

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## PAPER PROBLEM DELAYS STAMPS

AUSTIN--Texas sportsmen, anxious to purchase hunting and fishing licenses and stamps, will get that chance soon. The licenses and stamps normally go on sale in early August.

Paul Israel, TPWD license section supervisor, said the licenses are ready, but the stamps, which include archery, waterfowl, white-winged dove, turkey, saltwater, freshwater trout and non-game, are late because of paper problems. "The printer had major difficulties getting the quality of paper they needed to produce the stamps."

Hunting and fishing licenses, hunting and fishing regulations guides and the early season migratory game digest will be mailed to license deputies (sporting goods stores, major discount stores, etc.) on Aug. 9 with the stamps to follow as soon as they are printed, he said.

"Hunters and fishermen should still have sufficient time to buy their licenses and stamps," Israel said.

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## CANADA GOOSE SEASON MAY BE EXTENDED

AUSTIN--Canada goose hunters may see an extra week and an extra Canada goose in their daily bag limit during the last seven days of the season if the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approves the proposed duck and goose regulations.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proposing the season for taking dark geese (Canada, black brant and white-fronted) east of U.S. 81 from Nov. 9-Jan. 19. The daily bag limit will be one Canada goose or one black brant and one whitefront. An additional week for hunting only Canada geese is proposed for Jan. 20-26. The daily bag limit will be two Canada geese during this extra seven day period. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

"The Canada goose population continues to look good, so we're proposing to liberalize the bag limit a little," said Bob Jessen, waterfowl program leader. "The overall goose situation is very good in the Central Flyway."

The duck populations have not improved enough to warrant any changes in last year's regulations.

The pintail breeding population is at 1.8 million, down 20 percent from 1990 and 62 percent below the long-term average (1955-90), Jessen said. "The prairie grasslands of Canada have been taken out of production by long-term drought. The good side is that pintails also breed across the arctic. They do their best in the prairie grasslands but can adapt to the arctic tundra. While the tundra is not as good, pintails are less likely to lose much of that habitat in the foreseeable future, and they're not in danger of becoming endangered."

Mallards are about the same as last year with a breeding population of 5.4 million. That's 27 percent below the long-term average. "We expect an improved fall flight from last year, but our concern for rebuilding the population continues," he said.

The greatest improvements are in blue-winged teal, American wigeon and scaup. Blue-winged teal, at 3.8 million, are up 34 percent from last year and only 10 percent below the long-term average. Wigeon are up 11 percent from 1990 at 2.3 million but still 14 percent below long-term. Scaup, with 5.2 million, are up 25 percent over last year and down 7 percent below long-term.

The commission will vote on proposed duck and goose regulations at its Aug. 29 public hearing at TPWD Headquarters in Austin, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Below is a list of proposed duck, goose and other species dates and bag limits. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit.

### **DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS**

High Plains Mallard Management Unit (western part of Texas) - Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Daily bag limit is three in the aggregate, including no more than two mallards (only one may be a female), two wood ducks, one pintail, one redhead or one mottled duck.

Remainder of state - Nov. 16-24 and Dec. 7-Jan. 5. Daily bag limit is the same as the High Plains unit.

The season is closed on canvasbacks.

Daily merganser limit is five of which no more than one may be a hooded merganser

Daily coot limit is 15.

### **GEESE**

West of U.S. 81 - Oct. 12-Jan. 26. Daily bag limit is five, not to include more than three dark geese.

East of U.S. 81 - Light geese, Nov. 9-Feb. 16. Daily bag limit is five. Dark geese, Nov. 9-Jan. 19. Daily bag limit is one Canada and/or one whitefront and one brant. A seven day Canada goose only season (Jan. 20-26) follows the regular dark season. Daily bag limit is two Canada geese only.

### **SANDHILL CRANES**

Zone A - Nov. 9-Feb. 9, Zone B - Dec. 7-Feb. 16, Zone C - Jan. 4-Feb. 9. Daily bag limit in all three zones is three. In addition to a valid Texas hunting license, a free special permit is required for hunting sandhill cranes. Contact the department at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112.

**WOODCOCK**

Nov. 28-Jan. 31 Daily bag limit is five.

**SNIPE**

Oct. 26-Feb. 9. Daily bag limit is eight.

For more information on proposed waterfowl regulations contact the TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4578, or (512) 389-4578.

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**ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS  
CHANGES PROPOSED**

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has proposed changes in alligator regulations to expand who a buyer may buy from and eliminate dealer permits and fees.

The proposal is being made to incorporate changes made during the recent 72nd Texas Legislature.

