

NON-CIRCULATING

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## LICENSE SALES DOWN, REVENUE UP

AUSTIN--Texas hunting and fishing license sales declined just more than 1 percent during 1991-92, the year fees for many licenses and stamps were increased. The increased fees created a 38 percent increase in revenue.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department figures indicate an estimated 3,167,444 licenses and stamps were sold during the previous year, down from 3,203,937 in 1990-91.

One reason for the increased revenue is the new \$5 turkey stamp. The department sold 157,000 turkey stamps during the first year of the stamp. Revenue from the stamp sales will directly benefit turkey conservation programs and research.

Total hunting licenses sold was 1,048,706, down from 1,101,882 the previous year. License sales narrowly avoided dropping below one million hunters for the first time since 1971.

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Resident hunting license sales dropped after the previous fee increase in 1985-86, then increased for two years before dropping each year since 1988-89. Resident hunting license sales were down last year to 1,011,583, a decrease from 1,067,763 in 1990-91.

The department sold 523,689 combination hunting and fishing licenses, 328,627 resident hunting licenses and 156,831 special resident hunting licenses. Resident hunting sales were up 26.57 percent from the previous year, most likely because more people backed off from buying the combination license, said Paul Israel, license section supervisor. In previous years, the savings was \$3 over the hunting and fishing license. Now it's only \$1.

Non-resident hunting sales were at 37,123, up from 34,119 the previous year, and the highest total ever. The largest increase came from the non-resident five-day special hunting license, which increased from 17,323 to 19,670.

Total fishing license sales dropped from 1,897,224 in 1990-91 to 1,705,958 last year. There were 1,599,357 licensed resident fishermen in Texas last year, down from 1,778,669 the previous year.

TPWD sold 982,611 resident fishing licenses, down from 1,075,500 in 1990-91, and the first time sales have dropped below one million since 1984-85. Once again, Israel said, the fee increase helped one license while taking from another. While resident fishing and combination license sales are down, the temporary (14-day) resident fishing license doubled from 42,711 in 1990-91 to 85,500 this past year.

Non-resident fishing licenses decreased from 118,555 to 106,601 after climbing for six consecutive years. Beginning with 87,248 in 1983-84, sales had risen each year to 118,555 in 1990-91.

"Even though we dropped a little in non-resident fishing licenses, I think people from out of state realize what a great outdoor bargain we've got in Texas," Israel said.

The addition of the turkey stamp helped increase overall hunting stamp sales last year to 384,368, up from 224,803 in 1990-91

White-winged dove stamps were popular with sales of 54,433, an increase from 38,282 the previous year, and the highest number on record. Archery hunting stamps declined from 75,438 to 72,259, the lowest since 1986-87. Waterfowl stamps dropped from 109,990 to 99,888, the first time on record waterfowl stamps have been below 100,000.

Both fishing stamps decreased. The saltwater stamp dropped from 605,783 to 530,880. The freshwater trout stamp decreased from 31,034 to 25,429.

"Early indications (based on license and stamp distribution) are that license and stamp sales for 1992-93 probably will be similar to last year's numbers," Israel said. "This may largely be attributed to excellent hunting and fishing forecasts."

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## **70 SITES WILL RECEIVE RAINBOW TROUT**

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's popular rainbow trout stocking program will begin the 1992-93 season with the stocking of several public water bodies on Dec. 3. Seventy sites, the most ever, are scheduled to be stocked with more than a quarter million fish.

The department anticipates stocking about 268,500 8-inch to 10-inch trout but the final number will depend on how many fish are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said Pat Hutson, head of the department's freshwater trout program in San Marcos. Last year, TPWD stocked about 257,000 rainbows in 61 sites.

The program is run with funds from the sale of Texas Freshwater Trout Stamps. The \$7 stamps are required, in addition to a valid fishing license, for all those fishing for freshwater trout in Texas waters. Those exempted from fishing license requirements are not required to possess a trout stamp. The department sold 25,429 freshwater trout stamps in 1991-92.

TPWD first stocked trout in 1966 in some cooler tailrace areas as experimental work, Hutson said. By the mid-1970s selected sites received annual stockings. In 1983, some smaller state park lakes were added to the annual stocking list.

The program began to grow in popularity in the 1980s. Because of the growing interest and the increased expense, the Texas Legislature instituted the trout stamp for users to directly support the program. The program has grown from 12 sites being stocked in 1986 to this year's 70.

