

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## STATE PARK PUBLIC HUNTS AMENDED

AUSTIN--Hunters drawn for hunts on seven state parks for which the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission altered bag limits to delete the harvest of deer will be offered hunts on wildlife management areas.

Hunts proposed for specific state parks had not been voted on during a meeting in May in which the Type I proclamation was approved. The commissioners approved removing deer from the bag limit on seven of the state parks and natural areas which previously were published in the Type I Hunter Opportunities book.

Letters were mailed Nov. 10 to the 362 affected hunters selected for hunts advising them of the bag limit reduction and alternatives available.

Hunters are given the option of participating in the scheduled hunt under the reduced bag limit, participating in an alternative hunt on a wildlife management area (no alternative offered for the hunts on Devils River SNA) or a refund of permit fees and reinstatement of preference points in the hunt category.

Parks on which the harvest of white-tailed deer was deleted, the number of permits affected and the alternative offered include:

- \* Atlanta, 21 permits; alternate Somerville WMA, Dec. 11-13.



- \* Devil's River, 83; none.
- \* Dinosaur Valley, 23; Kerr WMA, Jan. 11-13.
- \* Enchanted Rock, 62; Kerr WMA, Jan. 11-13 or 25-27 or Daughtrey WMA, Nov. 23-25.
- \* Huntsville, 23; Somerville WMA, Dec. 11-13.
- \* Lake Mineral Wells, 44; Walter Buck WMA, Dec. 14-16 or 16-18.
- \* Pedernales Falls, 106; Kerr WMA, Jan. 11-13 or 25-27 or Daughtrey WMA, Nov. 23-25.

The spring turkey hunts on Honey Creek SNA were canceled. Interested applicants can contact the department for information on spring turkey hunts offered at other wildlife management areas.

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### **COMMISSION APPROVES DEER HERD MANAGEMENT TAGS**

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved a pilot program allowing some landowners to take antlerless white-tailed deer under a deer herd management tag system during the 1992-93 open deer season.

The experimental tag program, to end in February, is designed to provide landowners an additional means to avert habitat destruction by deer whose population size, through department review, has been determined to be in excess of the carrying capacity of the habitat, said Dr. Rudy Rosen, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fisheries and wildlife division.

"We need to test the concept of this management tool," he said. "This proposal is designed to gain an understanding of the acceptability of the tag to landowners."

The tag system will be limited to 20 landowners this year and will be re-evaluated before possible implementation next year. Issuance of antlerless deer herd management tags will be determined through investigations by department wildlife biologists or certified wildlife biologists with plan review by TPWD biologists.

The program will cost landowners \$750 for an application fee and \$5 per tag. Rosen said the fees are set to recover estimated costs of administering the program. Harvested deer must be processed and delivered to a charitable organization.

A qualifying landowner must allow at least 40 antlerless deer or 20 percent of the harvest target, whichever is greater, to be taken by regularly licensed hunters. "This limits the program to areas in need of extensive deer removal," he said. "It maintains the integrity of the herd management tag as a specialized management tool."

The property must be evaluated by a wildlife biologist and a harvest recommendation made. The harvest quota is designed to reduce the deer population to a level in balance with food supplies. One provision added at the request of the commission's regulations committee was intended to ensure that the tag not be used solely to reduce the deer herd below carrying capacity to produce trophy deer or solely to balance the sex ratio of the deer herd.

In exchange for possible lost public hunting opportunities, the landowner has the option of providing a quality deer hunt in 1993-94, purchasing a quality deer hunt on another property, providing a youth hunt for at least 10 youths or providing another proposal of equivalent cost that must be approved by the executive director.

"The object of this tag is to bring deer herds into balance with the habitat," Rosen said. "This program is to deal with habitat and the need to control deer populations within the habitat's capability to support them."

Landowners interested in applying for the program should contact TPWD for application forms. A wildlife management plan is required. In addition, the wildlife management plan needs to recommend an antlerless deer harvest in excess of 40 animals in order to be eligible for deer herd management tags.

Those landowners not currently under a management plan can obtain assistance from the department. Applications for deer herd management tags cannot be accepted by TPWD before Dec. 1.

For more information contact TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4505, or (512) 389-4505.

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## STATE PARKS ON CLOSURE LIST TO REMAIN OPEN

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission was told by department staff on Nov. 5 that seven state parks previously set to be closed Dec. 1 are now proposed to remain open. At five of the seven sites, staff are close to finalizing agreements to keep them open on a long-term basis. Staff are pursuing similar agreements for the other two.

"There are still details to iron out, but our list of items to negotiate with local communities and other groups involved is getting smaller and smaller," said Ron Holliday, TPWD public lands division director.

"This has been an extremely difficult process, but some very positive benefits are emerging from it. For example, we have Friends of the Park groups forming all over; at least nine new groups came out of this process. We'll have several thousand new volunteer hours this year as a direct result."