William C. Brownlee, TPWD alligator program director, said the proposed changes will authorize alligator buyers to purchase alligators, alligator hides and alligator parts from alligator hunters, other buyers, farmers or import permit holders. It also will delete all parts dealer permits and associated fees.

Currently an alligator buyer may purchase only from a hunter. Fees to be eliminated include a \$200 resident alligator parts dealer permit fee and a \$900 nonresident fee.

The proposal is scheduled to be considered for adoption during the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission's public hearing, beginning at 9 a.m. Aug. 29 in Austin. Public comment can be made during this meeting or by submitting comments to Brownlee at TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by calling him at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4700, or (512) 389-4700. If the proposal is approved, the new regulations will become effective 20 days after adoption.

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T.P.W.D. TO ISSUE  
ALLIGATOR TAGS

AUSTIN--Applications for alligator tags may be made in early September at four sites for the Sept. 10-30 season.

Tag issuance is scheduled for 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), Sept. 4-6, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., White Park Community Center in Chambers County (on Highway 61, five miles north of Anahuac and one mile south of I-10), Sept. 3, 6-9 p.m. Matagorda County Courthouse (in downtown Bay City at the intersection of Highways 35 and 60), Sept. 5-6, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and TPWD office in Victoria (1502 Airline Road, Town Plaza Mall, third floor), Sept. 6, 8 a.m. to noon. Each tag will cost \$5.

"Landowners or their agents must certify total acreage owned or represented on a form prescribed by the department at the time of application," said William C. Brownlee, TPWD alligator program director. "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.

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## HELP AVAILABLE FOR ALLIGATOR HUNTERS

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department can assist prospective alligator hunters in locating a place to hunt during the upcoming Sept. 10-30 hunting season.

The department has prepared a list of contacts for possible alligator hunts available to the public. The contacts on the list have expressed interest in making tags available for either guided or unguided hunts. The list of contacts will be part of the alligator hunter packet that each person purchasing an alligator hunting license will receive.

This is the eighth consecutive alligator season since statewide alligator management planning was initiated in 1984. Harvest quotas have continued to increase as the alligator populations are better understood and more areas are surveyed and included in quota calculations.

Copies of the list may be obtained by writing to TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by calling 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4505, or (512) 389-4505.

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## SPORTSMEN TO CELEBRATE HUNTING & FISHING DAY

AUSTIN--National Hunting & Fishing Day, designed to spread the word about the sportsmen's role in conservation, is scheduled for Sept. 28. This is the 20th anniversary.

President George Bush, an avid quail hunter and fisherman, will serve as honorary chairman. "I am honored to be a part of a special day that highlights safe and ethical hunting," he said.

Many uninformed people believe that the white-tailed deer is an endangered species, when in fact there are more than 12 million whitetails today, said Bob Delfay, executive director of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "Few non-sportsmen realize that hunters and fishermen have contributed more than \$12 billion for conservation programs over the last 50 years through special excise taxes on their equipment and license fees. We continue to contribute to habitat and species restoration programs at a clip of \$3 million per day."

Delfay said, in 1990, sportsmen have contributed \$354 million for fish and wildlife restoration programs through the special excise taxes on their equipment. These funds are derived through an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10 percent tax on pistols and revolvers, an 11 percent tax on certain archery equipment, a 10 percent tax on fishing equipment and a 3 percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders.

"Hunters and shooters contributed \$157.4 million last year to be used exclusively for wildlife restoration programs and fishermen contributed \$196.5 million for fish restoration programs, he said. Distribution of the funds depends on the land and water area and the number of hunting and fishing license holders in each state.

A limited number of bumper stickers, posters, mail stickers, commemorative items, decals, videos, books and other items are available by contacting National Hunting & Fishing Day, 555 Danbury Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897

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## LAKE SOMERVILLE TRAILWAY UPGRADED

AUSTIN--Improvements on the Somerville Trailway will allow hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and campers to further enjoy all or part of the 14-mile trail that links Birch Creek Park and Nails Creek Park on Lake Somerville.

Workers have been regrading the trails, putting in some new culverts and filling gravel in some low spots that washed out in January, said Park Superintendent Robert Eades. "This will make it better for the mountain bikers and horseback riders."

The trail passes through dense forest, past scenic overlooks and through water crossings. Six primitive campgrounds are located along the Trailway and there are 100 primitive campsites along the entire 21.6-mile network. The nearest campground to Birch Creek is about 3 1/2 miles and from Nails Creek about 2 1/2 miles. Each campground has a compost toilet nearby; there is no potable water along the trail, but there are two wells with water for horses. The campgrounds are open year round.

