollution laws in Texas have paid more than a half-million dollars for lost or damaged wildlife resources, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said.

Legislation passed by the Texas Legislature in 1985 authorized the Parks and Wildlife Department to collect civil damages on wildlife resources that were illegally taken, killed, injured or possessed. Restitution amounts are based on the replacement values assigned to various species.

The restitution procedure is in addition to any criminal fines, criminal fines, forfeiture or penalties assessed persons found guilty of violations.

of department regulations

Capt Carlos Vaca, administrator of the department's civil restitution program, said 5,894 notices have been sent to violators during the first three years of the program, seeking restitution totaling \$1,628,790. So far the agency has collected \$533,311 of that amount.

In addition, the State Attorney General's Environmental Protection Division recovered judgments in excess of \$57,000 during 1989, Vaca said.

Restitution amounts range from a few dollars for common fish species to \$3,850 for a bald eagle and \$525 for a canvasback duck. Vaca said the replacement cost for a female white-tailed deer is set at \$163. The value of a buck deer is \$251 plus added value based on factors such as the number of antler points and the width of the inside spread of the antlers.

Fish values are calculated according to species and length. A 19-inch red drum, which would be an inch below the 20-inch minimum length limit for red drum caught in salt water, is valued at \$79.30. A 29-incher, one inch above the maximum length limit, is valued at \$167.94 for restitution purposes.

"Civil restitution is an excellent program since it in effect pays the state replacement costs for the lost resources," Vaca said. "Also, these added charges make game and fish regulation violations even more expensive, and serve as a deterrent to violations."

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GAME WARDENS SACK OVER-
LIMIT DOVE SHOOTERS

COTULLA -- A group of Louisiana dove hunters recently figured that beneath a highway bridge would be a good place to temporarily hide a couple of hundred doves over the legal limit. As it turned out, buying the bridge might have been less expensive.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens Larry Griffin of Cotulla and James Oden of Encinal received a tip from other law enforcement officers that they had found an ice chest full of doves under a bridge on Interstate Highway 35 near Cotulla.

The game wardens waited near the bridge, and soon the four Louisianans came to retrieve their ice chest. A bird count revealed the hunters had 278 over their limit.

The men were brought before a LaSalle County Justice of the Peace where they pleaded guilty and were fined a total of \$6,540.

In a separate case in early October, Griffin arrested six other Louisiana hunters with 272 doves over their limit. Their fines totaled \$4,837.50.

John Caudle, regional law enforcement supervisor at San Antonio, said while shooting more than the daily limit has been the most common violation, a considerable number of hunters have been arrested for shooting doves over baited areas. "Hunters have to be aware that it is illegal to spread any kind of grain to attract migratory game birds," Caudle said.

"Hunters should check an area for grain on the ground, and if any is found they should leave that area This includes areas around deer feeders "

Officials also point out that persons who take over the legal limit of doves or other game also are subject to civil restitution charges in addition to any fines paid in court

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STATE RAILROAD'S FALL
SCHEDULE EXTENDED

RUSK -- The Texas State Railroad will make Saturday and Sunday runs through Nov 26 rather than closing at the end of October, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials

The extended schedule will compensate for the forced closing in March due to flooding. The trains had to operate only out of the Palestine depot during the peak summer season because of damage to tracks, bridges and the Rusk depot

"Trains will depart the Palestine depot promptly at 11 a m. and 2 p m. on Saturdays and Sundays," said Park Superintendent Curtis Pruett. "We hope this will allow riders to enjoy the colorful fall foliage, which normally peaks during November "

There are no runs during the week, and the Rusk depot is closed, Pruett added

Reconstruction of the four bridges damaged by floods is underway, Pruett said. L. G. Barcus & Sons of Kansas City, Kansas, has been awarded a contract to replace the bridges and work is expected to be complete in about four months. Full operation of trains between Palestine and Rusk should be resumed for the 1990 spring season, Pruett said.

Several hundred feet of track, four bridges near the Rusk depot and the Rusk supply storage area were damaged when 11 inches of rain fell within a few hours last March.

Texas residents can call toll-free 1-800-442-8951 for reservations. Out-of-state callers should dial (214) 683-2561. The office is open seven days a week from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

In addition to the train ride, visitors can enjoy picnicking, hiking, camping, playgrounds, concessions and souvenir shops at Texas State Railroad State Historical Park. The Palestine depot is located on U. S. Highway 84 east of Palestine.

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

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 78 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass fairly good to 3 pounds on topwaters and worms; crappie slow; catfish are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on jug lines baited with live perch.

