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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## SIX EAST TEXAS AREAS STOCKED WITH DEER

AUSTIN -- Crews from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Wildlife Division are using drive nets and special net guns to capture wild white-tailed deer in Central and South Texas for stocking in East Texas

So far, about 400 deer have been corraled, loaded into trucks and released at selected Type II wildlife management areas. During the next few weeks officials hope to release between 800 and 1,000 whitetails in 10 areas.

Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader, said that while deer populations are excessively high in many parts of East Texas, the Type II lands selected for stocking are good candidate sites for deer releases. "These areas are primarily forest products lands that have been open to hunting for many years, and the deer populations are below capacity because of heavy hunting pressure," said Gore.

Much of East Texas was included in the either-sex system of whitetail bag limits during the 1988-89 season in order to make it easier for hunters to harvest surplus antlerless deer. "There is a wide variation of deer densities in East Texas," Gore noted, "so that's why some regions are

overpopulated while others need help."

Gore explained that deer are collected in Central and South Texas because the terrain is more conducive to trapping than it is in East Texas. "We have collected deer mainly from ranches that have surplus deer," Gore said, "but we also have trapped in subdivisions, state parks and industrial parks where deer have become a problem."

The deer translocation program is financed in part by funds raised from the Type II public lands hunting program launched during the past deer season. Purchasers of \$35 permits were offered access to some 670,000 acres for hunting and camping.

Trapping operations were halted by cold weather during the past week, but will resume this week. "We plan to finish up by stocking 200 deer in Unit 129 in the saltgrass region of Jasper County," said Gore.

Type II permits, along with map booklets, will be available from department offices by Aug. 1. Limited use permits, which allow the holder to enter and use Type II areas without hunting, also are available for \$15.

JC 2/8/89

GULF COUNCIL PROPOSES  
REGULATION CHANGES

AUSTIN -- The Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (FMC) has announced a series of public hearings in Texas and other Gulf states to air proposals that would significantly reduce the commercial and sport harvest of certain offshore fish

If enacted, the changes would affect federal waters nine nautical miles from shore and farther

Public hearings are set for three Texas locations. Each will be from 7-10 p.m. March 27, Community Center, Yturria and Maxan Streets, Port Isabel; March 28, Community Center, 408 N Alister, Port Aransas; and March 29, Freeport Community House, 1300 W 2nd St, Freeport

FMC officials said the red snapper commercial and recreational catch should be reduced by 45 percent from the 1979-86 average, and grouper landings are to be reduced 20 percent

The FMC has proposed the following changes

-- A minimum size limit of 20 inches for red, yellowfin, Nassau, black and gag groupers and 50 inches for jewfish

-- A minimum size limit of 13 inches total length for red snapper, 12 inches total length for yellowtail, mutton and gray snapper, and eight inches for lane and vermillion snappers

-- A commercial quota of 2 9 million pounds for red snapper

-- A minimum size limit of eight inches for black sea bass

-- A minimum size limit of 28-inch fork length and a bag limit of three for amberjack with a commercial quota of 829,000 pounds

--The sale of undersized fish would be prohibited

-- A daily recreational bag limit of five grouper and 10 snappers with no more than five red snapper These bag limits would apply to fish taken by trawl

-- Commercial quotas for grouper (1 658 million pounds for black and gag grouper, 6.17 million pounds for red grouper and 1 381 million pounds for other grouper except jewfish

-- Fish traps and entangling nets for reef fish would be prohibited in federal waters and bottom longlines for reef fish would be prohibited within 50 fathoms except for Florida peninsula where it is within 20 fathoms

-- To qualify for a commercial permit, an individual must have had 50 percent or more of his income derived from commercial or charterboat fishing

JC 2/8/89

PANHANDLE AREA LAKE OFFERS  
GOOD CATFISHING

GROOM -- Fishermen can look forward to some excellent catfishing at Lake McClellan in Gray County when the spring thaw warms the Texas Panhandle.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocked blue catfish each year from 1979 through 1982 and once in 1986. Fishery technician Richard Eades said recent gill net surveys indicate the stocking program was extremely successful.

