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# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the Aug. 2, 1989 issue:

McKinney Named Director of Resource Protection . . . . .	1
New Hunting and Fishing Licenses Go On Sale . . . . .	2
Type I, Type II Hunting Programs Now Underway . . . . .	4
Woman Frightened By Guadalupe River Catch . . . . .	5
Survey Shows Small Stripers Abundant In Texoma . . . . .	6
Fishing Pressure Intense At Purdis Creek Lake . . . . .	8
Officials Clarify Fish Releasing Regulation . . . . .	10
Sandhill Crane Zones Proposed For Expansion . . . . .	12
Sandhill Crane Hunting Zone Map . . . . .	15
Camp n' Texas . . . . .	16
Outdoors Calendar . . . . .	20
Fishing Report . . . . .	21

## MCKINNEY NAMED DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE PROTECTION

AUSTIN -- Dr. Larry D. McKinney has been named director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Resource Protection Division.

McKinney, who has been with the department four years, has served as acting head of the division since September 1988.

A native Texan from Coahoma in West Texas, McKinney was head of the division's Environmental Assessment Branch before being named acting division director.

He received his doctorate from Texas A&M University in 1976, including a Smithsonian Institute fellowship to study Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean zoogeography. Author of numerous scientific papers and a college text on diving, McKinney was director of the Environmental Engineering Field Laboratory in Galveston and directed the research and instructional diving programs at Texas A&M at Galveston and College of the Mainland before

joining the department

The Resource Protection Division, one of six within the department having responsibility for the state's fish and wildlife, is also the newest, having been established in 1985

The division has responsibility for assessing environmental impacts of all types of development projects across the state, and reviews some 3,000 to 4,000 environmental documents each year

The multi-agency Bay and Estuaries Study, the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program, the Coastal Preserves Program and fish kill monitoring are just some of the programs for which the division is responsible. Also, endangered species and natural heritage are new and developing programs within the division

"If any one issue is a central theme for Resource Protection it is habitat," said McKinney "It is something Texas has been blessed with an abundance and diversity of, but it is a heritage that quite frankly many Texans have come to take for granted. There has to be a balance struck between the needs of a still growing state and what we want to leave for future generations

"Assuring water quality and sufficient flows for streams and rivers, maintaining freshwater inflows for estuaries, protecting endangered species and preserving examples of our natural heritage are all means toward that end," McKinney said "It is an effort that not only the division, but the entire department must be, and is, dedicated to accomplishing "

JC 8/2/89

NEW HUNTING AND FISHING  
LICENSES GO ON SALE

AUSTIN -- Texas hunting and fishing licenses now are available at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offices and retail license outlets across the state

Current hunting and fishing licenses and stamps expire Aug. 31 and the new licenses take effect Sept. 1

New hunting and fishing regulations guides also should be available from most outlets this week, officials said. The free guides contain information on license and stamp requirements, seasons, bag limits and other useful information.

The Texas Legislature made very few changes in hunting and fishing license requirements or fees for the coming fiscal year. The fee for the resident alligator hunting license was increased from \$25 to \$35. The resident hunting license remains priced at \$10, resident fishing is \$8 and the resident combination hunting and fishing license still is \$15. Special stamps include the Texas Waterfowl Stamp (\$5), White-winged Dove Stamp (\$6), Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp (\$5) and Freshwater Trout Stamp (\$5). In addition, waterfowl hunters are required to have a Federal Duck Stamp (\$12.50), available from most post offices.

JC 8/2/89

TYPE I, TYPE II HUNTING  
PROGRAMS NOW UNDERWAY

AUSTIN -- Persons interested in hunting on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Type I and Type II wildlife management areas (WMAs) this fall can start making plans now, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Those interested in hunts offered on Type I areas can obtain the department's booklet entitled "Hunting Opportunities on Type I WMAs" in person from the department's headquarters or any field office, by writing the TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112

The booklet lists 36 Type I areas and the variety of hunts offered on each. A Special Permit is required for most deer and feral hog hunts, and all javelina, turkey and alligator hunts. Hunters must submit applications and be drawn to participate. A fee is charged for these hunts.

A Regular Permit is required for certain small game, waterfowl and predatory animals. These permits are issued at the hunt area on a first-come, first-served basis, and a fee is charged to hunt.

The third category of hunt is Permission By Registration. On certain areas hunters may participate by registering each day at a designated point on the area. No fee is charged for these hunts.

Fees range from \$40 for deer and alligator hunts to \$5 for small game

The Hunting Opportunities booklet contains maps of all Type I areas, listings of hunts, fees, application forms and other information concerning individual areas

The department also offers public hunting under the Type II program. In Type II, hunters purchasing a \$35 Type II hunting permit have access to some 730,000 acres of land within 82 units operated by the department. Permit holders generally are allowed to hunt any legal game during open seasons established for the counties where the unit is located. Drawings are held from among Type II permit holders who apply for firearm hunts for mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

Type II permits are now on sale at department headquarters and field offices. A Limited Use Permit (\$10) is available for persons wishing to visit the areas without hunting or fishing.

JC 8/2/89

#### WOMAN FRIGHTENED BY GUADALUPE RIVER CATCH

NEW BRAUNFELS -- Faye Hammond of Willis may have been the most surprised angler in Texas recently when she cast a line into the Guadalupe River at New Braunfels.

