

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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FISH HOOKING MORTALITY STUDIED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- The winter portion of a hooking mortality study of white, striped and hybrid striped bass has been completed, and the results indicate released fish have a high survival rate.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Michael Childress said the second half of the study will be conducted in late spring and summer this year and will include red drum as well as the three bass species.

The winter study was conducted on three lakes, with TPWD employees catching fish with artificial lures. The fish were placed in livewells and transported to special holding pens and held for 72 hours after capture to determine mortality rates.

White bass were collected in the Colorado River above Lake Buchanan in Central Texas during February. After 72 hours, all of the 47 white bass caught were alive.

The striper study was conducted at Lake Texoma during February. The 47 stripers caught were placed in nets at Hightower Park. A total of five stripers died during the observation period, for a 10.6 percent mortality rate.

Crews collected 75 hybrid striped bass from the discharge canal area at Lake Victor Braunig at San Antonio during January.

Childress said that only one of the 75 hybrid stripers died. "These results indicate that during winter months, white, striped or hybrid striped bass caught and released as a result of minimum length limits will survive and be available for future anglers," Childress said.

JC 3/30/88

WHITE BASS TAGGING STUDY
UNDERWAY AT WHITNEY

WHITNEY -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department crews have tagged 1,500 white bass in a study being conducted to determine movements and harvest rates of the popular game fish.

Biologist Maurice Muoneke said the fish were collected with electroshocking equipment in the Brazos and Nolan Rivers above Lake Whitney last week, and released in the same area.

Anglers catching white bass in that area should watch for a blue spaghetti streamer attached to the fish's dorsal area. The tag should be removed from the fish and sent to the address inscribed on the streamer. A

follow-up mail survey will be used to learn the location of capture and other information, Muoneke said

Anglers returning tags will be eligible for rewards from \$5 to \$100, funded by the Sportsmans Club of Fort Worth

Muoneke said the study is designed to determine what percentage of the estimated white bass population is harvested each year "Being situated close to Fort Worth and Dallas, Lake Whitney's white bass population receives considerable fishing pressure," Muoneke said "With the cooperation of fishermen, we will be able to find out a lot about white bass movements and harvest "

JC 3/30/88

TPWD AIMS FOR INCREASED
LARGEMOUTH BASS PRODUCTION

SAN MARCOS -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is hoping to increase hatchery production of largemouth bass this spring by putting an additional 10 acres of rearing ponds into bass production

Pat Hutson, fisheries regional director, said by adding the extra pond capacity and some 425 additional broodfish the department should be able to reach the 1988 goal of 3 4 million Florida-strain fingerlings and about 200,000 Kemp's bass (Florida/native crosses)

The expansion creates 40 acres of rearing pond space for largemouths compared to 25 last year, and the use of 1,800 brood fish instead of last

year's 1,100

"We felt we needed more largemouths fairly urgently this year because many of the lakes in the western half of the state have risen to high levels and have the habitat to support more fish," Hutson said.

The additional production space involved using 10 acres of ponds at the Dundee Hatchery near Electra for Florida bass instead of striped bass, Hutson explained. Fingerlings will be distributed to 21 public lakes during April, he said.

Dr. Gary Matlock, director of fisheries, said production of largemouth bass will get a boost in spring 1989 when the new hatchery facility at San Marcos will be on line. "The new building will effectively double our production of largemouths while also increasing our ability to produce other species," Matlock said. "It will be a state-of-the-art operation where we will be able to control all the environmental factors that affect fish spawning."

Matlock said the facility should be completed this fall and be operational for the 1989 spring spawning season.

JC 3/30/88

TEXOMA SMALLMOUTH CAPTURES
OKLAHOMA STATE RECORD

DENISON -- A six-pound, five-ounce smallmouth bass caught at Lake Texoma during February is both a Texoma lake record and the new Oklahoma state

record

Biologist Bruce Hysmith of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) said the fish was caught by Tommy Hitchcock of Durant, Oklahoma on a jig and grub. He caught the fish in the Washita River arm on the Oklahoma side of the border reservoir.

Hysmith pointed out that the fish, which was seven years old, probably was one of the first 576,655 fingerlings stocked by the TPWD in 1981.

Hitchcock's fish beat a 5-14 caught in January 1987 as both the Texoma and Oklahoma state record, Hysmith noted.

