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NON-CIRCULATING

TEXAS STATE DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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ANOTHER RECORD DEER HARVEST POSSIBLE

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials predict the white-tailed deer season opening Nov. 14 will be a good one, with the potential to be a fourth straight record harvest year.

During the 1986-87 hunting season, Texas hunters harvested an estimated 445,000 deer while setting records for hunter participation and success as well as harvest.

Similar conditions will greet the state's half-million deer hunters when they take to the field this fall, according to Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader.

The statewide whitetail season is Nov. 14-Jan. 3. The mule deer season in the Panhandle is Nov. 21-29, and in the Trans-Pecos it is Nov. 28-Dec. 6. The statewide archery deer season is Oct. 3-Nov. 1. To determine information on the seasons and bag limits, hunters should obtain the department's 1986-87 Texas Hunting Guide and Supplement, available at department offices and hunting license outlets across the state.

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"We still have extremely high deer populations across most of the state's deer range, and the animals are almost without exception in excellent body condition," Gore said. The upcoming season is shaping up not only in terms of numbers of deer, but also in quality, Gore said. "It looks like 1987 may be a very good year for antler development, especially in South Texas."

The upcoming season, however, may be less favorable to the hunter than to the deer, Gore said. "The excellent range conditions that helped the deer may cause hunting to be tougher, especially early in the year." He explained that lush conditions have a dual effect on hunting. "The extra vegetation cuts down on the hunter's visibility, and it allows the deer to move around less during daylight hours to feed," he said. Deer also tend to avoid feeders and oat patches when the range is so lush, Gore added.

On the other hand, a poor acorn crop this fall in the Edwards Plateau and East Texas will have the opposite effect and should contribute to more deer movement, he said.

Gore said there are several factors that might contribute to another record-setting deer harvest this season, even though this year's season is a week shorter than last year's because of calendar variations.

Gore said deer populations continue to be high because of good range conditions during the past two years. The dynamic East Texas deer herd continues to expand, and population levels in other areas remain comparable to last year when the statewide whitetail population was estimated at 4.2 million.

The "either-sex" system of bag limits now in effect in all of South Texas, the Edwards Plateau and most of the Trans-Pecos may help increase the antlerless harvest, Gore believes. The either-sex system eliminates the issuance of antlerless deer hunting permits by the department to landowners in those 80 counties. Hunters are required only to tag any deer taken with the appropriate tag from his hunting license. The landowner, as in the past, still has the power to prescribe what species and sex of deer may be taken from his land. Expansion of the either-sex area may increase the antlerless harvest, which last year set a record 164,200, or 37 percent of the total harvest.

Gore said the state's deer population has been riding the crest of unusually good range conditions during the past two years, a situation that could backfire in the event of an extremely dry year in 1988. "In spite of increased antlerless harvest rates, the state's deer habitat continues to be overpopulated," he said. "We could be in for a major deer die-off if the weather turns dry."

That's why it's important for hunters to take all the antlerless deer they are legally permitted, and take them early in the season if possible, Gore said.

The following is a roundup of deer hunting prospects in each of the state's major ecological areas, obtained from the department's district wildlife leaders and biologists.

EDWARDS PLATEAU

Several factors point to an outstanding hunting season in the "Hill Country" west of Austin this year, according to biologist Max Traweek of Kerrville "I expect hunting to be good because of high deer populations and a very spotty acorn crop," Traweek said A slim acorn crop usually forces deer to move around more to forage, and also makes them more likely to respond to corn or other bait Traweek said he would predict an all-time high harvest this year, but rains during the early fall brought out some greenery that will reduce deer movement somewhat, he said, "and this year there just aren't going to be very many acorns "

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

The "Brush Country" of South Texas is known for producing quality whitetail bucks, and 1987 should be a good year for trophies, according to biologist W J Williams of San Antonio "We have flown much of South Texas on our aerial surveys, and we saw lots of bucks most people would consider trophies," said Williams "Although our final counts are not tabulated, it appears that South Texas has an incredible buck/doe ratio this year We saw almost as many bucks as does "

Williams said antler development apparently benefited from timely rainfall in late winter and early spring, which is the critical antler-growing period "The range is in wonderful shape, even better than last year, and the deer have had an excellent fawn crop "

Unusually lush range conditions may hamper hunter success, at least early in the season. Biologist Ernie Davis of Cotulla said last year's record harvest of 83,800 deer in South Texas may be matched this year if hunters continue to take more antlerless deer under the either-sex system. "There are enough deer out there to set another record, but a lot depends on the weather and the hunters," said Davis.

