

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## GIBBONS CREEK PRODUCES YEAR'S FIRST 'LUNKER'

BRYAN -- A 21-year-old college student from Houston has caught the fourth-largest largemouth bass on record in Texas.

Troy Johnson was fishing with his father at Gibbons Creek Reservoir Friday (Jan. 15) when he hooked the 16-pound, 2 1/2-ounce fish on a shad-colored crankbait.

Johnson kept the fish alive in a minnow tank at nearby Carlos and later loaned it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for its "Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker" program. Johnson's fish is the initial entry in the lunker program for 1988.

Under the lunker program, anglers catching 13-pound-plus bass loan them to the department for hatchery production and research. After hatchery work is completed, the fish are returned alive to the lake where caught and corporate sponsors of the program reward the anglers with fiberglass replicas of their prize fish.

Johnson's catch herald's Gibbons Creek's long-awaited entry into Texas' big bass top-20 list. The fish was slightly more than a pound lighter than the state record 17.67-pounder caught from Lake Fork in November 1986. The other two fish ahead of Johnson's are a 16.9-pounder from Lake Pinkston and a 16-pound, nine-ounce fish caught from Lake Fork.

Analysis of a scale from Johnson's fish indicated it was seven years old. This means it was stocked in the lake as a fingerling, according to Bill Rutledge, hatchery chief.

The fish's rapid growth rate is seen in the analysis. By the time it was in its third year, it was over 17 inches long, and it passed the 24-inch mark in its sixth year. When caught, it was 26 inches long and 24 inches in girth.

Persons catching potential Lone Star Lunkers should call either the Tyler Fish Hatchery at (214) 592-7570, or the department's 24-hour communications number, (512) 389-4848.

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ANGLERS APPLAUDING NEW  
RAINBOW TROUT FISHERIES

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department expanded its put-and-take rainbow trout stocking program this winter, and early returns indicate the new fisheries are extremely popular.

The catchable-sized fish were distributed at 11 new public sites, mainly

small city lakes with good fishing access. In all, the department is stocking 17 public sites and eight state parks, with periodic releases scheduled through February in many areas.

One of the most successful of the new sites is Barton Creek in Austin's Zilker Park. The release site is just below the famous Barton Springs Swimming Pool, and anglers by the hundreds have fished in the creek's clear spring waters.

John Gumfory, who operates a tackle store near the creek, said he had sold more than 480 state trout stamps by Jan. 13. The \$5 stamps, available at retail license outlets and department offices, are required in addition to a valid fishing license to fish for trout in Texas waters, unless exempted from license requirements. "This fishery has been an overwhelming success," Gumfory said. "The fishing public is obviously pleased as punch."

Another popular fishery is at Abilene, where a small lake in Nelson Park has been stocked and will receive additional fish on Jan. 27.

Department fishery technician Robert Cole said anglers braved strong winds and cold temperatures after the first stocking in December, and the fishing improved as more anglers participated later. "More than 500 trout stamps have been sold, and license dealers are having to order more stamps from Austin," said Cole.

Another West Texas city enjoying its first taste of trout fishing is Lubbock, where a pond in Casey Park, 66th & Ave. W, received 500 trout in

December

Dr Hal Schramm, assistant professor in the Department of Range and Wildlife Management at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, said a creel survey being conducted by the university in cooperation with the City of Lubbock indicates excellent usage of the fishery "Early review of the data indicates more than 90 percent of the anglers had a trout stamp," Schramm said He noted that a major tackle shop had sold more than 150 stamps by last week and the TPWD office had sold more than 100

Other locations that received trout for the first time this winter include the Llano River in Junction, downtown park in San Saba, Sandy Creek near Jasper, Martin Road Park in Amarillo, Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, Oak Grove Park in Plano, Pickens Lake in Sherman, and Spring Lake Park in Texarkana State park lakes that received trout for the first time are Ft Richardson, Blanco and Rusk

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**BIG BASS CAUGHT FROM TWIN  
BUTTES RESERVOIR**

**SAN ANGELO --** The largest bass ever caught in Tom Green County was taken recently by an angler at Twin Buttes Reservoir west of San Angelo

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery technician Charles Munger said the 12 6-pound bass caught by Mike Adams also is one of the largest ever caught in West Texas The fish was 24 1/2 inches long