"The introduction of smallmouths is beginning to make a definite contribution to recreational fishing at Texoma," said Hysmith. "Surveys by our department and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation have confirmed natural reproduction of at least three year-classes of smallmouths. We're looking for a new Texas state record to come from Texoma pretty soon." The current state record smallmouth is a six-pound, eight-ounce fish caught from Lake Whitney in Central Texas in 1987.

JC 3/30/88

GIBBONS CREEK BASS TO
REMAIN AT TYLER HATCHERY

TYLER -- Troy Johnson, a University of Texas student from Houston, has indicated he will allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to keep his 16-pound, two-ounce largemouth bass at the Tyler Fish Hatchery for an

indefinite period of time

The fish was loaned to the agency under the "Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker" program, and the big female already has produced about 20,000 offspring. Johnson caught the fish Jan. 15 at Gibbons Creek Reservoir near Bryan.

Fish loaned to the lunker program are given back to their captors, along with a fiberglass replica, after spawning operations are completed for the year. But hatchery manager David Campbell said Johnson's fish, will remain in the hatchery's 3,500-gallon display tank.

"Big bass like this create considerable interest, and they can help us promote fishery management and the catch-and-release philosophy," Campbell said, adding that some larger bass may be added to the hatchery's mobile aquarium trailer that is taken to boat and sportsmen's shows around the state.

JC 3/30/88

MCKITTRICK CANYON TROUT
SPAWN IN HATCHERY

ELECTRA -- Texas' "mystery trout" have spawned at a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fish hatchery, but biologists say it will be a while before the fishes' true identity is known.

Joe Warren, manager of the Dundee State Fish Hatchery, said several trout collected last November from McKittrick Canyon in the Guadalupe

Mountains National Park of West Texas have been induced to spawn As of March 31, about 20 fertile eggs had been produced

The existence of wild trout in a West Texas stream creates an interesting puzzle for fishery biologists If the fish are rainbow trout, they must have been stocked there by someone years ago If electrophoretic analysis of the fish indicates they are cutthroat trout, or rainbow-cutthroat hybrids, it would indicate they are remnants of a population native to that area

The possibility of native cutthroats appears to be supported by archives indicating that an Army patrol from Ft Davis camped at the stream during the 1800s and caught trout What kind of trout they caught, however, is unknown

Warren said producing fertile eggs so soon was a surprise "I'm thrilled that they hatched," said Warren, explaining that he had planned only to allow the fish to grow through 1988 and spawn later "We noticed the fish going through some pre-spawn motions in the raceway, so we decided to give them a chance "

Several female trout were injected with hormones, and at the proper time they were hand-stripped of eggs Warren said milt was collected in a like manner from several male fish, and the two mixed in a special container The fertilized eggs then were transferred to an incubator

Warren said the department owes a debt of gratitude to the Colorado Division of Wildlife for advice and assistance provided by telephone

"Those people raise a lot of trout, and they were able to give us some valuable guidelines to follow," Warren said

The McKittrick trout experiment is part of a continuing search for strains of trout that have tolerance for high temperatures usually found in Texas streams. Warren said genetic tests will determine if the fish are different from other rainbows, and cold-tolerance tests will determine if they are better adapted to Texas waters.

JC 4/6/88

BIG FISH AWARDS AVAILABLE
FOR TEXAS ANGLERS

AUSTIN -- You don't have to catch a state record fish to get some recognition for an otherwise impressive fish.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will send you a "Big Fish Award" certificate to put on your wall. All you have to do is legally catch a fish heavier than the minimum weight established for that species and provide the department some simple documentation.

In fact, the TPWD has combined application forms for Big Fish awards, state records, lake records and the lunker catch and release program into one handy form.

If you catch a fish you believe qualifies for a big fish award, you need only to complete the application form, weigh the fish on a scale certified for trade by the Texas Department of Agriculture, obtain the signature of

two witnesses to the weighing and send the application to TPWD Headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

The person applying for the certificate must have hooked, fought and landed the fish without assistance

Species eligible for big fish awards, and the required minimum weights are spotted seatrout, 7 pounds; black drum, 35 pounds; southern flounder, six pounds; largemouth bass, eight pounds; king mackerel, 30 pounds; red snapper, 20 pounds; smallmouth bass, four pounds; spotted bass, four pounds; crappie, three pounds; white bass, three pounds; striped bass, 15 pounds; hybrid striped bass, eight pounds; channel catfish, 12 pounds; blue catfish, 35 pounds; flathead catfish, 50 pounds; walleye, six pounds; rainbow and brown trout, two pounds; and sunfish, one pound Other species may be considered when appropriate

