

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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SEPTEMBER OPENER LOOKING GOOD

AUSTIN--Hunters anxiously awaiting the beginning of fall hunting on Sept. 1 can expect a good opening. Mourning dove and white-winged dove numbers are up and South Texas will have a new opening date. Also, Texans will get to participate in an early teal season for the second consecutive year.

A four-day white-winged dove season was approved for Sept. 4, 5, 11 and 12 in the Special White-winged Dove Area. The four-day season has a daily bag limit of 10 doves that can include no more than five mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

May call-count surveys, conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel, indicated a statewide whitewing breeding population of 941,000. Gary Waggerman, TPWD assistant dove program leader in Edinburg, said the Valley has about a 20 percent increase in its breeding population, but "nesting has been off in the summer. Frequent rain earlier this summer both helped and hindered production, but the jury is still out on how many will reproduce."

An estimated 441,000 whitewings are nesting in the lower Rio Grande Valley, up from 360,000 last year. In upper South Texas, 479,000 whitewings were nesting through a 16-county area, an increase from the 410,000 in 1992. In Presidio County in West Texas, about 20,000 whitewings were reported in a 12-mile stretch of salt cedar nesting habitat along the Rio Grande. Waggerman said much of the West Texas population is not surveyed because of the remoteness of the area.

Nesting densities in San Antonio, Austin and other towns in the Hill Country continue to increase. San Antonio's estimated whitewing population increased from 183,000 to 216,000 while Austin's increased from 12,000 to 21,000. Dallas/Fort Worth is considered the northernmost breeding range, although he said a scattered few have been found near Amarillo and Lubbock.

The mourning dove population index increased about 8.6 percent from last year and is about 23 percent above the 20-year average. The largest increase - about 21.6 percent - was in the South Zone. The Central Zone increased 11.5 percent and the North Zone decreased about 4.4 percent.

Mourning dove hunting season dates are: North Zone, Sept. 1-Nov. 9; Central Zone, Sept. 1-Oct. 31 and Dec. 26-Jan. 3; and South Zone, Sept. 24-Nov. 14 (ends Nov. 10 in Special White-winged Dove Area) and Dec. 26-Jan. 12. Hunters in South Texas should note that this is a significant change from 1992 when the season began Sept. 20. The statewide daily bag limit is 12 doves, including no more than six whitewings and two whitetips, except in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties.

During the regular dove season, in the traditional white-winged dove counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties, the bag limit will remain 12 doves, including no more than two white-winged and two white-tipped doves per day.

David Lobpries, TPWD assistant waterfowl program leader in Wharton, said the breeding duck survey indicated the teal population at 3.2 million, down from 4.2 million last year. However, the survey is conducted in the northern U.S. and Canada and, with a wet spring, many teal nested as far south as Texas.

"There are good water conditions in the Dakotas right now. Canada has good water, he said. "The fall flight should be fairly similar to last year. There are a fair number of teal nesting on the Texas coast and the High Plains."

Blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal may be hunted Sept. 11-19. The daily bag limit is four teal daily, eight in possession.

Rails may be hunted Sept. 1-Nov. 9. Daily bag limit is 15 (30 in possession) for King and clapper rails and 25 daily (25 in possession) for Sora and Virginia rails. The season for all species of gallinules (common moorhen and purple gallinule) is Sept. 1-Nov 9. Daily bag limit is 15; possession is 30.

The shooting hours for all early season migratory game birds is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the special white-winged dove season when the shooting hours are noon to sunset.

To hunt teal, hunters must possess a valid Texas hunting license, a Texas waterfowl stamp (\$7) and a federal waterfowl stamp (\$15). Teal may be hunted only with steel shot. To hunt white-winged doves hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license and a white-winged dove stamp (\$7).

LW 8/6/93

CONFUSION ABOUT DOVE BAG LIMITS, IDENTIFICATION

AUSTIN--Each fall some hunters get confused about daily bag and possession limits for mourning doves and other species. Hunters also should be aware of which species of dove they are hunting.

Ron George, deputy chief of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's wildlife branch, said a daily bag limit is defined as, "the maximum number of the indicated species that legally may be killed, taken or possessed during the permitted shooting hours in one calendar day."

A possession limit is defined as, "the maximum number of the indicated species permitted to be possessed by one person when lawfully taken in the United States," he said. "A possession limit of migratory game birds usually is twice the daily bag limit. A person cannot legally shoot a daily bag limit of doves in the morning, then go out in the afternoon and shoot more doves," he said.

Texas has three native species of doves which may be legally hunted. Most people easily recognize the mourning dove which occurs statewide, but many people in Central and North Texas have never seen white-winged and white-tipped doves.

Whitewings, which are currently increasing their range into Central and North Texas, have distinctive white stripes across each wing. Whitewings should not be confused with white-tipped doves, which are much larger in size and found south of a line from Corpus Christi to Laredo.

LW 8/6/93

HUNTING, FISHING REGULATIONS CHANGES REMINDER

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission during its March meeting approved several hunting and fishing changes which are scheduled to take effect Sept. 1. With fall seasons just around the corner, a reminder may keep some unfortunate hunter or fisherman out of trouble this fall.

The commission adopted white-tailed deer regulations that are more conservative than in years past in the Pineywoods and Post Oak regions, allowing Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff to work on a new antlerless permit system based on available habitat.