The fish was taken on a jig and plastic frog trailer combination, Munger said

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'TROPHY' CRAPPIE BEING  
CAUGHT AT CHOKE CANYON

THREE RIVERS -- Crappie are Texas' most prized panfish, normally gracing a skillet instead of a mantelpiece

But a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery technician says Choke Canyon Reservoir in South Texas is producing crappie suitable for framing instead of frying

"Numerous catches of two and a half to three pound crappie have been reported to our San Antonio office," said John Wray, "and one that was 19 inches long was confirmed by a game warden at the lake "

Crappie often reach sizes in excess of a pound when given the habitat and protection, but those over two pounds are considered unusually large. The current state record white crappie, caught from Navarro Mills Lake in 1968, weighed four pounds, nine ounces. The black crappie record was a three-pound, 11-ounce fish caught at Toledo Bend Reservoir in 1985.

Wray said conditions at Choke Canyon are ideal for growing huge crappie. "The department worked closely with the U S. Bureau of Reclamation to minimize timber and brush clearing before the lake was impounded," he said. "This created large amounts of cover for fish when the lake reached

capacity in 1987 "

Recent survey results show that about 20 percent of the crappie population are over 10 inches in length. Bag limits are another factor in the presence of large crappie, Wray believes. The lake has a bag limit of 25 crappie per day, with a 10-inch minimum length limit.

"I think Choke Canyon's crappie are benefiting from the length limit which is allowing more fish to reach adult size," said Wray.

Fishing guide Wallace Gee of Three Rivers said anglers have been catching crappie around the State Highway 99 bridge where it crosses both the Frio River and Possum Creek. Minnows fished at about 15 feet have been effective, he said. Anglers also have been doing well in front of the dam at 25 to 30 feet, he said. "I expect the crappie fishing to be real good in February and March, because the fish will be moving up to shallow areas about one to two feet deep," Gee said. He noted that brushy areas around Mason Point were productive for crappie last year and should be good this spring as well.

Choke Canyon is located about halfway between San Antonio and Corpus Christi. It is just west of Three Rivers, off State Highway 72. Choke Canyon State Park offers a recently-opened Calliham Unit for overnight camping and water-oriented recreation. For information or reservations, call the park at (512) 786-3868.

JC 1/20/88

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE ON  
PROBLEM HERONRIES

AUSTIN -- Now is the time to take steps in prevention of problems associated with large colonies of herons or egrets, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Biologist Catrina Martin said large concentrations of the wading birds can cause property damage and annoyance for residents near colonies "Early detection is the key to preventing the buildup of an unwanted colony," said Martin "Once a colony is established it is almost impossible to disperse the birds "

Preventive measures, such as habitat alteration, should be completed by March when "scout" birds begin arriving in advance of the main flock

She added that it is a violation of state and federal laws to disturb or destroy an active nest of most wild birds in Texas, including herons and egrets Therefore, early action prior to nest construction is preferred

More information is available in a TPWD publication entitled "Nuisance Heronries in Texas Characteristics and Prevention Techniques " The free pamphlet may be obtained from any TPWD office or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT EXPANDED

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) have entered into an agreement for expanded conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals in Texas

The agreement, established under the federal Endangered Species Act, provides for enhanced state-federal cooperation in conservation projects and paves the way for additional federal funds to benefit sensitive animals and plants in Texas

A number of proposed projects will be considered by FWS officials for possible funding later in 1988. They involve many species across various parts of the state, according to Dr. Bruce Thompson, program leader for nongame and endangered species.

Thompson added that funding created by the agreement will be in addition to support already provided by the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund established in 1983. The special fund is supported by voluntary donations and purchases of nongame art prints, stamps and decals. It supports activities in management, research, habitat development and information programs.

The department's work with endangered species also includes the Texas Natural Heritage Program which conducts research and surveys involving endangered plant and animal species.



For more information on endangered species conservation, contact the Endangered Species Program, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112

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HYBRID STRIPERS SURPRISE  
LAKE BUCHANAN ANGLERS

BUCHANAN DAM -- Lake Buchanan apparently received an unexpected stocking of hybrid striped bass during the past two years, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Recent reports of hybrid stripers being caught at the big Central Texas lake were confirmed last week when department biologists analyzed tissue from a fish caught and brought to Austin headquarters

Electrophoretic examination revealed that the fish was indeed a hybrid cross between white and striped bass. It was spawned at the department's Dundee Fish Hatchery in 1986.