JC 4/6/88

STATE RECORD SMALLMOUTH
DIES OF INJURIES

TYLER -- "Mollie," the 6 1/2-pound state record smallmouth bass from Lake Whitney, has died of injuries inflicted by another smallmouth

David Campbell, manager of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Tyler Fish Hatchery, said a 5 1/2-pound male smallmouth placed in a tank with Mollie Friday attacked the female, tearing the lower half of her tail fin

Campbell said the male's aggressive behavior was spawning-related, but more violent than normally expected. "We treated the injury with antibiotics, but it apparently was just too severe," Campbell said. The male fish was caught at Lake LBJ during March by Bob Kallstrom of Austin. It was placed in a tank at an Austin tackle shop before being picked up by TPWD hatchery personnel and taken to Tyler.

Mollie was caught by Floyd Teat, a TPWD fishery biologist from Waco, at Whitney last fall. The fish was to have been displayed in the department's aquarium display trailer this weekend at a Lake Whitney bass tournament.

JC 4/6/88

PHEASANT BAG LIMIT, SEASON
PROPOSALS EXPLAINED

AUSTIN -- The proposal to increase the bag limit on cock pheasants in the Panhandle for the 1988 hunting season will not adversely affect pheasant populations, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists.

The department staff recommended increasing the daily bag limit from two cocks to three, and also increasing the length of the pheasant season in coastal areas to be concurrent with the quail season.

Bill Brownlee, upland game program leader, said the increased bag limit would not harm populations because pheasants are polygamous. "Pheasant roosters establish territories during the spring and exclude all other competing males while allowing hens to enter," Brownlee said. "One rooster

can breed many hens, so the remainder of the cock pheasants in the area can be considered surplus " Both Oklahoma and New Mexico have a three-cock limit, he added

The proposed lengthening of the coastal prairie pheasant season to 121 days would in effect create a bonus for quail hunters "The department's small game harvest survey indicates that much of the pheasant harvest in the coastal area is incidental to quail hunting," Brownlee said "The survey also indicates the pheasant population is underutilized "

The proposed changes are among numerous hunting and fishing regulation proposals that will be aired at 44 public hearings across the state during April 18-22 Persons who wish to comment on any of the proposals are encouraged to attend a hearing Those unable to attend a hearing may comment by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext 4974

Below is a list of the hearings, listed alphabetically by county All hearings begin at 7 p.m

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Angelina	April 18	Commissioners Courtroom 213 Co Courthouse, Lufkin
Aransas	April 20	Co Courthouse, Rockport
Bexar	April 19	Naval Reserve Center Rm 219 3837 Binz-Englemann Rd San Antonio
Bowie	April 21	Co Courthouse, New Boston
Brazos	April 19	Co Courthouse, Bryan
Brewster	April 20	Co Courthouse, Alpine
Brooks	April 20	Courthouse Annex, Falfurrias
Brown	April 19	Co Courthouse, Brownwood
Cameron	April 19	Co Courthouse, Brownsville
Colorado	April 18	Co Courthouse, Columbus
Culberson	April 19	Dist Courtroom Co Courthouse, Van Horn