Holliday described a combination of letters of intent and verbal agreements from several local communities. At some sites, communities plan to sign cooperative agreements to take over all or part of the operations of their local state parks. In at least one case, the department is negotiating a contract for a private concessionaire to operate the park.

Old Fort Parker State Historical Park became the first of the seven sites to achieve a breakthrough when the Groesbeck City Council voted Sept. 29 to take over management of the site. As part of the partnership agreement, TPWD will pay for major repairs up to an agreed upon spending cap, provide ongoing technical and historical expertise and pay for one park exhibit per year.

The commission passed a budget on Aug. 27 that included a revised plan to take seven state parks off line and consolidate or reduce operations at 18 others. At the time, the commission granted a funding extension until Dec. 1 and directed staff to use this time to find ways to keep the affected parks open.

The partnership agreements discussed on Nov. 5 represent a major success for the new Partners In Parks program established in August, which expanded TPWD efforts to build partnerships with local communities.

The list below shows the status of individual parks affected by cutbacks.

## Status Report On State Parks Affected By Reductions

Original list of 11 sites slated to go off line Dec. 1:  
(List later reduced to seven in revised proposal)

### Big Spring -- Big Spring, Howard County

Site will remain open at full operations. Friends group formed. Contributions coming in to cover utilities and \$2,300 of operating funds.

### Cassells Boykin -- Zavalla, Angelina County

Site will remain open, cuts will still take place. The site will become a county park. Angelina County has presented a letter of intent to assume TPWD lease from the Corps of Engineers. TPWD regional staff is facilitating the transition, which will take three months to complete. Park will be in winter mode during the interim.

### Confederate Reunion Ground -- Mexia, Limestone County

Site will remain open, cuts will still take place. Site will be managed by concessionaire. Contract target date Dec. 1.

### Copper Breaks -- Quanah, Hardeman County

Full operations. Support group potential being explored.

### Eisenhower Birthplace -- Denison, Grayson County

Proposal in the works. External management, endowment and capital funding potential being explored. City pledged matching funds.

### Fannin Battleground -- Goliad, Goliad County

Partial cuts to take effect. Consolidated with Goliad State Historical Site. New fees implemented Nov. 1.

### Fort Lancaster -- Ozona, Crockett County

Site will remain open, some cuts will still take place. Crockett County to assist. Interlocal agreement being worked out. External management potential. Grants being sought.

### Jim Hogg -- Rusk, Cherokee County

Cuts to take effect. Interlocal agreement with city and county in works. They will provide in kind services and donations to offset reductions. Letters of intent received.

### Magoffin Home -- El Paso, El Paso County

Site to remain open, some cuts will take place. Contract for the rest of fiscal year 1993 is nearing completion with city and new parties. City council is considering the next draft.

### Old Fort Parker -- Groesbeck, Limestone County

Site to remain open, cuts will still take place. Interlocal agreement with the city of Groesbeck near completion. Groesbeck will assume operations.

### Starr Family Home -- Marshall, Harrison County

Proposal in the works. Discussions taking place. External management potential.

Sites slated for reductions only:

Caddoan Mounds -- Alto, Cherokee County

Cuts will take place as planned. Proposal in the works. Discussions taking place. External management potential.

Fanthorp Inn -- Anderson, Grimes County

Cuts will go into effect. Discussions with Texas A&M University to get interns and park manager trainees.

Fort McKavett -- Menard, Menard County

Cuts to take effect. Proposal in the works. Discussions taking place. External management potential.

Franklin Mountains -- El Paso, El Paso County

Cuts to take effect. Minimal public impact. City and county will offset while master plan is being developed.

Fulton Mansion -- Rockport, Aransas County

Cuts to take effect. Docent group and city pledged to augment park operation. They also have proposed to fund some capital improvements.

Governor Hogg Shrine -- Quitman, Wood County

Cuts to take effect. Friends of the Park exploring their potential to make up for cuts with volunteers, in kind services and donations. TPWD to provide volunteer and marketing assistance.

Jose Antonio Navarro House -- San Antonio, Bexar County

Cuts to take effect. Growing numbers of volunteers. Prison inmates to help with maintenance.

Lake Somerville (Nails Creek) -- Giddings, Lee County

Cuts to take effect. Support group being formed. County to assist with grounds maintenance.

Lake Whitney -- Whitney, Hill County

Cuts to take effect Dec. 1.

Landmark Inn -- Castroville, Medina County

Cuts to take effect. Negotiating joint operations agreement with local group to enhance and improve operations.

Monahans Sandhills -- Monahans, Ward and Winkler Counties

Some cuts to take effect. Friends of the Park group formed and providing support for full operations.

Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery -- La Grange, Fayette County

Full operations. Friends of the Park group active.

Sam Bell Maxey House -- Paris, Lamar County

Cuts to take effect. Proposal in works between TPWD and Friends of the Park group. Friends group willing to augment park operations.

Sebastopol House -- Seguin, Guadalupe County

Cuts to take effect. Park (campground) host volunteer and Texas Lutheran College interns expected to pick up slack with additional community support.