"It's a great place to get away for a few days and check out your backpacking skills and equipment," said Tom Herrick, a volunteer at the park. Visitors may be able to see any number of wildlife species, including several species of resident and migratory birds. A bird checklist is available at either park.

For those who don't want to hike to a campground, the 640-acre Birch Creek park has 103 campsites with water and electricity, including five miles of nature trails. Nails Creek has 40 sites with water and electricity and three miles of trails. Most campsites are heavily wooded. Both parks have boat ramps, fish cleaning facilities, picnic and swimming areas and campground restrooms with showers.

"The Somerville Trailway is unique to our state," Herrick said. "It is one of only a few places where the peacefulness and serenity of the real back country can be enjoyed safely because it is within the boundaries of a state park."

Birch Creek and Nails Creek both are part of Lake Somerville State Park and are connected by the Trailway. Birch Creek is about 17 miles south of Caldwell and Nails Creek is about 15 miles northeast of Brenham. For more information or reservations call Birch Creek at (409) 535-7763 or Nails Creek at (409) 289-2392.

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SPINY HACKBERRY NAMED  
STATE CHAMPION TREE

BROWNSVILLE--A spiny hackberry on the Resaca de la Palma State Park has been certified as the state champion for its species.

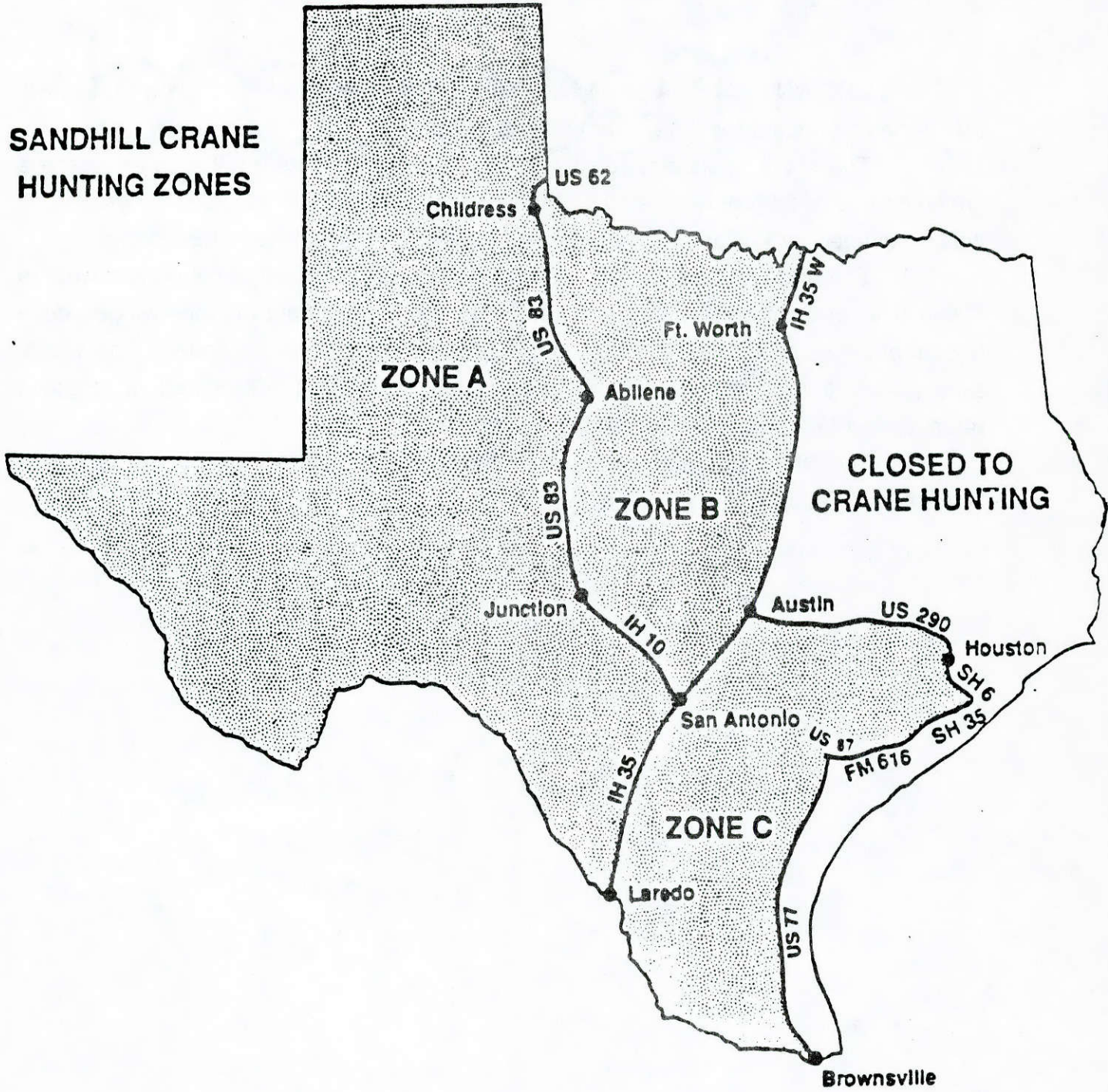
The spiny hackberry, *Celtis pallida*, measures 14 feet tall, has an average crown spread of 24 feet and has a 15-inch circumference 4 1/2 feet from the ground. It was nominated by William MacWhorter of Weslaco and Mike Heep of Edinburg.