The program has provided many smaller towns an economic boost, Hutson said. It generates visitation in the towns and state parks. Some cities have even begun sharing in the cost of the program. In 1991-92, one city sent the department a check out of appreciation because of the importance of the program to the city.

This year, five sites will be receiving a stocking of trout or extra trout because the city donated funds to purchase additional fish. These areas include Bear Creek Park in Keller, Bethany Park in Allen, Nolan Creek in Belton, Pampa City Park in Pampa and Pickens Lake west of Sherman. This year's contributions will provide an additional 11,500 trout available to anglers.

Any town interested in contributing to next year's program should contact their local management biologist to see if the lake is in an approved area, Hutson said.

"The past few years we've begun to focus more on urban lakes with easy access, he said. "We want to provide a recreational opportunity for people without boats and people who may not be able to travel. This is inexpensive and no special equipment is required."

The stamps and fishing licenses are available from department law enforcement offices and many retail outlets across the state. The daily bag limit is five trout and possession limit is 10 in all Texas waters. There is no minimum length limit.

Separate fees are not charged to fish for trout in state parks, only the normal entry and facility use fees. Trout stamps are required as in other public waters.

The stocking dates are tentative and subject to change, Hutson said. For more information on the program contact TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112.

(A list of the stocking sites and approximate dates can be found toward the back of the news packet.)

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### **GRASS CARP INCREASING IN TRINITY RIVER**

AUSTIN--Evidence is building that a large grass carp population exists in the Trinity River below Lake Livingston, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fisheries biologists.

From July 1991 to September 1992, more than 13,000 pounds of grass carp were taken out of the river by commercial fishermen. Biologists say that is high because grass carp are extremely difficult to capture using traditional gear.

Dr. Earl Chilton, TPWD inland fisheries scientist, said there are at least two possible explanations for why there are grass carp in the Trinity River. First, there probably a number of escapees from Lake Conroe as well as illegally stocked fish from smaller ponds. Second, some of the escaped fish may be reproducing in the river.

"To verify possible reproduction our biologists began looking for grass carp eggs and fry during the last spawning season," Chilton said. "No larvae have been found, but a number of healthy grass carp eggs, very close to hatching, have been found."

This find represents the first documented case of successful grass carp spawning outside of the Mississippi River drainage in North America. Although the presence of grass carp eggs does not prove there has been successful growth to a catchable size, the case is certainly strengthened, he said. TPWD biologists continue to look for larval grass carp and juveniles to determine if successful recruitment is occurring.

"It must be emphasized that if spawning and recruitment of grass carp is going on in the Trinity River, it is not because of the recent legalization of triploid (sterile) grass carp," said Chilton, who has studied the triploid grass carp in Texas. "One of the reasons the staff recommended limited use of triploids was concern about the large number of diploids occurring in public water, especially the Trinity."

Triploids are functionally sterile and the probability of reproduction is extremely low. If reproduction is taking place it is a result of normal (diploid) fish being introduced into the system, either from old fish escaping from Lake Conroe or from illegally stocked fish escaping from other areas over the years.

"The situation in the Trinity River certainly is disturbing," Chilton said. "We would be much less concerned if the fish currently in the Trinity River were triploid. Triploids could only enter the system through escape from other areas and it would be much easier for us to limit escapement of triploids than to control reproduction of diploids."

TPWD biologists will continue looking for grass carp eggs and larvae during next spring's spawning season, and will conduct radio-tracking studies to determine grass carp movement in the Trinity River as well as the likelihood of migration into other systems.

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### **TPWD RECEIVES SAN MARCOS RIVER TRACT**

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has received a 5.5-acre tract of land across the San Marcos River from the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery that will provide improved access to the river for canoeing and boating and will offer picnicking and other recreational opportunities.

The site, known as Thompson's Island, was donated by John J. Stokes Sr. of San Marcos. It was dedicated Nov. 18. The hatchery is across the river adjacent to the site, which fronts the water intake for the hatchery.

The area, the upper reach of the San Marcos River, is a valuable recreational and natural resource. Preservation efforts have placed most of the river frontage east of I-35 into public ownership. Preservation of this additional river frontage will contribute to an overall greenway preservation concept for the San Marcos River.

The site will be operated through a management agreement with the city of San Marcos.