Texas State Railroad -- Rusk and Palestine, Anderson and Cherokee Counties

Cuts to take effect. Community planning to help increase visitation. Pledged \$15,000 to help pay for implementation.

Varner Hogg Plantation -- West Columbia, Brazoria County

Reduced operation to begin Dec. 1. Docent organization has received nonprofit status.

Bryan Beach -- Freeport, Brazoria County

Reduced operation to begin Dec. 1.

Sabine Pass Battleground -- Sabine Pass, Jefferson County

Local businesses and county will help maintain current levels of access and operations. Consolidated with Sea Rim State Park. Boat ramp donation box to be installed.

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## **NO MAJOR CHANGES PLANNED FOR LAKE TEXOMA**

AUSTIN--No major changes in Lake Texoma striped bass fishing regulations will be pursued this year, although Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fisheries biologists had explored the possibility of changes at recent public hearings.

Regulations will remain at a daily bag limit of 15 striped bass with only one fish allowed to be 20 inches or longer.

TPWD fisheries staff said input gained from two public hearings, calls, letters and subsequent discussions with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation influenced the decision to leave regulations as they are for now, with the exception of a "no chumming" proposal that will be considered at public hearings in February and March.

Biologists believe the striped bass population in Lake Texoma is biologically sound and angling results are good. However, no increase in larger striped bass has been detected in angler harvest or gill net surveys. The striped bass population has been monitored by surveys of anglers for the last five years and by gill nets for the last six years.

"Most guides at the meetings where we discussed several management options indicated that they had been seeing more big fish recently," said Phil Durocher, TPWD inland fisheries chief. "We will take a look at our 1992 creel survey and 1993 gill net survey to verify that.

"Written and spoken comments from local anglers were more supportive of a ban on natural bait fishing and chumming. We have proposed the no chumming regulation because chumming alters fish behavior and concentrates feeding activity in one particular area."

Officials from the Texas and Oklahoma fisheries agencies had developed several management options designed to consider angler's desires for more large stripers (longer than 20 inches) and a reduction of the waste associated with mortality of caught and released fish.

The options, most of which combined a reduced bag limit with no-release regulations and restrictions on live bait fishing, won't be considered further this year.

"However, we'll continue to gather information and look at the Texoma situation on a year-to-year basis to see if current regulations are meeting our goals and objectives," Durocher said. "If they are not, we'll probably be looking at some similar options again next year, particularly if we see a downturn in the striped bass population."

Durocher said the public expressed various opinions and concerns at the meeting, including:

- \* Some anglers are beginning to see more big fish now under the current regulations; leave things alone.
- \* Live bait fishing should be banned.
- \* Many people can't learn to fish with artificial bait.
- \* Banning live bait fishing will devastate the local economy.
- \* Conflicts are still common between striper guides and regular sport anglers.
- \* Chumming should be prohibited.
- \* People will not go to Texoma if the creel limit is reduced.
- \* Fishing isn't like it used to be, and we need a reduced limit.
- \* The hooking mortality problem can be dealt with by changing fishing techniques.

"That last point is very important, and the solution is simple," Durocher said. "If you are killing fish the way you are fishing, try a different method. Angling ethics can be improved here."



The public hearings to discuss the no chumming proposal and other regulations changes are tentatively schedule for mid-February to early March. Exact times and locations will be made available at a later date.

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### **COOPER LAKE BOAT RAMPS TO OPEN**

AUSTIN--Cooper Lake will open to boat traffic after dedication ceremonies at the two new boat ramps on Nov. 21. Dedication is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the Tira and John's Creek ramps simultaneously and boats may be launched after the ribbons are cut.

The public boat ramps at Tira, near the dam on the Hopkins and Delta county lines, and John's Creek, on FM 1528 between Commerce and Cooper, on the lake have been paved and now are being prepared for opening, said Alton Franklin, project manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Both ramps will be open 24 hours a day, he said. Game wardens and fisheries and wildlife division staff will be available to answer questions regarding fishing regulations on the lake. There is no hunting allowed on the entire lake. Also, officials recommend that boaters use caution because Cooper has a tendency to be extremely windy and have rough water.

The dedication ceremony will include officials from TPWD, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Sulphur Springs and Cooper chambers of commerce.

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### **SOME DUCK HUNTERS GET EXTRA MALLARD DRAKE**

AUSTIN--Duck hunters in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit will get one more mallard drake in their daily bag limit and falconers who hunt ducks in the eastern part of Texas have had their season decreased by one week.

Both measures, scheduled to go into effect Dec. 1, were approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Nov. 5.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initially denied, but later approved, a request by the Central Flyway Council for an additional drake mallard, said Ron George, TPWD deputy chief of the wildlife branch.

Waterfowl hunters in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit will be allowed three mallards in the daily bag, only one of which may be a female.