BELTON: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on chartreuse or red cranks in 5 to 15 feet of water; hybrid striper are fair to 6 pounds to 2 fish per string; average trolling yellow jigs in 32 feet of water; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows in 25 feet of water; white bass are fair to 12 fish per string on small white jigs; channel catfish fair to 5 pounds on shrimp in 35 feet of water; yellow catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 73 degrees, 12 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds, 3 ounces on white buzz baits; striper are fair to 9 pounds on live bait; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good around Garrett Island on slabs and jigs; catfish are good in baited holes using stink bait; yellow catfish good to 14 pounds on trotline with a live bait.

CANYON: Water clear, 80 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass have been fair to 5 pounds on spinners and worms; striper have been slow; crappie fair at night on minnows to 12 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pound average on perch and shrimp.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass good through Saturday with many slot sized bass, slow since Sunday due to fog, high winds and a cold front; worms are good bait in 12-16 feet of water; crappie slow; bream were very good through Saturday night on earth worms; catfish good in the 12-17 pound range on rod and reel through Saturday, slow since.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water slightly off color, 8 inches low; black bass have been good to 10 pounds, 10 ounces on black worms in deep water; crappie good to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish have been good to 25 pounds on jug lines baited with shrimp.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass slow to 3 pounds, some bass were caught on buzz baits before the front hit early Tuesday; striper slow to 19 pounds, some fish caught down rigging chartreuse jigs; crappie slow; white bass fair with early morning schooling on slabs; channel catfish fair on shrimp and chicken liver in shallow water; few fishermen midweek.

LBJ: Water clear, 73 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 1 ounce on chartreuse Getzits; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds with limits daily; white bass are fair under birds with limits on slabs and jigs; catfish are good in baited holes to 6 pounds.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 74 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair to good to 5 1/4 pounds on dark worms in 2-6 feet of water on black and blue Wacky Craws, also Poe's Ace in the Hole topwaters early and late; crappie have been good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass have been fair on deep diving cranks and slabs; catfish have been fair on perch and cut bait.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass have been good to 4 pounds on red worms; striper slow; crappie good with limits on minnows in shallow water; white bass fairly slow; catfish have been good to 45 pounds on red worms with a rod and reel over the weekend.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 74 degrees, 2 feet below normal level; black bass have been slow; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are good on white jigs and minnows at night to 15 fish per string; white bass have been good on white jigs and minnows to 10 fish per string; channel catfish have been good on hot dogs to 6 pounds, no preference recorded on hickory or mesquite flavored.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 75 degrees; black bass good to 4 pounds on chrome Crazy Shad, chartreuse spinners, smoke glitter Ringworms, smoke grubs; stripe slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

WACO: Water off color, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on spinners and worms in 3-5 feet of water; striper slow; crappie are good to 20 fish per string to 2 pounds each on minnows mostly; white bass are good to 25 fish per string on topwaters and shallow running cranks; catfish have been fair to 20

pounds on trotlines baited with live perch
WHITNEY Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 3 pounds on minnows and topwaters, smallmouth are improving to 4 pounds on Zara Spooks, spinners, striper are fair to 16 pounds on shad and white jigs down rigging, crappie have been good on minnows and jigs with strings from 5 to 15 fish in 14-18 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass good to 2 pounds on Little Fishes, slabs, Critter Getters with some limits; catfish are good to 5 pounds on trotlines.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 70 degrees, 13 inches low; black bass good in the 3-4 pound range in good numbers on topwaters and cranks, crappie are good to 25 fish per string in 20-25 feet of water on minnows in brush piles; white bass slow; catfish are good to 18 pounds on trotline at night with minnows and goldfish.

BOB SANDLIN Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 6.6 pounds on jigs, long A's worms, stick baits; crappie have been good in 14 feet of water in the trees and under the bridges; white bass slow; catfish fair on trotlines.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear and choppy, normal level; black bass are slow; striper slow; crappie are good to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish are good to 3 pounds on shrimp and worms.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 70 degrees, 26 inches low; black bass fair to 6 pounds on shad, colored cranks and chartreuse Getzits; hybrid striper slow; crappie have been good with limits to 1 1/2 pounds average on minnows in 15-18 feet of water around brush piles and bridge pilings; white bass have been good with limits caught while surfacing with chartreuse Rooster Tails and Chrome Lil Georges; channel catfish fair to 6 pounds drifting shrimp and nightcrawlers.

