

# texas parks & wildlife news

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### OFFICIALS SAY CRAPPIE LIMITS ALREADY WORKING

AUSTIN -- Special length and bag limits on crappie have brought about dramatic improvements in populations of the popular panfish on three Texas reservoirs, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said.

Phil Durocher, inland fisheries management coordinator, said length limits on crappie were almost unheard of in most parts of the country in September 1985 when a 10-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 25 went into effect on several Texas reservoirs.

"The experimental regulations were proposed in an attempt to improve crappie populations and crappie fishing in lakes where both had been on the decline," Durocher said. Extensive survey results indicate this has been accomplished on Lakes Meredith in the Panhandle, Whitney in Central Texas and Palestine in East Texas.

At Lake Meredith, the catch per unit of effort in frame nets increased from less than four crappie per night in 1985 to almost 26 per night in 1987. Durocher said good numbers of three- to five-inch crappie indicated increased reproduction compared to previous years.

Biomass estimates from summer cove rotenone surveys also increased from three pounds per acre in 1986 (44 fish per acre) to 23.7 pounds per acre (517 fish per acre) in 1987. Estimated spring harvest by anglers increased from 9,347 crappie weighing 6,981 pounds in 1986 to 21,107 fish weighing 16,245 pounds in 1987. Most of the harvested fish were 10 to 12 inches long, Durocher said.

Lake Whitney showed similar improvements. Catch per unit effort in frame nets increased from less than three per net night in 1985 to 11 per night in 1987. Size distribution of the sampled fish indicates increased numbers of 9-11 inch crappie and increased reproduction. Biomass estimates also increased from less than two pounds per acre (three fish per acre) in 1984 to almost four pounds per acre (36 fish per acre) in 1987. The increase in biomass was due mainly to increased numbers of young of the year, indicating that Whitney is still improving.

Durocher said a rating system for crappie population evaluation developed by a biologist in Missouri was used at Lake Palestine. Palestine has improved from a poor rating in 1985, the worst rating possible, to the highest rating (excellent) in 1987. The rating system takes into account five factors: density, growth rate, age structure, size structure and recruitment. "Although the population numbers are still low, the good recruitment should help increase numbers of fish available in the future," said Durocher.

"The results of these three test reservoirs have been dramatic, even more so than expected," Durocher added. "They indicate that crappie

populations can be managed to improve fishing "

The results, though preliminary, also tend to disprove some old theories about crappie "In the past, it was believed that crappie could not be overharvested and that there always were enough brood fish fish in a lake to maintain a fishery," he said These trends show that young crappie were being overharvested in these reservoirs "

Durocher concluded that we no longer have to accept the statement that crappie fishing will naturally decline as reservoirs age "The staff will continue to monitor these systems and determine what the next step in crappie management should be," he said

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RARE PADDLEFISH SUBJECT OF  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists have embarked on a project to secure the future of one of the state's most unusual fishes -- the paddlefish

Known for their broad, paddle-like snout, paddlefish formerly were found in all of East Texas' major river systems Dam construction and water quality changes are believed to be key factors in the fish's decline, according to biologist Ronnie Pitman of the TPWD's Heart O' the Hills Research Station at Ingram "Paddlefish feed on microscopic organisms called zooplankton, so they are highly dependent upon good water quality," Pitman said "They also require water flowing over clean gravel for

spawning, and this kind of habitat has been destroyed in many Texas river systems "

Now only remnant populations are thought to remain in three river drainages -- the Red, Neches and Sabine

Pitman said paddlefish and sturgeon are among the most primitive fish on the continent, with little evolutionary change for the past 300 million years. Although sometimes called "spoonbill catfish," paddlefish is more closely related to sturgeon than catfish.

The first step on the road to restoring the species is determining the current status of the remaining paddlefish. Cooperative studies with other states will compare the genetics of paddlefish from various parts of the country.

The second step is hatchery production of paddlefish and subsequent restocking. Biologists will attempt to collect brood fish from the Sabine and Neches River later this spring.