PINEYWOODS

The East Texas Pineywoods possesses the fastest-growing white-tailed deer herd of all the state's ecological regions. This trend was reflected in a record harvest of 41,300 bucks and 18,400 antlerless deer last year. Biologist Gary Spencer of Jasper said the potential exists for the region to produce yet another all-time record harvest in 1987-88. "Conditions have been excellent, and the deer population continues to climb," said Spencer. "Hunters may have even better success this year because there are so many deer, and also because we certainly are not going to have the bumper acorn crop we had last year." Spencer said hunters harvested the record number of deer in spite of lush habitat conditions and abundant acorns -- factors that usually reduce deer movement. He added that body condition of deer is good this year, and range conditions for antler development were favorable. "I'm sure we will see some good bucks in areas where there are enough animals in the older age classes," Spencer said.

GULF PRAIRIES AND MARSHES (OAK PRAIRIE)

This is an area of relatively small pockets of deer habitat along the state's Coastal Prairie. Deer populations and hunting success probably vary less here than in most ecological regions, according to Don Frels of Rockport, regional wildlife director. "Hunter success depends heavily on the amount of vegetation, and this year may be a lot like last year, in that the thick vegetation cut down on deer movement during the hunting season," said Frels. Although the age structure of bucks is young because of high hunting pressure, this year's crop of bucks should have better than average antlers, Frels said.

CROSS TIMBERS AND PRAIRIES and ROLLING PLAINS

These ecological regions are roughly bounded by Fort Worth westward to the eastern Panhandle, southward to San Angelo and eastward back to Interstate Highway 35. Normally the region's wide variations in habitat make predicting hunting success difficult. However, Biologist Larry Holland of Brownwood said prospects are extremely good throughout the region for the second straight year. "We had a record harvest of 34,500 deer last year, and I would have to say conditions look even better this year, both for numbers of deer and antler development," Holland said.

Ample rainfall in the spring brought on a "tremendous" fawn crop and good survival, Holland said. The rains even hit the often-dry Permian Basin region north and west of San Angelo, where range conditions currently are very good, he said.

Hunters may notice reduced deer movement in the lush habitat, but Holland believes the animals still will respond to feeders "What the harvest will be is anybody's guess," said Holland, "but if the weather cooperates and hunters take advantage of the either-sex regulations to take more antlerless deer, we should have another good harvest "

TRANS-PECOS

Biologist Tim Bone of Alpine said mule deer populations appear to be continuing their gradual growth pattern of the past several years "We have had unusual weather conditions for this part of the state," Bone said "It has rained all year long, and the habitat is in great shape " Bone said mule deer are in very good body condition, and antler development appears to be somewhat better than last year Bone added that if enough hunters get into the field, last year's harvest of 3,200 mule deer could be equaled or exceeded this season

POST OAK SAVANNAH

Biologist John Wallace of Tyler predicts that hunters will harvest more deer than last season when 44,900 were taken in this East Texas region The Post Oak Savannah is a narrow ecological area running north and south, roughly between the Blackland Prairie and Pineywoods Wallace said deer numbers are about the same as last year, which means plenty of deer "The difference this year, I believe, is that the acorn crop will be much poorer than last year, so the deer should be moving more," said Wallace Otherwise, the range is in good to excellent condition, and the deer are in

good condition. An exception is that does in some areas that had dry weather during July and August are in poor condition, Wallace said. Leon County, which has the highest annual deer harvest of any county in the state's eastern half, is in good shape this year. "There were deer die-offs in the southeastern part of the county during the past three years, but the situation seems to have stabilized," Wallace noted.

HIGH PLAINS

The Panhandle region of Texas is unusually green, according to biologist David Dvorak of Amarillo. "Mule deer in the Panhandle appear to be continuing to build their populations, and whitetails also seem to be having a good year," Dvorak said. Whitetails are dispersed over a wide area of the Panhandle where sufficient cover is available, while muleys are found mostly in the Palo Duro Canyon and the Canadian River drainage, Dvorak said. He said hunting prospects should be about like last season, which was considered a good one, but antler development may be better this time.