The majority of the 75 counties in the Pineywoods and the Post Oak became "buck only" counties, with the taking of antlerless deer allowed only through permits issued by the department. Other counties with a three-deer bag limit will have either two, six or 16 doe days - days where a hunter is allowed to take either sex, beginning with the first day of the season - while some counties will have a full season of either sex hunting.

"These new regulations and permit issuance systems are being developed in response to public concerns about East Texas deer management, declining deer numbers in East Texas and a desire by our staff to implement regulations and a doe permit system that will solve problems associated with deer management," said Dr. Rudy Rosen, TPWD fisheries and wildlife director. "We want to involve landowners in habitat management for wildlife."

Other fish and wildlife regulations changes as approved by the commission include:

WILDLIFE

* Fourteen counties - Brooks, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, LaSalle, McMullen, Maverick, Webb, Zapata and Zavala - have been changed to a five deer bag limit with no more than three bucks. The whitetail season will run from Nov. 13-Jan. 16.

* That portion of Val Verde County south of Highway 90 (south and east of Del Rio) has been added to the South Texas season for deer and turkeys.

* Hunters are permitted to take three Rio Grande turkeys during either the fall or the spring hunting seasons. Previously, only two turkeys could be taken during either of the seasons.

* Turkey season dates conform to white-tailed deer season dates.

* The archery season for deer and turkeys will be Oct. 1-31

* The requirement that hunters must possess a special permit to take prairie chickens has been removed.

INLAND FISHERIES

General

* Juglines must have a 30-day gear tag. Commercial juglines must have an orange-colored floating device and non-commercial juglines must be white.

* Flathead catfish minimum size limit increases from 18 inches to 24 inches. This change was passed by the commission in 1992 as was a regulation prohibiting the use of any gill, trammel or hoop net in fresh water.

Urban Fishing Initiatives

* Designates 76 lakes, ranging from 1 to 100 acres, as Designated Urban Lakes. These lakes will be targeted for special restrictive regulations and fish stockings that enhance fishing opportunities for all ages. Special regulations include prohibiting the use of trotlines, juglines and throwlines and reducing the catfish bag limit from 25 per day to three per day and increasing the minimum length limit from 9 inches to 12 inches.

* Place a bag limit of three per day, six in possession and an 18-inch minimum length limit on saugeye, which is being experimentally introduced to increase angling opportunities in urban areas. Saugeye is a cross between sauger and walleye.

Exceptions to Bag and Size Limits

- * Changed Lake Conroe black bass regulations to increase the 14-inch minimum length limit to a 16-inch minimum. Remains five black bass per day.
- * Change black bass on lakes Bridgeport, Weatherford, Georgetown, Tyler State Park, Striker and Caddo from a 14-inch minimum length limit, five daily bag limit, to a 14-inch to 18-inch slot limit and three black bass per day bag limit.
- * Add lakes Bastrop and Decker (Walter E. Long) to 14-inch to 21-inch slot limit.
- * Make Gibbons Creek a catch and release only fishery for largemouth bass rather than the current 14-inch to 21-inch slot length limit.
- * Add to the special regulation for the 14-inch to 21-inch slot limit lakes that only one largemouth bass per day longer than 21 inches may be retained.
- * Change Caddo Lake crappie from 50 per day with no minimum length limit to 25 per day with a 10-inch minimum length limit.
- * Prohibit chumming in Lake Texoma.
- * Make Lost Maples State Natural Area into a catch and release only fishery for black bass.
- * Place the following water bodies into the exceptions listing for coastal water boundary definition: Galveston State Park ponds one through seven, Lake Nassau, Fort Brown Resaca, Resaca de la Guerra, Resaca de la Palma, Resaca de los Cuates, Resaca de los Fresnos, Resaca Ranch Viejo and Town Resaca.

Research Based Proposed Regulations

- * Provide E.V. Spence and Fort Phantom Hill lakes with a blue catfish bag limit of five per day and an 18-inch minimum length limit.

COASTAL FISHERIES

King Mackerel

- * Increase the minimum size limit from 14 inches to 23 inches as it corresponds to regulations implemented in federal waters.
- * Delete king mackerel bag limit exception that licensed chartered vessels currently have, which is two per person, per day for all persons on board or three per person, per day exclusive of captain and crew, whichever is greater.

Freshwater Catfish

* Permit the retention of freshwater catfish taken by saltwater trotlines below the Coastal Waters Boundary.

Crabs

* Prohibit the tending of crab traps from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

* Require two 2 3/8-inch escape vents in crab traps.

All of these changes will go into effect Sept. 1 For more information, check your 1993-94 hunting and fishing guide.

LW 8/6/93

IS LAMPS THE ANSWER?

TYLER--Understandably, many East Texas landowners and deer leaseholders have devoted their attention to beating the heat this summer rather than beating a deadline to apply for antlerless deer permits.

But, like the heat, a Sept. 1 deadline for applications in the new Landowner Assisted Management Permitting System (LAMPS) isn't going to disappear The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is encouraging those interested in harvesting does this fall to find out if LAMPS is for them.

The LAMPS program was developed to address the antlerless harvest needs of landowners and lessees in about 60 counties in the Pineywoods and Post Oak regions which fall under a one buck only bag limit with antlerless by permit only.