The undeveloped Resaca de la Palma State Park is five miles northwest of Brownsville in Cameron County and adjacent to a 75-acre tract of white-winged dove habitat obtained by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the spring. The 1,100-acre park includes 400 acres of native brush and about 500 acres undergoing reforestation to create more whitewing habitat.

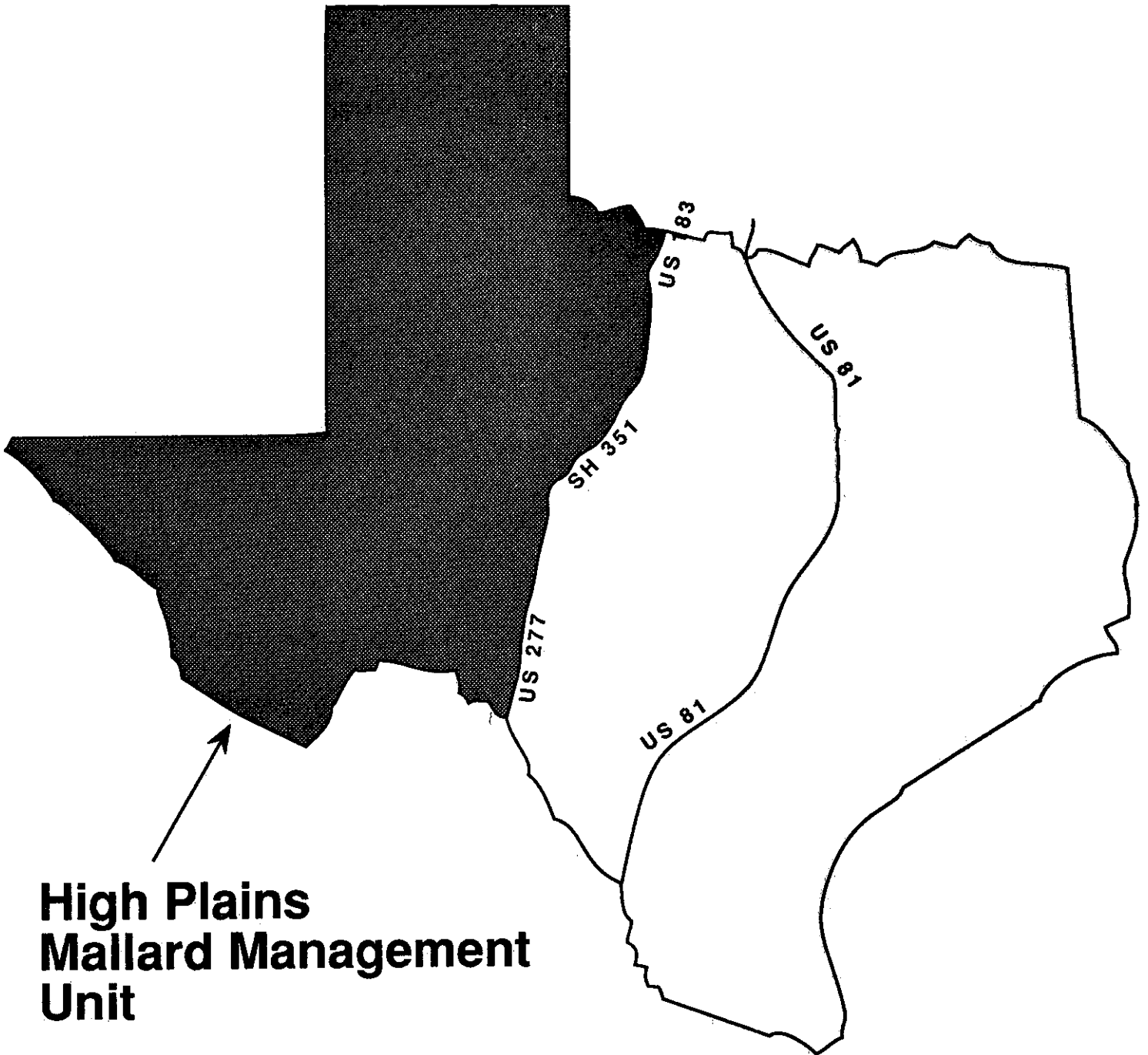
The State Champion Big Tree Program is sponsored by the Texas Forest Service and Texas A&M University.