"We captured 39 blue catfish ranging in length from eight to 31 inches," Eades said. "The wide size range indicates most if not all the stockings were successful."

Eades said of the fish collected and released, 23 were between eight and 12 inches, 14 were between 17 and 25 inches and the largest two were 28 and 31 inches long. The largest weighed 15.3 pounds.

The small reservoir is located approximately 60 miles east of Amarillo and just north of Interstate Highway 40 near Groom.

JC 2/8/89

NORTH TEXAS AREA LAKES  
SURVEYED FOR CRAPPIE

DENISON -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery crews recently

surveyed five North Texas area lakes for crappie, and the best results surprisingly came from a small state park reservoir.

Biologist John Moczygemba said Lake Mineral Wells, a 663-acre impoundment in Lake Mineral Wells State Park, yielded the highest catch rate of 10.2 crappie per net. Most of the fish collected in the frame nets were between seven and eight inches in length.

The state park is located four miles east of Mineral Wells, Parker County, on U.S. Highway 180.

Lake Bridgeport, another popular crappie fishing spot, produced 8.4 crappie per net. Moczygemba said the crappie population structure was in excellent shape, with most fish being eight inches or longer.

Farther north, Lake Nocona produced 6.7 crappie per net, and the most abundant size class was six to seven inches. At Lake Texoma on the Texas-Oklahoma border, surveys collected 2.1 crappie per net, and the fish ranged from two to 12 inches long.

A similar survey at the new Ray Roberts Reservoir in Cooke and Grayson Counties showed that crappie populations have yet to expand in their new habitat. Only 0.4 crappie were collected per net, but those fish were primarily in the eight- to 10-inch size range. These large fish should produce a good spawn this spring, Moczygemba said.

JC 2/8/89

ANGLER SETS NEW STATE  
RECORD WITH SCAMP CATCH

AUSTIN -- A Rockport angler has set a state record in the unrestricted division with the catch of a 78-pound scamp

James R. Appel caught the scamp, a member of the grouper family, in the Gulf of Mexico during October

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fish records committee certified the fish in the unrestricted category because Appel used an electric-powered reel

There was no previous scamp record in the unrestricted category, which is for fish caught by legal means other than rod and reel. The current state record for rod and reel is a 23-pounder caught off Port Aransas in 1980

JC 2/8/89

Fishing Report

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Feb. 9

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 56 degrees, lake full black bass and all fishing slow because of cold weather. No fishermen were on the lake midweek.

BELTON: Water clear, 52 degrees. 5 foot low fishing has been slow; some channel catfish to 7 pounds were caught by trotliners in 10 feet of water on chicken livers. crappie have been fair in the crappie houses

BROWNWOOD Water clear almost 6 inches below spillway level black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair in crappie houses on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow. Very few fishermen were out midweek because of cold weather.

CANYON: Water clear. normal level black bass slow. striper slow; crappie fair to 1 pound on minnows in the upper end of the lake; white bass good to 20 fish per person from mid lake through the upper end, some at the river mouth, on jigging spoons or trolling Phantoms at the mouth of the river; catfish slow. Few fishermen were on the lake midweek.

FAYETTE: Water clear 58 degrees normal level; several black bass over 21 inches were caught Friday through Sunday on black and blue lizards the largest weighed 7 1/2 pounds. however fishing slowed down on Monday; crappie fishing has been fair from 15-20 fish per string on minnows. Few fishermen out midweek

GIBBONS CREEK: Creeks muddy lake clear lake full Lake closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and there were no fishermen on the lake on Friday and Saturday

SOMERVILLE: Water fairly clear 2 1/2 feet below normal level; crappie have been fairly good in the crappie house; few fishermen out midweek

TRAVIS: Water clear, 54 degrees, 12 feet below normal level; black bass slow due to lack of fishermen. striper have been fair around lighted marinas at night on jigs, chrome Redfins and live bait crappie have been fairly good at the mouth of the rivers and around Lakeway on chartreuse crappie jigs; white bass have been slow but some were caught at night around the mouth of the Pedernales; catfish slow. Black bass fishing should be fair by weekend around structures if fishermen use live bait in deep water

WACO: Water clear, 40-45 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to cold weather

WHITNEY Water clear. 12 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to cold icy, windy weather. Crappie are slow on the crappie barges on minnows striper to 25 pounds were caught before the front, several striper fishermen were out midweek.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS Water clear, 43 degrees, 4 inches below overflow and rising; black bass slow; crappie good in 40-45 feet of water on minnows over brush and drifting white bass slow; catfish slow. Three fishermen on lake midweek, all were fishing for crappie

BRIDGEPORT Water clear. 15 1/2 feet low; black bass slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 on minnows to 25 fish per string; some white bass caught few fishermen on the lake since last Thursday.