Dallas-Tarrant	April 19	Dallas Co Government Center Grand Prairie
El Paso	April 18	Executive Suite, 1170 Westmoreland El Paso
Galveston	April 20	Jury Assembly Room Co Courthouse, Galveston
Gillespie	April 20	Co Courthouse, Fredericksburg
Grayson	April 21	Assembly Room, Co Courthouse Sherman
Hardin	April 20	88th Dist Courtroom Co Courthouse, Kountze
Hale	April 19	Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor Co Courthouse, Plainview
Harris	April 18	Old Co Courthouse Bldg LaPorte
Houston	April 19	Co Courtroom Co Courthouse, Crockett
Jefferson	April 18	Jury Empaneling Room Co Courthouse, Beaumont
LaSalle	April 18	Co Courthouse, Cotulla
Live Oak	April 19	Co Courthouse, George West
Lubbock	April 18	Commissioners Courtroom 1st Floor, Co Courthouse Lubbock
McLennan	April 19	Parks & Wildlife Ofc 1601 E Crest, Waco
Matagorda	April 18	Small Dist Courtroom, 2nd Floor Co Courthouse, Bay City
Midland	April 18	J P Courtroom Co Courthouse, Midland
Nueces	April 21	A&M Extension Center, Hwy 44 Corpus Christi
Orange	April 19	128th District Courtroom Co Courthouse, Orange
Panola	April 18	Co Courthouse, Carthage
Pecos	April 21	Small Community Bldg Ft Stockton
Potter	April 20	Commissioners Courtroom 4th Floor, Co Courthouse Amarillo
San Jacinto	April 20	Co Courthouse, Coldspring
Smith	April 19	Central Jury Room Co Courthouse, Tyler
Stonewall	April 19	Commissioners Courtroom Co Courthouse, Aspermont
Taylor	April 18	Commissioners Courtroom 2nd Floor New County Courthouse Abilene
Tom Green	April 19	J P Courtroom, 122 W Harris San Angelo
Travis	April 18	Commission Hearing Room

Tyler	April 19	Parks & Wildlife Complex 4200 Smith School Rd , Austin County Courtroom
Val Verde	April 20	Co Courthouse, Woodville Dink Wardlaw Ag. Complex 300 E 17th St , Del Rio
Victoria	April 19	Town Plaza Mall, 1502 Airline Victoria
Webb	April 21	Laredo Civic Center, Rm. 4 Laredo
Wichita	April 18	Northwest Texas Field & Stream Bldg 2005 S W Parkway, Wichita Falls
Zavala	April 21	Co Courthouse, Crystal City

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YAMAMOTO MISSION
RETROSPECTIVE PLANNED

FREDERICKSBURG -- Aviation and history enthusiasts from many countries are expected to visit Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park in Fredericksburg on April 16-17 to participate in public programs on the Yamamoto Mission of World War II

Prominent in the "Yamamoto Mission Retrospective" program will be eight American pilots who flew on the mission, along with Kenji Yanagiya, a Japanese pilot, who was flying support for Admiral Yamamoto when the admiral's plane was shot down

Yamamoto was considered the top Japanese military strategist of the war. He had planned the attack on Pearl Harbor. Many historians believe his death changed the course of World War II.

The official opening of a special Yamamoto exhibit will kick off Saturday's events at 10 a.m. A public presentation beginning during the noon hour and continuing through the afternoon, will be led by historians, philosophers and some of the pilots who actually flew the mission.

Sunday's activities start at the Fredericksburg airport where pilots will pose with original P-38s and Zeros, like the planes they used to fly. Later, the planes will fly over dedication ceremonies at the museum.

The historical park and the Museum of the Pacific War are located in

downtown Fredericksburg The only charges for the event are for regular access to the museum \$2 for adults; \$1 for children; and senior citizens 65 and over are admitted free

For further information call the park at (512) 997-4379, or department headquarters, (512) 389-4690

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DANCE CELEBRATION PLANNED
AT LANDMARK INN

CASTROVILLE -- A "Heritage Dance Celebration" is set for 1-4 p.m April 30 at Landmark Inn State Historic Site in Castroville

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said three groups will perform authentic German, Alsatian and Mexican folk dances, representing the three ethnic groups that settled Castroville

German dances will be performed by the New Braunfels Germanfolk Dancers, Alsatian by the Alsatian Dancers of Texas and Mexican by the Fandango Dancers of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department

For further information call the park at (512) 538-2133

JC 4/6/88

MARTIN CREEK STATE
RECREATION AREA OPENING
SLATED

TATUM -- The new Martin Creek State Recreation Area will be opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, April 15

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said local dignitaries will be on hand to officially open the park on the shores of 5,000-acre Martin Creek Reservoir

Water-oriented recreation, especially fishing, will be the major attractions at Martin Creek. Facilities include two boat ramps, a fishing pier and fish-cleaning station, swimming area, picnic sites, 21 screened shelters and 60 multi-use campsites with water and electricity

The lake, owned by Texas Utilities Service Co., is known for good fishing for largemouth bass, catfish, crappie and sunfish

The park is located southeast of Longview and four miles southwest of Tatum off State Highway 43

JC 4/6/88

Paul Hope, Fishing Report No. 320
April 6, 1988

AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for April 6 1988:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear 68 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on silver and white spinners and Rat-L-Traps; crappie fair at night to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs under lights; catfish fair to 6 pounds on jugline baited with live bait.