Pitman said it may surprise many Texans that the Trinity River may be the best for restoring paddlefish. "Water quality has improved in the Trinity during the past few years, and we have some documentation that spawning habitat exists in several parts of the river above Lake Livingston," said Pitman.

Pitman said although the paddlefish's range is widespread, it already has been extirpated from much of its ancestral range, notably in New York and North Carolina. It is sought both for the edibility of its meat and

for its roe which can be made into caviar. The fish are susceptible to overharvest by netting and snagging, she said.

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OPERATION GAME THIEF HAS  
BUSY FALL PERIOD

AUSTIN -- Anonymous callers were active against poaching during the past six months, providing information that led to the arrest of 205 game and fish law violators.

Capt Stanley Brooks of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Operation Game Thief (OGT) program, said the 1,064 calls received for the six-month period ending this month were 49 percent above the previous fall's total.

OGT offers cash rewards to persons who call toll-free 1-800-792-GAME and give information on suspected violations. The rewards are funded entirely from tax-deductible donations provided by individuals and organizations.

Brooks said the six-month period saw 438 citations issued, and 99 percent of the violators cited were convicted. They paid \$69,820 in fines, and the OGT committee approved \$10,675 in rewards to 62 callers.

Rewards were granted for a variety of violations. Two of the most significant cases involved the illegal use of electrical shocking devices to catch fish. Three violators paid more than \$12,600 in fines on 45 charges after they were arrested in possession of 66 flathead catfish on a

river The caller received \$500 for the tip leading to their arrest

Another fisherman paid more than \$3,500 in fines on 15 charges after being caught shocking fish in a lake A \$300 award was authorized for this case

Another significant case involved two hunters who were arrested for illegally killing six deer at night from a public road They also were jailed overnight for public intoxication These violators paid more than \$8,200 in fines the next day The caller responsible for their arrests was granted a \$500 reward

Since the inception of OGT in 1981, the program has been responsible for arrests of more than 1,300 violators who paid almost \$300,000 in fines The committee has granted \$64,325 in rewards to 340 callers

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AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 4/27/88

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear. 78 degrees normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on chrome Rat-L-Traps in 10 feet of water; crappie good at night to 25 fish on minnows around the dam; catfish fair on juglines to 8 pounds live bait and stink bait.

BELTON: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level black bass good to 6 pounds on purple or June Bug worms in 10-20 feet of water. hybrid striper good to 6 pounds on chrome cranks in 20 feet of water; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on small blue jigs and minnows to 25 fish per string fishing in the 5-12 foot range over brush; white bass good to 54 fish per string on minnows with a lot of surfacing; catfish good to 12 pounds on bloodbait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 3 feet low black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds with some 5s and 6s on black and chartreuse worms as well as purple and white tail worms, 6 inch black Sensations in fairly shallow water; striper good on topwaters or poppers for about 45 minutes after sunrise similar action for about an hour just before dark; crappie excellent with limits to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and a few jigs; white bass good early and late while schooling lighted docks good at night for about 90 minutes which is followed for about 30 minutes by hybrid striper small spoons and L'il Cleos are productive; catfish fairly good on trotline in shallow water to 64 pounds on live bait. another 24-pound yellow catfish caught on a crappie rig off the docks at night.

BUCHANAN: Water clear. 61 degrees 6 inches low black bass good to 4 pounds on yellow spinners in 2-6 feet of water; striper good to 21 pounds on chrome cranks from the bank to 5 fish per string; crappie fair to 10 plus fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 40 fish per string on Crazy Shad and chrome Model A; catfish good to 16 pounds on trotline baited with goldfish.

CANYON: Water clear 65 degrees, normal level largemouth bass good to 8 pounds on plastic worms, Ringworms and Rat-L-Traps; smallmouth bass good in 35-40 feet of water early on brown worms with orange tails. crappie good on minnows at night to 25 fish per string; white bass fair schooling in the lake; catfish fair to 10 pounds on trotline.

FAYETTE: Water clear. 70 degrees, normal level black bass good to 8 pounds plus on large minnows and water dogs Rat-L-Traps and dark worms; crappie fair at night on minnows; catfish good on juglines along with rods and reels.