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**SANDHILL CRANE  
HUNTING ZONES**



# DUCK, COOT, & GOOSE HUNTING ZONES



AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Aug. 8:

#### CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 92 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms and topwaters; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string in 18 feet of water on minnows; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on crickets and Bill's Sponge Bait.

BELTON: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; hybrid striped are good to 8 pounds while schooling on jiggling spoons and clear topwaters; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent and are running with the hybrid stripers and are caught on the same baits; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on artificials; striped are fair in number; crappie are good in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are hitting silver spoons and lures with a good amount of schooling; channel catfish are good in the 1-2 pound range from the docks on minnows and shrimp; trotline fishing is beginning to pickup on perch and frozen shad; trotlines should be run often because of the heat.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 85 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds, 9 ounces on chartreuse spinners; striped are good to 17 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are good around Garrett Island on topwater plugs and jigs; catfish are fair trotlines up river baited with shad.

CANYON: Water clear, 90 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair and small; striped are slow; crappie are fair on live minnows up the river in 25 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good on trotline with limits on shrimp.

COLORADO BEND: Water muddy, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 2 pounds on blue and white plastic worms; striped are poor; crappie are fair on minnows to 7 fish per string; white bass are slow due to murky water; catfish are good to 9 pounds on live perch with trotlines; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds on cut bait and worms.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6 1/4 pounds on dark worms and live bait, fishing was hit or miss, some caught fish and some didn't; crappie are slow; yellow catfish are good to 46 pounds on a jug line with perch and goldfish; sun fish are very good on nightcrawlers in 6-8 feet of water around moss.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water stained, 88 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on deep diving baits and Carolina rigged worms; crappie are in creek channels and in brush piles on minnows; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on worms and cut bait.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 1 1/2 pounds on 4 inch dark worms; striped are good in the 20-25 inch range late on live shad; crappie are slow; white bass are good on topwaters; catfish are fair in the 3-4 pound range on shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear, 84 degrees, lake

full; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fair off stocks and around structure on minnows; white bass are good around Lighthouse Point midday on topwater lures; catfish are good to 5 pounds on stinkbait around baited holes.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are picking up on jigs and Rattle Traps in 2-20 feet of water; crappie are fair in 50 feet of water on jigs; smallmouth are slow, a few fish were caught in 8 feet of water; catfish are good in the 3-7 pound range on bloodbait, minnows and worms.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are fair in the 3 1/2 pound range on minnows in the main lake; crappie are fair from the docks to 1 pounds on minnows after dark; white bass are slow; catfish are good after dark along the shallows and from the docks with nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 6 feet low; largemouth bass are improving to 3 1/2 pounds or 19 inches to 30 fish per boat per day with some limits on Jerk'n Sams and Tiny Torpedoes on top, jiggling smoke glitter grubs in 25 feet of water also productive; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 1/2 inches on same baits; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass topwater activities have slowed down; blue catfish are fair to 11 pounds on cut bait.

WACO: Water clear, 89 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners and Craw Worms; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 86 degrees, near normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on buzz baits and worms in the brush around banks; striped are good with limits in 2 hours to 11 pounds each on live bait in 30-35 feet of water, fishing is still spotty; crappie are good in the 1 1/2 pound range in 38 feet of water on minnows, fish seem to moving to the 25-foot range on live minnows; white bass are schooling mid day, best baits are spoons and slabs; catfish are excellent on trotlines in 5-50-pound range on shrimp; catfish caught on rod and reel is fairly slow to 6 pounds in the crappie barge, most catfish are pan sized.

#### NORTHEAST

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to in the 2-3 pound range on worms and lizards in 18 feet of water; crappie are good to 14 inches on minnows and jigs, about half of the fish caught are above 10 inches; white bass are fair in number with schooling in the shallow areas, but numbers are not as high as a month ago; catfish are good to 10 fish per night with half over 5 pounds on chicken livers in 6-8 feet of water.