BELTON: Water clear 64 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 6 pounds on white spinners; hybrid striper fair to 15 pounds on white bucktail jigs; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in the mid lake area in 12 feet of water around brush; white bass good to 30 fish per string on chrome slabs; catfish good to 6 pounds on trotline with bloodbait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 7 1/2 pounds in the creeks and the lake, average fish about 3 pounds, on spinners; striper fair early and late on topwaters to 5 pounds; crappie fair with some limits in the creeks and in the lakes; yellow catfish slow to 96 pounds on trotline with live bait.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on Salt and Pepper Fat Getzits in 2-8 feet of water; striper good in the 4-6 pound range on Tenderhead Shad; crappie good with strings to 20 fish on minnows and white jigs in 10-15 feet of water; white bass good to 40 fish per string on white glitter grubs or a wide variety of other lures; catfish fair in the 3-5 pound range on goldfish and Chunky dog food.

CANYON: Water clear 63 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 9 pounds, 7 ounces on purple worms and Rat-L-Traps with many 5s and 6s; striper fairly slow; crappie good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass showing up in the lake again with strings to 12 fish to 2 pounds each; catfish fair to 10 pounds.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass very good to 10 pounds, 5 ounces including a 9 pound, 6 ounce fish along with some 8s on live bait and dark worms; crappie slow; catfish fairly good to 40 pounds on jugline and to 20 pounds on rod and reel.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear 64 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly good but mostly within the slot and under, there were 4 keepers over 21 inches with the largest weighing 8 1/4 pounds on light colored cranks, worms and Crazy Shad; crappie fairly good to 20 fish per string on minnows; catfish fairly good to 5 pounds average on liver, minnows and shrimp.

LBJ: Water dingy, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 9 1/4 pounds on chartreuse sparkle Fat Getzits and red worms; striper fair to 8 pounds on Jig and Tail clear sparkle; crappie good to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 45 fish per string on white Stump Jumpers; catfish fair to 4 pounds on shrimp and shad.

LIMESTONE: Water slightly murky, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 9 fish per string in 3 hours of fishing on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 9 pounds, 10 ounces on goldfish baited trotline.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, normal level; black bass fair only on minnows while crappie fishing to 4 pounds; striper fair to 5 pounds trolling; crappie still up the creeks; white bass fairly slow; catfish slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 57 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass good in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range on buzz baits, medium diving Bombers and blue plastic worms in 6 feet of water near the banks; hybrid striper good at night only on slabs and minnows near Cedar Gap Bridge as well as around the marinas; white bass slow; crappie good at night all over the lake under lights to 15 fish to 3/4 pounds each per string on minnows and jigs; channel catfish very good to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp, liver and cutbait on trotline; walleye good in the 3-6 1/4 pound range on nightcrawlers, minnows and Pop-R lures.

TRAVIS: Water very clear 61 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass

excellent averaging about 45 fish per day of fishing with up to 35 of these keeper sized, largest was 4 pounds best bait was smoke glitter grubs and chrome Redfins early and strawberry glitter worms later. bass normally in 5-15 feet of water some in 20-25 feet of water midday; striper fair to 9 1/2 pounds on grubs; crappie fairly good to 1 pound early around boat docks and banks white bass slow with a couple of large fish from the creeks; catfish fair to 7 pounds.

WHITNEY: Water clear. 58 degrees, 8 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on chartreuse spinners around the banks striper good to 20 pounds on Redfins and Hellbenders; crappie good to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows. Fleaflies at Cedar Creek docks white bass good on deep slabs and jigs up the river in good numbers; catfish fair around Bear and Cedar Creeks to 20 pounds on trotline with live bait.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear 65 degrees, 5 inches above overflow; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on black lizards, orange bellied Rogues, Long As, Redfins and spinners in shallow water; crappie good around brush in 15 feet of water on minnows and jigs white bass moving out of creek channels with some surfacing; catfish slow; bluegill and redear good to 60 fish per string red worms, larvae and crickets in 8 feet of water.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear on lower end of lake 64 degrees, normal level black bass good to 9 pounds on Long As Bangolures Jig and Pig hybrid striper fair deep on Rat-L-Traps crappie good at night under bridge; white bass good on Rat-L-Traps; catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear 58 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass fairly good to 5 pounds on jigs striper slow; crappie fairly good to 25 fish per string on minnows white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on trotline baited with crawfish.