She felt a nibble and started reeling in what she guessed would be a catfish. Instead, a two-foot-long apparition with huge pincers was

clinging to the baited hook

"I couldn't decide whether to run for higher ground, cut the line or take a chance and net the thing," Ms Hammond told Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists

After giving the first two options serious consideration, she netted what appeared to be a restaurant-sized lobster. It was 25 inches long from the tip of its claws to the tail, and it weighed three and a half pounds

Dr Bill Harvey, research coordinator for the department's Inland Fisheries Branch, said the animal was not a lobster or oversized crawfish. It was one of the biggest freshwater prawns he had ever seen

Prawns, of which there are four species in Texas, are related to crawfish and lobsters. They are seldom caught by fishermen, Harvey said. "She won't get a state record since no records are kept on crustaceans, but I'm sure it's a catch she won't ever forget "

JC 8/2/89

SURVEY SHOWS SMALL  
STRIPERS ABUNDANT IN  
TEXOMA

DENISON -- Recent creel surveys by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Lake Texoma indicate the striped bass population in the Texas-Oklahoma border reservoir is dominated by small stripers

Biologist Bruce Hysmith of Denison said the angler interviews indicate

the Parks and Wildlife Commission's recent change in bag limits on the lake are needed to develop greater numbers of stripers longer than 20 inches

"Starting Sept 1, anglers still will be allowed to retain 15 striped bass per day, but that can include only one striper longer than 20 inches," Hysmith said. Currently the regulation allows fishermen to retain five over 20 inches each day

Striper regulations are the same for Texas and Oklahoma waters of the reservoir

Hysmith said the overharvest of larger stripers in recent years combined with consistent reproduction have combined to create a striper population dominated by individuals in the 11- to 19-inch range. "As the fish continue to expand their numbers through reproduction, they increase competition for food," he said, "and when the balance is exceeded, growth slows down "

Hysmith said the creel survey showed that 78 percent of stripers caught by fishermen were in the 11- to 19-inch size range. "These fish generally weigh from one to three pounds and provide excellent angling action on light and ultralight tackle. Surfacing stripers in this size can be especially sporting and good on the table, too," Hysmith said

The large numbers of smaller stripers and the one-fish limit for 20-inch-plus fish make it important for anglers to handle them carefully for live release. Fish to be returned to the lake should be unhooked while still in the water if possible. Use of a landing net should be avoided,

and if the fish must be held it should be grasped by the lower jaw in the manner commonly employed by anglers handling largemouth bass

Officials remind anglers that Lake Texoma's striped bass limits are unique to that lake. On Toledo Bend Reservoir, the daily limit is five stripers, to include not more than two over 30 inches. In the remainder of the state, the daily limit of striped and striped/white bass hybrids is five, with an 18-inch minimum length limit. The possession limit is 15

Texoma anglers also are reminded that they may purchase a Lake Texoma Fishing License, which permits the holder to fish both the Texas and Oklahoma waters of the reservoir. The \$7.50 license may be purchased at the TPWD's Denison office and at marinas and tackle outlets around the lake.

JC 8/2/89

FISHING PRESSURE INTENSE  
AT PURTIS CREEK LAKE

EUSTACE -- Some of the most intense fishing pressure ever placed on a small fishing lake in Texas has been documented at Purtis Creek State Park Lake, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Fishery Biologist Richard Ott of Tyler said angler surveys from March through May this year showed approximately 115 angler-hours per acre were expended on the 355-acre park during the three-month period, including 78 angler-hours per acre directed exclusively to largemouth bass.



The extreme popularity of the small lake with bass fishermen is significant in that it indicates public acceptance of the catch-and-release only regulation for bass for that lake. "We (department biologists) weren't sure what was going to happen when the lake opened in November 1988, because some felt bass fishermen wouldn't want to fish where they couldn't keep any bass," Ott said. "But this survey tells me that bass fishermen will fish where they have a chance to catch big bass, even if they can't keep any."

The high usage of the lake by fishermen happened despite a 50 boat per day limit which has been in effect since opening day.

From all indications, the bass fishery has remained productive since the lake and state park opened. "This is a unique situation, because it's a non-consumptive use of a resource that could easily have been depleted without restrictions," Ott said.

Ott noted that 78 man-hours per acre for bass fishing is an extremely high level of use. Lake Fork near Quitman, which is currently the state's number one trophy bass reservoir, was subjected to only about 13.7 man-hours of bass fishing per acre during the same survey period. While this is comparing a 355-acre lake to a 27,000-acre lake, Ott said it gives some idea of Purdis Creek's popularity.

While bass fishing has been the number one attraction at Purdis Creek, crappie fishermen spent 18 angler-hours per acre, while sunfish attracted three and a half hours of effort per acre.

Parks officials said total visitation at the park through April was 175,482 persons. While records are not available on how many fished, officials believe fishing was the main attraction for a majority of the park's visitors.

Park facilities include a lighted boat launch area, two lighted fishing piers, boat dock, fish cleaning table, picnic areas, restrooms and playgrounds.

The campground area has 59 sites, each with water, electricity and a picnic table.

The park is located about 65 miles southeast of Dallas and can be reached by taking State Highway 175 to Eustace, then taking County Road 316 north for about three miles to the park entrance. For more information or camping reservations, call (214) 425-2332 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

JC 8/2/89

#### OFFICIALS CLARIFY FISH RELEASING REGULATION

AUSTIN -- Anglers catching crappie from deep waters recently have encountered what they consider conflicting fishing regulations, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Persons catching crappie smaller than the minimum size limit of 10 inches on some reservoirs must return the fish to the lake alive. However, some fish taken from deep water are too stressed to survive.

Some fishermen have complained that they are violating regulations against wasting fish if they release their catch, and violating size regulations if they retain the fish. Department officials, however, said that anglers will not receive citations for returning small fish to the water.

