

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the February 28, 1992, issue:

Mountain Lion Round-Table Seeks Consensus.....	1
Park Groups Say Funding Critical.....	2
Shrimpers Oppose Limited Entry At Hearing	4
Gulf Shrimp Identified As Exotics.....	5
Additional Regulations Hearings Scheduled.....	6
Reenactment Set At Fort Richardson.....	8
Fanning Battleground Celebrates With Kite Contest	9
Fishing Report	

MOUNTAIN LION ROUND-TABLE SEEKS CONSENSUS

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will bring together diverse interest groups in April to try to forge consensus on the future of mountain lion management in Texas.

On April 8 in Del Rio, 70 to 100 conservationists, landowners, urban citizens, livestock producers, hunters, preservationists, news reporters, wildlife biologists, university researchers and state legislators will sit down in round-table groups of about 10 each. Each group will be charged with developing constructive ideas toward a long-range mountain lion management strategy.

The consensus of each group then will be consolidated into an overall projection of needs and the sources of data to effectively manage the species in Texas.

Less is known about the solitary mountain lion than many other Texas wildlife species. Part of the department's goal is to develop accurate data on mountain lion populations and territory. After the round-table, department staff will expand efforts to collect harvest and mortality data and educate the public about mountain lions.

Opinions about mountain lions are diverse. Some livestock producers regard the animal as a threat to their livelihood. The Sierra Club recently petitioned the department to protect mountain lions in Texas. Mountain lions are currently classified as non-game animals, so there is no restriction on their harvest.

"I'm confident that the proposed management forum and future research will provide the pathway for us to effectively address the mountain lion issue in the future," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director.

Department wildlife biologists have recommended making no changes to the mountain lion's classification and regulations at this time because information indicates stable or increasing populations.

A few of the organizations and individuals invited to attend the round-table include the Sierra Club, the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Boone & Crockett Club, the Audubon Society, university researchers and biologists from state and federal agencies.

The department's goal for the round-table is to have the broadest possible representation of diverse interests. Past round-tables on other topics have proven to be an effective tool to identify problems and work toward cooperative solutions.

TH 2/28/92

PARK GROUPS SAY FUNDING CRITICAL

SEABROOK--Texas public park supporters proposed several new options for park funding, which has become increasingly competitive with the tight state budget, during a public hearing hosted by a Texas House of Representatives subcommittee Feb. 19.

Supporters told the subcommittee of the House Environmental Affairs Committee and to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials, funding could be raised through real estate transfer fees, environmental impact fees, lottery proceeds, bottle deposits, summer gasoline tax, sporting goods or video rental tax or public land leasebacks.

"One of these or some combination of these will work in Texas," said Glenda Barrett, executive director of The Park People Inc., a Houston group.

The House committee is considering whether to employ any of these revenue options to buy new park land and to maintain existing state parks.

"We as individuals need to do more to help ourselves and not depend on government," said Rep. Edmund Kuempel of Seguin, referring to the tight state budget. "We've got a hell of a problem at the state level."

"We're just looking for ways to help you help us," responded John Blackburn, community services director for the city of Bryan.

Kuempel and the other three state representatives in attendance were most responsive to the proposals on real estate transfer fees and public land leasebacks. They expressed reservations with all of the ideas, though they did leave the door open to a solution.

"I'm hearing that you in the local communities are willing to raise matching funds. We at the state level need to find ways to do our fair share," said Rep. Robert Saunders of LaGrange.

A key problem is lack of money for the department's Local Park Fund, a 50-50 matching fund that paid half the cost of 34 new local park projects across Texas in 1991. Also lacking is the State Park Fund used to operate and maintain state parks.

Cigarette tax revenue for the local fund has declined from \$18.5 million in 1979 to \$13.5 million in 1991. Park supporters are proposing options to the cigarette tax, which some feel is inappropriate for parks.

Blackburn proposed a real estate transfer fee system based on one in Crested Butte, Colo., where a percentage of each real estate sale is earmarked for parks. For property owned less than a year, 5 percent of the sale price goes to parks; of property owned five to 10 years, 0.5 percent goes to parks. Property owned longer than 10 years is not subject to the fee. This schedule gets around the problem of the fee hitting families who've worked for years to own property.