CYPRESS SPRINGS Water clear, 72 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good to 3 pounds on worms, white buzz baits; crappie good to 3 pounds on minnows mostly; catfish fair in 15-20 feet of water on minnows and nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD Water clear, 78 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass have been fair with few keepers; hybrid striper poor; crappie fair on minnows; white bass fair; catfish have been fair; redfish poor.

FORK: Water clear, 72 degrees, lake full; black bass have been good to 10.04 pounds on jigs, Crawworm and spinners; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; catfish have been fairly slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water slightly stained, 71 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow, some small fish caught on worms and cranks, spinners and topwaters; catfish slow to 4 pounds drifting shrimp in 25-30 feet of water.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on chrome cranks, white spinners, electric blue worms in 14 feet of water; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and red and white jigs; catfish are good to 5 pounds on shrimp and blood bait in 6-12 feet of water.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass have been good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks, blue worms and Rat-L-Traps along the river channels; crappie have been excellent with good numbers of limits to 3 pounds on minnows; white bass have been schooling but most fish are small in size on cranks and white jigs; catfish have been slow, a few on trotline to 6 pounds.

LAVON Water clear, 74 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on spinners and worms with limits in 5-8 feet of water; crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds with limits on minnows and jigs in 4-8 feet of water; white bass are very good with limits on Lil Georges, Rat-L-Traps and slabs mainly on the points; catfish are very good to 9 pounds drifting shrimp, some on jug lines baited with blood bait and stink bait; yellow catfish are good to 9 pounds on jug lines on blood bait and stink bait.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on worms and spinners, a black bass weighing 8.21 pounds was caught early Sunday on a black chartreuse worm, a new lake record; striper are good surfacing late to 5 pounds on topwaters; crappie are improving in 12 feet of water on minnows; white bass have been slow, many small fish; catfish are slow.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass are good on clear Tiny Torpedoes in the moss beds as well on curl tailed Tequila

sunrise and salt and pepper as well as electric blue worms near creek channels; crappie are good; white bass slow; catfish are fair.

MONTICELLO: Water clear 80 degrees, normal level black bass are good to 9 pounds, 13 ounces on 8 and 11 inch grape worms; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows catfish are good to 9 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear 72 degrees, normal level black bass are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds in deep water on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on stink bait and shad.

MURVAUL Water clear, 10 inches low; black bass have been fair to 8 pounds, 13 ounces on buzz baits and worms crappie are picking up at night under 1971 bridge to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; catfish are improving on trotline to cut shad and large earth worms.

PALESTINE: Water clear 18 inches low; black bass are good to 7 1/4 pounds on worms and spinners a few on topwaters early and late; striper are good to 8 pounds on live bait or spoons; crappie are picking up on jigs in 12-14 feet of water, white bass are good on spoons and cranks, some surfacing; catfish have been good to 28 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotlines on nightcrawlers, worms and blood bait.

PURTIS CREEK Water clear 6 inches low; black bass good to 4 pounds early and late, a 11 1/2 pound bass caught Saturday on dark worms; crappie are good early and late in 15 feet of water on minnows; catfish have been good on worms and shrimp

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass slow, several undersized, on white spinners; striper have been fair to 8 pounds trolling Hellbenders; crappie good with numbers of limits on minnow in 12 feet of water, white bass fair on chartreuse slabs; catfish have been fair to 3 pounds drifting shrimp.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS Water clear, 77 degrees, 2 foot, 9 inches low; black bass are good to 3 pounds on worms primarily; white bass are good to 1 1/2 on slabs, no surfacing, crappie are very good with many limits on minnows; catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water off color due to high winds 76 degrees, normal level black bass good to 6 pounds around moss beds in 14 feet of water on worms and spinners striper are good to 14 pounds on live bait and jigs; crappie have been fair on minnows in 14 feet of water white bass are good to 2 1/2 pounds with some schooling, best bait is a slab; catfish are good to 7 1/2 pounds on shrimp and blood bait.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 72 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on cranks in 2-10 feet of water; striper are fair to 9 pounds on slabs live bait and trolling with down riggers; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on slabs and small topwaters; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on stinkbait.