Bill Rutledge, hatchery chief, speculated that the fish was originally stocked in Lake Brownwood. "There was considerable flooding at Brownwood in 1986 and 1987, so more than likely some of the hybrids in Brownwood went through the floodgates and made their way down Pecan Bayou into the Colorado River above Buchanan," said Rutledge.

Rutledge said there is no way of knowing how many hybrids escaped Lake Brownwood, but reports indicate a considerable number of the fish have been

caught at Buchanan

Hybrid stripers usually can be distinguished from pure stripers by their stockier body shape and broken lines on the sides. The bag limit in most Texas waters is the same for both species, at five per day, 10 in possession.

The department offers a free pamphlet that helps anglers identify these fish. Entitled "Striped Bass and Their Hybrids In Texas," the pamphlet can be obtained by writing the TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112

JC 1/20/88

#### NEW PARKS OFFER IMPROVED SCREENED SHELTERS

AUSTIN -- State parks officials said three parks opened during 1987 offer redesigned screened shelters that are suited to winter camping

The new shelters have shuttered glass windows instead of screens, and they also have electrical outlets and a picnic table inside, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Park units offering the new shelters are Lake Lewisville State Park near Denton; Lake Bob Sandlin in Camp and Titus Counties of East Texas; and the Calliham Unit of Choke Canyon, located about halfway between San Antonio and Corpus Christi

Each of these parks has at least 20 of the new shelters. Water is provided at each site, as well as an outdoor fire ring and lantern post. Campers bring their own gear such as sleeping bags, cots, cookstoves and lanterns. The shelters may be rented for \$12 per night.

All three parks offer plenty of shoreline access for fishing as well as boat launch ramps. Bob Sandlin has a lighted fishing pier and Choke Canyon offers a rock fishing jetty.

Choke Canyon's new Calliham Unit, located off State Highway 72 between Three Rivers and Tilden, has an abundance of wildlife for wintertime viewing and photography. A general merchandise store sells fishing gear, bait, groceries and camping needs.

A group dining hall at Lake Lewisville is located on the shoreline, and 14 of the new screened shelters are located nearby. The area offers good bird watching during the winter months.

Bob Sandlin is one of the state's better largemouth bass fishing lakes, having produced fish in the 13-pound class. The lake also is a good producer of crappie.

Texas' relatively mild winters make off-season camping a pleasure, and many of the state park systems most heavily-used facilities are relatively empty during the winter.

For information or reservations call Lake Bob Sandlin, (214) 572-5531; Lake Lewisville, (214) 292-1750, and Choke Canyon (Calliham Unit), (512) 786-3868.

AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for January 20, 1988

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 5 pounds on Fat Getzits; hybrid striper slow; crappie slow; catfish slow.

BELTON: Water clear, 44 degrees, normal level black bass to 3 fish per string on chrome jiggging spoons, average bass to 1.2 pounds; striper slow; crappie good at Highway 36 bridge and at the log jam on minnows and Getzits; white bass good on jiggging spoons and small jigs to 20 fish per string; channel catfish good on bloodbait up the Leon River to 3 pounds; yellow catfish good to 10 pounds on goldfish and live perch.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows and jigs mostly up the river, fish fairly good sized; catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on jig and eel in 6-10 feet of water; striper fair to 8 pounds on white slabs in 40 feet of water; crappie picking up around the docks to 10 plus fish on minnows; white bass with strings to 25 fish on pearl colored L'il Georges in 15 feet of water; catfish fair to 14 pounds on chicken livers with trotline.

CANYON: Water clear, 49 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on chartreuse Rat-L-Traps and brown and orange 4 inch Ringworms; striper slow but should improve; crappie good with some limits on minnows; white bass good with a number of boats finding schools over last weekend with strings between 30-50 fish per string on Man-O-Lures and Bomber slabs. some female white bass up the river last Sunday; catfish fairly good in numbers but most are fairly small a 6 pound walleye landed around the rip rap last Sunday on minnows.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 66 degrees, normal level black bass fairly good to 7 1/4 pounds in good numbers on Man-O-Lures and Hopkins Spoons in more than 20 feet of water; crappie picking up with many over 2 pounds at the warm water discharge on minnows; blue catfish fairly good to 47 pounds on live perch.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water slightly muddy in backs of creeks, 58 degrees, 2 inches high; black bass good to 16 pounds, 2 1/2 ounces on Shadrap; crappie slow to 12 fish per boat on minnows but fish are hard to find; blue catfish good to 30 pounds on purple worms.