The department recently conducted a series of LAMPS landowner information workshops throughout East Texas. Because many landowners were unable to attend these meetings, TPWD officials are concerned information about the permit program may not reach landowners and their deer leaseholders.

"Some of the calls we've been receiving indicate there is a lack of understanding about how LAMPS works," said Pat Karns, assistant big game program leader.

In response, the following information is based on the most asked questions at the LAMPS workshops and should assist landowners in getting a better handle on the program.

- * LAMPS is a very conservative antlerless permitting system. It is a short term alternative to a wildlife habitat and harvest annual recommendation program. Landowners are encouraged to participate in TPWD wildlife management planning for their lands by contacting their district biologist (or call TPWD headquarters in Austin at 1-800-792-1112 or 512-389-4800).

- * LAMPS permits are issued based on the amount of deer habitat on a property. It requires a minimum of 200 acres of suitable deer habitat to get a LAMPS antlerless permit. Small properties or those with poor deer habitat will not be eligible to receive permits. LAMPS permits apply only on contiguous tracts of land; therefore, adjoining landowners may combine their property in order to qualify.

- * If landowners sign up for the LAMPS program, they cannot take does under doe days. LAMPS and doe days are not applicable on the same property - it's either one or the other.

- * LAMPS applies only to deer taken during the general firearms season. LAMPS does not apply to archery season.

- * Applications for LAMPS permits are available only from TPWD, LAMPS, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by calling (512) 389-4334. Written requests for LAMPS application forms must include the person's name, address, telephone number, name of county or counties where property is located and number of properties the person wants applications for.

- * Most questions regarding the program can be answered through the LAMPS Hotline, (512) 389-4334. It cannot provide information on the number of permits for individual properties.

SL 8/6/93

DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE ALLIGATOR TAGS

AUSTIN--Tag issuance for the Sept. 10-30 alligator season is scheduled for four locations in late August and early September.

Tags will be issued at the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area (south side of Highway 73, one-half mile east of the Taylor Bayou bridge and three miles west of the Spur 214 intersection in Port Arthur), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 1-2; White Park Community Center in Chambers County (on Highway 61, five miles north of Anahuac and one mile south of I-10), 6-9 p.m., Aug. 31, Matagorda County Courthouse (in downtown Bay City at the intersection of Highways 35 and 60), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 30-31, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office in Victoria (2601 Azelia, Suite 31), 8 a.m. to noon, Sept. 2. Each tag will cost \$10.

"We've set aside these days to make it convenient for people to come by and pick up their tags. We hope everyone can take advantage of this opportunity now because later many of our staff will be conducting deer surveys and public hunts," said Bill Brownlee, alligator program leader.

Landowners or their agents must certify total acreage owned or represented on a form prescribed by the department at the time of application, he said. Landowners or their agents should be prepared to present verifiable proof of ownership if questions arise regarding the ownership of any tract of land. Proof of ownership includes a copy of the property tax receipt, deed, etc. A map showing boundaries of the property also would be helpful in processing the application. The landowner's agent also must present a notarized document from the landowner verifying their selection to represent that landowner.

For more information, contact Brownlee at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4700, or (512) 389-4700, or Amos Cooper at (512) 389-4789.

LW 8/6/93

EXPO CONTEST WINNER WORKING WAY THROUGH SCHOOL

AUSTIN--Chester Moore didn't know what was in store for him when his girlfriend's mother informed him of an essay contest sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department last fall. The journalism student knows now and he's thrilled about it.

Moore, 19, took journalism as a junior and senior in high school in Orange and had "toyed with the idea" of becoming an outdoor writer. He entered the essay contest which was part of Texas Wildlife Expo '92. Moore won the 12th grade division and good things began to happen.

First, he received a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license valued at \$800 - it was presented the day before his 18th birthday by Texas Rangers pitcher Nolan Ryan during the Expo in Austin. "When I won the contest the flood gates opened," said Moore, who is soon to begin his sophomore year at Lamar University.

Upon learning of his victory, Moore checked with the editor of the Orange Leader about writing an outdoors column. The editor read some sample writings and Moore's essay from the contest and agreed to let him write a weekly column, Orange Outdoors, for the free weekly Opportunity Valley News in Orange.

Moore then began writing for Metropolitan Beaumont and Sportsman's Dream magazines. During a media writing class at Lamar's Orange campus in February, Moore became interested in radio. He approached officials of KOGT-AM in Orange about doing an outdoors show. They already had a fishing show, but let him find a sponsor and do a five minute hunting show each week. The pre-recorded show, Hunting and Conservation Report, airs at 5:45 p.m. each Friday and again at 6:45 a.m. each Saturday.

The communications major said he's been hunting and fishing since he was 5 years old and plans to continue in the outdoor writing and broadcasting business after college. "There's no doubt this is what I'm going to do. I love doing this. There's nothing better to me.

"The Expo clarified what I needed to do in life," he said. "Winning the Expo opened the doors of opportunity for me and gave me confidence in what I want to do."

The original Expo in 1992 drew just under 200 entries for the poster and essay contest for kindergartners through college students. More than 1,700 entered the essay, poster and poetry contests of Texas Wildlife Expo '93.

The poster contest, open to grades K-6, received 558 entries. A total of 240 essays were entered for grades 7-12. The poetry contest, which received 933 entries, is separated into K-6 and 7th-12th grades.