CADDO: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 3 1/4 pounds on Tennessee lures; hybrid striped are slow; white bass are good to 2 1/4 pounds on chartreuse or yellow Roostertails in Mossy Break; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair in numbers late afternoon on Tiny Torpedoes and Rattle Traps on the surface; hybrid striped are slow; crappie are fair with

strings to 10 fish in 28 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good with early morning surfacing, best baits are Roostertails and L'll Georges; catfish are slow.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good but small in 15 to 16 feet of water on deep diving cranks; crappie are good around brush piles in 12-16 feet of water; catfish are good on nightcrawlers and shrimp off main points of the lake with rod and reel.

FORK: Water clear, 89 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 13.51 pounds on dark worms in 17 feet of water; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 25-30 feet of water; catfish are slow.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on pumpkin seed colored worms in 20-25 feet of water; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on minnows, shad gizzards and liver.

LARE O THE PINES: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds black neon Ring Rascal Worms in 3-10 feet of water on chartreuse buzz baits and deep diving cranks in the lake; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline baited with nightcrawlers.

LAVON: Water clear, 88 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on black worms and crawfish baits in the timber in 12 feet of water; crappie are good with many limits in the 15 inch range on minnows; white bass are good on spoons with schooling around the points and outside the island; catfish are good to 8 pounds on rod and reel drifting shrimp and stinkbait.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 87 degrees, lake level is 19 inches low; black bass are slow; striped are fair to 22 inches trolling cranks and slabs; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent with schooling all over the lake, whites are best caught by trolling white Bomber cranks and Baby Torpedoes; catfish are fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds drifting shrimp, some limits caught.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 92 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on Bass'n Bels in 5 feet of water; striped are slow; crappie are slow around the bridges on minnows; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on bloodbait.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 102 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 10 ounces on 8-inch black worms; crappie are fair in number to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 7 1/2 pounds on Canadian Crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are good to 20 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs, spoons; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 88 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds early and late on topwaters and worms; crappie are slow, a fair number caught minnows but most are undersized, catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen and hot water; bream are very good on crickets and worms.

PALESTINE: Water fairly clear, 6 inches below spillway level; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds, 2 ounces on worms and topwater

buzz baits; striper are slow; white bass are good in number on L'il Georges and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair to 12 fish per string in 12 feet of water, sunken bridges and brush piles are fairly productive; catfish are fairly good to 2 1/2 pounds with limits in 10-12 feet of water fishing about 8 feet deep on chicken blood, catalpa worms and shrimp.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on spinners and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair late on minnows; catfish are fair to 12 pounds late in the afternoon on dog food baited rod and reel.

RAY HUBBARD: Water murky, 88 degrees, 12 1/2 inches low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on topwaters early, worms are good until about 10:30 a.m. when all fishing activity stops, fishing returns about dark; striper are slow to 7 1/2 pounds on slabs; crappie are very slow; white bass are fair but slowing, a few limits caught but fishermen have to work hard with slabs; catfish are good to 5 pounds drifting shrimp.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow to 6 pounds, 3 ounces on pumpkin seed colored Ringed Rascal worms; crappie are good in 18-30 feet of water to 2 1/2 pounds each on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow to 8 pounds on shad baited rod and reel, yellow catfish are good to 25 pounds on jig lines with live perch.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 87 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds but fish are hard to find on worms and spinners or cranks; crappie are good in number in the heavy brush, many hooks lost in 13-20 feet of water; white bass are good while surfacing, schooling is fairly short early and at night; catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 87 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 6 pounds with limits caught on spinners and worms off points; striper are slow; crappie are good at night on minnows; white bass are good with smaller fish schooling, the larger white bass are around 18 feet of water are caught on minnows and slabs, night fishing is excellent; catfish are excellent to 7 pounds on bloodbait and worms in 8 to 16 feet of water.

TEXOMA: Water off color, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on worms and cranks; striper are fair to 13 pounds on slabs and while trolling white jigs or topwaters; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are good on slabs or jigs under popping corks; catfish are excellent to 47 pounds on trotline baited with live bait shrimp and worms.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps and Craw Worms; crappie are mostly small and fishing is poor; white bass are fair to 12 inches on L'il Georges and Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 6 pounds fishing at night with cheese baits and cut shad.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 92 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fairly slow due to heat, the largest weighed 8 pounds and was caught while trolling for white bass, most bass are caught on