Saunders' interest was piqued by the leaseback system outlined by the Blanco County River Authority. The BCRA can buy "extra" land not in the flood plain when it builds a dam or other project and then lease it back to landowners for cottages, water access, etc. The lease revenue can go to parks.

Most representatives leaned toward local option systems where communities could vote on whether to participate in and benefit from any of these proposed fees and taxes. The committee is gathering information before drafting any proposed laws for the 1993 legislative session.

TH 2/28/92

SHRIMPERS OPPOSE LIMITED ENTRY AT HEARING

SEABROOK--The Texas Shrimp Association opposes limited entry and instead has recommended a moratorium to prevent any new shrimp licenses to be sold, along with tighter shrimping license qualifications.

Limited entry is a management system that would limit the amount of people who could commercially shrimp in Texas waters.

Members of the group and numerous individual shrimpers gave testimony at a Feb. 19 public hearing here. They addressed a subcommittee of the Texas House of Representatives Environmental Affairs Committee, which also heard a report on the pros and cons of limited entry and the need for shrimp management.

"Fishermen are compelled to overfish and overcapitalize with the current free access policy," said Dr. Wade Griffin, an economics professor at Texas A&M University.

Griffin said shrimpers would actually profit from limited entry because it would lower shrimper costs and guarantee a fair share of the shrimp resource for every shrimper. However, his report did recommend that for a limited entry program to work a new computer tracking system and other limited entry setup costs would be incurred.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which participated in the hearing, and the legislative committee were asked to consider limited entry by the Shrimp Advisory Committee, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission-appointed advisory group representing conservationists and sport and commercial fishing interests.

"Limited entry is not the answer," said Wilma Anderson, TSA executive director. "We don't want people out there telling us what to fish or how to fish because that won't make our note payments."

Anderson and other shrimpers insisted that tough economic times are already enforcing a kind of limited entry on shrimping. They deny overfishing and overcapitalization and point out that the number of Texas shrimp boats on the water is declining.

The big problem for Texas shrimpers is foreign competition, not competition among themselves, she said. Imported shrimp competition from China totals \$300 million and has helped decrease shrimp prices by 90 cents per pound.

There is some agreement on shrimp management options. Most of those involved agree that tougher license requirements may be one way to limit shrimping. Some shrimpers suggested previous shrimp boat experience and minimum skill standards for those seeking new shrimping licenses. Others are not convinced license restrictions can be a complete solution.

"The over-commitment of human resources to the shrimp fishery also results in a higher level of incidental catches," said Dr. Antonio Lamberti of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, a five-state advisory body.

"Incidental catches" refers to situations such as shrimpers accidentally pulling in endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles and other species of unwanted fisheries resources. Shrimpers cite a 30 percent loss from the required use of Turtle Excluder Devices, or TEDs, and they worry about any additional regulations.

"We're one hurricane away from disaster," said Dickinson shrimper C.L. Standley, a member of the Shrimp Advisory Committee. "Because the profit margin is now so small, we can't afford to pay our bills and feed our families."

Department staff and legislators emphasized they are only studying the pros and cons of limited entry at this point. Legislators are gathering information before proposing any new laws during the 1993 legislative session.

TH 2/28/92

GULF SHRIMP IDENTIFIED AS EXOTICS

AUSTIN--Eight unusual looking shrimp caught by a shrimper in the Gulf of Mexico in early January have been positively identified as the exotic Pacific white shrimp, or Penaeus vannamei.

The shrimp were found in several drags in 42 feet of water off Port Mansfield. The shrimper turned them over to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office in Brownsville. The shrimp were sent to the Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station in Palacios.

"They have been positively identified as immature Pacific white shrimp, but we don't know where they came from," said C.E. Bryan, fisheries resource program director.

While it's not possible to say with certainty where the shrimp came from, the state has seen at least one unverified and two verified releases of exotic shrimp the past three years. Exotics were found in the Brownsville Ship Channel in 1989 and in the Arroyo Colorado in 1991. In 1990, there was an unverified report of exotics in Matagorda Bay.