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RAINBOW TROUT  
PUBLIC WATER STOCKING SITES  
And **Approximate** Dates  
1992-1993

- 1 Albert Sallas County Park (near Houston<sup>1</sup>) - Dec 17
- 2 Amarillo Medical Center Park - Feb 25; Mar 11
- 3 Ascarate Fisherman's (El Paso) - Feb 4
- 4 Bane Park - Jan 7; Feb 4
- 5 Barton Creek (Austin) - Dec 10; Jan 28
- 6 Bastrop State Park - Dec 3; Dec 31
- 7 \*Bear Creek Park (Keller<sup>2</sup>) - Jan 21
- 8 \*Bethany Park (Allen<sup>3</sup>) - Dec 3; Dec 17
- 9 Blanco State Park #4 - Dec 10; Dec 31; Jan 9; Jan 28
- 10 Bob Sandlin State Park - Jan 28; Feb 18
- 11 Boerne City - Jan 15
- 12 Bonham State Park Lake - Dec 10; Jan 21
- 13 Boykin Springs (northwest of Jasper) - Dec 17; Jan 14 Feb 4
- 14 Brazos River (Possum Kingdom Tailrace below dam) - Dec 12; Jan 2; Jan 16; Jan 30; Feb 13
- 15 Burke-Crenshaw - Jan 21; Feb 11
- 16 Carrollton Sport Complex (Carrollton near Dallas) - Feb 5; Feb 19
- 17 Claibourne West Park Lake (Orange) - Dec 31; Jan 14 Feb 11
- 18 Clear Fork Trinity River (Fort Worth<sup>4</sup>) - Jan 7; Jan 28; Feb 12; Feb 25
- 19 Cleburne State Park Lake - Dec 10; Jan 14
- 20 Copper Breaks State Park Lake - Dec 10; Jan 14; Feb 11
- 21 Corpus Christi (Mathis<sup>5</sup>) - Jan 7
- 22 Cy Miller Pond<sup>6</sup> - Jan 29
- 23 Daingerfield State Park Lake - Dec 18
- 24 Eisenhower City Park Pond (near Houston<sup>7</sup>) - Jan 7; Jan 28
- 25 Flower Mound Rheudasil (Flower Mound<sup>8</sup>) - Jan 28

- 26 Foster Park (Spring Creek west of San Angelo) - Dec 10; Jan 7; Jan 28; Feb 11
- 27 Fort Richardson State Park Lake - Dec 17; Jan 14
- 28 Galveston State Park Lake #2 - Jan 7; Jan 28
- 29 Greenbelt Stilling Basin<sup>9</sup> - Feb 11
- 30 Guadalupe River (Canyon Tailrace<sup>10</sup>) - Dec 3; Dec 17; Jan 21; Feb 4; Feb 18
- 31 Harlingen Sports Complex<sup>11</sup> - Jan 14
- 32 Hermann Park (Houston<sup>12</sup>) - Feb 4
- 33 Higginbotham Park (Lubbock) - Dec 10; Feb 17
- 34 Hurst Chisholm Park (Dallas) - Feb 5
- 35 Lakeside (Duncanville) - Feb 11
- 36 Lakeview (Corpus Christi) - Jan 15
- 37 Lampasas City Lake - Jan 7
- 38 Louise Hayes Park (Kerrville) - Jan 15; Feb 11
- 39 Martin Road Park Lake (Amarillo) - Feb 25; Mar 11
- 40 Marvin Lake (city of Canadian near Amarillo) - Feb 17; Mar 4
- 41 Meredith Stilling Basin<sup>13</sup> - Dec 10; Feb 25
- 42 Meridian State Park Lake - Dec 17; Jan 22
- 43 Mesquite City Park (Mesquite) - Feb 21
- 44 Mill Creek Park (San Saba) - Jan 7
- 45 Missouri City Park (south of Houston<sup>14</sup>) - Jan 21; Feb 4
- 46 Nelson Park Lake (Abilene) - Dec 3; Dec 17; Jan 14; Feb 4; Feb 18
- 47 New Horsehoe (Needville [Brazos Bend State Park]) - Feb 11
- 48 \*Nolan Creek (Belton) - Jan 14
- 49 \*Pampa City<sup>15</sup> - Feb 11
- 50 Pedernales River (LBJ State Park) - Dec 17
- 51 \*Pickens Lake (west of Sherman) - Dec 10; Jan 21; Feb 18
- 52 Plum Lake ([Softball Complex Lake] Wichita Falls) - Jan 14; Feb 19
- 53 Purtilis Creek State Park Rearing #1 (Athens) - Dec 17; Jan 14