LBJ: Water stained, 55 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on black and blue skirted jigs; striper fair to 11 pounds on metallic Hot 'N Tots only; crappie slow; white bass fair with strings to 25 fish on white Little Ns; catfish fair to 16 pounds on trotlines baited with stinkbait.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, normal level; black bass fair to 3 pounds on minnows; striper slow; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string mostly in the morning on jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 1 foot high; largemouth black bass slow; smallmouth bass slow to 5 1/4 pounds from the bank on minnows near the marina; striper slow; crappie fairly good at night to 15 fish per string around marina and in coves on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 54 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds to 10 keepers per boat in 30 feet of water on brown and black jig and pig, 4 inch plum worms, live minnows; striper and white bass scattered with a few at night; crappie fairly good to 20 fish per string on minnows around baited docks and brushpiles near Lakeway; catfish slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 46 degrees, 7 1/4 feet low; largemouth bass slow; smallmouth bass good on cranks and jigs, mostly small with on 5 pound, 9 ounce fish; striper good on jigs in the river to 15 pounds; crappie fair to good under barges on minnows, good up river around Kimble Bridge with easy limits to 2 pounds each; white bass slow, a few on slabs in Steele Creek; catfish slow to

good on worms and nightcrawlers around Cedar Creek. Good number of fishermen on the upper end of the lake.

#### NORTHEAST

**ATHENS:** Water clear, 43 degrees, 1 inch high; black bass fair to 6 pounds on black jig with a chartreuse pork rind fished in 14 feet of water; crappie excellent in 47-54 feet of water just off the bottom minnows, a light touch required to catch fish with limits to 2 pounds each; white bass and hybrid striper very good in the deepest water on slabs or any silver baits; catfish slow.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water murky, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly good to 6.3 pounds on black and blue pig and jig; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in 35 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fair on bloodbait and shrimp.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water clear, 6 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow; fairly good numbers of fishermen over the weekend.

**CADDO:** Water clear, normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on chrome Rat-L-Traps with black back; striper slow; crappie fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair at night to 2 pounds on live bait.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water clear, 44 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; hybrid striper fair in 30 feet in the open water in 30 feet of water on large jugs; channel catfish fair to 3 1/2 pounds on cutbait; all other fishing slow.

**CYPRESS SPRINGS:** water clear, 43 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds, 5 ounces on jig and pig; crappie good to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish good to 7 pounds on minnows on trotline.

**FAIRFIELD:** Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 7 1 pounds on chartreuse Rat-L-Traps in 10 feet of water, most are in the 10-22 foot range; crappie slow; hybrid striper moving early and late in the hot water discharge area; catfish fair to 5 1/2 pounds on prepared bait; redfish slow to 12 pounds on deep diving cranks. Good numbers of fishermen and more than 200 boats on lake over the weekend.

**FORK:** Waters slightly stained, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 6 1/4 pounds with a good number of slot sized fish on pig and jig; crappie good in 45 feet of water on minnows, only about half keeper sized; catfish slow.

**LAKE O THE PINES:** Water clear, 48 degrees, 9 1/2 feet above normal level; black bass fair on black lizards to 5 1/2 pounds in 8-12 feet of water around flooded brush tops; crappie fair around boathouses on minnows and jigs to 15 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish slow. Fair number of fishermen out midweek because of good weather.

**LAVON:** Water clear, lake full; black bass slow; striper fair to 7 pounds on silver slabs; crappie good to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs with limits; white bass fair to 8 fish per string with some surfacing on silver slabs; catfish slow.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water murky, 41 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair on jigs and deep diving cranks to 4 1/2 pounds; hybrid striper slow; crappie good around boat houses to 1 1/2 pounds on redhead, blue bodied jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair drifting stinkbait.