Escaped exotic shrimp are potentially threatening to native shrimp along the Texas coast. There is a risk of disease from escaped or released shrimp that could impact native stocks. Pacific white shrimp grow faster in culture situations, so they have the potential of displacing native shrimp. However they may not have the resiliency of native stocks and a hard freeze could wipe out the entire stock.

The native shrimp industry in Texas is valued at \$500 million per year.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in January, took steps to prevent escapements of exotic shrimp, Bryan said. The commission tightened regulations by allowing only one exotic species (*P. vannamei*) to be brought into the state; previously 11 were allowed into the state. Commissioners also tightened the regulations for disease inspection and for measures to prevent escape.

"We don't know the effects of exotic shrimp, but we're trying to prevent any adverse effects by preventing escapes," Bryan said. "We're monitoring the bay and Gulf waters and will be able to detect any changes in shrimp species. We'll know what's going on."

LW 2/28/92

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS HEARINGS SCHEDULED

AUSTIN--Public hearings on proposed 1992 hunting and fishing regulations have been added for two Texas towns, increasing the number of early March hearings to 44.

The additional hearings are scheduled for March 4 at the Jackson County Courthouse in Edna and for March 5 in the District Courtroom at the Cherokee County Courthouse in Rusk. All public hearings begin at 7 p.m.

The hearings are scheduled six weeks earlier this year. The earlier schedule will allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission ample time to add last minute changes.

Final decisions on proposed regulations will be made during the March 26 commission meeting, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room. All approved regulations will go into effect Sept. 1, except the proposed prohibition on the use of gill, trammel and hoop nets in public freshwater. If passed, it will become effective Sept. 1, 1993.

An updated list of scheduled hearings is listed below.

TOWN	DATE	LOCATION
Abilene	March 5	(New) Taylor Co. Courthouse
Amarillo	March 2	Potter Co. Courthouse
Alpine	March 2	Brewster Co. Courthouse
Austin	March 3	TPWD Headquarters Hearing Room
Beaumont	March 3	Jefferson Co. Courthouse
Bellville	March 2	Austin Co. Courthouse
Big Spring	March 4	Howard Co. Courthouse
Brenham	March 5	Washington Co. Courthouse
Brownsville	March 2	Cameron Co. Courthouse
Brownwood	March 4	Brown Co. Courthouse
Bryan	March 4	Brazos Co. Courthouse
Columbus	March 5	Colorado Co. Courthouse
Corpus Christi	March 3	Corpus Christi State University 6300 Ocean Dr Hall 117
Edna	March 4	Jackson Co. Courthouse
El Paso (MST)	March 3	1200 Golden Key, Suite 130
Galveston	March 4	Galveston Co. Courthouse
Grand Prairie	March 2	Criminal Justice Center 603 W. Main
Houston	March 5	129th Dist. Court, 301 Fannin, Rm. 310
Hallettsville	March 6	Lavaca Co. Courthouse
Huntsville	March 3	Walker Co. Courthouse
Jasper	March 6	Jasper Co. Courthouse
Kerrville	March 5	Kerr Co. Courthouse
Laredo	March 2	Laredo Civic Center Room 4
Livingston	March 5	Polk Co. Courthouse
Lubbock	March 3	Lubbock Co. Courthouse
Lufkin	March 3	Angelina Co. Courthouse

Marshall	March 3	Harrison Co. Courthouse
McAllen	March 3	McAllen Chamber of Commerce 10 N. Broadway
Midland	March 2	Midland Co. Courthouse
Nacogdoches	March 3	Nacogdoches Co. Courthouse
New Boston	March 4	Bowie Co. Courthouse
Orange	March 2	Orange Co. Courthouse
Port Lavaca	March 3	Calhoun Co. Ag. Building, Co. Rd 101
Rio Grande City	March 3	Starr Co. Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
Rusk	March 5	Cherokee Co. Courthouse, Dist. Court
San Angelo	March 3	Tom Green Co. Courthouse, JP Court
San Antonio	March 4	Texas A&M Eng. Student Lounge 9350 S. Presa
Sherman	March 6	Grayson Co. Courthouse
Three Rivers	March 4	Three Rivers City Hall
Tyler	March 5	Smith Co. Courthouse
Uvalde	March 4	Uvalde Civic Center
Victoria	March 2	Town Plaza Mall, 1502 Airline
Waco	March 2	McLennan Co. Courthouse
Wichita Falls	March 3	Northwest Texas Field and Stream 2005 Southwest Parkway

Anyone not able to attend a hearing may comment by writing TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by calling 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4974 or 4505, or (512) 389-4974 or 4505.