GIBBONS CREEK Water clear. 71 degrees, normal level black bass good but most within the slot on black worms with blue tails 2 keepers for the week to 9 pounds crappie slow and scattered, some in shallow water on minnows, no limits, catfish fairly good to 3 pounds mostly on rod and reel with squid liver shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear to murky. 62 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on chartreuse and pepper shad Tender Tubes, striper good to 8 pounds on 4 inch yellow grubs; crappie good with strings to 15 fish on minnows, white bass good to 35 fish plus on cranks; catfish fair to 14 pounds on perch and stinkbait.

LIMESTONE Water murky normal level black bass good to 10 pounds on blue worms; crappie slow; white bass excellent to 130 fish under the bridge on minnows catfish slow a few small channels and blues on goldfish.

SOMERVILLE: water clear normal level, black bass fair to 5 pounds on purple worms; crappie fair in the afternoon on minnows and jigs white bass good on spoons, hybrid striper fair to 6 pounds trolling spoons and slabs, catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water very clear 63 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass excellent to 70 fish per boat, about half keeper sized half largemouth and half Guadalupe, largemouth to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters early and on chrome or gold topwaters, smokey grubs and strawberry glitter Ringworms later in the day; Guadalupe bass good to 2 pounds on same baits, striper slow; crappie fair early in 15 feet of water round brush; white bass beginning to show up

chasing shad in backs of creeks; catfish fair on shrimp and cut shad on trotline and on rod and reel with plastic grubs to 5 pounds.

WHITNEY: Water clear. 65 degrees, 9 1/3 feet low; black bass good to 6 7 pounds on spinners, chartreuse worms and lizards; smallmouth bass good to 4 1/2 pounds; crappie good on minnows to 25 fish per string in shallow water; striper good on jigs and Rat-L-Traps to 20.4 pounds, most in the 6-10 pound range; white bass good to 2 pounds around the islands and under the birds on spoons; catfish good in the 2-5 pound range on cut shad, a new lake record for channel catfish at 23 pounds 12 ounces on trotline with cut shad for bait. The fish was caught by Burl Carr and was 36 inches long.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS Water clear 70 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 6 3/4 pounds on orange bellied Long As cranks worms as well as a wide variety of other baits no great numbers, hybrid striper fair to 4 pounds trolling chrome slabs in 15 feet of water, fish suspended in 25-30 feet of water no surface action; crappie excellent in the 2-3 pound range, most range from 3/4 to 1 pound, on minnows, only 1 out of 5 caught on jigs in 20 feet of water on brushpiles, white bass good along with hybrids; catfish slow. Redear and bluegill sunfish excellent in 7 feet of water with fish going onto beds crickets and red worms best.

BOB SANDLIN Water clear normal level black bass good to 7.41 pounds on green frogs; crappie fairly good on minnows to 15 fish per string white bass fairly good on spoons to 15 fish per string; catfish slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level black bass fair and spotty to 8 1/4 pounds on black lizards and orange bellied rogues in 6 feet of water, hybrid striper good with early surfacing topwaters and chartreuse Rooster Tails good; crappie good in the back end of the coves and creeks in very shallow water with full strings on minnows; white bass good with late afternoon surfacing in shallow water off shallow points; catfish slow, waiting on fresh or warmer water.

CYPRESS SPRINGS Water clear, 75 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass fairly good to 6 pounds, 1 ounce on lizards and topwaters, crappie good at night in shallow water round boat docks on minnows; catfish fairly good in 6-10 feet of water on shrimp nightcrawlers

FAIRFIELD Water murky, 86 degrees normal level black bass slow; crappie slow; catfish fair to 12 pounds on dead shad; redfish very good to 13 1/2 pounds on chartreuse medium running cranks.