JC 9/30/87

HUNTERS DRAWN FOR TYPE II
PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HUNT

AUSTIN -- Participants have been selected for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's first-ever pronghorn antelope hunt on a Type II wildlife management area

Seven-year-old schoolboy Charles Smith of Austin drew the names of 13 lucky hunters from a hopper in a ceremony at the department's Austin headquarters last week

Each of the 13 hunters will be eligible to try for a buck antelope at the Rita Blanca National Grasslands north of Dalhart in the Panhandle during early October

Holders of \$35 Type II wildlife management area permits were eligible for the antelope hunt drawing. Type II holders are reminded that they may apply for a special mule deer hunt on the department's Black Gap W M A in Brewster County. Deadline for sending completed applications for that hunt is 5 p m Nov 2. Application forms are found in the Type II booklet which is issued to permit purchasers. Permits are sold only at TPWD offices across the state

The Type II wildlife management areas are a new concept for Texas. Purchasers of Type II permits have access to any or all the properties leased by the department for Type II use, consisting of more than 400,000 acres. With certain exceptions, they may hunt any legal species in season

on the Type II lands

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HUNTERS REMINDED OF EARLY
ANTLERLESS SEASON

AUSTIN -- Officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said hunters planning to participate in the special early antlerless-only deer season in five East Texas counties should be aware that the season dates differ from those that appear in the department's 1987-88 Texas Hunting Guide

The season will be Oct 24-Nov 8 in all of Polk, Trinity, Houston and Angelina Counties, and the portion of Nacogdoches County south of State Highway 7

The Parks and Wildlife Commission altered the dates of the early season in their July 23 meeting in order to reduce the amount of overlapping of the archery season and the antlerless-only season during which firearms are legal

The change was made after the Hunting Guides already were printed and distributed. The correct dates and other updated information can be found in a supplement to the Hunting Guide which will soon be distributed to department offices and hunting license outlets across the state

JC 9/30/87

DEPARTMENT CERTIFIES SIX
SALTWATER FISH RECORDS

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fish records committee has certified six saltwater fish as new state records

The largest was a 470-pound lemon shark caught by Jim Blackburn of Harlingen. He said he hooked the big shark about one mile north of the Queen Isabella Causeway linking South Padre Island with the mainland near Brownsville.

The big fish, which struck a bonito bait, was 122 inches long and 66 inches in girth. The former record lemon shark weighed 402 pounds.

Another impressive catch was a 107-pound, eight-ounce greater amberjack taken by Fred Carter of Streetman on June 6 about 68 miles out of Freeport. The fish was 66 1/2 inches long and 39 1/2 inches in girth. The former record greater amberjack weighed 101 pounds.

Other saltwater catches certified as records are Atlantic stingray, two pounds, 11 ounces, caught by David Lee Anderson of Texas City in Galveston Bay; gray triggerfish, nine pounds, caught by Richard E. Smith off Freeport; marbled grouper, four pounds, eight ounces, caught by Charles David Grossman at the Flower Gardens Reef; and silver perch, four ounces, caught by Mary B. Bailey in Galveston Bay.

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BILLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN
HEARINGS SCHEDULED

TAMPA, Fl -- A billfish management plan which would prohibit the commercial catch or sale of billfish in federal waters from Maine to Texas and in the Caribbean will be discussed in two public hearings

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will conduct the hearings on Sept 28 at the American Legion Hall, Junior College Road, Stock Island, Key West, Florida; and on Oct 12 at the Best Western Bayside Inn, 711 West Beach Drive, Panama City, Florida For further information about the proposed management plan, contact the Gulf Council at Lincoln Center, Suite 881, 5401 W Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL 33609, telephone (813) 228-2815

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WHOOPERS READY TO FLY TO
TEXAS AGAIN

AUSTWELL -- For the fourth straight year, the number of endangered whooping cranes migrating south to Texas will set a record, according to the U S Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)

Bolstered by another good nesting year, the flock should number more than 130 when the birds arrive at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in a few weeks

The FWS and Canadian Wildlife Service report that the record production of 23 or 24 chicks this year at Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories should push the flock to its highest population level since records have been kept

Officials said the previous three summers of 1984-86 have consecutively set records with 15, 16 and 21 young reaching flight age. Only 16 whoopers existed 46 years ago, but since that time the species has become the symbol of endangered species recovery programs in North America and has made a dramatic comeback.

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MATAGORDA ISLAND BEACH
CLEANUP COLLECTS TRASH

PORT O'CONNOR -- About 140 employees of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department were among a group of 400 persons who picked up some 15 1/2 tons of trash and litter from the Matagorda Island beach Sept. 19.

The Matagorda operation was part of the Texas Coastal Cleanup sponsored by the nonprofit Center for Environmental Education.

The volunteer workers worked four hours on Matagorda Island, cleaning almost four miles of beach and filling 1,244 garbage bags with trash.

Much of Matagorda Island has been under government ownership since World War II, and it has not received the periodic cleanings that keep more heavily-used beach areas clear of debris.