LW 2/28/92

REENACTMENT SET AT FORT RICHARDSON

JACKSBORO--The "Indian Wars" and the Civil War will come back to life for a brief time on March 7-8 when Fort Richardson State Historical Park hosts 'Fort Richardson Days," a military and civilian living history reenactment.

On March 7, the U.S. 4th Cavalry from Lubbock and the U.S. 6th Cavalry from Dallas will participate with other reenactors of the infantry and artillery from the 1860s through the 1880s in a living history program from the "Indian Wars." These historians will re-create life as it was during those times.

The event will include a period cannon, parade ground activities and other reenactors and their families.

The 19th Infantry Confederates and the 4th Massachusetts Infantry will relive Civil War times on March 8. The reenactors also will perform a skirmish battle.

Terry's Texas Rangers of the 8th Texas Cavalry will perform both days. The event could draw as many as 150 reenactors from across the state.

The program will begin at 8 a.m. on March 7 and conclude the afternoon of March 8. The event is free but there is a \$3 park entrance fee. The park does have camping but all slots are reserved for that weekend.

The park is located in Jacksboro in Jack County. For more information contact Park Superintendent Danny Peterson at (817) 567-3506.

LW 2/28/92

FANNIN BATTLEGROUND CELEBRATES WITH KITE CONTEST

GOLIAD--Clean off that old homemade kite or go to the store and buy a new one. Whatever kite is chosen, be practicing for a kite flying contest as part of "A Day in the Park," at Fannin Battleground State Historical Park.

"A Day in the Park," sponsored by Goliad State Park, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 21 at Fannin Battleground, nine miles east of Goliad on Highway 59 in Goliad County.

Trophies will be awarded in junior (up to nine years old) and senior (10-18 years old) categories for best homemade and best store bought kites, best trick flying, best kite flyer and biggest and smallest kite.

At 11 a.m. the Goliad High School Band will perform a concert.

There is a \$3 per vehicle entry fee to the park, but the event is free. For more information contact Beth Ham at (512) 645-3405.

LW 2/28/92

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Feb. 27:

POLLUTION

ADVISORY

As a service to readers of the weekly fishing report, the following pollution report is published to help fishermen with their selection of fishing sites. This material is provided by the Texas Department of Health.

LAVACA BAY near Point Comfort, fishermen may only catch and release fish and crabs from this area because of mercury contaminants.

TRINITY RIVER, between Dallas and Fort Worth, fishermen may only catch and release all fish species in this area because of chlordane contaminants.

ARROYO COLORADO, above Port of Harlingen, regular consumption of all fish species taken from this area should be avoided because of chlordane, toxaphene and DDT contaminants.

TOWN LAKE, Austin, consumption of all fish species taken from this body of water should be avoided because of chlordane contamination.

NECHES RIVER, south of US 96 near Evadale to the I 10 bridge, no more than 1 meal of all species of fish per month per person should be consumed. Women of child bearing age and children should not consume fish caught in this area because of dioxin contaminants.

BRAZOS RIVER, south of FM 521 to the mouth of the Brazos in Brazoria County, no more than 1 meal of all fish species per month per person should be consumed. Women of child bearing age and children should not consume fish caught in this area because of dioxin contaminants.

HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL and UPPER GALVESTON BAY north of a line drawn from Red Bluff Point to Five Mile Cut Marker to Houston Point, no more than 1 meal per month per person of catfish and blue crabs caught in this area. Women of child rearing age and children should not consume any catfish or blue crab caught in this area because of dioxin contaminants.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water murky, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on dark worms and Rattle Traps; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 38 pounds on worms-baited rod and reel and 10-pound test line.