CADDO Water clear, normal level two catfishermen went out but cold temperatures brought them back to the docks in a short time; otherwise ice is beginning to melt midweek. Few fishermen are out midweek.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 40 degrees, normal level; black bass and all fishing slow due to cold weather. No fishermen since last Thursday.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water fairly muddy due to rains, 1 foot high; black bass and all fishing slow; a 97 pound smallmouth buffalo caught last Wednesday north of the 155 bridge on a trotline baited with shad in 5 feet of water. a possible state record.

LAVON Water clear. 40 degrees 4 1/2 feet low; fishing has been fairly slow since last Thursday; a single crappie fishermen on the lake midweek was fishing baited holes in 25 feet of water on minnows; white bass slow catfish have been fair in number to 6



pounds

MARTIN CREEK: Water fairly clear, 1 foot above normal level; black bass and all fishing has been slow due to cold weather: boat ramp is iced over; no fishermen midweek.

MONTICELLO: Water slightly off color. 60 degrees, normal level, few fishermen on the lake; a single 8 pound bass landed just before the front; Probably no more than a half dozen fishermen on the lake late Tuesday.

MURVAUL: Water murky, 48 degrees, 4 inches over spillway; no fishermen since last Thursday when a 6 pound 11 ounce bass was landed on a chartreuse spinner, the fisherman caught a full limit.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 54 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on crawfish patterned Stanley Jig Friday in 12 feet of water; crappie are good with limits in 40 feet of water; fished at 20 feet with minnows, catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 4 inches above normal level, black bass and all fishing slow; few fishermen on the lake since last Thursday.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 46 degrees, 23 inches low; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on grape worms in 8 feet of water around the discharge area; few fishermen out; striper and white bass slow; crappie good with numbers of limits in 14 feet of water on jigs and minnows around boat docks and crappie houses; catfish fair to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp in the discharge area.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 47 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in the crappie houses and around boat stalls; all other fishing slow.

WELSH: Water clear, 64 degrees, lake full, black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds, most fish are too small to keep, on lizards, worms and topwaters in 1-8 feet of water; crappie fair on minnows with strings to 8 fish in 16 feet of water; catfish good on bream and worms; bream are good on worms.

#### SOUTHEAST

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 9 pounds last Friday on large live shiners; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows at Golden Acres; white bass fair in the same areas on minnows; catfish slow. Few fishermen on the lake.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 6 inches above normal, black bass slow due to lack of fishermen; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in the creeks; white bass slow, most are still up the Trinity; yellow catfish good to 55 pounds on live bait; blue catfish good to 45 pounds on live or dead shad; channel catfish good to 8 pounds on shad baited trotline. Few fishermen on the lake midweek due to cold weather.

RAYBURN: Water discolored up the creeks, lake clear, 45 degrees, 7 1/2 feet low; fishing has been slow since the front, few fishermen out Saturday; ice reported on boat ramps.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 50 degrees, 3 feet above normal level, black bass good in the 8-9 pound range since the front hit last Thursday on motoroil, red flake and grape lizards in 15-25 feet of water; striper good in the 8-10 pound range and a few in the 15-20 pound range on 1 ounce Roadrunners and slabs; crappie slow up the Devils River, white bass good with many full strings in San Pedro and the mouth of the Rio Grande on white slabs, catfish slowing down, some in the 5-6 pound range but few limits in 60 feet of water on cheese and stink bait.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, normal level; black bass fairly slow to 7 pounds, 12 ounces last Saturday on jig and pig; yellow catfish fair to 35 pounds last Thursday on artificial lures; fishing fairly slow otherwise due to lack of fishermen.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 60 degrees, 1 foot low, black bass slow after the front; fishing has been slow since the front. Few fishermen since the front. Warm water discharge should be good for corvina and striper on gold spoons and shad; redfish should be good on crawfish.