**MARTIN CREEK:** Water clear, normal level; black bass good to 5 pounds on crawfish colored Rat-L-Traps in 62-64 degree water around hotwater discharge; crappie fair to fish per string on minnows to 1 pound on minnows in the evening; white bass slow; catfish fairly good off the bank, trotlining slow, best baits seem to be shrimp and worms.

**MONTICELLO:** Water clear, 66 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass good to 10 pounds, 13 ounces on DB#3, black worms; crappie slow; channel catfish very good to 5 pounds on shrimp and water dogs, yellow catfish to 15 pound on live bait.

**MOSS LAKE:** Water clear, 45 degrees, normal level; black bass fair on plastic worms; crappie poor; white bass fair; catfish fair.

**MURVAUL:** Water clear, 55 degrees, 2 inches over spillway; black bass slow to 6 pounds, 11 ounces on jig and Craw Worms, winds increasing midweek; crappie fair under 1971 bridge on small minnows; catfish fair to 4 1/2 pounds on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 52 in main lake, 60 degree incoming water, normal level; black bass fair on worms and white spinners in shallow water, mostly slot around edge of moss on jigs and pork; crappie slow due to lack of fishermen; catfish slow. White bass are running in the Angelina River around Marion's Ferry and maybe up as far as Highway 7

PALESTINE: Water clear, 4 inches high; black bass fair to 5 pounds on jigs and eel. striper slow; crappie good with a few limits to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows. white bass slow; catfish slow. Lake not crowded with fishermen.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level black bass fairly slow to 6 1/2 pounds on plastic worms; crappie fair in 35 feet of water white bass slow; catfish good to 2 pounds on shrimp.

TEXOMA: Water murky, 42 degrees, normal level black bass good to 10 1/2 pounds; striper good to 18 1/2 pounds on a Sassy Shad; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good to 32 pounds on live bait and cut bait in deeper water.

WELSH: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass slow to 6 1/2 pounds with good numbers of fishermen over the weekend. crappie slow; Catfish good on trotline to 12 pounds on live bream.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass slow due to high winds; white bass slow; good sized crappie in fair numbers under 1097 bridge on minnows; channel catfish good around baited holes to 6 pounds on prepared catfish baits and night crawlers.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear, some muddiness around edges, normal level black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on minnows; striper slow; crappie slow but beginning to move into the creeks; white bass slow in lake as well as in Trinity River due to muddy waters and runoff from the Dallas area channel catfish good to 2 pounds, blue catfish to 4 pounds, both on trotlines yellow catfish slow.

RAYBURN: Water discolored up the rivers, lake fairly clear, almost 1 foot above pool level. black bass good around the hydrilla to 5 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, jigs and worms and some spinners; stripers slow; crappie good in 25-30 feet of water, fish around 15 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fair off piers during the cold weather, most on live worms.

TOLEDO BEND: Water muddy, 54 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on cranks; striper schooling some near dam to 13 pounds on topwaters and jigs crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fairly good to 3 pounds on trotline with worms.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, winds fairly high, 2 feet above normal level. black bass fairly good to 5 pounds on worms and pig and jig in 20 to 30 feet of water; striper good to 10 pounds on Ponyhead jigs with white grub tail, some topwaters, around the dam or in the Cow Creek area; crappie slow; white bass excellent all over the lake on white or chartreuse slabs or minnows. catfish good in 100 to 110 feet of water on cheese bait.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 45 degrees, normal level; black bass slow to 7 1/4 pounds on artificial lures; hybrid striper good to 3 1/2 pounds with limits; channel catfish fair to 2 pounds on chicken liver; redfish to 17 pounds, 9 ounces on Rat-L-Traps; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds on jig and pig and jig and eel; striper good on Rat-L-Traps and tilapia; catfish good to 35 pounds on tilapia and chicken livers; redfish poor to 9 pounds on cranks; corvina good with strings to 26 pounds on Tony Accetta 12l spoons.

CHOKE: Water clear, normal level; black bass slow to 8 pounds, 14 ounces; striper slow; crappie good under the bridge, around the dam with some limits; white bass fair up the rivers, fish scattered not bunching just yet; catfish good to 2 1/2 pounds on Roger's Cheese Bait in 50 feet of water.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level black bass good but mostly below keeper size, the largest produced by a bass tournament was 5 3/4 pounds on plastic worms; striper fair on

minnows and jigs to 5 pounds. crappie improving with some on minnows around Dike No. 2; white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on shrimp and bloodbait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, normal level. black bass slow; catfish good to 2 pounds on shrimp.