The falconry waterfowl season was decreased because Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff inadvertently exceeded the maximum number of 107 days in the duck falconry season in the eastern part of the state permitted under federal regulations when it proposed season dates to the commission Aug. 27, George said.

The falconry duck season in the eastern portion of Texas will end Feb. 19 instead of Feb. 26.

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### **VOLUNTEER DIVERS AID ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM**

AUSTIN--Research being conducted on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's artificial reef sites in the Gulf of Mexico received a boost in late October from a group of volunteer scuba divers.

Dr. Quenton Dokken, associate director of the Center for Coastal Studies at Corpus Christi State University and principal investigator for the project, assembled and trained an underwater survey team composed of about a dozen volunteers from as far away as Mississippi and graduate students from CCSU and Texas A&M University.

Divers conducted an assortment of experiments designed to ascertain the biological productivity of the artificial reefs, said Hal Osburn, coastal fisheries policy director at TPWD. Research techniques used included underwater fish tagging, visual census counts, video and still photography and fish trap samples.

To help fulfill the goals of the Texas Artificial Reef Plan, these tests are designed to help select methods to monitor reef fish communities over the long-term life of the reefs.

"Determining trends in population abundance and stability, movement, growth, mortality and the impacts of environmental influences on reef-associated species is critical to obtaining the maximum benefits from our artificial reefs," Osburn said. "This project is the first step in accomplishing that."

The volunteers all were experienced divers and received additional training in diving and survey techniques from Mobil Exploration and Production U.S. Inc. Surface support was provided by the marine vessel M/V Fling out of Freeport.

"These volunteers have a great appreciation for the Gulf and its living resources," Dokken said. "The field portion of this study would not have been as great a success without the support of this talented, committed and enthusiastic group of people."

Funding for the project came from the Texas Artificial Reef Fund created from donations by the oil and gas industry.

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## **HUECO TANKS TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO PREVENT VANDALISM**

AUSTIN--Hueco Tanks State Park near El Paso has been temporarily closed while state officials work out a way to protect ancient rock art at the site, which has become the focus of increasing vandalism in recent weeks.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff say spray paint vandalism is threatening Native American drawings on rock faces at the park, drawings which range from 800 years old to more than 2,000 years old.

"Spray paint vandalism at Hueco Tanks has escalated into a crisis situation that requires decisive action," said Carolyn Scheffer, TPWD park operations director.

Scheffer signed an official closure order in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code on Nov. 11. The park will be closed to all visitors until 8 a.m. Nov. 25 while TPWD staff work with the local community to develop a plan for appropriate, controlled access to the site.

In mid-October, park staff discovered a series of serious vandalism incidents. At one site, Cave Kiva, vandals had spray painted what appeared to be a marijuana leaf over part of a well-known rock art pictograph. At another site, Red Horse, vandals painted a 6-foot by 10-foot image over another well-known three-foot by four-foot rock art image of a horse.

For years the department has been coordinating efforts to scientifically catalogue and record the Hueco Tanks rock art, which is a priceless part of Texas' natural heritage. TPWD resource managers have led teams of archaeologists, artists, university professors and students and photographers on recording expeditions at the site. However, many areas of the park have yet to be recorded.

The department has scheduled a public hearing for 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at Hanks High School (near Lee Trevino and Montwood streets) in El Paso. TPWD staff want community input on ways to both protect the rock art and still allow visitor access at Hueco Tanks.

During the closure period, TPWD staff encourage the public to consider Franklin Mountains State Park near El Paso for picnicking and other day-use activities. For information on Franklin Mountains, contact Superintendent Carolina Ramos at (915) 877-1528. For Hueco Tanks information call Superintendent Darrel Rhyne at (915) 857-1135.

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### **LAKE BASTROP PUBLIC MEETING SET**

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has scheduled a public meeting to discuss the proposed development of Lake Bastrop State Park for 7 p.m. on Nov. 19 in the Commissioner's Courtroom in Bastrop.

Details of the proposed initial park development at two sites on Lake Bastrop will be discussed.

The department has leased 785 acres of land around the shore of the 905-acre lake from the Lower Colorado River Authority. Plans include the development of campsites, picnic sites, boat ramps, a fishing pier, a swimming beach, trails and support facilities.

The Commissioner's Courtroom is located at 804 Pecan in Bastrop.

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## **TRAILS CONFERENCE TO FEATURE LAKE HOUSTON PARK OPENING**

AUSTIN--The Houston Regional Trails Conference will bring in experts from across the state and nation to brainstorm ideas for a Houston area trail network, a project which could become a model for similar networks across Texas.

The conference on Saturday, Nov. 21 will culminate with a ribbon cutting for the new Lake Houston State Park, which will feature almost eight miles of hike and bike trails through beautiful forest and wetland surroundings.

The new park underscores the value of trails, the focus of the regional conference cosponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and two Houston nonprofit groups, The Park People and the Citizens Environmental Coalition.

"Trails are extremely cost-effective. They cost less to build and serve a broader range of people than almost any other outdoor recreation project," said Terese "Terry" Hershey, a member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and a key organizer of the trails conference.