The majority of debris was plastic, including trash bags, egg cartons, milk jugs and six-pack holders. Thousands of pieces of styrofoam, glass bottles, nylon rope ranging from 1/4-inch to four inches in diameter, fluorescent light tubes, metal containers and hard hats also were collected. Unusual items included a mattress, refrigerator door, couch and miscellaneous articles bearing labels in Russian, Japanese and Spanish.

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COASTAL STRIPED BASS
HISTORY STILL NEEDED

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials still are seeking information on the occurrence of striped bass in Texas' coastal waters around the turn of the century.

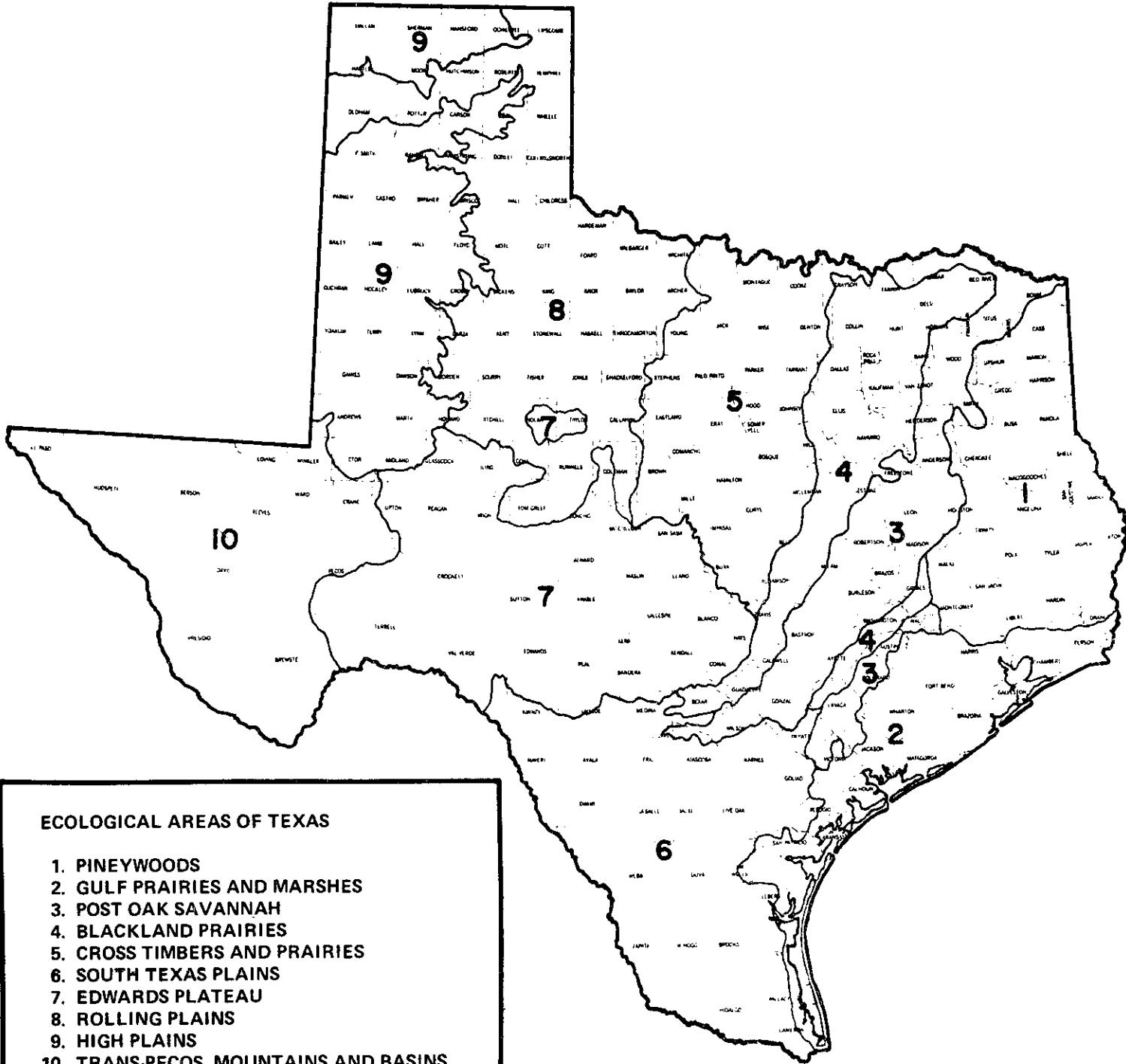
Striped bass, sometimes known as "rockfish," apparently were found in good numbers in Texas Gulf Coast waters as recently as the early 1940s, according to commercial fishing records and reports from recreational anglers.