BROWNWOOD: Water muddy and 5 feet above spillway level; no fishermen out midweek because of 30-mile-per-hour winds and high water. Fish were beginning to hit until the last front when all activity stopped.

BUCHANAN: Water clear to 18 feet and murky below, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on cranks and worms; striper are fair to 6 pounds on live shad and jigs; crappie are slow, a few caught in 5-10 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair in number on slabs and spoons; catfish are excellent to 6 pounds on trotlines baited cut bait and rod and reel with worms and blood bait.

CANYON: Water murky, 55 degrees,

16 feet above normal level; black bass are slow to 11 pounds on white spinners at night; keeper sized striper are good in number on minnow-like lures; crappie are good in 80 feet of water; white bass are good all over the lake and up river; catfish are slow; rainbow trout are fairly slow because the flow 5000 plus cfs below the dam.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, 70 degrees, 2 feet above normal level and rising; black bass are good to 2 pounds on cranks and purple and white worms; striper are good to 4 pounds on Rattle Traps; crappie are poor; white bass males are running, limits caught on small silver spoons and black and white jigs; channel catfish are good to 2 pounds on worms and shrimp; yellow catfish are good to 7 pounds on live bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 64 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 9 3/4 pounds on tequila sunrise plastic worms, some over 7 pounds caught on live water dogs; crappie are fair to 7 fish per string on minnows in 18-20 feet of water around the trees; catfish are fair in the 3-7 pound range in the rocks mostly on shrimp.

LBJ: Water muddy, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; striper are slow; crappie are poor; white bass are fair on slabs and spoons trolling in 5 to 10 feet of water and in 15 to 20 feet of water; catfish are good to 5 pounds on worms and shrimp.

LIMESTONE: Water muddy, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass and all fishing are slow due to weather.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds in in less than 25 feet of water on minnows, Rattle Traps and cranks; smallmouth bass are fair in 10 to 30 feet of water on minnows, spinners and cranks; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in 25 feet or less of water on minnows, slabs and Rattle Traps; catfish are fairly good on cranks and shrimp in 10 feet or less of water; walleye are fair in number on Rattle Traps and worms; a few gaspergou caught.

STILLHOUSE: Water muddy, 45 feet above normal level and about 1-foot shy of going over spillway; all boat ramps are under water and no fishermen out; some channel catfish caught in the mouth of the river. Water is going over the spillway at Belton, FM 2271 across the Belton Dam is closed.

TRAVIS: Water off color, 58 degrees, 5 feet above normal level and rising; largemouth bass are fair to 3 pounds on pumpkin seed colored Fat Getzits and Tom's Minners; Guadalupe bass are fair to 13 inches on Fat Getzits, Tom's Minners and live minnows; striper are slow; crappie are fair around docks in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair to good in the Pedernales at Reimers and above on jigs and minnows; catfish are slow.

WACO: Water muddy, 60 degrees, 10 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; all fishing slow due to weather and high winds. White bass were beginning to hit until the new weather front.

WHITNEY: Water murky, 55 degrees, 4 feet above normal and rising; largemouth bass are good to 7 pounds in shallow water with spinners; smallmouth bass are fair to good to 5 pounds on Slug-Gos; striper are good on Redfins and shad; crappie are fair on minnows

and jigs to 1 1/2 pounds; white bass are good to 1 1/2 pound on slabs and spoons; catfish are slow to 12 pounds.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 60 degrees, 14 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6.8 pounds on worms, lizards and jigs, several limits caught, fish are schooling; crappie are slow; white bass are fair while schooling in the 1 1/2 to 3 pound range on a wide range of baits; catfish are slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water muddy, 52 degrees, lake full; black bass are fairly slow to 11.87 pounds on small Rattle Traps; catfish are slow; crappie are good with limits until daylight; white bass are slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water muddy, 18 inches above normal level; black bass and all fishing slow; some crappie caught before the rains.

CADDO: Water clear, 18 inches above normal; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on black worms and chartreuse buzz baits; crappie are very good with full strings to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good at night on set hooks and trotlines baited with minnows.