- 54 Purtis Creek State Park Rearing #2 (Athens) - Dec 18; Jan 28
- 55 Ribble Park (Lubbock) - Dec 10; Feb 17
- 56 Rusk State Park Lake - Jan 7; Feb 4
- 57 Salado Creek (Salado) - Dec 31
- 58 San Antonio River (Breckenridge Park) - Jan 22; Feb 18
- 59 South San Gabriel<sup>16</sup> - Jan 7; Feb 4
- 60 Springfield (Mexia [Fort Parker State Park]) - Jan 14; Feb 11
- 61 Spring Lake Park (Texarkana) - Feb 4; Feb 25
- 62 Sulphur Springs City Park Lake - Jan 14; Feb 11
- 63 Taylor City Lake #4 - Jan 29
- 64 Teague Park (Gregg County near Longview) - Feb 11
- 65 Texana (near Edna) - Jan 15
- 66 Theo Lake (Caprock Canyons State Park) - Feb 11; Mar 4
- 67 Thomas Jefferson Park (Irving<sup>17</sup>) - Feb 11
- 68 Tom Bass I (south Houston) - Dec 31, Jan 28
- 69 Towne Lake (McKinney) - Dec 17
- 70 Tyler State Park Lake - Dec 10; Jan 7; Jan 21; Feb 19

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<sup>1</sup>Off Hwy 59 north of Houston in Montgomery County, exit New Caney to Fm Rd 1485, take the feeder road southwest side of 59 to McCleskey Road will be one mile on the right

<sup>2</sup>From I35 W take the Golden Triangle Blvd east to Keller, turn south on Main St (hwy 377) to Bear Creek Rd Go east on Bear Creek Rd and the park is on the south side of the road

<sup>3</sup>Take 75 N out of Dallas to Bethany Rd in Allen Travel east on Bethany Road to Allen Heights Road and the park is on the NE Corner

<sup>4</sup>Park is off Hwy 35 downtown Fort Worth The city of Fort Worth also stocks rainbow trout, check with Recreation Office

<sup>5</sup>Take I37 to Mathis; take Hwy 359 Exit (Alice exit) and follow into town; take a left on FM 1068 and follow to State Park

<sup>6</sup>Texas Avenue in College Station by Police Station

<sup>7</sup>South of Lake Houston in East City Park

- <sup>8</sup>From I35 take hwy 1171 east to Flower Mound Turn south on Long Prairie and east on Forest Vista The park is located on the south side of Forest Vista
- <sup>9</sup>Below Lake Greenbelt near Amarillo
- <sup>10</sup>Below dam, 2 bridges on Hwy 306, Sattler Bridge, Bean Camp, White Water [fly fishing from bridge between 306 and Sattler]
- <sup>11</sup>Take Hwy 77 to Harlingen; exit at FM 2994 (Wilson Road) and go west approx 1/2 mile Entrance to sports complex is on the left
- <sup>12</sup>Age requirement, must be over 65 or under 12 years of age
- <sup>13</sup>Below Lake Meredith near Amarillo
- <sup>14</sup>One block off Fm Rd 1092 on Lexington Drive
- <sup>15</sup>Pampa City Lake is located approx 1/2 mile east of the City of Pampa on Hwy 60 The lake is located in the Top O' Texas Rodeo Grounds
- <sup>16</sup>Bluehole Park, downtown Georgetown
- <sup>17</sup>From John E Carpenter Frwy (Hwy 114) take MacArthur Blvd south The park is located in the east side of the Blvd just after you cross Meadow Creek Drive N

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Nov. 18:

#### CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 5 pounds on Rattle Traps and worms; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 6 pounds, 7 ounces on jigging spoons, Guido Bugs, and Ring Rascals; striper are slow; hybrid striper are good to 10 pounds on live perch; crappie are excellent: 3 pounds, 1 ounce on black or blue fleafly; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 6 pounds drifting stinkbait and shrimp.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 72 degrees, 2 feet below spillway; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on worms and spinners; striper are good at night under lights on jigs and spoons, striper are slower during the day; crappie are fairly good from docks on minnows; white bass are fairly good on L'il Cleo Spoons while schooling; yellow catfish are fair on live bait; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds on shrimp and worms.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 70 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds, 6 ounces on pigs and jigs; striper are good to 8 pounds on live bait; crappie are fair on docks with structure with minnows; white bass are good around Garrett and Shaw Islands on deep trolling baits; catfish are slow.

COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass and all fishing have been fairly slow; yellow catfish are fair to 32 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on water dogs along grass edges in 8 to 12 feet of water; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on water dogs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 11 1/4 pounds on cranks; crappie are fairly good on minnows in 12 feet of water; catfish are fairly good to 37 pounds on cut bait with rod and reel.

LBJ: Water clear, 69 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 4 pounds, 9 ounces on pumpkin seed colored jigs; striper are slow; crappie are good on docks with structure on minnows; white bass are good with trolling baits around 1431 bridge; catfish are slow.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 3.58 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on buzz baits; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on Rattle Traps at the high lines; catfish are very slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 65 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on jigs and pigs, worms, goldfish, but not many fishermen out; striper are fairly good trolling but most are undersized; crappie are fairly good during the day, slower during cloudy weather; white bass are fair trolling Hellbenders, Tony Accetta Spoons and shad; catfish are fairly slow to 2 pounds around the marina.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 70

degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on cranks, Rattle Traps and worms in 6 to 16 feet of water; smallmouth bass are good in the 2-3 pound range in 25 feet of water on cranks and yellow spinners; crappie are slow; catfish are good in 20-45 feet of water on cheese baits.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 18 inches on minnows and worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are fair on minnows and jigs; catfish are fairly good to 16 inches.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 71 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on silver Jerkin' Sams, chartreuse spinners and red shad Slug-Gos; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on same lures; fishermen caught up to 45 bass per boat per day with frequent limits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

WACO: Water off color, 70 degrees, 2 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on stinkbait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 63 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fair to good to 4 pounds on cranks; striper are good to 15 pounds on shad, slabs and Sassy Shad with good numbers of limits; white bass are good on slabs and spoons under the birds; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds below the dam on bloodbait and worms.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 68 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are schooling, some limits caught in the 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 pound range on worms, spinners and topwaters; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are slow to 4 pounds.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 64 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good in the keeper range on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 3 pounds on spinners; crappie are fair in number and small in size; catfish are fairly good in the 2-3 pound range on minnows and cut bait with set hooks or trotlines.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 62 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good in number to 5 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps, chartreuse spinners and Bloodline worms; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair with strings to 15 fish in 10-22 feet of water around bridge pilings on minnows; white bass are very good on chartreuse Roostertails and chrome slabs up major creeks; yellow catfish are good to 38 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Bloodline worms; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows in 32 feet of water; catfish are good to 18 pounds on nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 70-90 degrees, 6 inches below normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on motoroil worms; hybrid striper are slow to 8 pounds on shad; catfish are good to 10 pounds on shrimp; redfish are fair to 15 pounds on cranks.