Dr. Gary Matlock, director of fisheries, said the department and federal agencies are attempting to re-establish a sea-run striped bass fishery in Texas, and any information about the species' former occurrence in Texas would be helpful. Any first hand, or even family remembrances about these fish might be valuable, Matlock said.

Stripers have been stocked in many Texas reservoirs as well as in the Trinity and Galveston Bay systems where they once were native.

Matlock said he would appreciate any information being sent to the department's Fisheries Division, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

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ECOLOGICAL AREAS OF TEXAS

- 1. PINEWOODS
- 2. GULF PRAIRIES AND MARSHES
- 3. POST OAK SAVANNAH
- 4. BLACKLAND PRAIRIES
- 5. CROSS TIMBERS AND PRAIRIES
- 6. SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS
- 7. EDWARDS PLATEAU
- 8. ROLLING PLAINS
- 9. HIGH PLAINS
- 10. TRANS-PECOS, MOUNTAINS AND BASINS

AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for September 30, 1987.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 4 pounds on dark worms, yellow spinners and topwaters; hybrid striper slow; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows and jigs under crappie lights. catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds on stinkbait and live minnows on juglines as well as rod and reel.

BELTON: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level. black bass fair in numbers but small in size, no keepers. striper slow. crappie good to 10 fish per string on minnows in 12 feet of water. catfish good to 4 pounds to 8 fish per string on stinkbait and shrimp.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 1 foot below spillway level. black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on CC Shad and Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie good with limits on minnows; white bass slow. catfish fair to 24 pounds with live bait on trotline; channel catfish good on trotline to 4 pounds on shiners, perch and shad.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 5 pounds on topwaters until noon and spinners with white skirts the rest of the day; striper good to 12 pounds on blue Zorro topwaters. crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 10-18 feet of water. white bass good with strings from 30 to 60 fish on chrome topwaters near Paradise Point, Garrett Island. catfish good to 18 pounds on goldfish.

CANYON: Water clear, 80 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on dark plastic worms and silver and black Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 12 feet of water around brushpiles; white bass slow. catfish good to 10 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on dark worms, good numbers of schooling bass on topwaters until 4 p.m. crappie good to 18 fish per string on minnows; catfish slow.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 81 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good to 9 pounds on black worm; crappie slow to 10 to 15 fish per boat to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish good to 16 pounds on juglines and rods and reels with chicken liver.

LBJ: Water murky, 81 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters until noon and spinners with white skirts all day; striper good on topwaters, blue and white cranks good afternoons. crappie good strings with minnows in 8-12 feet of water. white bass good with strings to 50 fish on chrome or clear topwaters; catfish good to 16 pounds on perch and goldfish on trotlines.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 4 feet low. black bass fair to 4 pounds, 7 ounces on white skirted spinners. crappie good on minnows to 20 fish per string. white bass slow; catfish good to 3 pounds on live bait, stinkbait and shrimp; yellow catfish good to 62 pounds on trotline with live bait in 8 feet of water.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, normal level. black bass slow, no keepers for week; striper slow. crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on catfish bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear. 81 degrees, 3 inches high; black bass good to 2 1/2 pounds on purple fire tailed plastic worms; striper slow; crappie good at night to 3/4 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish very good on channel. catfish to 4 pounds on trotlines, also shrimp, liver and Tender Chunk dog food.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 81 degrees, 5 feet low; largemouth bass excellent to 4 pounds and Guadalupe bass excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on chartreuse and white spinners, strawberry glitter worms, smoke glitter grubs and topwaters. bass excellent to 60 fish per day with 2 out of 3 fish keeper sized; striper slow; crappie good up Pedernales arm; catfish fair to 3 pounds, supplies of bait crawfish low.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 79 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on spinners and buzz baits. striper fair to 10 pounds on live bait; crappie fair to 1 pound on slabs and minnows. white