CEDAR CREEK: Water murky, 53 degrees, 7 inches high; black bass are good in number to 5 1/2 pounds on black Sensations in 4 feet of water; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair in the shallows on jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water a little murky, 59 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 9 1/4 pounds in 2 feet of water on red Rattle Traps and black and blue Craw Worms; crappie are beginning to hit in 5-6 feet of water on minnows and white jigs; catfish are fairly slow in 10-12 feet of water.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 65-70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on Slug-Gos; hybrid striper are fair to 10 pounds on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 8 pounds; redfish are poor.

FORK: Water muddy on north end, clear in main lake, 54 degrees, 8 inches high; black bass are good to 12.66 pounds on jigs; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnow; catfish are slow.

JOE POOL: Water muddy, 50-55 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on spinners; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair behind the spillway to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fair to 15 pounds on frozen shad and minnows and some stinkbait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 60 degrees, 4 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on chrome Billy Bass Lures and Fliptail lizards and Rattle Traps; crappie are fairly good to 3.4 pounds on minnows and jigs in 20 feet of water; white bass are fair on minnows in deep water; catfish are fairly good to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with worms in 6-8 feet of water.

LAVON: Water murky, 54 degrees, 9 feet high; black bass and all fishing slow due to high waters and 30-35 knot winds.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on white spinners; crappie are good to 2 pounds to 1 fish per strings on minnows; white bass are good to 2 pounds on slabs and spoons;

catfish are fairly good to 6 pounds on blood bait and worms.
MONTICELLO: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on live water dogs; crappie are fair to 2 pounds to 10 fish per strong on minnows; catfish are good to 9 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.
MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 47 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass are fair to 9 1/4 pounds on artificials; crappie are fair to 6 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good to 2 pounds to 10 fish per string in deep water on slabs; catfish are slow.
MURVAUL: Water muddy, 58 degrees, 20 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 12 pounds, 1 ounce on white spinners, a number of smaller keeper-sized also caught; crappie are good around 1971 bridge on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow on trotlines due to lack of fishermen.
PALESTINE: Water murky, 60 degrees, 2 feet over spillway; black bass are good to 7 3/4 pounds on topwaters and worms; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds with several limits on minnows; white bass are good with several limits on minnows; catfishing should be good but few fishermen out.
PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are improving, an 11 1/2-pound bass caught over the weekend on spinners; crappie are picking up on minnows; catfish are slow.
RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good to 2 1/4 pounds to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fairly good on slabs and spoons; catfish are good to 4 pounds from the barge on chicken livers.
RAY ROBERTS: Water murky, 51 degrees, 3 feet high; black bass are fairly good to 8 1/2 pounds on spinners; crappie slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen; only boat ramp open is the temporary one on east on FM 3002 and south FM3442.
RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water murky, 56 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are slow this week, over the weekend several bass in the 8 pound range were caught on spinners and lizards; all other fishing is slow; high winds and nearly 5 inches of rain this week have kept most fishermen at home. A weekend tournament produced good numbers of bass on spinners and lizards, the winner had 27.12 pounds while the 11th place had 20.50 pounds with five fish.
TAWAKONI: Water clear, 55 degrees, 1 foot above spillway; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on minnows and jigs; striper are poor; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow in the lake but good below the spillway in the river; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on blood bait and shrimp.
TEXOMA: Water off color, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 10 ounces on crawdad cranks; striper are good to 16 pounds on Sassy Shad and live bait; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair in number; catfish are good to 60 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait and cut bait.
WRIGHT PATMAN: Water muddy on the south side and off color on the north side, 57 degrees, 1 foot