WELSH Water clear 84 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 7 6 pounds on worms and topwaters a lot of schooling size fish; crappie are fair in 15-30 feet of water on minnows and tube jigs with few fishermen out; catfish are good to 4 pounds on shrimp and shad in 4 -8 feet of water bream are good to 1/2 pound in 6-12 feet of water on red wigglers and EuroLarvae.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear 77 degrees, 16 inches low black bass were very good when Hurricane Terry was coming in, winds still high midweek; the largest bass weighed 8 14 pounds with several 5s and 6s, most were caught on blue tailed or black worms, chrome Rat-L-Traps with blue backs were also good; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish are still good in the 2-2 1/2 pound range in good numbers around the river on the north end of the lake; on the south end of the lake catfish are good around the points and over humps bream are good on pieces of night crawlers on clear bright days.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on silver Rat-L-Traps and Fire and Ice worms and June Bug worms; crappie have been good to 2 1/2 pounds with limits on minnows; white bass are fair in numbers on minnows; catfish are slow

LIVINGSTON: Water slightly off color, normal level black bass are good to 8 pounds on wide variety of lures striper are fair near the dam on slabs and live minnows, crappie are beginning to move into shallow water some in 12-14 feet of water on minnows white bass

slow and scattered, some on jigs and slabs catfish are fairly good on rod and reel from the bank in the 2 pound range.

RAYBURN Water clear, 72 degrees, 2 feet low, black bass are good in the 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 pound range in deep and shallow water on black Raspberry worms and Weird 82 worms as well as small gold Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; white bass are not schooling; crappie are good with many limits in 30 feet of water about 6 cranks off bottom on minnows, several 2 pounders landed; catfish are slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear to murky, 72.8 degrees, 4.1 feet low black bass fairly good to 5 pounds near the moss beds on chartreuse spinners with Boy Howdies, motoroil worms; striper slow; crappie are good in number in 12-15 feet of water on chartreuse Puddle Jumpers and jigs with limits; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pounds in baited holes on wieners and Catfish Charly

SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on Zara Spooks and buzz baits early and late, purple worms with chartreuse tails are good during the middle of the day; striper are good to 20 pounds in shallow water on 1/2 ounce chartreuse Banana Head jigs crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish are good in numbers on shrimp and Roger's Cheese bait in 40 to 80 feet of water.

BRAUNIG Water murky 81 degrees normal level black bass are fair in number but small in size on worms; striper are slow; catfish are good to 9 pounds on shad tilapia and chicken liver; redfish are real good to 30 1/4 pounds on spoons, fish was caught by Jack H. Talbert of San Antonio a new lake record; corvina slow

CALAVERAS Water murky, 85 degrees normal level; black bass slow; striper are improving on chicken livers to 5 pounds crappie slow; catfish are improving on shad and chicken livers to 5 pounds redfish are slow to 8 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; corvina are fairly good to 8 pounds on Tony Accetta Spoons and Rat-L-Traps.

CHOKI: Water clear 76 degrees, 13 feet low; black bass good in the 4-8 pound range on spinners, Rat-L-Traps in 3-5 feet of water in brush in main lake and around Four Fingers, deep diving cranks are good around daylight and from 4 p.m. until dark bass seem to be sluggish early morning because of full moon and night feeding; striper are slow; crappie are very good in number but most are around 1 pound, some to 3 pounds on minnows in 15 feet of water near deep water white bass slow; catfish fair to good in the 3-5 pound in 20-25 feet of water from Mason Point to Possum Creek.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 feet low black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on plastic worms, striper slow; crappie slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 6 pounds on trotline baited with perch.

CORPUS CHRISTI Water clear 79 degrees 5 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds before the cold front with limits on chartreuse willow leafed spinners and 6 inch black worms; striper slow; crappie are good with near limits in the state park area on minnows; white bass good off Sunrise Beach Pier on white jigs and slab spoons; blue catfish good to 14 on trotlines baited with cut shad; yellow catfish good to 26 pounds in deep river channels on live sunfish

FALCON: Water slightly off color 80 degrees, 20 feet low; black bass are good to 11 1/2 pounds on worms primarily; striper are fair to good near the dam to the Tigers; white bass slow to fair around the dam; crappie slow; catfish are good to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 40 feet low; black bass are good to 13 pounds, 8 ounces, a tie with H.R. Magee's 1943 state record, this fish was caught by Steve Guarisco of San Antonio on a spinner, most fish are in the 2-3 pound range; all other fishing slow.

TEXANA: Water murky in main lake clear in jungle area 77 degrees, 1 foot low black bass are fair to 4 pounds on topwaters around mossbeds; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie slow; blue catfish are fairly good to 12 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky, 6 feet low; black bass are fair in the 5-6 pound range on dark worms; hybrid striper are good to 7 pounds on shad and Model A Bombers crappie are good to 1 pound with limits on minnows in 8-10 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

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

GREENBELT Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on topwaters smallmouth are good to 4 pounds, 10 ounces 20 3/4 inches long caught by Mike Naples; crappie have been fair to 10 fish pr string on minnows white bass are fair; catfish are good to 7 pounds on nightcrawlers minnows and shrimp; walleye are excellent to 7 1/4 pounds on minnows and shrimp.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 68 degrees, 10 feet low black bass are fairly good in the 5-7 pound range on topwaters striper are slow; some in 6-20 feet of water; crappie are good to 20 fish per string on minnows, some fish to 2 pounds each; catfish are fairly good in shallow water, on trotline as well as rod and reel on minnows; the largest catfish was a flathead which weighed 68 pounds.