bass good to excellent but hard to find, fish are generally small on jigs, Rat-L-Traps and flea flies. catfish good on catfish bait on trotlines to 2 1/2 pounds.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 73 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass good to 9 pounds 9 ounces some 6s and 7s, on buzz baits, big bladed spinners, with chartreuse and white or black and white skirts, Lunker Lures, over moss near banks best. crappie good with limits on minnows to 1 1/2 pounds each in 14 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 14 pounds on trotlines alternating on shrimp, bream and shad gizzards Bream real good on worms, crickets and EuroLarvae in 6 feet of water on top of moss.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, normal level black bass good in numbers but generally small on topwaters and spinners, striper slow; crappie good in 12 feet of water with limits in 2 hours on minnows; catfish good to 20 pounds drifting shrimp and worms.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level black bass fair to 3 pounds on dark worms and Beetle Spins, striper good to 2 1/2 pounds on Rooster Tails, crappie fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows just along moss banks in river bed, white bass slow; catfish fair to 2 pounds on cutbait on trotline.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees at 10 feet; black bass slow and spotty; hybrid striper slow; crappie good with full strings on minnows, white bass fair with schools loose and scattered up major creeks channel catfish good to 5 1/2 pounds drifting nightcrawlers and shrimp; yellow catfish good on cutbait and goldfish.

CYPRESS SPRINGS Water clear, 78 degrees 8 inches low; black bass good to 7 pounds on dark worms during day, crabapple worms during night; crappie good on minnows in 12 feet of water; catfish good on shrimp and bloodbait to 7 pounds.

FORK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 10 1/4 pounds on June Bug worm, good numbers of schooling bass on Pop-Rs Tiny TORpedoes Rat-L-Traps; crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds to 20 fish per string on minnows and jigs; catfish good to 8 pounds each with some good strings on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

GRAPEVINE: Water muddy, 78 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 3 pounds on dark worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie good on jigs during day, slow at night; white bass schooling in lake, fishing fair to 15 fish per string on slabs; catfish good to 5 pounds on stink baits.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on frogs, worms spinners and buzz baits, good numbers of small schooling bass on white 1/4 ounce jigs and Rat-L-Traps; crappie fairly good to 20 fish per string on minnows and white jigs, white bass good on white jigs and white Roadrunners to 25 fish per string to 4 pounds each; catfish slow.

LAVON: Water clear, 78 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass improving to 6 1/4 pounds on spinners hybrid striper fair to 4 pounds trolling slabs crappie excellent with limits on minnows and black and chartreuse jigs, white bass slow; catfish very good to 19 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on worms; striper slow; crappie fairly good to about 15 fish per string on minnows, white bass slow; catfish picking up on bloodbait and shrimp on trotline and drifting.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 81 degrees 3 feet low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on spinners and worms in the moss beds, striper slow; crappie improving on minnows to 1 1/4 pounds; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 93 degrees, normal level black bass good to 6 pounds, 14 ounces on black worms and Fire and Ice crappie poor catfish good to 8 pounds on shrimp and Canadian Crawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 78 degrees normal level black bass slow; crappie good to 15 fish per string on jigs and minnows white bass slow; catfish fair to 5 pounds on shrimp, chicken liver and cheese bait.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 80 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fair to 7 pounds, 6 ounces on spinners in 6-8 feet of water good numbers of smaller bass caught on grape worms in the creek channels grape worms good around lily pads crappie good

35 pounds on tilapia and chicken livers. redbfish fair to 7 pounds on tilapia, cranks; corvina good with strings to 22 pounds on silver spoon and tilapia.

CHOKE Water clear, lake full. black bass fair and slightly larger. a few more limits to 5 3/4 pounds on plastic worms. striper slow; crappie very good to 1 1/2 pounds with some limits on minnows; white bass slow; catfish excellent on trotline to 33 pounds and on rod and reel.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level. black bass fair to good but mostly under the 16 inch size on plastic worms and shad in 4-10 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good to 20 fish per string on mostly on minnows, some on shad; white bass slow; catfish excellent to 3 pounds on shrimp in baited holes on trotlines.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level. black bass fairly good on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to about 3/4 pounds in good numbers on shrimp; winds high with whitecaps midweek.

FALCON: Water clear, 6 inches high; black bass fair on worms to 6 pounds. striper fair but seem to moving down lake; crappie slow; white bass good along with some striper; catfish real good to 5 pounds on frozen shrimp.

TEXANA: Water murky, 81 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass very slow; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie very slow; catfish fairly good to 4 pounds on trotline baited with cutshad. Very little fishing pressure all week.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky from recent rains and winds, 75 degrees, 18 inches below spillway; black bass good to 3 pounds in 4-6 feet of water on plastic worms and Weed Walkers; striper slow; crappie good on medium sized minnows in 12-18 feet of water, good catches around rigs and bridges to 15 fish per string; white bass fair trolling silver spoons and some on minnows around bridges and piers; catfish good in 12-20 feet of water averaging 2-3 pounds on worms, shrimp and minnows.