above normal level; black bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on spinners, cranks, jigs and pigs; crappie are fair to poor to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to poor on L'il Georges; catfish are fair to 36 pounds on live shad.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water a little off color especially on the north end, 65-70 degrees, 8 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good with a weekend tournament winner catching 19 pounds for 5 fish, the largest weight 8 3/4 pounds with a number of 5-6 pound fish and good numbers of throwbacks on worms and Rattle Traps mostly and a few on Craw Worms; white bass are good on jiggin spoons on the humps; crappie are fair; catfish are good 3 pounds in number in shallow water, most in the 1 1/2 pound range or under on the usual catfish baits.
HOUSTON COUNTY: Water a little off color, 58 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on dark worms and water dogs; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good in 12-14 feet of water to 16 fish per string from piers, across from the marina and at the spillway; white bass are good and can be found by fishing with minnows about 4 feet under the crappie; catfish are fairly slow.
LIVINGSTON: Water muddy, 58 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass were fairly good on spinners until the front, since then fishing has been fairly slow; crappie are good in number on minnows and jigs; white bass are still up river; catfish are good to 60 pounds on trotlines with cut shad and button shad; blue catfish are good to 24 pounds on fresh cut shad.
TOLEDO BEND: Water slightly off color, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on worms, spinners, Rattle Traps and some topwaters; striper are good to 12 pounds on live bait near the generators; crappie are fair on spinners in the 1-2 pound range; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number to 87 pounds on live bait on trotlines in creeks and river channels.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear and rough, 55 degrees, 8 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on black and purple worms and spinners; striper are improving to 20 pounds on chartreuse Bananahead jigs; crappie are fair up the Devils River on minnows; white bass are fairly good up the Pecos and in Zorro and Caballo on white and chartreuse slabs and minnows; catfish are scattered in 20 to 100 feet of water and are caught on cheese bait and worms.
BRAUNIC: Water murky, 65 degrees, 10 inches above normal level; black bass have been good to 9 1/2 pounds on jigging pigs; striper are good in number but most are too small to keep, a few between 8 and 12 pounds on Rattle Traps; blue catfish are good from 9 to 11 pounds on worms and shrimp; channel catfish are good to about 4 pounds on shrimp liver and shad; brown drum are good to 22 pounds; a new lake record caught by Edward Brandt of Helotes on crawfish; redfish are good to 18 pounds from the bank on shad; a string of 4 redfish weighed 68 pounds.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 60 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass are good to 6 pounds on artificials; striper are slow; blue catfish are good to 7 pounds; channel catfish are good to 1 pound each on chicken livers, cheese baits and shad; redfish are slow; corvina are slow.
CHOKE: Water clear from Mason Point to the dam and muddy up river, 62 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are good with limits to 10 pounds in 6 feet of water on spinners and worms, best area for bass is East Calliham Flats, Mason Point and Possum Creek; Frio River and San Miguel are muddy because of runoff from recent rains, spinners and plastic worms are working best for bass in 3-6 feet of water off the points and flats and in back of the creek coves; some big bass were caught in 1-2 feet of water on spinners and worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow, no concentrated action, best area is the river; white bass are slow due to muddy water in the Frio and San Miguel; catfish are good up river in Possum Creek and are fair in the flats, fish are scattered in the freshly covered areas; catfish can be found under the birds in the river and in back of the creeks in 10-20 feet of water and along the edges of the channels in 3-8 feet of water and are caught on cheese bait and cut shad; trotlines are very good up river but jug lines are slow in the main lake.
COLETO CREEK: Water a little murky, 66 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on black and purple worms; hybrid striper are fair in number and are caught on spoons but most under 18 inches in length; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 30 pounds or trotline with live bait.
CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear in the lower one-third of the lake, muddy in the upper area with the river flooding, lake full, 59 degrees; black bass were improving before the cold front hit on Monday, a couple of 6 1/4 pound bass were caught on white villos leaf spinners; striper and white bass slow; crappie are fair in the coves with 9-10 fish per string caught on spinners; blue catfish are good all over the lake on trotlines set in 3-4 feet of water and baited with shad and lye soap; catfish and gaspergou are excellent below the dam; all 9 gates are open at Wesley Seale Dam.
FALCON: Water clear, 68-70-degree water temperature, 1 foot above conservation level; black bass are slow in the 8-9 pound range on spinners and model 700 Bombers in fire tiger colors; striper are fairly good to 15 pounds on Rattle Traps; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to good to 1 1/2 pounds at Veleno Creek and the Rio Grande; catfish are excellent to 2 pounds in 15 to 25 feet of water.
TEXANA: Water muddy and running heavy, 62 degrees, 10 inches above normal level; black bass, crappie and striper are poor due to weather and muddy water; blue catfish are fair to 10 pounds or trotlines baited with cut bait.