The winners of each category - the entries will be judged by members of the Texas Outdoor Writers Association - will be awarded a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license. They will be honored during the Expo banquet Oct. 1 where Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, is the keynote speaker. Winning entries also will receive the Texas Wildlife Viewing Guide and a one-year subscription to Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine. The total value of each prize is more than \$800.

The Expo will continue Oct. 2-3 with about 300 exhibitors as well as participatory shooting events, seminars, calling contests, fishing events, demonstrations and more. The Expo is designed to celebrate the many years the TPWD has had the responsibility of managing the state's natural resources and maximizing the public's opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities in Texas.

LW 8/6/93

BUDWEISER RAFFLE, PROMOTION BENEFIT FOUNDATION

AUSTIN--Through mid-September outdoor enthusiasts, or anyone, can enter a Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc. raffle featuring a Jeep Grand Cherokee, bass boat and trailer combinations and more. The prizes are being donated by Anheuser-Busch as part of Budweiser's pledge in May to raise \$2 million for the Foundation.

Entry forms are available from special Budweiser, Bud Light and Bud Dry sales displays and events sponsored by Budweiser. Entry forms will be included inside Texas Hunting Guides at Bud displays in mid-August.

Consumers also can make a \$5 or \$25 donation to the Foundation in exchange for commemorative items from Budweiser and the Foundation. For \$25, donors will receive a window decal, hat pin, commemorative coin and art print (suitable for framing) by Texas outdoors artist Ragan Gennusa. A window decal, hat pin and commemorative pin will be given for a \$5 donation.

No beer purchase or donation to the Foundation is required to enter the raffle. Grand prize is a Jeep Grand Cherokee. Two first prizes, a bass boat and trailer combination, will be awarded, as will 100 fishing gear packages and 1,000 subscriptions to Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine.

During the summer, a 2 cents-per-case donation is being made to the Foundation for each case of Budweiser, Bud Light and Bud Dry sold in Texas. Also, proceeds from the Budweiser Freedom Fest celebrations on July 4 in Dallas, Houston and Austin will benefit the Foundation.

A benefit concert featuring Travis Tritt is scheduled for Sept. 6 at the Stockyards in Fort Worth. Tickets will be nominally priced and proceeds will be donated to the Foundation.

The Foundation, established in 1991, is a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation chartered by the state. It is designed to provide private support for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Foundation members raise funds and provide resources to the agency and supplement its needs where use of public funds is either prohibited or restrained by lack of funding.

LW 8/2/93

TPWD NOTEBOOK

AUSTIN--Almost 900 catchable-sized channel catfish were stocked into several ponds on the 4,400-acre Parrie Haynes Ranch in Bell County, a facility leased by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to provide outdoor camps for underprivileged and troubled youth.

The fish were stocked before the first camp July 11-16 with 24 teenagers on hand to learn about fishing, hunting, camping, canoeing and other outdoor activities. The fish were made available to the department by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Hatchery at Uvalde.

TPWD personnel from the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos transported the fish to the ranch where the youths received instruction on how to fish from Texas Game Warden Association volunteers.

The property is leased by the department from the Texas Youth Commission. It is operated by the Texas Game Warden Association. The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc. raises money for operation of the camps and to help develop a master plan.

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AUSTIN--One of the exciting aspects of the new Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens once it is built will be the visitors center, which will house an antique fishing tackle display depicting old fishing equipment.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department encourages anyone who has antique fishing tackle such as lures, reels, rods, boats, motors, artifacts, magazines and documents to donate them to the department so the Fisheries Center can show the progression of man's efforts from crude fish taking methods through today's advancements.

The center will contain a Texas Freshwater Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame in addition to a hatchery.

To inquire about making a donation, contact Charles Seabourne at (903) 425-3871 or contact Wylie A. Pirkle, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center project manager at (903) 675-4551

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AUSTIN--State and local officials, local residents and park visitors launched a new 15-passenger tour boat on July 17 at Fort Parker State Park near Mexia.

The craft, a 24-foot pontoon boat, was bought and donated by the Friends of Fort Parker, a local park support group. The cities of Mexia and Groesbeck each donated \$2,500. The rest of the funds were donated by residents. The boat was provided at cost by Texas Sports Boats Inc. of Fairfield. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided a 90-horsepower motor.

Kevin Good of TPWD's community services section said volunteers will provide interpretive tours of the 750-acre lake for now with the possibility of other tours, such as winter birding tours, to come later. Boat tours cost \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under. Special group tours may be arranged.