Phil Durocher, inland fisheries management coordinator, said the problem of stressed fish has been seen at Lake Fork and other large East Texas reservoirs during times of the year when crappie tend to school in deep water. "No one likes to release a fish they think is going to die," Durocher said, "but the benefits of a minimum length limit outweigh the losses of those released fish."

Durocher asked that fishermen pattern their fishing routine to avoid catching large numbers of undersized crappie. Moving to another area may benefit the fishermen and be less detrimental to the fish population. Under most circumstances, crappie and other game fish have a high survival rate when handled properly for release.

JC 8/2/89

SANDHILL CRANE ZONES  
PROPOSED FOR EXPANSION

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proposing to expand the area open for sandhill crane hunting this fall

Ron George, sandhill crane program leader, said lesser sandhill cranes which have traditionally wintered in West Texas have been increasing in number and expanding their range eastward along the Red, Brazos and Colorado River drainages

The area proposed for inclusion is bounded roughly by Childress, Abilene and Junction on the west, and Interstate Highway 35 and 35-W on the east. It would add portions of the Rolling Plains, Cross Timbers and the northern Edwards Plateau ecological areas

George said approximately 15,000 to 20,000 sandhill cranes now winter in North Central Texas outside the legal hunting area where they cause locally heavy damage to winter wheat. "An open season in this area should reduce crop depredation complaints and permit additional hunting opportunities for Texas sportsmen," George said

The season opening proposed for this new area (designated as Zone B) would be delayed until late November or early December to ensure that all of the endangered whooping cranes which migrate through this area have had time to reach their wintering grounds on the Texas coast. A 72-day season is proposed for Zone B.

George said Zone C in South Texas has the shortest proposed season (37 days) due to the need to prevent overharvest of greater and intermediate sandhill cranes which winter primarily in South Texas

The sandhill crane population in Zone A (West Texas) is mainly comprised of lesser sandhill cranes which are the most numerous of the three subspecies wintering in Texas. The proposed season for Zone A is 93 days long

Proposed season dates are Zone A, Nov 11-Feb 11  
Zone B, Nov 25-Feb 4; and Zone C, Jan 6-Feb 11. Shooting hours would be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The proposed bag limit is three per day, six in possession. These proposals are scheduled to be considered by the Parks and Wildlife Commission on Aug 31

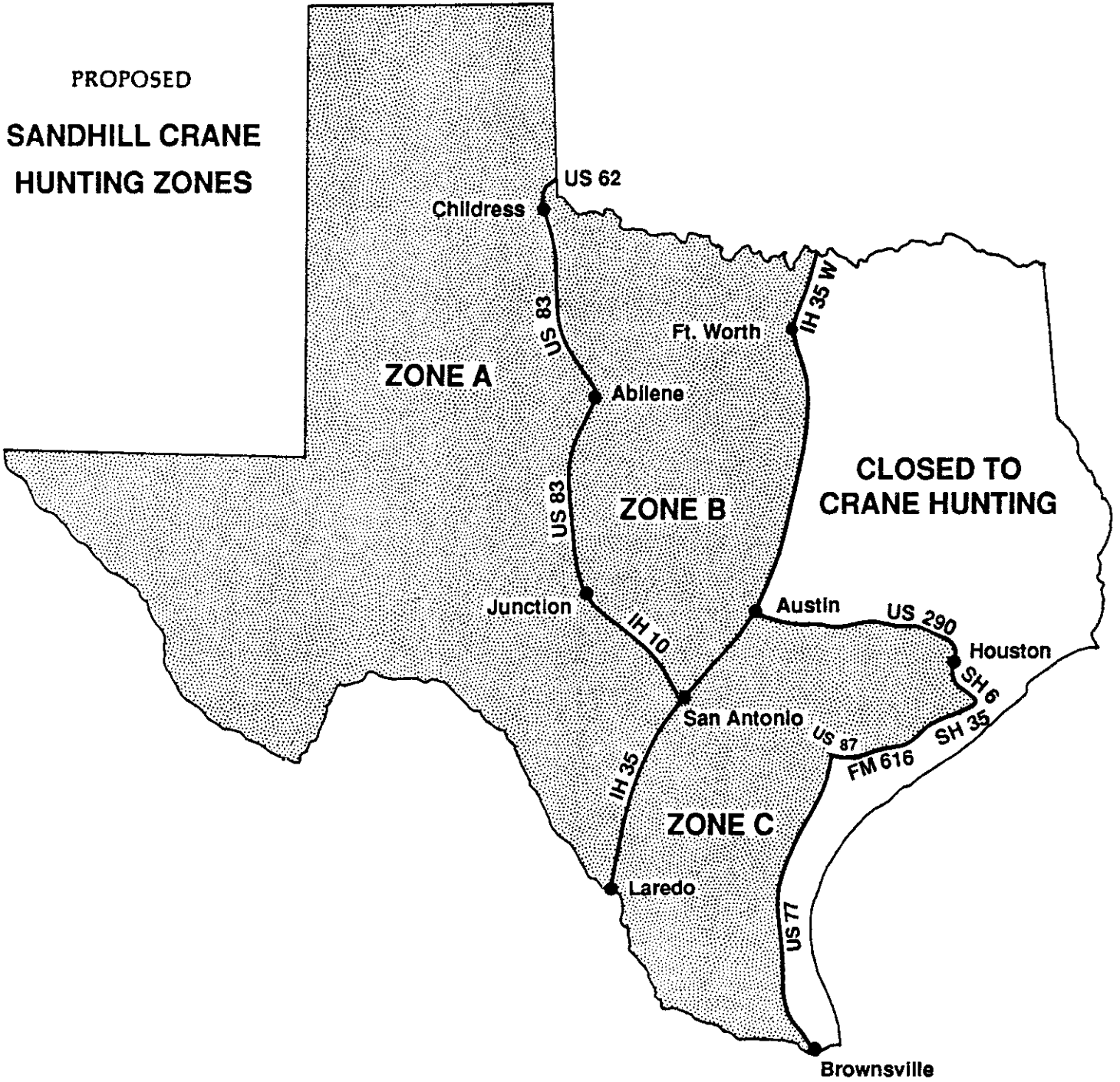
Persons wishing to comment on proposed sandhill crane hunting regulations may do so by writing Ron George at TPWD Headquarters or by calling 1-800-792-1112 or (512) 389-4778