BAYLOR: Water clear. 78 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters, cranks buzz baits; crappie real good with strings to 25 fish; catfish good to 56 pounds on water dogs, stink bait and large worms.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 76 degrees, lake full. black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on jigs; striper slow; crappie real good on jigs to 1 pound with limits; white bass fair with some schooling around the points; channel catfish good to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass real good to 4 1/2 pounds on buzz baits, black worms. striper good to 4 3/4 pounds on silver slabs; crappie real good on minnows limits fairly easy to get; white bass real good to 30 fish per string; catfish picking up to 15 pounds on live bait.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; striper good to 9 1/4 pounds, plus 8s and 7s on downriggers with Sassy Shad; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow to 7 1/2 pounds.

MEREDITH: Water clear. 73 degrees, normal level; black bass slow to 4 1/2 pounds on live minnows. crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 150 per string on slab with nightcrawler trailer; smallmouth bass fair to 3 1/4 pounds; catfish real good to 35 pounds with live boat on trotline; walleye fair to 2 pounds on minnows while fishing for white bass.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 75 degrees, 13 1/2 feet low; black bass slow. striper good to 6 pounds in deeper water on artificials. crappie good on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair on trotline to 6 pounds on live perch.

PROCTOR: Water clear. normal level. black bass good around the willows and at the river on plastic worms, jigs. cranks with some buzz baits and topwaters; striper slow; crappie excellent in 15 feet of water over brushpiles and off rocky points. catfish good on trotline.

SPENCE: Water clear, lake full. black bass slow; striper slow; white bass slow.

TWIN BUTTES Water clear. normal level. lake windy all week; black bass fair to 8 1/4 pounds with good numbers of smaller fish, some limits on cranks; hybrid striper slow; crappie good to

numbers around 1971 bridge with a few keepers on small minnows; channel catfish fair on trotline on cut shad and large minnows to 5 pounds, yellow catfish fair to 25 pounds on live perch baited trotline; bream fishing still good on crickets and worms.
NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good on topwaters and worms early and late, striper and white slow, crappie good in 15-18 feet of water on minnows, catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear 1 foot low; black bass good up to 5 pounds on worms with a few on topwaters when the wind slows down; striper good on cranks to 8 pounds, Rat-L-Traps and L'il Georges have been good also; crappie fair in numbers, most undersized, most fish in Flat Creek; white bass good with strings to 40 fish on L'il Georges, catfish good to 8 pounds on rod and reel, on catalpa worms and nightcrawlers.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 72 degrees, 29 inches low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on spinners; striper slow, some landed while trolling Hellbenders, crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows, white bass fair to 15 fish per string on Sassy Shad; catfish good on spinners, worms, shrimp; yellow catfish good to 40 pounds on bream baited trotlines.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners and cranks; striper fair to 3 pounds on topwaters, slabs and live baits, crappie good on live minnows to 25 fish per string, white bass good to 30 fish per string on slabs, spoons, topwaters and popping corks.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water slightly green, 2 feet low; black bass good sized but hard to catch, good numbers of bass under 14 inches, big fish caught on deep running cranks, worms and few on spinners in shallow water; big fish came from around 14 feet around brush; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish excellent to 3 pounds on trotline with small bream, cutbait and nightcrawlers; rod and reel baits for catfish are nightcrawlers and stinkbait. Two small batches of teal spotted near the dam.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level whitecaps midweek; black bass good to 9 pounds, 7 ounces, some 6s and 7s, smaller fish schooling; crappie good over weekend on minnows in 12-14 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fair but mostly small fish on trotlines.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 78 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass picking up to 5 1/2 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie fairly good with some limits, many strings in the 10-15 fish range, on minnows; white bass good with full ice chests for most parties on slabs and trolling Hellbenders and Tony Accetta Spoons; catfish fair in the 2-5 pound range with limits on shad; blue catfish fair to 27 pounds on shad.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 75 degrees, 3 feet below pool black bass good to 12 pounds, 2 ounces on brown jig in the Black Forest in the hydrilla in 15 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good at 15 feet in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass spotty with some schooling; catfish good with limits of channels in 35 feet in the main river channel.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 6 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds, many 3-pounders, on plastic worms, yellow Rat-L-Traps with black strap right at the edge of the moss; striper slow and moving into shallow water; crappie good but small in size on minnows and red topped crappie jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair to 1 1/2 pounds around the docks.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on purple and red metal flake worms, some firetails; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair to 8 fish per string on slabs in front of the dam; catfish very good to 25 pounds on trotline on live bait.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 82 degrees, normal level black bass slow; striper fair to 4 pounds on spoons; crappie slow; catfish fair to 9 pounds on shad and liver, tilapia; redbird good to 18 pounds on tilapia; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 pounds on cranks and plastic worms; striper fair with strings to 22 pounds on tilapia; crappie slow; catfish good to

1 pound to 12 fish per string on minnows, no small fish, in 25 feet of water; channel and blue catfish good to 7 pounds on cut shad, small perch and goldfish.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 74 degrees lake full black bass slow; crappie good in 15 feet of water on small minnows with a few catching limits, average string ranges to 15 fish; catfish good on stinkbait to 16 1/2 pounds to 5 fish per string.