For more information on the boat tours or Fort Parker State Park, contact the park at (817) 562-5751

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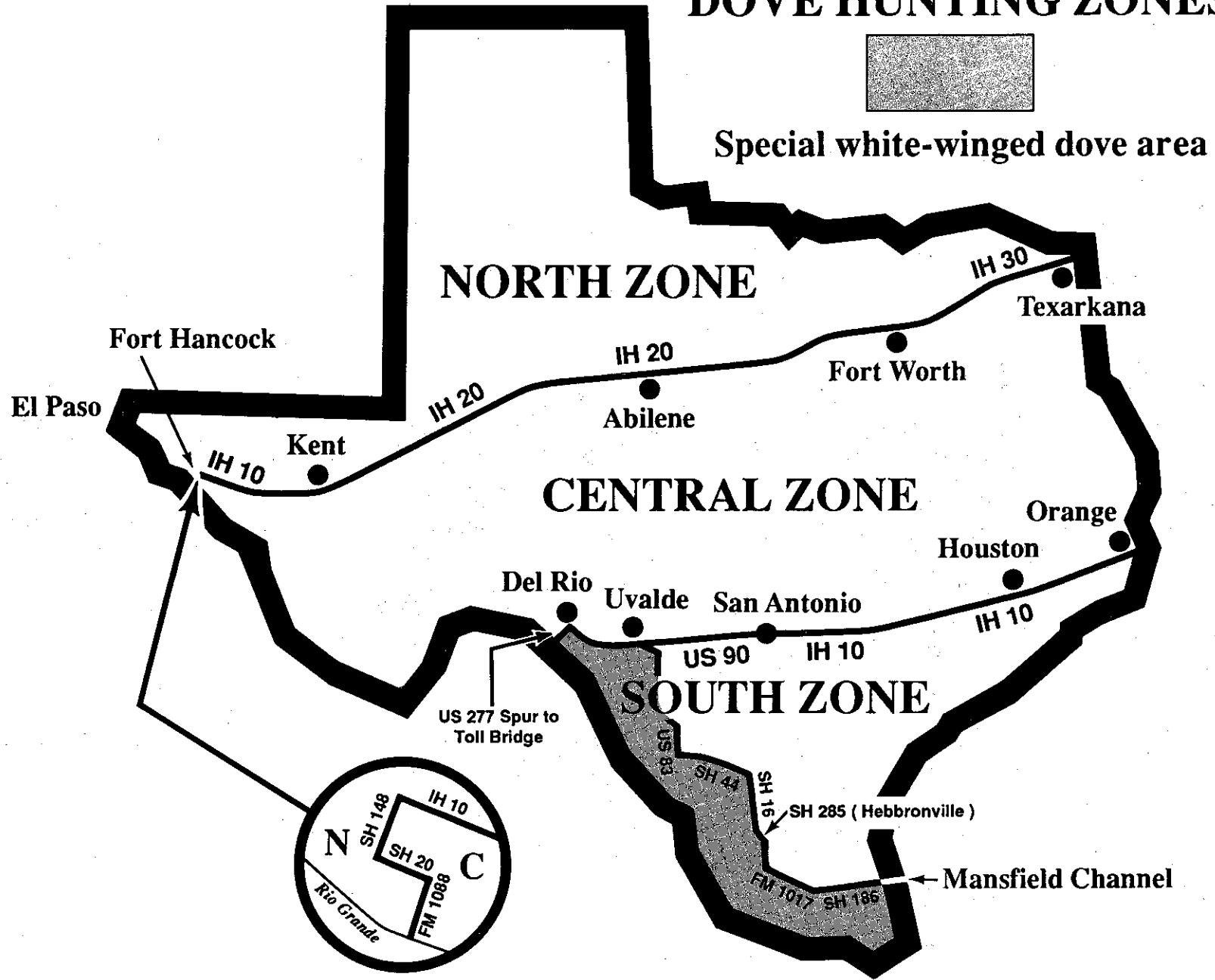
AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bulletin Board System has a new forum for veterans of World War II or enthusiasts of the war to leave messages about World War II.

The forum, called Nimitz, was created so the Admiral Nimitz Museum and Historical Center in Fredericksburg could receive information about World War II items of interest. The museum is collecting information about World War II, especially Admiral Nimitz. People with information, memories or memorabilia are encouraged to call the bulletin board.

To engage the TPWD bulletin board, call (512) 389-4430. The parameters are N81, 9600 baud modems. The system is available 24 hours a day. Users can select their own identification number and password. The service is free.

LW 8/6/93

DOVE HUNTING ZONES



Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.598
Aug. 4, 1993

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Aug. 4:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 94 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are fair to good to 5 1/4 pounds on topwaters and Power Worms; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds on red wiggles and Lewis King Punch Bait around inlet.

BELTON: Water clear, 88 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on spinners, PopRs, Ringworms; striped are slow; a 5 pound, 2 ounce smallmouth bass caught last week; crappie are slow; white bass are slow, some topwater action; catfish are good to 8 pounds on trotlines and rod and reel in the Cowhouse Creek area; yellow catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 80 degrees, good rain falling midweek, 5 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on minnows and jigs; striped are good to 3 1/2 pounds on slabs, spoons and deep running lures; crappie are fair to 10 keepers per string on minnows and jigs; white bass are fairly good to 2 pounds on spoons and slabs while schooling; catfish are fairly slow, few trotlines because of heat; a 22-pounder was caught on trotline baited with live perch.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 86 degrees, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on spinners in shallow water; striped are good to 10 pounds on live shad; crappie are slow; white bass are good with some topwater activity early around Garrett Island with slabs and jigs, watch for schools on top; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on upper end of lake with live bait.