worms, Rattle Traps and cranks; white bass are excellent with limits in 2-3 hours on Pet Spoons and mini Traps with blue or black backs; most white bass are small; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on nightcrawlers and stinkbait; bream fishing is fantastic all over the lake, especially around the rocks on pieces of nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on Ring Worms, Power pumpkin seed or motoroil colored worms, glitter worms or small Rattle Traps; crappie are good to 15 fish per string on minnows off points; white bass are good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 14 feet of water; catfish are good to 46 pounds on trotlines baited with perch.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds around creek drops offs in 6-8 feet of water on dark worms, white spinners and chrome Rattle Traps; striper are slow to 5 pounds with some caught along with white bass; crappie are slow; white bass are good around Pine Island and Walker's Lake with some schooling which lasts 3 hours, best baits are slabs or L'il George in schools, trollers are catching white bass and striper with hellbenders; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on worms, shrimp and stinkbait.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 89 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on black worms; striper are fair to 12 pounds on topwaters near the dam; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 pounds over baited holes; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 15 pounds on live bait.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 83 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on worms during the day and spinners early; striper are slow in the river channels in 80-90 feet of water; crappie are fair at the confluence of the Pecos and Rio Grande with minnows; white bass are schooling around the railroad bridge and at the dam; catfish are good with limits daily to 3 pounds on cheese baits and shrimp in Zorro and Tule Canyons.

BRAUNIC: Water murky, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in number but most are undersized and are caught on worms; striper are picking up in the 5-6 pound range trolling live perch; catfish are good in the 2-5 pound range on shrimp, cheese baits, shad and black Craw Worms; redbfish are slow to 16 pounds on tilapia and chicken livers.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 94 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; catfish are good to 2 pounds on shad and cheesebaits; redbfish are fair to 14 pounds, 10 ounces on Rattle Traps, some also caught from banks; corvina are very good to 12 pounds, 12 ounces.

CHOKO: Water clear, 90 degrees, 15 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair on topwaters, spinners and Rattle Traps around grass at Calliham Point also at the main lake points around South Shore and Four Fingers; Rattle Traps have been producing bass early; after 10 a.m. plastic worms are best in 10-17 feet of water off the main lake points; striper are slow; crappie are slow with some caught in the river at 99 bridge on live minnows; white bass are slow;

catfish are fair in 20-35 feet of water along the river channels from Calliham Point to Four Fingers Point on prepared cheese baits, nightcrawlers and shrimp.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 87 degrees; normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on Rattle Traps and Buzz baits; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 20-25 feet of water; catfish are good to 14 pounds on live bait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 86 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 11 pounds on topwaters early in 2-3 feet of water and on red shad with 6 inch curl tailed worms later in the day in 5-8 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 12-15 feet of water at Alice Pump House and from the state park piers; white bass are fair on chrome slabs near the dam during the day and 1/8-ounce white Roadrunners from the state park piers at night; blue catfish are excellent to 3 pounds on rod and reels baited with prepared cheese baits over baited holes in 18 feet of water.

FALCON: Water a little off color due to winds, 87 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Ring Rascal or June Bug bubble gum colored worms and some on DB#3s off points; striper are good trolling or vertical jigging Knocker Spoons and Hyper Stripper Stump Jumpers in 30-35 feet of water in the 18 pound class; crappie are slow; white bass are fair and small while mixed in with striper; catfish are good in the 3-4 pound class on shrimp and shad.

MEDINA: Water clear, 37 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows but no limits caught; white bass are fair on slabs; catfish are good to 6 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

TEXANA: Water murky, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds in the jungle area on worms; crappie are very slow; catfish are slow.

#### WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 84 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen and the heat.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range on minnows; smallmouth bass are good to 7 pounds even on white buzz baits early, a possible new lake record; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 18 pounds on chicken liver and nightcrawlers to 20 fish per string; walleye are good to 24 inches trolling nightcrawlers and spinners early and late.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are good to 3 pounds on black backed Rattle Traps; striper are good to 8 pounds, 1 ounce on cranks; crappie are good on minnows; channel catfish are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; all fishing slow due to heat and lack of fishermen.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair at night on minnows; catfish are fairly slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 80 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are picking up on gray and black

Slug-Go worms and skirted chuggers to 4 pounds; striper are good to 20 pounds around the dam with Hellbenders with Texas Trailers; crappie are moving into shallow water and boat slips, best baits are live minnows and crappie jigs; white bass are good on clear Torpedoes with crappie jig trailers 20 inches back; catfish are good to 7 pounds on rod and reel baited with worms.

PROCTOR: Water murky, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds on cranks and spinners; striper are fair to 8 pounds trolling jigs; crappie are good in the deeper waters on minnows; catfish are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 78 degrees, 35 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are fair to 16 inches, no keepers, on topwaters; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on topwaters; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on minnows and shrimp.