CADDO: Water clear 8 inches above normal level black bass fair to 2 pounds on Rooster Tails and Rat-L-Traps, small Hellcats, hybrid striper slow; white bass good to 160 fish per boat with crawfish; catfish fair to 2 pounds on minnows with a trotline.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 9.4 pounds on black lizards in 3-5 feet of water; hybrid striper slow; crappie spotty and fair to 15 fish per string to 2 1/4 pounds each in the shallows white bass spotty to fair in 16-18 feet of water off points on silver slabs; catfish slow on south end of lake.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water murky, 61 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass good on spinners and lizards, brown cranks to 9 1/4 pounds with many in the 5-6 pound range; crappie picking up; catfish fair in 10-12 feet of water on trotline with large minnows are nightcrawlers

FORK: Water clear in lake, murky in coves 65 degrees, normal level black bass good to 11 pounds on moccasin colored lizards, black blue tailed lizards, BangOlures, Rogues Long As a 19.62 pound largemouth bass found floating on the northwestern part of the lake on April 1. crappie moving into shallow water 39 fish per boat to 3 pounds on minnows and jigs in 5 feet of water catfish good to 18 pounds on nightcrawlers.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear 71 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass fairly good to 5 pounds on on black lizards and spinners and Redfins crappie fairly good on small spinners in fairly shallow water white bass schooling, strings to 30 fish per string on slabs and cranks along the old river channel catfish fair to 2 1/4 pounds on trotline baited with cutshad.

LAVON: Water clear. 54 degrees, 4 inches high; black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds on spinners; hybrid striper improving not good just yet; crappie very good to 25 fish per string 2 pounds on jigs and minnows white bass improving also; catfish good to 9 pounds on trotline with live bait.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear. 62 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on dark worms and jigs; hybrid striper active off points to 7 1/2 pounds on live ghost minnows; crappie very active to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass fair in the creeks; catfish fair on trotlines to 4 1/2 pounds with stinkbait.

MONTICELLO: Water clear. 75 degrees normal level black bass

good to 8 pounds on 8 inch black worms and lizards, crappie fair to 10 fish per string to 2 pounds on minnows, catfish very good to 24 pounds on rod and reel over the weekend on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on Pork and Jig and spinners; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 20 fish per string on Sassy Shad; catfish good to 3 pounds on shrimp with rod and reel.

MURVAUL Water slightly off color in places, 68 degrees, 3 inches over spillway; black bass fair to 10 pounds, 10 ounces on 8 inch dark worms, crappie good under 1971 bridge with some limits, some 1 1/4 pound fish and some smaller on minnows; catfish fair to 4 pounds on cut shad and nightcrawlers. Bream good on crickets and small worms.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 1 foot high; black bass good to 6 3/4 pounds on topwaters, jigs and spinners; striper fair on spoons; crappie good to 2 pounds with some limits on jigs and minnows; white bass good on L'il Georges spoons, catfish good on trotlines with bloodbait and nightcrawlers to 18 pounds

RAY HUBBARD Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to just over 14 inches on slabs; striper good around power plant and up the river on slabs and Roadrunners, crappie good around docks and barges with a few full strings, white bass fairly good in the shallows as well as under the bridges at night; catfish good around power plant.

TAWAKONI Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level, black bass slow to 5 pounds, striper fair to 3 pounds on topwaters baits; crappie good to 25 fish per string in 3-10 feet of water; white bass fairly slow; channel catfish good to 1 1/2 pounds

TEXOMA: Water clear, 53 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners and minnows, striper good to 15 1/2 pounds trolling Redfin deep divers; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string on live bait; white bass fair to 10 fish per string; catfish good to 8 pounds on cutbait, stinkbait.