OAK CREEK: Water clear 71 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on cranks; crappie are picking up in the 1 pound range on minnows white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 35 pounds on rod and reel baited with a Bomber lure. Winds are high midweek and mid day high was 50 degrees.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear 72 degrees, 2 feet low black bass are improving to 16 pounds plus on Friday 13th in the Hog Bend area, also a 10 pounder caught on spinners; striper are beginning to hit on slabs to 8 pounds; crappie are improving around boat houses on minnows white bass are plentiful to 25 fish per string; catfish are fairly good to 8 pounds on trotline baited with perch.

PROCTOR Water murky, normal level black bass are fairly slow; striper are fairly good in deep water trolling white jigs; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 70 degrees, 32 feet low black bass are slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow catfish are good to 5 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

STAMFORD: Water muddy due to high winds 68 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; striper slow; crappie are slow catfish are slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: No rain with the hurricane though some higher tides were reported; winds gusted to 40 miles per hour at the airport; some small tornadoes in the area fishing has been good; redfish to 28 inches along the Louisiana shore, south of the islands and near the Exxon rigs; specks have been very good in number with birds working; sheepshead, drum, flounder and croaker are fairly good; live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON Hurricane Terry passed over Sea Isle around 6 p.m. last Sunday and then over Texas City then on to the Lufkin area some tornadoes spawned near airport, some damage; heavy boat damage near Sea Isle; good numbers of oversized redfish caught along the beach front, water was over dock in Seawolf Park; good numbers of flounder around Seawolf Park; tides were about 6 feet high; little live bait shrimp available; winds gusting to 35 knots.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing has been slow due to Hurricane Jerry; trips should go offshore by this Friday. Some redfish in the 4-9 pound range caught in the bays, good numbers of big redfish in the surf, most too large to keep; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$5 per quart.

PALACIOS: Trout are plentiful, about half are keeper sized along Palacios shore lines, on various artificials some trout limits from Carancahua Bay, redfish good from Matagorda Peninsula on Spicy Gold Super Jack with a pink tail; other scattered catches of redfish in rivers and bays; live bait scarce Hurricane activity was almost unnoticed in this area. Tides ran about 1 foot higher than usual.

ROCKPORT: No local affects from Hurricane Jerry; fishing has been fairly good this week until the front came through. The 20 knot winds slowed fishing midweek. Fishing should be good again by the weekend. No live bait shrimp available.

PORT ARANSAS: Winds were fairly high midweek and few fishermen ventured out; before the front trout were fairly good to 18 inches, many small fish; redfish are moving through the channels to the Gulf; flounder have been slow because of high tides some small flatfish from piers at night; some sandtrout from piers at night on live shrimp; bait shrimp are not plentiful, no bait shrimpers went out Wednesday Tuesday offshore trips produces 500 pounds of 1-5 pound snapper at the rigs in 30 fathoms or about 30 miles offshore; seas were rough offshore last Saturday but Sunday were good; some kingfish were caught at the end of the jetties some Spanish mackerel about

4 miles offshore; some blacktip shark to 70 pounds. Bay fishing has been slow because of the depression as well as the high lunar tides. CORPUS CHRISTI: Few fishermen out due to weather; no live bait shrimp available. Oso Pier fishermen caught some good sized gafftop caught Tuesday night; bait shrimp is hard to get. Winds gusting to 35 knots midweek; few fishermen out.

PORT MANSFIELD: Good numbers of trout caught north of the gas wells on touts; good numbers of trout caught on the King Ranch Shoreline northward; good numbers of sandtrout in the East Cut; redfish this week have been fairly slow; tides up about 3 inches above normal midweek; no live bait shrimp.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of redfish to 8 1/2 pounds, some oversized, on live shrimp and mullet east of Three Islands and west of Unnecessary Island; trout have been spotty, no pun intended; tides have been high and fish are not concentrated; a few flounder beginning to show; live bait shrimp plentiful. Fairly good numbers of tarpon, some to 125 pounds but most are smaller from the South Jetties or some schooling about 1 miles offshore, some in the surf between second and third sand bars.

PH 10/18/89