A free federal Sandhill Crane Hunting Permit is required in addition to a valid hunting license to legally hunt cranes in Texas. Permits may be obtained by submitting in writing the name and address of each hunter to any of the following TPWD offices or the Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Box 228, Umbarger, TX 79091, (806) 499-3382, or the Muleshoe NWR, Box 549, Muleshoe, TX 79347, (806) 946-3341

CITY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
ABILENE	281 N Willis, 79603	915-673-3333
AMARILLO	2736 S. Georgia, 79109	806-335-9246
AUSTIN	4200 Smith School Road, 78744	512-389-4505
FORT WORTH	5400 Airport Fwy , Suite E, 76117	817-831-3128
HOUSTON	10700 N Fwy , Suite 180, 77037	713-931-6471
HOUSTON	8441 Gulf Fwy , Suite 100, 77017	713-645-0212
LUBBOCK	5104 Ave T, 79452	806-744-0213
MIDLAND	202 Airport Plaza, 79701	915-563-0645
SAN ANGELO	3407 S Chadbourne, 76901	915-655-2014
SAN ANTONIO	9503 Southton Rd , 78223	512-633-3220
WICHITA FALLS	100 Fremar Valley, 76301	817-723-7327

JC 8/2/89

**PROPOSED  
SANDHILL CRANE  
HUNTING ZONES**



# Camp n' TEXAS TEXAS STATE PARKS

July 31, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information call

Emily Carter 512/389-4690  
Parks Information Coordinator

## BIRCH CREEK STATE PARK OFFERS BACKCOUNTRY HIKING

Backpackers seeking an overland hike can find the longest trail in a Texas state park at the Birch Creek unit of the Lake Somerville State Recreation Area. Located south of Bryan-College Station, midway between Austin and Houston, the 21-mile trail winds through post oak woodlands and rolling meadows to connect the Birch Creek and Nails Creek state parks

Horseback riders and bicyclists with mountain bikes are welcome on the Lake Somerville Trailway along with conventional hikers and backpackers. The first few miles of the trail at either end are fairly smooth, but the going is too rough for street bicycles

Trailhead campsites serve as a staging area for overnight treks with hitching posts and water troughs for horses and tent pads, picnic tables, fire rings and water for campers

Primitive camping areas spaced along the trail have hitching posts and a chemical toilet; four shade shelters and two wells with hand pumps - one north and one south of the lake - give hikers a

-- MORE --



chance to refill their water containers.

Birch Creek park not only provides access to the Somerville Trailway, it also has access to the lake. The extensive shoreline area in the park offers many facilities for fishermen and boaters including a 100-foot fishing jetty, a fish cleaning shelter, boat docks and ramps

A short walk from the boat docks, picnic tables have been set among the trees along the water's edge. Each table has a stand-up charcoal grill; water and restrooms are nearby. A sand volley-ball court on the lakefront is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and balls can be checked out at park headquarters

There are three open shelters on the picnic loop with room for groups of about 75 people. Each one has tables, two charcoal grills and a fireplace. Advance reservations are recommended for groups wishing to use one of the shelters. The charge for 1-25 people is \$12, and for 26 or more it's \$24

Campers can hold reunions and rallies in a secluded section of the park equipped with 30 trailer hookup sites surrounding a large screened dining hall. The dining hall contains a complete kitchen with a stove, refrigerator and serving area. It has seating for about 75 diners and the daily rental fee is \$50. Tall post oaks and a heavy undergrowth of yaupon help set the group area apart giving campers a sense of privacy

Birch Creek park is quiet and uncrowded from Sunday to Thursday night. Although it has 123 individual campsites, they are spread out on three camping loops. Tent campers can choose one of 20 sites with water, a tent pad, a table, a charcoal grill and a fire ring for \$4 a night during mid-week until Aug 31. Campsites that also have electricity for trailer hookups are \$7 a night except Friday and Saturday when the fee is \$9 a night.

To reach the Birch Creek park, take State Highway 36 north from Somerville to Lyons, turn to the southwest on FM 60 and then south on Park Road 57 which ends in the park. For reservations call (409) 535-7763