CANYON: Water dingy, 82 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair in number and generally undersized and are caught on minnows and worms; striped are slow; crappie are good at the marina on minnows; white bass are good in number but most are undersized; catfish are fairly slow; good numbers of small fish caught but a few to 5 1/2 pounds in the rivers and in the coves.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 94 degrees, normal level; black bass are improving with up to 60 fish per day with early topwater hits, fish are also caught schooling later in the morning on Getzits, Boy Howdies, Rattle Traps and a wide variety of other lures; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on live water dogs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 90 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are schooling, good numbers of small fish caught in schools, the largest caught weighed 8 1/2 pounds and was caught on lizards and Rattle Traps; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 12-14 feet of water; catfish are fairly good to 45 1/2 pounds on jug lines on minnows and crawfish.

LBJ: Water clear, 86 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair through 6 pounds, 7 ounces on white spinners; striped are fair in the 10-15 pound range behind inks lake dam while generating on live shad; crappie are slow; white bass are good on lower end of lake around dam to Lighthouse Point, watch for schools on top; catfish are good 9

pounds on stinkbait in baited holes in 15 to 25 feet of water.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 18 inches low; all fishing is slow due to hot weather.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 92 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on worms, spinners and cranks; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow to 4 pounds in 15-35 feet of water on shrimp and worms.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow, some limits to 6 pounds caught at night on spinners, PopRs and Ringworms; striped are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 86 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on silver P.J. Pops, white spinners and brown jigs; Guadalupe bass are fair to 16 inches on the same baits; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good early on clear topwaters and Tiny Trap's; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on cut bait.

WACO: Water off color, 87 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on cranks and worms; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs and small jigs; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on spinners, minnows, worms, shrimp and some at night; striped are fair to 14 pounds in shallows on live bait, spoons and topwater; crappie are improving to 2 pounds, 2 ounces in 24 feet of water on minnows, some to 1 1/2 pounds in shallow water on minnows; white bass are good with several limits to 2 pounds while schooling; catfish are picking up in the 4-5 pound range on shrimp, cheese and minnows in the sand flats; small mouth bass are fair in the 3-4 pound range on spinners. A few drops of rain fell midweek.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 89 degrees, 4 inches low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on Power Worms and Centipedes; crappie are slow; white bass are schooling some; catfish are slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 12 inches low; black bass are slow; all fishing slow because of hot temperatures and lack of fishermen.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass are slow; all fishing is slow due to hot temperatures and lack of fishermen. A total of 1 1/2 inches of rain fell Monday.

CADDO: Water fairly clear, 2 feet low; black bass are slow; all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen and high temperatures.

CEDAR CREEK: Water a little green, 90 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow during the day and fair at night on worms, jigs and Rattle Traps; hybrid striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good through 2 pounds on L'il Georges, speck rigs, Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 40 pounds on jug lines with cut shad.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 11 ounces at night on black and blue Power Worms and in deep water on jig and Craw combination; crappie are good in 25 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good in 8 feet of water on nightcrawlers, shrimp and

minnows.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 95-96 degrees, normal level; black bass are good early, late and at night to 8 1/4 pounds on Rattle Traps; hybrid striped are fair to 7 pounds on white trailers; catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds on trotline baited with stinkbait and cut bait; redfish are slow. A total of 4 inches of rain fell Friday July 30.

FORK: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 11 pounds on Crawworms in deep water and cranks; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 1 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow to 3 1/2 pounds on Carolina rigged pumpkin seed worms on main lake points in 15 to 20 feet of water; striped are slow; crappie are fair to 14 inches on minnows under lighted docks at night; white bass are fair in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range with some schooling activity over the humps early and late with PopRs and Tiny Torpedoes; catfish are good to 10 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish and shrimp.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 85 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 6 pounds on shad gizzards and bloodbait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 89 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are fair to 7 1/2 pounds on buzz baits, deep diving cranks and dark worms; crappie are fair but most are small and are caught on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 7 3/4 pounds on nightcrawlers in 15 to 20 feet of water.

LAVON: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds on Power worms; crappie are fair in the 12-14 inch range on minnows, some jigging in 18-23 feet of water in the timber; white bass are fair around 14 inches on slabs and spoons; catfish are good drifting stinkbait and shrimp.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds on PopRs and worms; striped are slow; crappie are good to 1 pound in 20 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 3 pounds under highway 35 bridge on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers; white bass are slow; a total of .2 inches of rain fell Monday afternoon.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 89 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass are slow to 5 1/2 pounds due to lack of fishermen and heat; best baits are spinners, buzz baits and worms; crappie are slow on minnows due to lack of fishermen; catfish are slow to 3 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with cut shad and small perch or bream.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 9 inches low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on worms; striped are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on jigs and minnows in deeper water; white bass are good with a few limits on cranks and spoon in schools; catfish are good to 50 pounds on trotlines with cut bait, bloodbait.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on variety of baits; crappie are fair late on minnows; catfish are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on artificials; striper are fair on live shad; crappie are biting again, on minnows; catfish are good in 16 in 30 feet of water.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 82 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass are good through 11 pounds on Power Craws; crappie are good on points and in channels with minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 20 pounds with trotlines baited with live bait.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 87 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds in schools early on topwaters and Rattle Traps, later on humps and in points on Carolina rigs and cranks; white bass are good in 18 to 20 feet of water on slabs, Rattle Traps and jigs; crappie are fair suspended in submerged tree tops in deeper water, few fish per tree; catfish are good on jug lines and trotlines in 15 to 20 feet of water on shad and shrimp.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds; striper are fairly good on live bait and slabs; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good on slabs and live bait; catfish are good to 8 pounds on bloodbait, shrimp and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 84 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on pig and jig combination, Zara Puppies, spinners; striper are good through 13 1/2 pounds on topwaters; crappie are fair in number in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good with good numbers of surfacing fish caught on spoons and topwaters; catfish are picking up to 30 pounds on live bait and shrimp.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water stained, 88 degrees, 1 foot low and falling; black bass are slow to 5 1/4 pounds; a 22 pound catfish caught all; all other fishing is slow.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 89-92 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair early to 5.28 pounds on cranks early then to worms in 17-22 feet of water; crappie are good over brush, best catches are made under 1097 bridge out of the sun; white bass are good schooling early, fish are suspended mid day over humps, many small fish caught on Mud Bugs, Pet Spoons and Rattle Traps; catfish are fair to 2 pounds and are by crappie fishermen on minnows and cheese baits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on buzz baits and tequila sunrise worms; crappie are good to 15 fish per string at the islands and in the creek channels; catfish are good to 33 pounds at the island on a throw line.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 4 inches above normal; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds in Penwaugh Slough on Berkley Power Worms in pumpkin seed color; striper are slow; crappie are fair to good with 5 to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good, fish turned on last Friday and good numbers were caught on slabs; channel catfish are fairly good to 20 pounds on trotlines baited with shad; yellow catfish are slow.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 90 degrees, a little below normal level; black bass are slow to 3 pounds at night