WEST

GRANBURY: Water stained, 47 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 4 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good on minnows in the creek channels; white bass are beginning to run up the river around Tintop; catfish are very

good to 6 1/2 pounds on Mr. Whiskers Catfish Bait.
 HUBBARD CREEK: Water muddy, 50 degrees, 3 above spillway level; no fishermen out midweek.
 MEREDITH: Water clear, 41 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 9 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with perch and shad. Walleye are beginning to move with a few to 9 1/2 pounds caught in 26 feet of water on shad.
 OAK CREEK: Water muddy, 18 inches low; black bass are fairly slow, a few small fish caught; crappie are fair on minnows to 10 fish per string; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.
 O.H. IVIE: Water clear, 54 degrees, 6.6 feet low; black bass are good to 9.8 pounds, a new lake record caught by David Thompson of Roswell, N.M.; crappie are good on minnows and jigs, best crappie fishing has been in Elm Creek; channel catfish are fair with strings to 9 fish caught on night crawlers.
 POSSUM KINGDOM: Water off color, lake level a little above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair to 28 pounds on lures; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number.
 SPENCE: Water clear, 54 degrees, 31 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds on lures; striper are fairly good to 14 pounds and caught by trolling Bombers; crappie are fairly slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 25 pounds on minnows.
 STAMFORD: Water muddy, 3 feet above spillway; high winds, high water and rain have kept most fishermen at home.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has improved this week; some good sized redfish caught along the shoreline on dead shrimp; fairly good numbers of undersized fish caught and released; some drum caught at the jetties on dead shrimp; some catfish to 3 pounds caught at Black Bayou; East Pass fishermen caught redfish; no live bait shrimp available.
 GALVESTON: Fishing has been slow this week; some whiting, sheepshead and drum caught in the surf, from the piers and some around San Luis Pass; a few flounder landed, but flounder fishing is spotty; the drum run started before the bad weather hit with some to 40 pounds caught around Seawolf Park; good numbers of snapper caught by small boats 15 to 20 miles offshore while the larger boats have reported the first dolphin and the first ling 30-40 miles offshore; live bait shrimp not readily available.
 FREEPORT: Offshore fishermen over the weekend caught limits of red snapper, most in the 1-3 pound range; largest snapper weighed 19 1/2 pounds; other species of snapper also caught; most fishing was 40-45 miles offshore; several variety of grouper to 10 pounds were caught; good numbers of trigger fish and porgies also landed.
 MATACORDA: Wade fishermen have been catching trout and redfish in good numbers along the south shoreline of West Bay on strawberry Hogies with white tails; some 4 pound class trout caught from the deep reefs in the middle of East Bay mainly on Strawberry Hogies; a few drum in the 3-4 pound range caught in the

Intracoastal Canal; no live bait available because of fresh water.
 PALACIOS: Fishing has been very slow because of the weather; lots of incoming fresh water in the bay systems; no live bait. Winds high midweek, some rains Tuesday.
 ROCKPORT: All fishing is slow due to weather, winds high, few fishermen out; some trout over 5 pounds landed; no live bait available.
 PORT ARANSAS: Some live bait shrimp available at \$7 per quart; some pompano, black drum and redfish caught from the jetties; fishing around Stedman Reef also producing specks. Heavy weather early this week cancelled the offshore fishing trips early this week. Fairly good numbers of snapper were caught 30-35 miles offshore just before the front hit Monday afternoon.
 CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are fairly good in the 20 to 38 inch range in the high line area on live shrimp or live mullet; some trout and trout caught along the causeway; drum and redfish were caught at Indian Point; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.
 PORT MANSFIELD: Few fishermen out this week; those fishermen who went out caught good numbers of specks in the 18 to 20 inch range north east of Port Mansfield at the gas wells; a few trout caught around the jetties; some live bait shrimp available but not plentiful.
 SOUTH PADRE: Fair numbers of reds and trout near Three Islands and limits of redfish each trip; surf producing whiting; fair numbers of big trout to 10 pounds, 2 ounces caught in Mesquite Flat; some bonito caught around the jetties; live bait is fairly plentiful with white flags flying over most bait stands; a few fish caught in South Bay.

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