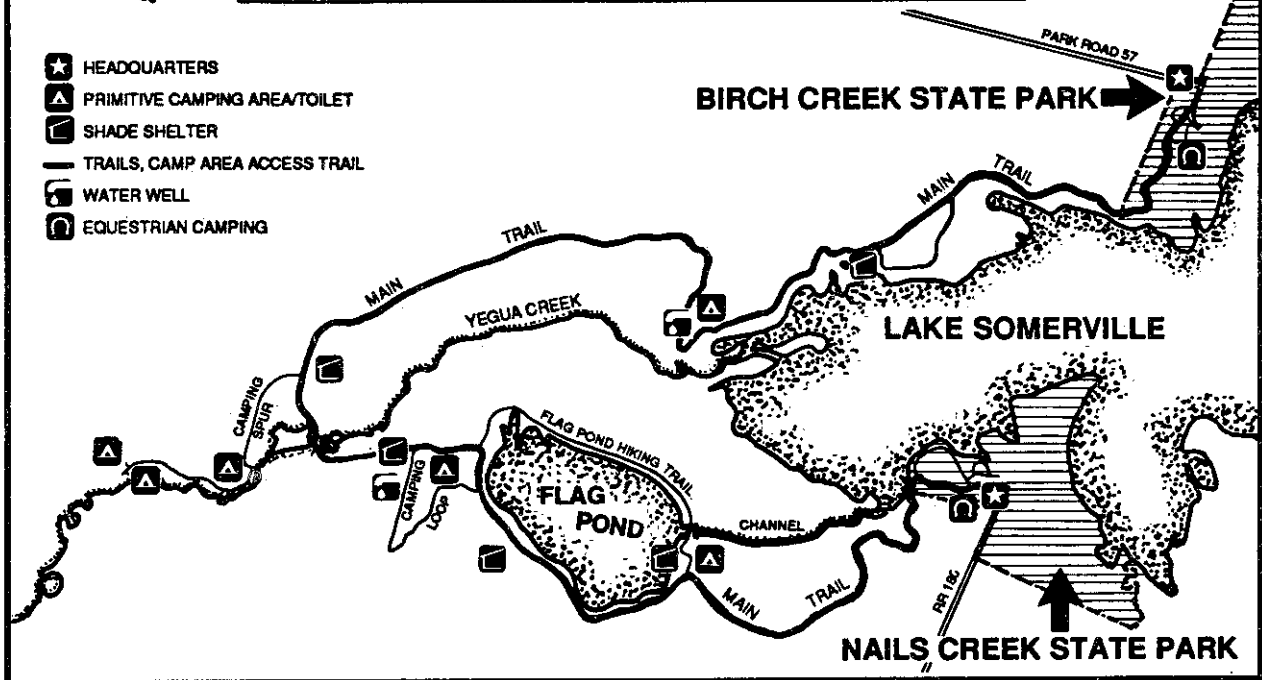
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# SOMERVILLE TRAILWAY

LAKE SOMERVILLE STATE RECREATION AREA  
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

- HEADQUARTERS
- PRIMITIVE CAMPING AREA/TOILET
- SHADE SHELTER
- TRAILS, CAMP AREA ACCESS TRAIL
- WATER WELL
- EQUESTRIAN CAMPING



OUTDOOR CALENDAR--1989-90

Aug 1--Target distribution date for hunting and fishing digests licenses  
 Aug 1--Application deadline Type 1 alligator hunts  
 Aug 1--Target date of Type 1 and Type 11 availability  
 Aug 26--Drama TEXAS closes Palo Duro Canyon SP  
 Aug 30--Annual Public Comments P&W Commission Meet 2 p m  
 Austin  
 Aug 31--TP&W Commission Meeting 9 a m Austin  
 Aug 31--Hunting and fishing for 88-89 licenses expire at midnight  
 Sep 1--Mandatory Hunter safety Education requirement enforced  
 Sep 1--New hunting and fishing licenses required  
 Sep 1--Dove season opens north and central zones  
 Sep 1-17--Alligator season Southeast Texas  
 Sep 1-Nov 9--Rail season open  
 Sep 1-Nov 9--Gallinule season open  
 Sep 2-3 9-10--Whitewing dove seasons Rio Grande Valley  
 Sep 5--Application deadline Type 1 archery deer hunts  
 Sep 12--Application deadline Type 2 pronghorn Rita Blanca  
 Sep 20--Dove season begins south zone  
 Sep 26--Application deadline Type 1 either sex deer hunts  
 Sep 26--Application deadline Type 1 antlerless only deer hunts  
 Sep 30-Oct 8--Antelope season open  
 Oct 1-Jan 15--ETex squirrel season 53 counties  
 Oct 7-Feb 25--Javelina season 37 counties  
 Oct 7-Nov 5--Archery season open  
 Oct 21-22--Prairie chicken season open  
 Oct 21-29--Early antlerless deer season some ETex counties  
 Oct 31--Application deadline Type 1 javelina hunts  
 Nov 1--Application deadline Type 2 mule deer hunt Black Gap  
 Nov 1--Application deadline Type 2 whitetail/mule hunt Matador  
 Nov 4-Jan 7--Regular deer season most of Texas  
 Nov 4-Jan 7--Regular turkey season most of Texas  
 Nov 4-Feb 25--Quail season statewide  
 Nov 4-Feb 25--Pheasant season Coastal  
 Nov 4-Feb 25--Chachalaca season South Texas  
 Nov 4-Jan 21--Aoudad sheep season 8 Panhandle counties  
 Nov 9--Dove season closes north zone  
 Nov 11-Jan 14--South Texas deer season  
 Nov 11-Jan 14--South Texas turkey season  
 Nov 18-Dec 3--Panhandle mule deer season  
 Nov 18-Dec 3--Whitetail deer season 4 Panhandle counties  
 Nov 25--Dec 10--TransPecos mule deer season open  
 Dec 5--Application deadline Type 1 feral hog hunts  
 Dec 9-24--Pheasant season Panhandle  
 1990  
 Jan 6-15--Winter dove season central and south zones  
 Jan 7--Regular deer season closes most of Texas  
 Jan 14--South Texas deer season closes  
 Jan 20-Feb 4--South Texas antlerless deer only season  
 Feb 13--Application deadline Type 1 spring turkey hunts  
 Apr 7-22--Eastern turkey season open  
 Apr 7-May 6--Rio Grande turkey season open  
 May 1-31--ETex squirrel season 53 counties

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for August 3:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 5 pounds on topwaters and strawberry worms; crappie slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on stink bait; a single yellow catfish weighing 45 pounds was caught on live sunfish.