FALCON: Water clear, normal level. black bass fair to 5 pounds, but fish scattered, on worms and spinners. striper fair to 8 pounds on Knocker Spoons; crappie slow; white bass fairly good up the river mostly; catfish fairly good to 3 pounds on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: water clear, 4 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

TEXANA: Water muddy in lake, clear in jungle area, normal level; black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on worms and spinners in the jungle area; striper and white bass slow; crappie very slow; catfish fairly good on trotlines to 10 pounds with cutbait. Fishing pressure very light.

#### WEST

GRANBURY: Water clear, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow; few fishermen out midweek.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 46 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fairly good to 9 pounds on purple and white worms; hybrid striper excellent in deep water to 8 pounds, 2 ounces on silver slabs; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 13 1/2 feet low due to dam repairs; black bass fair to 5 pounds, 11 ounces on jig and pig; striper fair to 10 pounds along with white bass on slabs. catfish slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 48 degrees, 19 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair to 12 pounds trolling slabs; crappie slow; white bass fair to 8 fish per string on slabs; catfish slow.

#### COASTAL

SABINE LAKE: Waters cold, fishing pressure light; fishing very poor; live mud minnows but no live shrimp.

LOWER SABINE LAKE: Redfish fairly good to 30 inches and beyond on touts, Culprit worms, Sassy Shad on small bits of shrimp; specks good to 7 pounds with some limits on touts; good numbers of drum from banks and on boats around 8 pounds on dead shrimp; sheepshead good in the 3-5 pound range on shrimp; mud minnows available, no live bait shrimp.

GALVESTON: Fog cleared out midweek; fog on water since Sunday; no offshore activities; some specks to 4 pounds in the bays; some flounder and a few keeper redfish; a few trout limits in Offatts Bayou; good numbers of sandtrout in the ship channels and along the sides of the jetty rocks. beach front producing a few small drum, whiting, and sheepshead and around rock groins and piers; fair trout and redfish at the spillway at Bacliff warm water discharge; live bait scarce; most fish caught on Kelley Wigglers in strawberry, motoroil and white with fire tail, smoke.

PALACIOS: Some specks and reds, some keepers, on live bait and artificials in No. 3 Turning Basin; catches are spotty in deeper water; no live bait shrimp available; one bait shrimper planning a Gulf trip this week. Water looks good, low 50s. Duck season and dark goose seasons ended on a good note with many limits of ducks and dark geese. Snow and blue goose season continues through sundown Sunday. Fairly good numbers of mallards, wood ducks and lesser Canada geese in the area. Hunters did not show much interest in the late dove season; fair number of birds in area.

ROCKPORT: Redfish scattered and spotty, even when located fish not inclined to bite; good numbers of sheepshead near the jetties, around pilings and piers in the bays; good numbers of trout but all are undersized; no live bait shrimp available; a fair number of fishermen out midweek.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish fairly slow, a few in the deeper, still waters on live bait shrimp and mullet; speck scattered with some around Conn-Brown Harbor; sheepshead plentiful on live shrimp and fiddler crabs around pilings and jetties; golden croaker beginning to show; a occasional drum to 15 pounds; offshore slow, some grouper, snapper slow; heavy overcast and winds to 25 knots

midweek. Horace Caldwell Pier fishing pressure very light; some whiting and some flounder.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout picking up early this week in deep water; winds to 35 knots midweek, winds fairly cold so few fishermen out; waters too rough for boats. No live bait shrimp. Oso Pier producing drum to 3 pounds on dead bait in fairly good numbers, weather clear on Tuesday, overcast midweek. Bob Hall Pier fishing fairly slow, some whiting and hardheads along with a few small drum; fishing pressure fairly light.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fairly good trout near the Landcut to 7 pounds in fair numbers some redfish from the south no live bait available. Few fishermen. Good weather Tuesday but fishing fairly slow midweek.

PORT ISABEL: Some redfish in the 20-28 inch range in the Three Islands area on artificials and live shrimp; a few trout in the lower Laguna; some sheepshead around the causeway pilings; surf producing a few whiting; offshore fairly slow.

PH 1/20/87