STAMFORD: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on live minnows; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on liver and worms.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal summer level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on chartreuse and white Slug-Gos in 6-8 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good on minnows and silver slabs; catfish are fairly good in the 10-15 pound range on trotlines baited with goldfish and liver.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish are schooling occasionally with many small fish and some oversized fish, some caught south of the islands and along the banks; best baits are dead shrimp and finger mullet; specks are good in number but most are undersized with some to 18 inches caught on dead shrimp; good numbers of croaker landed; water is very clear; some black bass caught on plastic grubs near the islands; no live bait shrimp available; heavy rains fell Monday with 2 1/2 inches in Port Neches.

GALVESTON: Some redfish caught while drifting the shoreline of Chocolate Bay; wade fishermen are picking up trout, redfish and flounder in the flats behind San Luis Pass; the better catches lately have been made on silver spoons; topwater baits are fairly productive; drifting live shrimp also productive; good numbers of croaker caught on Gulf Piers along with sandtrout; Seawolf Park producing good numbers of sandtrout, specks and flounder; most bait camps have live bait shrimp between \$8.50 and \$10 per quart. Some tarpon caught offshore with estimated weights above 115 pounds; good numbers of snapper and dolphin caught; kingfish are good off Freeport but moving toward Galveston; kingfish are good about 20 miles offshore; last week, a charter boat with 6 fishermen caught a limit of snapper in 11 minutes about 14 miles offshore. Winds have been fairly mild and water is 86 degrees.

FREEPORT: Fishing has been good offshore; snapper to 18 pounds around 55 miles offshore; some amberjack to 77 pounds about 60 miles offshore on live piggy perch; kingfish have been a little slow since last Friday; charter boats still booking trips 7 days a

week.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish are good in the surf between the big jetties to the Darlingtons on live croakers; good numbers of redfish caught at the jetties on shrimp; good numbers of redfish caught in Pringle Lake; specks are good in the 3-4 pound range between Boggy Bayou and Broad Bayou on piggy perch; king, ling, snapper, shark, barracuda, spade fish and trigger fish are good in the Gulf; no live bait shrimp available midweek; weather clear midweek; winds are fairly calm.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of flounder in the 2-3 pound range on twin-tailed crappie jigs and live finger mullet in the rivers, canals and in the bays; redfish are good in West Matagorda Bay in the keeper range, some oversized fish landed and returned to the water; most fish are caught along the north shoreline on mullet; good numbers of specks caught around the Port Oconnor Jetties and at Pass Cavallo; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. PALACIOS: Water conditions are fairly good; good tides midweek; good numbers of redfish caught in Cotton Bayou on strawberry metal flake Hogies swimming shad with a white tail; good numbers of flounder to 2 1/2 pounds on the same bait; some specks caught around the wells along with shark to 2 1/2 feet; good numbers of trout caught in the surf and along Green's Bayou; live bait available at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are still good in the potholes late in the afternoon as the tide falls; a few flounder caught; trout fishing slow in general but fair around wells in Aransas and around the Corpus Christi Ship Channel near Ingleside; live bait very scarce, best bets will be live mullet and artificial shrimp tails or touts. PORT ARANSAS: Good sized redfish caught in the flats of Redfish Bay; many were herded up on shrimp, finger mullet and cut mullet; specks have been a little slow; good numbers of flounder in the 1-2 pound range on shrimp and small mullet also in the flats on rod and reel as well as with the gig at night; live bait scarce at \$7.50 per quart. Kingfish in good numbers to 30 pounds from the end of the jetties to 15 miles on ribbon fish; a few dorado in the 2-4 pound range and a few bull dolphin in the 15 to 20 pound range; party boats are doing well with snapper, amberjack and kingfish around 20 miles behind shrimp boats; snapper are good around 35 miles offshore; party boats are running 7 days a week. CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are fair even though winds have been fairly strong; trout fishing has been improving because tides are fairly high; flounder have been good along the causeway and redfish are good in the back bays; live bait shrimp are plentiful at \$8.50 per quart are 12 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Speck fishing has been good north of Port Mansfield on the west side in the deep water with touts; good numbers of trout are caught in the cut going to the Gulf; many oversized redfish caught south of Port Mansfield on spoons, topwaters and touts; no live bait shrimp available midweek because one bait shrimper went to Six Flags and the other took the day off.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of trout and flounder behind Three Islands and gaswell flats; good numbers of redfish in the same area;

offshore fishermen are catching dolphin and bonito; good numbers of black drum caught around Marker 67 on shrimp; live bait shrimp are plentiful at \$10 per quart.

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