BELTON: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 3 pounds on red worms in 5 feet or less of water; hybrid striper fair to 9 pounds trolling deep diving chrome cranks; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on dough bait and blood bait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 2 feet below spillway level, black bass fair to 7 pounds on spinners in shallow water; striper slow; crappie good with limits, but most fish are small, white bass good early and late with limits; channel catfish fairly good to 3 pounds on chicken livers and shrimp at night.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 84 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on black or grape worms in 12 feet of water; striper have been fair to 13 pounds, most in the 3-6 pound range, with some limits on jigs and live bait; crappie have been fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in 18-20 feet of water; white bass good in the Garrett Island area on slabs early; catfish good to 4 pounds around baited holes with limits with stink bait or cheese bait in 25 feet of water.

CANYON: Water clear, 85 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on spinners and buzz baits early and late; striper slow; crappie fair at night on minnows to 15 fish per string; white bass slow, fish hard to find; catfish fair to 8 pounds on trotline baited with shad.

COLORADO BEND: Water clearing, normal level; black bass poor; striper poor; crappie poor; white bass poor; catfish poor.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 92 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair to slow to 7 pounds on Boy Howdies in shallow water and worms in deeper water, but few fishermen out; crappie fair to 5 fish per string; catfish fair to 20 pounds; bream excellent on worms and crickets.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, raining midweek, 87 degrees, normal level, black bass fair but mostly in the slot or smaller on a wide variety of lures; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 10 feet of water; catfish fairly good to 12 1/4 pounds on rod and reel baited with liver, stink bait and shrimp.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on Jig and Pig and topwaters; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass are schooling but most fish are small, catfish good on rod and reel to 4 pounds on chicken liver, grasshoppers and shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear, 85 degrees, lake full, black bass good to 7 pounds 9 ounces on chartreuse DB#3s in 13 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good on minnows with a few limits caught, most stringers have between 10 and 20 fish; white bass with limits on topwaters and slabs; catfish good to 5 pounds in baited holes using Catfish Charly and worms, with limits.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, normal level, black bass fair to 7 pounds on purple worms; striper good in the 6-8 pound range on Hellbenders and Tony Accetta Spoons; crappie fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish good to 16 pounds on trotlines baited with on minnows.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows in 6-7 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish are good on trotlines to 20 fish per string, bank fishermen catching 5 fish per string on cut bait, shrimp, liver and nightcrawlers. Gaspergou are good in the 2 1/2 to 10 pound range on crawfish.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 18 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on chrome topwaters, smoke grubs and live crawfish; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair with scattered schooling; catfish good to 7 pounds on frozen shrimp and live crawfish in 40 feet of water.

WACO: Water off color, 87 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 5 pounds on worms, spinners and Lunker Lures early, some from North and South Bosque Rivers; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs, small yellow and white jigs as well as some topwaters; catfish good to 20 pounds on stink bait with rod and reel, some on trotline.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 78 degrees, 18 inches low; largemouth bass slow to 4 pounds on spinners and buzz baits in the weed beds; smallmouth slow to 2 1/2 pounds on small jigs around rocky points; striper good on live bait to 11 1/2 pounds, mostly in the 10 pound range with a few limits; crappie are fair to 12 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds each in 12-20 feet of water on minnows; white bass fairly good to 2 pounds with small strings with early and late schooling in creeks and around bluffs; catfish good to 6 pounds during the day drifting shrimp, trotlines are producing catfish to 10 pounds.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 83 degrees, 3 inches below pool level, black bass fair to 8 1/4 pounds on Jig and Craw Worm combination in 12 feet of water near the moss lines; crappie good in 20-25 feet of water around brush on minnows; white bass good to 20 fish per boat to 3 pounds each on blue backed chrome Rat-L-Traps; catfish slow. Sunfish are excellent on gray crickets and red worms in 4-8 feet of water on top of moss beds. Area had rain midweek.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on Craw Worms, worms and buzz baits early and late; crappie fair to 3 pounds on minnows and jigs in 15 feet of water around bridges and stumps; white bass schooling near the railroad bridge on spinners, slabs and L'il Georges; catfish good to 19 pounds on trotline baited with shrimp, chicken livers and hearts.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, lake full; black bass good in number to 6 pounds, most are small, on purple Ringworms with white tails, spinners and cranks; striper are fair and are caught along with white bass; crappie good on minnows, some on jigs in 10-12 feet of water with many limits; white bass schooling early and late with big catches on Rat-L-Traps, jigs, Sidewinders and Sassy Shad; catfish good to 35 pounds drifting shrimp and worms. Trotline fishing is slow right now because the water is so hot that most catfish die on the line.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level, black bass are good to 7 3/4 pounds on Bloodline worms; crappie good with limits on minnows and jigs in 14 to 20 feet of water; catfish are good to 7 3/4 pounds on large minnows.

FORK: Water clear, 83 degrees, lake full, black bass good to 11.33 pounds on cranks in 20 feet of water; crappie fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish fair to 14 pounds on live perch baited trotlines.