FORK: Water clear 75 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass good to 10 1/2 pounds on blue tailed lizards, chrome blue backed Rat-L-Traps on the beds in 5-15 feet of water; crappie good and moving into shallow water on minnows and jigs, blue catfish good to 22 pounds on trotline baited with live sunfish

LAKE O THE PINES. Water clear 76 degrees, 6 inches above normal level black bass fair on frogs lizards and buzz baits in 2-6 feet of water to 5 1/4 pounds; crappie fair on Beetle Spins, white bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds to 15 fish per string on little white jigs and small Rat-L-Traps; catfish fairly good to 9 pounds on worms and minnows Big Bass Classic to be held this weekend with some 7000 fishermen expected.

LAVON Water clear 60 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 9 1/2 pounds on plastic worms; striper good below the dam to 11 pounds along with hybrid striper on pink and white Touts; crappie excellent to 1 1/2 pounds with limits in 8-15 feet of water; white bass excellent to 61 fish per string at the power plant; catfish picking up on trotline baited with shad; crawfish minnows

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 69 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass slow on worms and spinners, hybrid striper good off the points on small chrome blue backed Rat-L-Traps; crappie good on minnows and jigs in shallow water to 25 fish per string; white bass good in 25 feet of water with 5-foot deep running cranks, catfish moving toward the rocky area near the dam.

MONTICELLO Water clear 78 degrees, normal level black bass



good to 6 pounds, 15 ounces on 8-inch black and Sunrise lizards in 3-15 feet of water. crappie fair 10 fish per string to 2 pounds each minnows and some jigs. catfish excellent to 8 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear. 65 degrees, normal level black bass good to 4 pounds on Rat-L-Traps; crappie fair in numbers but good sized on minnows to 1 1/2 pounds; white bass slow and spotty; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear normal level. black bass good on buzz baits, topwaters and Redfins to 7 1/2 pounds crappie fairly under bridge; catfish good to 60 pounds trotline with live bait; sunfish good on worms and crickets

NACOGDOCHES Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level black bass good to 9 pounds on Tequila Sunrise worms. Tiny Torpedoes and chartreuse colored cranks. crappie good with limits in 10-15 feet of water on minnows; catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, normal level black bass good to 5 3/4 pounds on Lil Georges, some topwaters, spinners; striper good to 7 pounds on cranks, Lil Georges and chrome Rat-L-Traps; crappie fair on jigs in 8-12 feet of water to 2 pounds each; white bass good to 100 fish per boat chrome Lil Georges. catfish good to 12 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers with good strings.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear. 62 degrees, normal level black bass slow, striper very good to 12 pounds with good strings on bream and Sassy Shad; crappie good on minnows to 15 fish per string; white bass good in the shallows off some of the points catfish improving in the deeper holes

TAWAKONI Water clear. 60 degrees spillway level. black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on plastic worms n very shallow water striper beginning to hit to 10 pounds on Roadrunners crappie slow just after the cool spell but picking up now white bass picking up on Jiggin Rigs, best fishing at night; catfish good around the rocks near the dam in the 3 1/2-6 1/2 pound range fishing good on both rod and reel as well as trotline.

TEXOMA: Water clear 62 degrees, normal level black bass good to 5 1/4 pounds on spinners, striper good to 10 pounds on Sassy Shad, Tad's Jigs, deep diving Redfins and live bait; crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows 5-15 feet of water over brush to 25 fish per string. white bass fair to 2 pounds on topwaters catfish fair to 7 pounds on cutbait and worms walleye very slow to 3 pounds on white jig.

WELSH: Water clear. 84 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on cranks medium runners shad colored 6-7 inch motoroil worms with red flakes or plum colored worms, topwaters Long As in silver or gold; crappie slow; catfish good on rod and reel to 5 pounds on prepared baits and shrimp.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water has a slight greenish tint, 72 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 9 1/2 pounds one day bad the next on worms and a few on Rat-L-Traps with a good number of fish in the 5-pound range hybrid striper spotty on chrome Rat-L-Traps around the 1097 bridge, white bass mixed in with hybrids; crappie good under 1097 bridge and the Stubblefield bridge, crappie are moving toward shallow brush on minnows. catfish good to 3 pounds on shad baited trotlines as well as rod and reels Latest fad is water skiing at night.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 65 degrees, black bass good to 11 1/2 pounds to 5 fish per string on water dogs striper fair to 6 pounds on white spots crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good on bloodbaited trotline and on rod and reel to 15 pounds.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear 68 degrees normal level black bass small but good to 4 pounds in shallow water on black worms, jigs and spinners; white bass good at night to 2 1/2 pounds to 60 fish per string on minnows at night, during the day white bass good to 20 fish per string on white slabs and Vortex Clippers crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds in shallow water to 25 fish per string catfish fair on trotlines, very good on rod and reel baited with shad and shrimp in the 2-5 pound range.