"Plus, trails are a critical part of the health and environmental movements. They provide greenbelt development buffers and encourage less polluting, healthier transportation. They're also a much-needed, easily accessible outdoor fitness and recreation outlet for today's Texans, most of whom live in cities."

The unpaved trails at Lake Houston State Park will wind through scenic bottomland hardwood wetlands on the 4,900-acre site, which is located 30 minutes north of Loop 610 near New Caney. The site nestles between the east fork of the San Jacinto river and New Caney and Peach Creeks at the southern extreme of the East Texas Pineywoods ecological region.

Part of the Lake Houston site is a former Girl Scout camp and TPWD planners are still finishing a design which calls for repairs to two lodges and restoration of 21 campsites clustered in three groups of about seven each. The park trails are now about 80 percent complete.

Beginning Nov. 22, Lake Houston State Park will open on a weekends-only, trail use-only basis from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. TPWD planners hope to have the first phase of the site fully open by the end of 1993.



At 5 p.m. on Nov. 21, a symbolic ribbon-cutting to open the park will be held at the trails conference site, The Great Southwest Equestrian Center at 2501 S. Mason in Katy.

The one-day conference on Nov. 21 will bring together trail users and trail-providing agencies to brainstorm plans for a unified trail system in the Houston metropolitan area. Trail experts from Denver, Portland and Dallas/Fort Worth will offer case studies of successful trail systems. TPWD staff will unveil a new statewide greenways initiative and discuss federal funds available through the department.

The trails conference comes at a time when nationwide attention is focusing on bicycle and foot travel as low-cost, non-polluting alternatives to urban auto traffic. An estimated \$54 million dollars for "transportation enhancements" has been earmarked for Texas in fiscal years 1992-93 through the recent Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA, pronounced ice tea).

The Texas Department of Transportation will administer the ISTEA funds for a variety of potential projects in Texas, including bike and pedestrian trails, scenic or historic projects, archeological projects, mitigation of highway runoff water pollution and conversion of abandoned rail corridors to hike and bike trails.

Already in Texas, several former railroad corridors have been converted to trails. A prime example is the Rails-To-Trails project approved by the TPW commission in July. This involves 64 miles of trail near Caprock Canyon State Park east of Plainview, and will greatly enhance existing park trails there.

In Houston, the trails conference takes on special significance, since Mayor Bob Lanier has recently appointed two committees whose directives include the development of non-polluting bicycle trails and an overall trail system. A 3 p.m. session at the conference will focus on options for a Houston trail network and will feature numerous local experts.

For more information on Lake Houston State Park, contact Superintendent Joseph Mungia at 713-354-6881. For general trails issues, contact Kathryn Nichols, TPWD trails project manager, at 512-389-4735. For information on the trails conference, contact Lois Fleck, trails conference coordinator, at 713-524-4138.

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AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Nov. 12:

#### CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 4 1/2 pounds on cranks and worms; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water murky, 68-72 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in the 3-5 pound range; hybrid striper are good in the 6-10 pound range on live shad; crappie are fair to good on minnows in 12-18 feet of water; white bass are fairly good on slabs on top and in deep water; catfish are slowing down since the cold front, some caught in the 1 1/2 to 7 pound range on stinkbait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 72 degrees, 18 inches below spillway; black bass are fair in the 2-4 pound range on spinners; striper are fair at night under lights on jigs and silver spoons; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string in 12-15 feet of water on jigs and minnows; white bass are good at night around lights on L'il Cleos; catfish are fair to 36 pounds on trotline baited with live shad; channel catfish are good to 3 1/2 to 4 pounds on shad and nightcrawlers and shrimp.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 72 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds, 2 ounces on chartreuse DB#3s; striper are good to 7 pounds on live bait, some limits; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair around Garrett Island under birds early and late; catfish are good on trotlines to 4 pounds; channel catfish are good to 5 pounds in baited holes with fresh shrimp.

CANYON: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair and small on topwaters, worms and minnows; striper are slow; crappie are good under lights at night on minnows, some caught on jigs and medium minnows during the day; white bass are fair trolling Phantom Lures and minnows; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on worms, shrimp and chicken livers.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, 18 inches low; all fishing has been slow due to lack of fishermen.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on water dogs, some caught early on topwaters and worms; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on water dogs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 70 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on Shadraps, silver spoons and cranks; crappie are fair 1 1/2 pounds on worms and minnows to 15 fish per string; catfish are fair.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on chartreuse worms in 5-6 feet of water; striper are fair to 10 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on minnows and chicken livers. Deer hunters in the area are bagging fair numbers of deer and most are in excellent shape.

LBJ: Water clear, 73 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 5 pounds, 6 ounces on pumpkin seed colored pigs and jigs; striper are slow; crappie are good around

docks with structure on minnows; white bass are good around 1431 bridge trolling deep diving Bagley Baits; catfish are good to 6 pounds in baited holes on stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 64 degrees, 3.53 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair around isolated trees in deep water on minnows; catfish are fair to 9 pounds on trotlines baited with cut bait.