LAVON: Water clear, 85 degrees, 8 1/2 feet high; black bass fair to 5 pounds on spinners; crappie good with most fishermen getting limits to 1 1/2 pounds each early on minnows; white bass are excellent with good numbers of limits to 2 pounds on L'il Georges; catfish slow. All public boat ramps are closed to the public; some access for boats from old roadbeds etc. Boats stored at marinas can fish at will. The lake level is dropping 1 1/2 inches per day.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 feet above normal level, black bass are good to 4 pounds on spinners and worms; hybrid stripers are fairly good to 8 pounds on slabs and spoons; crappie slow; white bass are excellent with many limits to 1 3/4 pounds each on topwaters; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on shad and nightcrawlers and live bait. The lake now has two boat ramps open: Arrowhead and Lewisville State Park. Officials expect two additional boat ramps to be open by the weekend.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 105 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 7 pounds on 11 inch black worms and some buzz baits; crappie slow; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on Canadian crawlers and drifting shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level, black bass are slow; crappie slow; white bass good to 15 fish per string on topwaters mostly; catfish are good in number to 6 pounds each on

shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 78 degrees, 4 inches high; black bass fair to 6 pounds, 11 ounces on white spinners and worms or topwaters; crappie slow; catfish slow. Bream fishing has been very good on gray crickets and red worms. Lake area has had 47-50 inches of rain so far this year, an increase over the 35 inches for the entire year in 1988.

PALESTINE: Water clear, normal level, black bass fair to 6 1/4 pounds on spinners, 4 inch worms; striper have been fair to 6 1/2 pounds on live bait and some on cranks; crappie slow; white bass fair on cranks and spoons, no limits; catfish have been good to 38 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline on catalpa worms, shrimp, blood bait and nightcrawlers.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, normal level, black bass fairly good to 6 pounds on black worms in 15 feet of water; crappie fair to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 8 pounds on shrimp, blood bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level, black bass are fair to 8 pounds on chrome Rat-L-Trap; striper are good in number to 6 pounds on live shad; crappie good in number with full limits on minnows, most fish are small; catfish good to 6 pounds on shrimp.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass slow with some limits to 4 1/2 pounds on dark worms; white bass are good to 25 fish per string on Rat-L-Traps or Rattlin' Spots; crappie slow; catfish slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 6 pounds on worms and spinners; striper good to 17 pounds on Allison Jigs and live bait; crappie fair on minnows to 1 1/2 pounds, no limits; white bass good with limits to 3 pounds on jigs and slabs while schooling; catfish good to 8 pounds on rod and reel with blood bait, shrimp and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 inches above normal level, black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on worms; striper fair to good to 13 pounds on topwaters, live bait and slabs; crappie fair to 8 fish per string on minnows; white bass fair on topwaters; catfish good to 18 pounds on shrimp and cut bait.

WELSH: Water clear, 95 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 8.06 pounds on dark worms in 8-12 feet of water; crappie fair with few reports on minnows and tube jigs; yellow catfish fair to 9 1/2 pounds on trotline baited with bream, channel catfish good to 3 3/4 pounds on shrimp or shad. Bream fishing has been very good to 3/4 pound in 16 feet of water on red wigglers.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 6 inches high, raining midweek; black bass fair to 8.13 pounds on cranks and plastic worms, night fishing seems to be best, many undersized bass, topwaters good early, deep running cranks and worms are good in the middle of the day; Most bass fishing is in 7-12 feet of water; white bass fair on chrome baits; crappie slow; channel catfish good to 2 1/2 pounds. Bream fishing is very good on worms or salty fat bacon slivers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds, some 6s and 5s on Zara Spooks, white spinners, Rat-L-Traps, minnows; striper slow; crappie good with limits on minnows; white bass good with limits at the pump station on silver spoons; catfish slow.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass fair in the 1-4 pound range on light colored spinners or dark worms in 3-5 feet of water for spinners and 15-20 feet of water on worms in creek channels; striper slow in keeper sizes, good numbers of undersized fish; crappie slow; white bass good day and night, minnows good at night, trolling or jigging white slabs good during the day, most fishermen are bringing in limits; channel catfish are good to 6 pounds, blue catfish good to 25 pounds; yellow catfish good to 64 pounds. Catfish die if left on trotlines very long because of heat. Catfishermen are urged to fish in shallower water and to run lines more often. Bream fishing has been very good.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 84 degrees, 4 feet above normal level, black bass good to 7 pounds on Tequila Sunrise worms, spinners and buzz baits in the brush; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass erratic, some schooling,

on slabs or L'il Georges; catfish fairly good to 4 pounds on rod and reel with Catfish Charly, stink bait and cheese bait. Winds hit early Tuesday with gusts to 30 knots.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 87 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 6 pounds over the weekend on spinners; striper fair to 14 pounds near the dam on Hellbenders near the dam; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 27 pounds, with fair numbers of smaller fish on trotline with live bait in 12-15 feet of water.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 82 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass are good to 4 pounds in good numbers on Nip-I-Dities, topwaters and purple chartreuse worms in Cow Creek; striper slow to 17 pounds near Marker 18 in deep water; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on cheese baits in 10-12 feet of water.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, normal level, black bass slow; striper slow to 2 pounds on live bait; crappie slow; catfish good in numbers to 5 pounds each with strings to 90 pounds on liver, shrimp, tilapia and shad, mostly at night; redbass fair to 11 pounds on live perch; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 95 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass poor; striper are very good to 5 pounds downrigging spoons; crappie poor; catfish are good in the 3-5 pound range on cut bait in Zone Two; redbass are good to 8 pounds on live crawfish; corvina good to 10 pounds downrigging Tony Accetta spoons.