CHOKE: Water clear, 55 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 11 pounds, 14 ounces on Friday using spinners, jigs and worms; striper slow; crappie good with full strings on minnows to 1 3/4

pounds mostly around the brushy areas off Mason Point and under the bridges; white bass good from Highway 99 up river right after the front, but no catches since; catfish good in 40-50 feet of water to 12 pounds on rod and reel baited with cheese bait. Boat ramps had heavy ice Sunday and Monday, but were clear mid week.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass good in the 8 pound range before the front on spoons and worms; striper fair but most undersized on minnows and jigs. crappie slow; channel catfish fair to 2 pounds; yellow catfish fair on live carp. Boat ramps clear midweek; a half dozen fishermen on the lake midweek

FALCON: Water clear, 2 feet below conservation pool level; black bass good to 9 pounds on worms and spinners before the front and should be again when warm weather returns some white bass caught up river but not many fishermen; catfish are fair.

MEDINA: Water clear, 19 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow after the front.

TEXANA: Water muddy, normal level. a few trotliners catching blue catfish in the 2-10 pound on cut bait; fishing slow otherwise.

#### WEST

GRANBURY: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on Tequila Sunrise craw worms and black and blue jigs in 4 feet of water before the front; fishing has been slow after the front. striper have been good before and after the front to 16 pounds on live bait; crappie, white bass and catfish slow

HUBBARD CREEK: Water fairly clear, some ice around edges which was melting midweek, 7 feet low; black bass slow; limits of crappie up the river on minnows; few fishermen out.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 11 1/2 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to cold weather; no fishermen in a week

PROCTOR: Water clear, 47 degrees 4 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow; a single fishermen on the lake midweek but no catches reported.

SPENCE: Water clear. 26 feet low; black bass slow due to lack of fishermen; however midweek was bright and clear.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Some fishing in the outfall canal; one fisherman caught 2 small drum; bridges and overpasses were iced over.

GALVESTON: No fish kills reported in the Galveston area by late Tuesday; a few fishermen who worked the beach front caught whiting; most fishing camps are closed. no live bait available. a small craft warning all week with 18 knot winds gusting to 30 knots; the lowest reported temperature was 28 degrees and this low didn't last long; some sleet and freezing rain fell but conditions not as drastic as the freeze of 1983

ROCKPORT: Fairly good numbers of trout to 6 pounds, 11 ounces and 27 inches long on a red worms in Copano Bay; good numbers of decent sized trout in the channels and deep holes on MirOLures and worms and spoons; the largest redfish for the week weighed 7 1/2 pounds and was caught on a gold Cordell; black drum are fair to 2 pounds along the Intracoastal good numbers of sheepshead in Aransas Bay before the front, slow afterward. Good numbers of fishermen went out late Tuesday afternoon; very little live bait shrimp are available mid week.

PORT ARANSAS: Few fishermen out; some cold stressed trout in the 7-8 pound range were picked up on the beach; some small baitfish stunned and floating; some fishermen were working the deeper water of Conn-Brown Harbor but few catches made; some sheepshead caught around the jetties and Lydia Ann Channel on live shrimp and fiddler crabs.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Oso Pier has been closed at night since Saturday; few fishermen out.

PORT MANSFIELD: Some freeze kills near the East Cut Channel and south of Port Mansfield in the shallower water; deeper water north of Port Mansfield had fewer kills. Good numbers of redfish and trout caught in the harbor with good numbers of limits on strawberry touts; many under and oversized redfish; great numbers of trout to 12 1/2 pounds, most trout were good sized. No boat traffic

SOUTH PADRE: Fair numbers of fishermen catching limits of trout and some redfish; trout are good to 5 pounds along the Intracoastal and

Brownsville ship channel on live shrimp, touts, red worms and red worms with white tails are best; a small mullet kill around the Arroyo Colorado Monday but nothing since.

PH 2/08/89