on topwaters and Carolina rigged worms or deep diving baits; crappie are good in baited holes on minnows in 25 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair on trotlines, not many fishermen out due to heat.

SHELDON: Water cloudy, 85 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are poor; crappie are slow; catfish are slow, some small catches made on the south end.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 88 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow in lower end, striper went up river; crappie are slow, few fishermen out; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 35 pounds, mostly blues and channels on live bait; bream fishing slow; few fishermen out because of heat.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 78 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair at night on minnows under lights; catfish are fairly good to 4 pounds in 20 feet on cheese bait.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on black worms at the dam on the rocks; striper are slow, no keepers, many undersized fish caught on Rattle Traps and chicken livers; catfish are good in the 2 1/2 pound range on shad and chicken liver; blue catfish are slow to 1 1/2 pounds on worms; yellow catfish; redfish are good in the 13 1/2 to 15 pounds on chicken livers, shad, shrimp, shad and spoons.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to slow to 6 pounds on plastic worms; striper are fair in the 3-6 pound range on live perch and chicken liver; catfish are fairly good to 2 pounds on liver, shrimp and shad; redfish are good to 20 pounds on live perch, shad and crawfish; corvina are good to 20 pounds on perch, shad and crawfish.

CHOKO: Water clear, 85 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to good early in 5-10 feet of water along the edges of grass beds with topwaters and shallow running cranks fished slowly, later fish drop into deeper water and are caught on deep diving baits and plastic worms off the points and around the old tank dams; some of the deeper tanks and willows are holding bass; striper are slow; crappie are fair on live minnows in 20-35 feet of water in the river channels and at the dam, fish to 12 inches are caught near the dam; white bass are good around the south shore ramps on deep diving cranks, small white grubs and jigs behind a deep diving cranks, quarter ounce Rattle Traps also good, action reported throughout the day; catfish are fair around trees with roosting birds, 99 bridge has been good; catfish are concentrating around humps, ridges and south shore flats; cheesebait and liver are best, most fish are suspended so fishermen are using corks.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on Rattle Traps and spinners; crappie are fair to good on minnows around boat ramps and structure; catfish are good to 20 pounds on rods and reels baited with bloodbait and trotlines baited with perch.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 85 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow, a tournament caught 7

bass last week the largest weighed 2 1/2 pounds; striper are slow; crappie are fair off state park piers on minnows and jigs; white bass are good off state park piers at night on minnows; some white bass are schooling under birds from Corpus Christi Abbey to the buoy lines; blue catfish are fair in number to 4 pounds on trotlines baited with sop in 3-4 feet of water.

FALCON: Water clear, 86 degrees, 8 1/2 feet low; black bass are good on Power Worms, DB#3 and Bass Assassins; striper are good at the dam on jigs and spoons; crappie are slow; white bass are good on small Roadrunner Jigs and Bass Assassins; catfish are good on shrimp and Johnny Jumper's Cheese Baits.

MEDINA: Water clear, 87 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 10 3/4 pounds on Berkley Power Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on chrome slabs, no limits caught; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers and liver.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clear, white bass are good; catfish are good to 2 1/2 pounds on Punch Bait in 15 feet of water. All other fishing is slow.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on plastic worms; striper are fair trolling deep with downriggers; crappie are good in 22 feet of water on small minnows; white bass are fair on silver spoons, some limits caught; catfish are fair in 35 feet of water on Mr. Whisker's Cheese Bait.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners; crappie are good on minnows and worms; white bass are good on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 8 1/2 pounds on liver, minnows, worms and shrimp; walleye are slow to 8 1/2 pounds on minnows and worms. Fishermen reported a 3/4-inch early Tuesday, predictions call for more rain this week.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 81 degrees, lake level down a little; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good on slabs and spoons; catfish are slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 3/4 pounds on minnows; crappie are good; white bass are good; catfish are slow; walleye are good, fish are located below white bass and are hard to reach with minnows.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, 4 feet, 2 inches low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds, 13 ounces on worms; crappie are spotty, a few good strings caught but most fish are small, fish are caught on minnows in 18-25 feet of water; white bass are fair around docks at night under lights, some fish to 15 inches caught; channel catfish are good in the 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pound range on chicken liver in 25 to 30 feet of water around docks and on trotlines. Clouds dropped 1/2-inch of rain on Monday, another half-inch fell on Tuesday afternoon and weather conditions look good for the rest of the week.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good in 25 to 40 feet of water on plastic worms fished slowly; fish are hanging on points, ridges and large trees along river channel; smallmouth bass are fair to good mixed in