RAYBURN: Water clear 65 degrees 1 foot above normal level. black bass very good in the edge of hydrilla on plum worms and Redfins to 4 pounds striper very slow white bass good off

points early; crappie fair in shallow water on minnows and jigs; catfish fair on shrimp baited trotlines catfish fair on rod and reel baited with bloodbait.  
TOLEDO BEND: Water clear 67 degrees, normal level, black bass slow; striper good on Smokey Joes and deep running Redfins crappie real good in late evening on artificials to 30 fish per string; catfish slow to fair.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, normal level black bass fairly good on purple worms some cranks and spinners and some topwaters to 9 pounds striper fair to good to 30 pounds on topwaters Redfins crappie slow, white bass good in the Pecos and Rio Grande on minnows, slabs and jigs; catfish good in 6-30 feet of water on shrimp under a cork.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 65 degrees normal level black bass good to 7 pounds on plastic worms striper good to 6 pounds on chicken livers; crappie slow; catfish slow; redfish excellent to 24 pounds trolling Tony Accetta Spoons; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 74 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass very good to 9 pounds on red and black plastic worms good from the banks especially in the entrance cove which has been producing good numbers of 4s and 5s striper excellent at the warm water discharge with chicken livers off the bottom and silver spoons, crappie slow, some on minnows near the pier, catfish good on cutbait and chicken livers around the railroad bridge and the power lines redfish slow but good sized on silver spoons to 12 pounds corvina good in the discharge area on shad to 7 pound average, some from the bank near the dam with shad.

CHOKO: Water clear, normal level black bass hard to find, some on spinners, worms and topwaters; striper slow; crappie fair to 2 pounds on minnows, a few full strings; white bass slow, some in the river channel early; catfish good to 6 pounds in all depths on cheese bait and shrimp.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear 71 degrees, normal level black bass good on worms but few keepers striper slow; crappie good to 30 fish per boat, mostly under 1 pound each on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair under 2 pounds on live bait.

CORPUS CHRISTI Water clear 69 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fairly good striper slow; crappie good on minnows white bass fair; catfish good off pier on shrimp.

FALCON: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass good to 6 pounds on swimming baits off points and worms in brushy areas, striper fair; crappie fair but small white bass good but not many fishermen; catfish good to 7 pounds under the bird roost.

MEDINA: Water clear, 72 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass good to 18 inches on wide variety of baits, cranks best; striper slow; crappie good at night to 15 fish per string on minnows in 20-35 feet of water white bass fairly slow on slabs spoons and Rat-L-Traps; catfish fair in the shallows in the 2-5 pound range on stinkbait and minnows

TEXANA: Water muddy, clear in the jungle area, normal level black bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on topwaters and spinners, striper and white bass slow; crappie fair on minnows catfish good to 12 1/2 pounds on trotline and live bait.

#### WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, normal level black bass good to 4 pounds on spinners and worms, striper picking up in the spillway cove on Rat-L-Traps and white jigs, crappie good in 4-8 feet of water on minnows and yellow jigs white bass good mostly around the hot water discharge and the spillway cove.