SOMERVILLE: Water fairly clear, 65 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on black jigs and pigs, worms and small diving baits; striper are fairly good but most are too small to keep; crappie are good during the day on minnows in 6 feet of water, night fishing is slow; white bass are good trolling Tony Accetta Spoons near the dam; catfish are slow in the 3-4 pound range on minnows, shrimp, liver and home made baits.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 2-3 pound range in 8-16 feet of water on shiners, plastic worms and cranks; crappie are fair to 15 1/2 inches on minnows; catfish are slowing to 4-8 pounds on cheese bait, bloodbait and worms; smallmouth bass are good in the 1 1/2 to 3 pound range in 8-14 feet of water on buzz baits, Rattle Traps and cranks.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair in number; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are fairly good; catfish are fair to 17 inches on worms and minnows.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 71 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are excellent to 4 pounds on chartreuse spinners, Baby Slug-Gos and Tennessee Shad Hotlips Express cranks; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on the same lures; striper are slow; crappie are fair in 20 feet of water under docks; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 9 1/2 pounds on Catfish Charlie Blood Bait.

WACO: Water off color, 65 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on black and blue jigs; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water a little off color, 67 degrees, 4 feet low; largemouth bass are good on cranks to 8 pounds; small mouth are good to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are good to 14 pounds on shad in 30 feet of water; crappie are good in the barges and under boat house on minnows and jigs with strings to 18 fish; white bass are fair on slabs and spoons; catfish are fair but small on cut bait and worms.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 73 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 7 pounds on artificials; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds on worms in 5 feet of water around brush; striper are slow; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow to 2 pounds.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on Rattle Traps; striper are slow to 4 pounds in the Big Lake; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in the river; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 2 1/2 pounds at night on minnows.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 71 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps and black worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string in 8-20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair on silver slabs and chrome L'il Georges; yellow catfish are good to 52 pounds on bream and goldfish; channel catfish are fair to 5 pounds on jug lines, blood bait and shrimp.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on bloodline worms; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows in 32 feet of water; catfish are good to 30 pounds on nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 75-90 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on motoroil worms; hybrid striper are slow in the 5-10 pound range on shad; redfish are slow to 15 pounds on cranks; catfish are fair to 5-15 pound range on bloodbait.

FORK: Water clear, 61 degrees, 2.7 feet low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on Carolina rigged centipedes, jigging spoons and spinners; crappie are excellent to 2 pounds on jigs and minnows; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 65 degrees, 2.61 feet low; black bass are slow, some caught on black green tailed Carolina rigged worms in 18-20 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are slow, some hitting minnows around boat stalls in 20 feet of water, most are undersized.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 50-55 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on minnows and spinners; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on jigs and minnows; catfish are good to 8 pounds on crawfish and bloodbait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 8 3/4 pounds on Rattle Traps, spinners and plastic worms; crappie are fair in 10-15 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on nightcrawlers and minnows with a trotline.

LAVON: Water clear, 77 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on red and white spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 20 fish per string on yellow jigs in the brush piles in 12-14 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good in the 9 to 11 pound range on fresh shad in 20-22 feet of water.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on live water dogs; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows in 15 feet of water; catfish are good to 6 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 69 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 10 pounds, 6 ounces, a new lake record caught during a weekend bass tournament; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 67 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on buzz baits, topwaters and worms; crappie are good in number but most are too small to keep on minnows in 10-12 feet of water; catfish are fairly good to 4 pounds on trotlines with cut shad and small perch.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are good to 2.26 pounds, a new lake record caught by Mitchell Pearson of Balch Springs, on minnows; catfish are good to 14.55

pounds, a new lake record caught by Joyce Pearson, also of Balsh Springs with a minnow.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on spinners; crappie are excellent with many limits on minnows around brush piles in 12 feet of water; white bass are slow, some caught on slabs in the flats; catfish are good to 15 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

**RICHLAND-CHAMBERS:** Water clear, 60 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 6.22 pounds on worms; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch, some channel catfish caught on spinners with rod and reel.

**TAWAKONI:** Water clear, 61 degrees, 20 inches low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on worms and cranks; striper are poor; crappie are good through 2 pounds on minnows and jigs in 4 to 14 feet of water; white bass are good through 3 pounds, 5 ounces on slabs with limits caught; catfish are good through 12 pounds on blood bait and stink bait.

**TEXOMA:** Water clear, 62 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to good to 4 1/2 pounds on cranks; striper are excellent to 14 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad and slabs; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are good to 2 1/2 pounds on small Sassy Shad, jigging spoons; catfish are excellent to 62 pounds on rod and reel with a Sassy Shad in 15 feet of water; others are caught on cut bait.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water clear, 69 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds, 6 ounces on Rattle Traps, Mud Bugs, shiners, jigs and worms; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are poor on the main lake, but good below the dam, most are small and are caught on L'il Georges and small Rattle Traps; catfish are fair to 31 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch, live shad, stinkbait, blood bait; sunfish are poor in the main lake and good below the dam.