FORK: Water clear, 68 degrees, 3

feet low; black bass are good in number but most are small on jigging spoons and 4-inch watermelon seed worms, Jawtec French Fries; crappie are good on small jigs and minnows in 30 feet of water; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 63 degrees, 2.7 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on black jigs and pigs in 15 feet of water; crappie are fair on minnows around baited boat stalls in 15 to 20 feet of water, also around tire reefs with white redheaded Roadrunner jigs; white bass are fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; catfish are slow, some caught drifting shrimp along the dam.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal pool level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners, dark worms and black and blue jigs; crappie are fair in 15 feet of water around the brush on minnows, boat docks and marinas are good fishing; white bass are slow; catfish are fair on live bait to 9 pounds.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 60 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good through 9 pounds on buzz baits in shallow water; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 7 pounds on live bait, shrimp and worms.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on live water dogs in 10-15 feet of water; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on live minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds on Canadian Crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 62 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair but most are minimum sized and are caught on worms and spinners; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on stinkbait and shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 60 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on worms and buzz baits in 8 feet of water around moss beds on the upper end; crappie are fair in deep water, a few keepers caught under 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen; good numbers of duck hunters and ducks over the weekend, good numbers of ducks bagged.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on topwaters early and worms during the day; striper are slow; white bass are good while schooling on topwaters, slabs and spoons; crappie are fairly good to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are fairly good on trotlines; yellow catfish are good to 18 pounds on bream baited trotline; channel catfish are good to 5 pounds on catalpa worms and bloodbait.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows; catfish are good to 15 pounds, 9 ounces on liver.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 5 pounds on spinners; crappie are good around brush piles suspended at 12 feet on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on trotlines baited with shad gizzards.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 2.6 feet low; black bass are fair to 9 pounds on worms; crappie are fair; white bass are fair; catfish are fair to 71 pounds on trotline and live perch.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 67 degrees, 18 inches below spillway level; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on worms and topwaters; striped are fairly slow; crappie are fair around the docks on minnows and jigs in 8-10 feet of water; catfish are good to 6 pounds on rod and reel to 4 pounds; blue catfish are good to 3 pounds on cut bait in 10 feet of water.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 61 degrees, 1 foot low; largemouth bass are fair to 4 pounds on cranks and pigs and jigs; smallmouth bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on pigs and jigs; striped are excellent to 10 1/2 pounds with many limits on live bait, Sassy Shad and trolling; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are good to 3 pounds on Sassy Shad, spoons and live bait; catfish are excellent to 52 pounds on Sassy Shad.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 64 degrees, 18-24 inches low; black bass are small and scattered, not many fishermen out; crappie are good in number on minnows; white bass are good in number but most are small; good numbers of yellow catfish caught on trotlines baited with bream and shiners. Fairly good numbers of deer hunters in the nearby national forests.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on white spinners; striped are slow; crappie are good near the piers with many over 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in shallow water on black worms and white spinners; striped are slow; crappie are good early around marinas and docks on minnows; white bass are slow in the lake, some movement upstream; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on cut bait and trotlines.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 67 degrees, 8 1/4 feet low; black bass are good in the 4 to 5 pound range on spinners, topwaters, diving baits during the days, Little Ns and Wiggle Warts; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

SHELDON: Water muddy, 65 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass and all fishing are slow due rains and high winds.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 58 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are slow, some schooling bass are caught on topwaters; striped are fair but most are small, some to 8 pounds caught near the river; crappie are slow, some caught in baited holes on shiners; catfish are slow to 35 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on dark worms in 15 feet of water off points; striped are good to 27 pounds around the dam and in San Pedro Canyon on live bait and 1 ounce Ponyhead jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are good around Zorro Canyon on half ounce slabs; catfish are good in 40-80 feet of water on shrimp and cheese baits.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 7 pounds on Rattle Traps; hybrid striped are good but all are too small to keep on Rattle Traps, spoons and chicken livers;

channel catfish are good to 3 pound average from boats and banks on shad, chicken livers and minnows; blue catfish are fair in the 4 to 14 pound range on shad, tilapia and cut bait; redfish are fair to 17 1/2 on a Bagley Fatcat. CALAVERAS: Water clear, 78-80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good in the 5-6 pound range on plastic worms, Rattle Traps and jigs; striped are slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds on cheese bait, liver and shad; redfish are fair to 5 pounds on spoons and jigs; corvina are slow to 12 pounds on shad and perch. CHOKE: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 1/4 pounds on spinners in 3-8 feet of water, bass are good in 10-17 feet of water on deep diving cranks and worms; white and chartreuse spinners with pork frog trailers have been very good in shallow water; some plum worms have been productive; striped are slow; crappie are good around the river channel at 99 bridge, Possum Creek and at the dam on live minnows, small white jigs and Roadrunners in 10 to 35 feet of water; catfish are fair in number on rod and reel and on trotlines; blue catfish have been good since the temperature dropped, fish have been caught in the 10-50 pound range in 15 to 40 feet of water at South Shore Flats and Calliham.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 62 degrees at the dam, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 16 inches on spinners and plastic worms; hybrid striped are fair to 18 inches on minnows; crappie are fair to 10 inches on minnows and worms; catfish are fair to 9 inches or above on shrimp.

FALCON: Water clear, 73 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are excellent to 10 pounds, 10 ounces on red shad Power Worms; striped are fairly slow; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent on Knocker Spoons under birds; catfish are excellent to 5 pounds on frozen shrimp with rod and reel.

MEDINA: Water clear, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on spinners early and Power Worms later in the day; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on L'il Georges, no limits, most are small; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on nightcrawlers and dough bait.

#### WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 53 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fairly good on minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass are slow to fair on spoons; catfish are slow.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water fairly clear, 60 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to good to 5 pounds on jigs; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 1 foot below full; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fairly good up the river on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on live perch.

MEREDITH: Water clearing, 54 degrees, 83 feet; black bass are slow; crappie and white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 12 inches on minnows and shad; walleye are good in the 2-5 1/2 pound range on shad.

O.H. IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 62 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass are fair to good

in the 18-20 inch range up creeks and draws on yellow and white buzz baits and spinners in Grape, Horse and Pony Creek areas; small mouthbass are fair to 16 inches along bluffs and ridges on deep diving baits; crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs along brushy ridges in 10 to 20 feet of water; channel and blue catfish are fair to 4 pounds on trotlines using stinkbait on the upper end of the lake; yellow catfish are fair to 12 pounds on trotlines up river along ridges and bluffs.

PROCTOR: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds on artificials; striped are slow; crappie are picking up on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 4 pounds on shrimp. SPENCE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 24 feet low; black bass are slow; striped are good in the 18 to 20 inch range trolling Hellbenders, jigs and slabs; crappie are slow; white bass are beginning to hit along with striped; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawler baited trotlines.

THEO: Water clear, 62 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on water dogs and cheese baits.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing was good over the weekend but slow since; no great number of people fishing; redfish and sheepshead are the only fish caught; no live bait shrimp available; weather has been good, winds have been light.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of flounder to 4 pounds caught at the jetties along with good numbers of golden croakers and sandtrout; a few keeper and many oversized redfish caught at the jetties and at San Luis Pass; water is in good shape, but trout are scattered; good numbers of snapper limits caught at the banks in the 35 to 50 mile range; live bait shrimp available in the \$10 to \$12 range.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishermen catching limits of red snapper from 40 to 50 miles offshore; a good number of trigger fish to 4 pounds were caught on squid and ice fish; a ling weighing 35 pounds and a warsaw weighing 45 pounds were also caught; good numbers of vermilion snapper in the 2-3 pound range were caught on the same baits.

PORT OCONNOR: Good catches of trout, redfish and flounder: Army Hole, Pringle Lake, Bauer's Cut, Boggy Bayou, Oil Field Cut and Saluria are producing fish; some offshore fishermen caught limits of snapper over last weekend; limits of redfish caught at the first wells on pin perch; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart.

MATAGORDA: Flounder run is going in the Intracoastal Canal and in the Colorado River; trout are good in the canal and in both bays under the birds; limits of redfish caught in West Matagorda Bay on mullet; live bait shrimp are available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Good numbers of specks caught from Green's and Cotton's Bayous, many limits caught from 15 to 20 inches on pearl with firetail Hogies Swimming Shad; good catches of trout reported around the pavilion and at the long jetties turning basin with pearl Hogies Swimming Shad and clear metal flake Swimming Shad; some trout caught in Turtle Bay and Palacios Bayou outside the

entrance to Oyster Lake; live bait scarce; fishing conditions are good.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are plentiful in Redfish Bay, Estes Flats, Hog Island Hole and along the shallow shorelines in grassy areas; limits of redfish caught on topwaters, cacohoe minnows in several colors; specks are good over shell reefs in the middle of the bays; good numbers of specks caught, only a few were too small to keep, fish are caught on natural cacohoe minnows; live bait shrimp available.

PORT ARANSAS: Good numbers of flounder caught in the channels on rod and reel with mud minnows, shrimp, small perch, purple and red cacohoe minnows; giggers are doing fairly well with numbers of fish to 1 1/2 pounds; limits of redfish keepers caught in the flats in the afternoon; trout caught around California Hole and Hog Island on perch; live bait shrimp available.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water in good shape; good numbers of trout and redfish caught between the high lines; good numbers of trout and redfish caught near the causeway as well as Portland Reef; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Good numbers of fish caught north of the East Cut in 2-3 feet of water; good numbers of specks caught on touts and live minnows; good numbers of redfish caught around Green Island on minnows and touts; good numbers of snapper caught around Steamer Rocks 12-13 miles offshore; live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish have been very good around Gas Well Flats and way north on the west side; good numbers of drum also caught; specks have been fairly slow but those caught have been good sized; surf fishermen are catching a few trout; piers have been producing good sized specks and sandtrout; offshore fishing has been slow; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$10 per quart.

PH 11/18/92