GRANBURY: Water clear 68 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on purple white tailed worms and black chartreuse tailed worms striper slow; crappie good with good strings of male crappie on jigs and minnows, white bass fair at night under boat docks on Roadrunners; catfish good to 7 pounds on stinkbait;

GREENBELT Water clear 57 degrees, normal level black bass good in the 2-6 pound range on chartreuse spinners; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows, white bass slow; catfish good to 10 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

HUBBARD CREEK Water clear, normal level black bass good in the cattails on worms and off rocky points on cranks; hybrid striper good around the dam and around the islands on slabs and

downrigging jigs catfish good on trotlines on minnows and cut shad to 4 pounds.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level black bass good in the 2-3 1/4 pound range on deep diving Redfins, black worms, spinners crappie slow white bass slow catfish slow A tournament over last weekend produced a 6 pound black bass.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 4 pounds on spinners; crappie picking up to 2 1/2 pounds 15 inches long on minnows and jigs in 20 feet of water. smallmouth bass improving to 4 1/4 pounds on nightcrawlers; walleye good to 9 1/2 pounds on minnows, nightcrawlers, chartreuse jigs. white bass good to 3 pounds, 14 ounces on minnows. catfish picking up to 10 1/2 pounds, yellow catfish good to 11 pounds.

OAK CREEK Water clear, 68 degrees normal level black bass fairly good to 4 pounds on white spinners in 4 feet of water; white bass good when you can find them trolling sonics crappie spotty on minnows. catfish good to 22 pounds on rod and reel with stinkbait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear 73 degrees, 14 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on topwaters and Pig and Jig striper good in the 5-8 pound range while fishing for white bass; crappie fairly good on minnows to 25 fish per string; white bass good to 70 fish per string on slabs; catfish good to 7 pounds on trotline baited with perch.

PROCTOR Water clear 71 degrees 2 feet low; black bass good in the 4-5 pound range on black jig and eel. spinners striper fair trolling deep running baits; crappie good to 2 pounds on minnows and yellow and white jigs in shallow water. catfish fair on trotline in shallow water baited with live bait.

SPENCE: Water clear. 65 degrees. 21 feet low black bass good to 6 pounds on worms and spinners striper good to 35 2 pounds, another lake record beating out one of 33 pounds, 5 ounces of 2 weeks ago, on Redfins; crappie good with some limits on minnows; white bass good to 1 pound to 20 fish per string on cranks and Rat-L-Traps. catfish good to 3 pounds on trotline and rod and reel with shrimp and nightcrawlers.

TWIN BUTTES: Water slightly murky. dropping slightly; black bass good to 7 7 pounds with several 5s and 6s; hybrid striper slow; white bass beginning to hit; crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds. fish scattered and hitting minnows in 10 feet of water. catfish picking up to 10 pounds on trotline and rod and reel with shrimp, shad, perch and goldfish.

#### COASTAL

UPPER SABINE LAKE Some drum to 4 pounds on dead shrimp at Stewart's Island; some croaker around Stewart's Island scattered redfish in the lakes and along the roads on shrimp; good numbers of flounder on mud minnows; live bait shrimp not available; dead bait scarce.

SOUTH SABINE: Specks to 8 pounds flounder to 3 pounds and drum to 65 pounds over the reef redfish fair to 7 pounds on Tequila Sunrise worms Black Culprits and chartreuse and salt and pepper worms; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Scattered redfish around the end of the jetties with some too large to keep; a few stray ling to 37 pounds in the same area on shrimp; specks slow at jetties; some scattered specks around the beach front; scattered gafftops sheepshead small drum and croaker along the beach front; main catches in bays are trout to 6 1/2 pounds and flounder to 3 pounds most fish requires a lot of hunting; bait shrimp is available; some party boats offshore, red snapper scattered and not too plentiful drum run is over

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish to 29 1/2 inches and trout to 5 pounds 10 ounces from the jetties; flounder to 2 pounds in the back bays; gafftop to 5 pounds around the jetties around the pass and in the deeper holes some shark from the Gulf beach. sheepshead plentiful live bait shrimp available at \$9 50 per quart.

PALACIOS Redfish fair in the Tres Palacios and Carancahua Rivers on live and dead shrimp and finger mullet; specks good with some limits on Matagorda Peninsula and around wells in Matagorda Bay on shrimp and artificials; some black drum to 45 pounds off piers in all bays flounder catches good mostly in

rivers to 2 pounds on shrimp; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart, the price is expected to drop soon.