#### **SOUTHEAST**

**CONROE:** Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 9 1/2 pounds on crappie jigs, jigging spoons and minnows though not many fishermen out; white bass are scattered and beginning to turn on around brush piles in 15 to 20 feet of water; crappie are good in number and size on minnows under the 1097 bridge and suspended at 20 feet around brush piles; yellow catfish are good to 27 pounds on rod and reel baited with lures off the rocks.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on black and blue Craw Worms in 4 feet of water; crappie are fairly good around the creek channels on minnows; white bass are fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; catfish are good to 12 pounds on the north shore with live perch baited trotline.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 2-3 pound range, a couple of 5 pounders, in the sloughs on shallow diving baits; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows around boat docks; white bass moving up the river for their spawning run; yellow catfish are picking up to 65 pounds in the

flats and deeper flats with live baits; blue catfish to 25 pounds on cut bait and channel catfish to 8 pounds on dead shad.

**RAYBURN:** Water clear, 68 degrees, 8 feet below normal level; black bass are slow to 5 pounds on topwaters, crappie are slow; catfish are slow; fishing pressure is light.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear, 57 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on jigs and spoons; striper are fair to 6 pounds on topwater bass baits near the tree lines; crappie are fair on shiners in 16 feet of water; catfish are slow.

#### **SOUTH**

**AMISTAD:** Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on pumpkin seed colored worms in 15 feet of water off points; striper are fair around the dam on 1/2 ounce Ponyhead Jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in Caballo and Zorro Canyons on white slabs; catfish are good in 30-60 feet of water on worms or cheese stink baits.

**BRAUNIG:** Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; channel catfish are good in the 2 1/2 to 5 pound range on shad and liver; a 14 1/2 pound blue catfish caught from the bank on shad; redfish are fair to 13 pounds on tilapia from the bank.

**CALAVERAS:** Water murky, normal level; black bass are excellent to 2 pounds, no big fish, on artificials; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds on cheese bait and liver; redfish are slow; corvina are good to 13 pounds on shrimp, worms, live perch and beef liver.

**CHOKE:** Waste clear, 70 degrees on the surface, 1.43 feet low; black bass are good through to 10 1/4 pounds with chartreuse spinners with gold blades in shallow water by Chuck Abbott of San Antonio; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good around 99 bridge on live minnows, a few caught in the dam area; white bass are fair around 99 bridge using Rattle Traps and live minnows; catfish are good on rod and reel with good numbers of keepers in 5-8 feet of water on jug lines and trotlines with cut bait.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water clear, 65 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 14 inches and above on plastic worms; striper are fair on minnows to 18 inches and above; crappie are good on minnows 10 inches and above; catfish are fair on liver and cheese bait.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Water stained in the upper lake, clear from midlake to the dam, 75 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are improving to 3 1/2 pounds on chartreuse willow leaf spinners in 3 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fair off both state park piers with pink jigs and minnows; white bass are good trolling chrome Small As and L'il Georges; blue catfish are improving to 22 pounds on trotlines set in 2-3 feet of water and baited with shad and Mariposa lysoap; yellow catfish are good to 21 pounds in 6-8 feet of water on lines baited with Ken-L-Ration special cut dog food. Good numbers of widgeon, good numbers of mallards and pintails in the upper end of the lake; a few speckle belly geese also in, few snows and blues.

**MEDINA:** Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass and all fishing are

slow due to lack of pressure.

**TEXANA:** Water murky in lake, clear in jungle area, normal level; black bass are fair, a few undersized fish caught in the jungle area on plastic worms; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on trotlines with cut bait.

#### **WEST**

**ARROWHEAD:** Water murky, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are beginning to hit jigs and live bait in 10-12 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to in the 2-3 pound range on trotlines baited with live bait.

**FORT PHANTOM HILL:** Water murky, 62 degrees, normal level; all fishing slow due to high winds midweek.

**GREENBELT:** Water clear, 51 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; white bass are good on slabs, spoons and minnows from the surface to 30 feet; crappie are fair on minnows in 6 to 20 feet of water; catfish are very good to 9 pounds on minnows and dough bait; walleye are good to 9 1/2 pounds on minnows and slabs; small mouth bass are slow.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on bass lures; crappie are fairly good up the rivers on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

**KEMP:** Water clear, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair in number to 1 pound on silver spoons and trolling cranks; striper are slow; crappie are fair around brush piles in 15 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair to 15 fish per string trolling cranks; catfish are slow.