with largemouth and along rocky ledges; crappie are fair in 30-50 feet of water on minnows at night; white bass are fair casting into feeding schools or trolling deep diving baits over points or by slabbing; channel catfish are good to excellent on both trotline and rod and reel baited with shad, fish are caught in the main lake in 10 to 20 feet of water; yellow catfish are poor to fair on trotlines using live bait.

PROCTOR: Water clear, 87 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on worms; striped are good in the 7-8 pound range on shad; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 26 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 4 pounds on chartreuse buzz baits; striped are good to 24 pounds on chartreuse jigs with white worms; crappie are slow; white bass are good on topwaters; catfish are good to 27 pounds on live perch.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Good numbers of specks in all sizes; good numbers of redfish and drum; a few sheepshead and gafftop caught; live bait shrimp are not available. Best baits are dead shrimp, mud minnows and small mullet. Water is in good shape and fishermen are in good humor.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Limits of specks caught the jetties; redfish and specks are good in the reef area; good numbers of flounder coming from the channel area; Spanish mackerel are running at the jetties and beyond; mud minnows are available.

FREEPORT: Fishing has been fairly good; weather has been hot; bay fishing is fairly good. Offshore fishing has been excellent with many limits of snapper in the 5-10 pound range caught 20 miles to the east; good numbers of kingfish caught from 20 to 60 miles offshore; several amberjack caught at the deep water rocks; good numbers of dolphin caught at the weed line. Good sightings of wahoo, tuna and ling.

PORT OCONNOR: Surf has been very good for trout and redfish; the south shore along Pringle has been good for trout and redfish; Lighthouse Cove, Grass Island, Bill Day Reef, Everetts Reef, Barroom Bay and big jetties producing big redfish and trout; offshore fishing is fantastic with snapper in the 17-18 pound range; plenty of king, ling and dolphin; live bait shrimp available; best baits right now are live croaker.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of trout in the 4-5 pound range caught in the gulf on Hogies Swimming Shad; a few redfish caught in West Bay on cut mullet; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Fishing has been fairly good with some calm days, water is clearing; good concentration and redfish from Cottons and Green Bayous; redfish are hitting gold spoons, trout are hitting strawberry metal flake white-tailed Hogies Swimming Jack; good numbers of trout caught in the surf on the beach side on same baits; surf is crystal clear all the way to the beach; good numbers of trout caught on artificials and live shrimp at the wells; fair number of redfish caught at Oyster Lake; the backs of Carancahua, Turtle and Tres Palacios Bays are still muddy; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of redfish caught at the outside beach of Traylor Island and some redfish caught in California Hole; good numbers of specks caught at south side of Mud Island on green Cacohoe minnows; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout caught early around Dagger Island and near the wells in Corpus Christi Bay; redfish are caught in the flats, some flounder caught also; the weather is hot; most fishermen go early and late; live bait shrimp a little scarce but perch, croaker and mullet are plentiful. Offshore fishing is excellent; snapper to 22 pounds, most were in tea 5-6 pound range, good numbers of ling and amberjack caught; some shark and dolphin also caught. Many limits of king and snapper.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Back bay fishermen were catching good numbers of specks near the Portland Causeway; redfish and specks are caught from the reefs in the back bay; live bait shrimp are available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Moderate winds and low tides set the state for excellent fishing last week; herds of redfish from 26 to 30 inches have been sighted from East Cut to the Saucer, any bait will work; fly rodders having a good time stalking tailing redfish on sand flats from Butcher's Island to Green Island; most fish are on the small side but enough keepers caught to make effort worthwhile; many keeper trout are caught in the East Cut; best action is towards afternoon; morning fishing is ok; markers 24 to 18 are providing decent fishing; live shrimp or plastic baits are working; trout to 30 inches are best found around silted in areas along west shoreline 5-10 miles south of Port Mansfield; these areas are wadable but good legs, strong heart and lungs are a must for best results; west side north of town from Community Bar to Century Point providing fair action for trout. Boaters are advised that low tides make navigating hazardous especially in areas adjacent to the Intracoastal where many steel obstructions poke through; offshore fishing excellent for king, snapper and ling along North Rocks; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$12 per quart. Most tournaments over so live bait should be plentiful for the rest of the summer.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of trout caught along the Intracoastal and in the Three Island area; redfish have been fairly slow but some caught in South Bay; the front bar is paying off with trout on plastic worms; no great numbers of billfish so far; some nice flounder and redfish caught on the beach in the Port Mansfield area; some redfish and trout caught from the piers at night; live bait shrimp plentiful.

PH 8/4/93