WELSH: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level, black bass poor, a few fish to 8 1/2 pounds early and late on Long As and 7 inch black worms, crappie slow; catfish good to 12 pounds on trotline on live bream and drifting shrimp. Bream good on shrimp and worms

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water fairly clear especially on south end, 67 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good on the upper end of the lake on 4-inch smoke bluetailed worms and live water dogs to 9 3/4 pounds with several 5 and 6 pound fish; striper slow; white bass slow at night on minnows in the middle of the lake; crappie moving into the bank in 8-10 feet of water on minnows in the brush; channel and yellow catfish improving to 26 pounds.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 11 pounds, 5 ounces in 7 feet of water on black lizards with blue tails, striper slow; crappie fair to 25 fish per string on minnows near the dam; catfish fair to 8 pounds.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level, black bass good up in the shallows on blood worms and any dark baits; striper slow; crappie good to 2 1/4 pounds with many limits on minnows and some jigs; white bass excellent at night, a few good catches during the day to 50 fish per person at night; catfish moving into shallow water, mostly in the 2-3 pound range on shad.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 61 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass good in shallow water with topwaters and Rat-L-Traps, also on grubs in deeper water; striper slow; crappie moving into shallow water; white bass fair off points; catfish fair.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, normal level, black bass slow to 2 pounds on black lizards with blue tails, striper good to 16 pounds near the dam on large minnows; white bass slow; crappie good at night to 20 fish per string on minnows; catfish slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water mostly clear, some cloudiness around edges, 54 degrees, 2 feet above normal level, black bass excellent to 11 pounds, 3 ounces on purple worms, striper fair to 10 pounds, big fish are not biting right now, mostly up the Rio Grande, crappie fair at night under the lights on minnows, catfish good in 20-

60 feet of water on shrimp and cheese bait.

BRAUNIG: Water murky 70 degrees, normal level black bass excellent to 10 pounds on black and chartreuse plastic worms; striper good to 7 pounds on chicken livers; crappie slow; catfish slow; corvina slow; redfish good to 20 pounds Tony Accetta spoons.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 68 degrees, normal level. black bass excellent to 8 pounds with many from the banks on dark plastic worms. striper good in the warm water discharge area on chicken livers; crappie fair off piers on minnows. catfish good up to 16 pounds on tilapia and shad; corvina very good to 7 pounds on green grubs; redfish slow to 7 pounds on cranks.

CHOKO: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 pounds average with limits on a variety of lures; striper slow; crappie very good to 2 1/2 pounds with some limits; white bass fair in the river channel around Highway 99 boat ramp; catfish excellent on trotlines as well as rod and reel.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear. 67 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 6 pounds on dark worms. most fish are undersized; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows at night; white bass slow; catfish fair around baited holes averaging about 2 pounds per fish.

FALCON: Water clear. 1 foot high; black bass fairly good in the 4-7 pound range on worms and spinners. striper slow. crappie good but small around docks. white bass good but small generally; catfish good on frozen shrimp and sponge bait to 4 pounds.

MEDINA: Water clear, 65 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass good to 17 inches on darks worms and cranks. hybrid striper slow; crappie slow; white fair; catfish slow.

TEXANA: Water muddy in lake, clear in jungle area, normal level black bass good to 6 pounds on topwaters in the jungle; white bass and striper slow; crappie slow with strings in the 5-10 fish range on minnows. catfish excellent on trotlines to 30 pounds on live bait and trotlines.

WEST

GRANBURY: Water fairly clear, normal level. black bass very good to 5 pounds on jigs and spinners; striper slow. crappie very good in shallow water on minnows and jigs. catfish slow.

GREENBELT: Water murky 50 degrees. normal level black bass fairly good to 8 1/2 pounds on live bait; white bass fairly good on slabs; crappie fair; catfish slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water muddy, 68 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on dark worms in 3-4 feet of water. hybrid striper slow; crappie picking up in the shallows on jigs mostly; white bass poor. catfish slow. The cold front passed through around 2 p.m. Tuesday dropping temperatures about 10 degrees.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level black bass fairly good to 3 pounds on grape worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair on crawdads; catfish fair.

OAK CREEK: Water clear. 68 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 1/4 pounds on chrome Rat-L trap; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds on earthworms.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 70 degrees in coves, 14 feet low; black bass good to 10 1/2 pounds cranks and spinners, plastic worms; striper good to 8 pounds average; crappie very good to 25 fish per string on minnows and fleafly jigs. white bass improving in number and in size on slabs. catfish beginning to hit on trotlines to about 6 pounds.

PROCTOR: Water clear. 67 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good in the 2-5 pound range in shallow water on black jigs; striper slow; crappie very good to 25 fish per string on minnows and jigs; catfish fairly good to 6 pounds on trotline in 5-7 feet of water on live bait.