ROCKPORT: Redfish limits around Estes Flats and California Hole; trout good to 25 inches on Maulers and live shrimp around the west end of the Klondike; live bait shrimp available at \$7 50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish good to 9.85 pounds in fair numbers in the flats of Redfish Bay specks good in the 5-7 pound range, a few sheepshead; live bait shrimp available at \$7 50 per quart. Horace Caldwell Pier producing a good number of shark to 4 feet, good numbers of whiting redfish averaging 18-19 inches. Offshore 38 miles produced a 6-foot, 6-inch mako shark which weighed 120 pounds, the first of the year. Port A jetties producing kingfish in the 10-15 pound range in fair numbers. In the Colt 45 area, Darren Butler of Corpus Christi caught a 424 pound blue marlin, second largest this year.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of trout, many limits, all over the Laguna Madre to 4 pounds on shrimp mostly a few on plastic worms good numbers of drum to 60 pounds in the Land Cut; Oso Pier producing specks in the 14-18 inch range with an occasional 20-inch fish under the lights at night; wade fisherman catching good sized specks to 6 pounds around the Naval Air Station; drum run seems to be over, live bait shrimp plentiful. Bob Hall Pier producing trout to 6 1/2 pounds, most in the 3-3 1/2 pound range; redfish range from 18 inches to 8 pounds; pompano to 4 1/2 pounds on peeled shrimp; kingfish spotted just off the pier looked to be about 50 pounders, a 6 foot, 5 inch hammerhead shark and a 5 foot black tip shark caught over the weekend two 9-foot hammerheads hooked and lost around pilings good numbers of Spanish mackerel in the evening, good numbers of sheepshead, blue runners, waters clear, live bait shrimp plentiful.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish plentiful from the East Cut to the east side of Three Islands north of East Cut there were several schools of big redfish, many in the 36-40 inch range; east of 234 there was a school of several thousand redfish, most of which were too large to keep; fish were biting, limits fairly easy on gold spoons and Cordell's; trout fishing has been good in the afternoons all over the area to 8 pounds, some limits but not easy on strawberry Touts; live bait shrimp scarce.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish fair in numbers to 12 1/2 pounds in the Three Islands area off the Intracoastal on live shrimp and red Chubbies, Touts trout good to 7 pounds on shrimp under popping corks also some on touts in the same area generally good catches of trout down near South Padre in the 2-3 pound range live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. No offshore activities.

PH 4/27/88

#### OUTDOOR CALENDAR

- May 1--ETex squirrel season opens
- May 1-15--Public squirrel hunt, Engeling WMA, Tennessee Col
- May 1-31--Public squirrel hunts Alabama Creek, Bannister Caddo, Dam B/Angelina-Neches Pat Mayse Moore Plantation North Toledo Bend and Somerville WMAs
- May 7--Hunter Safety instructor class, Houston, 713/946-7128
- May 7-8--Public squirrel hunt, Keechi Creek WMA, Leon Co. \$5
- May 7, 14, 21--Hunter safety class, Leander 512/259-1121
- May 12--P&W Commission meet/Austin/hunting seasons set
- May 14-15--Public squirrel hunt, Keechi Creek WMA, Leon Co. \$5
- May 17, 18, 19--Hunter safety class Dallas/Ft Worth 214/986-1292
- May 18--Hunter safety class, Brownwood, 915/646-2510
- May 21--Hunter safety instructor class, Dallas-Fort Worth, 214/351-5074
- May 21--Hunter safety instructor class Brownwood 915/646-2510
- May 21--Cavalary and infantry reenactment, Fort Lancaster
- May 25, 26, 27--Hunter safety class Waco, 817/986-3356
- May 28--Hunter safety instructor class, Waco, 817/793-2167
- May 30--State Railroad begins 5 day per week runs
- May 28-- night run, State Railroad, Rusk--6-10 p.m.
- May 31-- ETex squirrel season closes
- Jun 15--"Texas" opens Palo Duro Canyon State Park
- Jul 1--King mackerel season opens in federal waters
- Aug 27--"Texas" closes Palo Duro Canyon State Park
- Aug 31--Hunting and fishing licenses expire