CHOCHE: Water clear, 90 degrees, 9 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 7 pounds on dark worms around drop offs in the river channel, striper slow; crappie fair on minnows, a few limits in 15-20 feet of water; white bass slow; blue catfish are very good to 39 pounds on rod and reel, a possible lake record caught by Tommy McNeal of Three Rivers, several other catfish in the 5-9 pound range on cheese baits.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on dark worms, a single 11 pound bass was landed; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows at night with limits; catfish fair to 2 pounds and a few to 5 pounds on blood bait early on a trotline.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 86 degrees, 5 feet below normal level, black bass fair to good early to 9 pounds on white Stanley Spinners with large willow leaf blades in 3 feet of water; striper slow; crappie are excellent early around state park and Sunrise Beach Pier on minnows; white bass good at night from lighted piers on white 1/8 ounce Roadrunner jigs; blue catfish good to 15 pounds on rod and reel baited with cut shad; a 32 pound blue catfish caught on trotline baited with live sunfish; channel catfish good on rod and reel below the dam on shrimp and chicken livers.

FALCON: Water clear, 15 feet low; black bass fair to 7 pounds, 9 ounces on dark worms; striper fair near the state park and dam to 15 pounds trolling or jigging spoons; crappie slow; white bass good near state park; catfish good are good in number to 4 pounds but many fish are small on frozen shrimp.

TEXANA: Water murky in main lake, clear up the creeks and river, 84 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters around moss beds, worms are good for smaller fish; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie fair on minnows up the Navidad with a few limits; blue catfish good on trotline to 15 pounds on live perch.

#### WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on green frogs; striper good to 8 pounds on chartreuse shad baits; crappie poor; white bass good with limits on minnows; catfish good to 6 pounds on punch bait.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level, black bass slow; crappie fair in 30-35 feet of water on minnows; white bass fair with some schooling on live bait; catfish are good on trotlines and on jug lines as well as rod and reel in the 12-18 pound range on live bait, minnows, perch, shrimp.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass good to 8 pounds on plastic worms; crappie improving to 12 fish per string on minnows in 25 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 8 pounds on shrimp.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 85 degrees, lake full, black bass



slow; striper fair to 12 pounds on live bait and down rigging large jigs; crappie fairly good around boat houses; white bass fair with some schooling, fish are hard to find otherwise; catfish slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 84 degrees, 30 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on worms; striper good to 18 pounds on topwaters and some live baits; crappie slow; white bass fair; catfish good to 4 pounds on dough bait.

STAMFORD: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on buzz baits and any chartreuse baits; striper slow; crappie fair to 1 pound on minnows; channel catfish good to 8 pounds on chicken liver and cut shad on trotline as well as rod and reel.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing was fairly good in upper Sabine lake until the weather from the hurricane hit late Monday and early Tuesday; some redfish to 27 inches in East Pass and south of both islands; flounder to 2 pounds on mud minnows and dead shrimp; drum, sheepshead, gafftop and croaker are fair in number; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Some redfish to 8 pounds on fresh dead shrimp; few fishermen out since 8 a.m. Tuesday when the hurricane hit; winds reached 60 knots; area had less rain than expected; some of the waters are muddy but should be fairly clear by the weekend; no live bait shrimp available; mud minnows and dead shrimp are available.

GALVESTON: Hurricane brought a lot of rain and lot of northeast and then northwest wind, some tree limbs broken, some shingles lost from roofs, few people left the island; good speck fishing though Monday noon along the beach front and at the jetties; some redfish until around noon on Monday; bays waters are dirty, fishing should be slow for a few days because of excessive runoff; the island had 7 inches of rain and many areas were flooded; access roads were flooded along I 45 from Galveston to Houston; Dickinson had an estimated 12 inches of rain Monday night and Tuesday. Islanders are watching Tropical Storm Dean out in the Atlantic.

PORT OCONNOR: Area had winds in the 15-20 knot range only; little rain; good numbers of sandtrout caught Tuesday; a few redfish in the 23 inch range on live shrimp; few fishermen out midweek; offshore producing kingfish before the weather hit; shark to 70 pounds, most shark in the 3-10 pound range; flounder have been good in the 2-3 pound range; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Weather overcast midweek, rain forecast; fishing has been fairly good on live croaker mostly before the weather hit. Live bait available at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: High tides Tuesday and storm in Gulf produced muddy water; specks good midweek to 4 1/2 pounds on live piggy perch and live shrimp; redfish good in the 26-27 inch range on piggy perch; snapper good offshore; kingfish good offshore on ribbon fish; live bait shrimp available; a few dorado and shark. Tides going out, skies overcast and few fishermen out midweek. Horace Caldwell Pier fishermen are catching specks in the 3-5 pound range at night on spotted croaker or live shrimp; daytime fishermen are catching small shark and whiting.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Winds high midweek; no fishermen out; tides highs from the hurricane; no live bait shrimp available. Oso Pier fishing has been slow; some small specks; a 4 pounder and 3 1/2 pounder landed on Tuesday; many smaller specks landed at night, some below keeper size on dead shrimp fished on the bottom.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout were good before the storm hit Galveston, little change in the weather here; good numbers of redfish with some to 50 inches at the edge of the jetties, oversized fish released; good numbers of keeper sized redfish caught south of the East Cut Channel on touts and spoons; offshore fishing has been good until the water got too rough; good numbers of kingfish, snapper and black fin tuna; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH PADRE: Fairly good numbers of flounder in the 2-3 pound range on live bait; trout are good in the 4-5 pound range on live bait, many schoolies; a couple tarpon in the 80-100 pound range hooked but not landed; redfish are hard to find; winds high midweek; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$10 per quart. Kingfish have been plentiful from 15 to 30 pounds offshore on ribbon fish.