SPENCE: Water clear, 59 degrees, 20 feet low; black bass good to 6 3/4 pounds on cranks; striper good to 33 pounds, 5 ounces a new lake record caught by Eddie Essery of Snyder; crappie slow; white bass good on cranks to 20 fish per string; catfish slow.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 59 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 10 pounds on cranks, worms. hybrid striper slow; crappie fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs. white bass beginning to bite. catfish fairly good on shad and live bait to 5 pounds.

COASTAL

UPPER SABINE LAKE: A few redfish to 8 pounds or 27 inches in Old River Cove on dead shrimp; no trout; no live shrimp, some mud minnows and dead shrimp; good numbers of black drum to 5 pounds when weather permits; good numbers of croaker and flounder in the lake and along the shoreline.

SOUTH SABINE: Redfish good to 28 inches in fairly good numbers on marsh minnows, Culprit worms; specks good around Causeway Bridge to 6 3/8 pounds on red shad no live bait shrimp available. Flounder fair to 10 fish per string averaging 2 pounds; drum and croaker both fairly good.

GALVESTON: Black drum good with a few in the 40 pound range with most in the 18-24 pound range on crab at the jetties, in the ship channels, off the end of the Texas City Dike; Seawolf Park; drum run is down from last year; speck fishing good to 7 1/2 pounds but fishermen having to work hard and not everyone catching fish; best bait seems to be live shrimp and second best is strawberry Kelley Wigglers; flounder fair to 4 pounds on high tides adjacent to marshes; a few scattered redfish; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50; most fishing action is along the southside of East Bay and the eastern portion of West Bay. Number of fishermen off The Beach Front is producing croakers, sandtrout and a very few drum.

PORT OCONNOR Front hit early Wednesday bringing high north winds; drum still fairly good in the 20-60 pound range, no great numbers of drum; gafftop good to 5 pounds on squid or eel; a few trout scattered in the bays to 2 pounds live bait shrimp available at \$9.50 per quart.

PALACIOS: Good numbers of good sized redfish in the Carancahua River; trout good to 4 pounds in Carancahua, Turtle and South Bays many undersized trout; gafftop and flounder good in number; live bait shrimp available. A black drum weighing 37 pounds was caught at Cape Carancahua.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of redfish and trout in potholes around Estes and Hog Island flats; a few redfish around Mud Island; a big herd of redfish located in Allan's Bight; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS Redfish scattered in fair number to 24 inches, several undersize; good numbers of specks in Corpus Christ Bay; Aransas Bay, Redfish Bay to 4 pounds on live shrimp mostly good numbers of sheepshead, gafftop and drum to 58 pounds, flounder slow; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$7.50 per quart. Horace Caldwell Pier fishing has been improving with good numbers of redfish in the 27-28 inch range on live shrimp; fairly good numbers of bonnet nose and hammerhead shark to 5 feet on cutbait; good numbers of whiting on dead shrimp; live bait shrimp available locally.

CORPUS CHRISTI Front hit about 2 a.m. with 40-50 mile per hour winds; best fish has been around the Pure Oil Channel with specks to 7 pounds in fairly good numbers on live shrimp; a few redfish but were scattered all over the Laguna, live bait shrimp available at 8-12 cents each. Oso Pier producing trout to 4 pounds on live shrimp; some gafftop, sandtrout. Bob Hall Pier producing whiting in good numbers; a few redfish during the week in the 5-9 pound range; a few gafftop; a few Spanish mackerel and blue runners, fair numbers of 3-4 foot bonnet nose and blacktip shark.

PORT MANSFIELD: Front hit at 5:30 a.m. bringing winds in the 25-35 knot range; fishing has been good before the front and should be good by the weekend; good numbers of trout to 9 pounds on root beer with metal flake touts; good numbers of keepers from 15-19 inches from the gaswells north on the east side and from the tide gauge to the oak mts on the west side; live bait scarce. Landcut activity fairly slow in the Land Cut area; a few redfish showing up but won't bite.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish good to 30 inches in the Three Islands area; trout good in the same area and Holley Beach and Laguna Vista, good numbers of large trout to 10 pounds, with good numbers of 8s and 7s on live shrimp; offshore fairly slow; winds fairly high midweek; live bait shrimp available.

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