**MEREDITH:** Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are slow; crappie are slow and small; white bass are good on minnows on 10 to 12 feet of water; catfish are fairly good to 22 inches on minnows; walleye are good in the 4 to 8 pound range on ghost minnows

**O.H. IVIE:** Main lake clear, upper end murky, 63 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to 20 inches up creeks and draws on buzz baits, brown worms and cranks; small mouth bass are fair to 15 inches along points and ridges in 20 feet of water; crappie are fair to good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows along brushy points and ridges with near limits under lights; channel catfish are fair on trotlines on the flats and on rod and reel; yellow catfish are fair in number on trotlines up rivers with live bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water clear, 70 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on Bass Assassins and jerk worms in the mid lake area; striper are good to 14 pounds on Pencil Poppers and jigging slabs, birds are working and helping to find striper; crappie are good under docks and in baited holes on minnows in 22 feet of water; white bass are good on white bass rigs when schooling and on slabs when under the birds; catfish are good to 4-6 pound range on trotlines and jug lines baited with perch and shad.

**PROCTOR:** Water cloudy, normal level; black bass are fair to 21 inches on nightcrawlers; crappie are picking up on minnows; catfish are poor.

**SPENCE:** Water clear, 67 degrees, 24 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds; fishing is fairly slow because of high wind, the deer season and the Dallas

Cowboys.

THEO: Water clear, 63 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair in number on minnows in 20 feet or deeper water; crappie are slow; catfish are excellent to 12 pounds on cheese bait at night.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, above normal level; black bass are good to 5.57 pounds on buzz baits; striper are fair trolling live bait; crappie are fair in 20 feet of water along the river channels on minnows; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on live baits primarily, regular catfish baits are slowing down.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Good numbers of fishermen were out last week just after the front; fishermen caught good numbers of fish; birds were working all over; some redfish were over sized, most were in the 21 to 26 inch range; limits of redfish and trout caught in the lake and in the marshes; outfall canal fishing has been very good; live bait shrimp are available at 6 cents each.

GALVESTON: Some flounder, croaker and sandtrout caught in the channels, deep holes and along the beach front when fishermen can get out; heavy winds and rain all week; live bait shrimp available in the \$10 to \$12 per quart range.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing has been slow due to weather; boats over the weekend caught limits of snapper to 20 pounds about 35 to 45 miles offshore; good numbers of trigger fish caught; a couple of kingfish also caught.

PORT OCONNOR: Heavy fog early Wednesday; little fishing since the weekend; good numbers of trout and redfish caught in the Army Hole, Bauer's Cut, jetties, Grass Island and Bill Day Reef over last weekend; flounder are beginning to hit when wind is light; offshore slow; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart. Wade fishermen catching trout at Boggy Bayou.

MATAGORDA: Heavy rains hit midweek; before rains hit, fishermen were catching limits of specks in the river; good flounder run going, most fish are in the 2-4 pound range and are caught on live mullet and Hogies Shad in the canals and in the river; redfish limits also caught in the river; birds have been working in East Bay over goods sized trout; bull reds plentiful in the surf and are caught on cut mullet; live bait shrimp are available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Heavy Rains hit early Tuesday; few fishermen out; quite a few trout caught around the Pavilion and the long jetties turning basin; best baits are pearl Hogie Shad and black and white Swimming Jacks; trout running around Palacios Bayou around the sunken barge and at Palacios Point, only one keeper per four fish caught; good numbers of birds working in Turtle Bay, most trout running just below keeper size. Good numbers of speckle belly geese, blues and snows in the area; geese are not ranging far from the roost because of the abundance of food near the roost site.

ROCKPORT: Fly fishermen caught 7 keeper sized redfish in Mesquite Bay on red streamers before the rains which began at 8 a.m. Tuesday; all fish released; few fishermen out after the rains started.

PORT ARANSAS: Rains hit early Tuesday, fishermen caught good numbers of trout and redfish around Hog Island, most are using cacohoe minnows; Ransom Island also producing trout and redfish; flounder giggers are doing very well around Lydia Ann Channel and Corpus Christi Ship Channel; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart. Offshore fishermen are catching snapper, amberjack, shark, grouper and dolphin about 23-35 miles offshore; a state record pinperch, weighing 1.8 pounds, 16 inches long, was caught 23 miles offshore on a 60 pound test line. The fish was caught by Joe Garza of Corpus Christi.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Plenty of fish in the Intracoastal about 5 miles south of JFK; plenty of trout under the birds in Baffin Bay; trout have been excellent since the front came through; pier fishermen along the causeway are catching good numbers of keeper sized drum on dead shrimp; back bay fishermen are catching redfish, a few drum and some trout between the two high lines; a few specks caught along the causeway; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish and trout caught north of Port Mansfield; a good number of trout caught south of the deep cut; redfish and trout scattered south of Port Mansfield; live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Good number of large trout showing up east of Three Islands; Mexicita Flats and Long Bar are producing some limits of specks to 3 pound average; redfish and black drum are excellent around old causeway; flounder good around South Bay and outdoor resorts; surf has been good for whiting, redfish and drum with many oversized redfish; pier fishing has been good for sandtrout and croaker during the day and excellent for specks at night under lights; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 11/12/92