COASTAL

SABINE LAKE: Redfish fairly good on dead shrimp and gold spoons to 7 pounds in the lake and in the marsh; South of the Neches River mouth, south of the Sabine River mouth and on the east side of the lake; some around the big rigs, good numbers of specks right around keeper size; flounder good with strings to 35 fish to 3 pounds on dead shrimp near the rigs, along the road sides and in the moth of Willow Bayou, on the Louisiana side; live bait shrimp available. Some drum and croaker, sheepshead scattered.

GALVESTON North winds gusting making bay waters choppy; good numbers of small flounders in the cuts and channels, at Rollover Pass, San Luis Pass and around the causeway; jetties too rough for the last couple of days; before the rough weather there were good numbers of oversized redfish from the jetties and from the beachfront piers; golden croaker run started at Texas City Dike, Intracoastal Canal, Rollover Pass; trout scarce; best flounder catches made on live mud minnows. teal season was slow live bait available from \$8.50 to \$10 per quart; mud minnows vary from \$3 to \$4 per dozen; some tarpon hooked over weekend at South Jetty.

PORT OCONNOR: Northeast winds gusting to 20 knots; whitecaps even in Intracoastal wade fishing should improve when the norther calms good redfish on the flats and at the jetties, some oversize fish at the jetties; fairly good numbers of trout and a fair number of flounder; flounder should improve greatly when the water temperatures begin to drop; live bait available at \$9.50 per quart.

PALACIOS: Redfish good from 27 to 30 inches in Carancahua and Turtle Bays, some smaller reds at Grassy Point; good numbers of flounder to 5 pounds, average smaller on dead shrimp and artificials trout plentiful but mostly undersized on live shrimp; live bait shrimp available. Teal hunting was a little slow, but mourning doves plentiful.

ROCKPORT: North winds gusting to 18 knots, overcast skies, rains early; norther passed through around 10 a.m. Tuesday; redfish fair to 18-20 inches, with a few larger, in Estes Flats around Bahia Bay and Redfish Bay; Goose Island Pier producing trout to 1 1/2 pounds on live shrimp and mullet; fishing should be good by Thursday if wind lays; live bait shrimp at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Few fishermen out since weekend; specks good to 25 fish per boat in Corpus Christi Bay; last Saturday fishing was good offshore with good numbers of snapper, trigger fish, blue fish, but no kingfish; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50. North winds gusting to 20-25 knots midweek. Horace Caldwell Pier producing a few redfish to 30 inches north winds hit Tuesday night with intermittent rain. Not many fishermen.

CORPUS CHRISTI Redfish and golden croaker good with dead bait on the bottom from Corpus Christi Bay to the Land Cut. Redfish from undersize to above 30 inches; golden croaker to 2 pounds, a few to 3 pounds; best place to fish for croaker is between Mark 71 and 79 in the Intracoastal Canal live bait scarce, should be some available Friday. Oso Pier produced a 27-inch redfish and several flounder to 4 pounds Tuesday; not many fishermen at Oso Pier. Bob Hall Pier producing redfish to 48 inches; good numbers of Spanish mackerel to 3 1/2 pounds; blue fish to 1 pound; a few flounder to 3 pounds, a few specks just above keeper size; a few kingfish last week; a single tarpon hooked but not landed, probably around 6 1/2 feet; a few blacktipped sharks; waters rough but still fairly clear. Live bait hard to get.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish and trout spotty, no great number of fishermen, probably due to weather; no live bait shrimp Winds calm to about 5 knots from the north early Wednesday.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish good to 9 3/4 pounds Tuesday with some limits up around Three Islands on live bait; some flounder to 6 pounds in the same area; trout to 4 pounds in the same area fishing good until front hit around 11 a.m. Tuesday; north winds gusting to 35 knots with small craft advisory early Wednesday; live bait plentiful at \$10 per quart. Fishing should be good again when the winds lay.