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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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MATAGORDA ISLAND BEGINS FERRY SERVICE

PORT O'CONNOR--For the first time ever, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is offering regular passenger ferry service to Matagorda Island. The shuttle service will be set up in time for the busy Fourth of July weekend.

"We wanted to make Matagorda Island accessible to more people," said Luke Thompson of Matagorda Island State Park. "It's been difficult in the past to get on the island." Access has been limited to those people who have boats or who can afford to charter service.

The passenger ferry will begin running July 4. It will depart from Port O'Connor twice a day, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. for the 11-mile trip through the Espiritu Santo Bay. The ferry will land at the boat dock and its run will coincide with the shuttle bus that takes passengers around the island. The passenger ferry will make two trips back to Port O'Connor in the afternoon, at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The ferry will run on weekends and holidays only. The summer holiday schedule includes July 4 and Sept. 2.

The ferry will cost \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. The on-island shuttle bus costs \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

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Matagorda Island is home to the endangered whooping crane during the winter and is a popular fishing and beachcombing area during spring and summer. The island boasts a 40-mile stretch of pedestrian beach, the longest in Texas.

Thompson recommends calling in advance for reservations on the ferry. For more information contact Matagorda Island State Park at (512) 983-2215.

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WHITEWING, MOURNING DOVE POPULATIONS INCREASING

AUSTIN--Populations of white-winged and mourning doves appear to have increased since last year in Texas, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department official said.

Ron George, TPWD dove program leader, said the 1991 whitewing breeding population survey in the Lower Rio Grande Valley - the whitewing's major historical breeding area in Texas - revealed about 338,000 adult whitewings, a 12 percent increase from last year. Valley whitewing numbers continue to recover from the effects of a prolonged drought and the 1989 freeze, which destroyed much of the citrus nesting habitat, but this year's count still is about 20 percent below the long-term average.

Based on the survey's results, George said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved a two-day special white-winged dove season.

For the second consecutive year whitewing numbers outside the Valley exceeded those in the Valley, he said. Department personnel counted more than 424,000 whitewings in a 16-county area in upper South Texas this year. This is a 9 percent increase over last year and represents an all-time record for this area.

Whitewings also have expanded their range throughout parts of Central Texas and are now nesting at least as far north as Waco. Because of the increasing whitewing populations, George said the department has requested that the USFWS consider allowing six rather than the current two whitewings in the statewide 12-dove daily bag limit during the regular mourning dove season.

"The Service probably will approve this request, except for four counties (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where the whitewing population is still recovering," he said. In these counties only two whitewings would be permitted daily during the regular season, the same as last year.

The mourning dove breeding population survey indicates the population has increased about 21 percent over last year, George said. The greatest increase was in the Central Zone. The North Zone also may be up some, but the South Zone appears to be down.

Over the past 15 years, mourning dove breeding populations in the North and Central zones have shown no statistically significant changes, but the South Zone has increased. During this same period, the statewide population index has increased slightly.

For the fourth consecutive year, the USFWS did not approve a September teal season, George said, although water conditions and teal numbers have improved considerably since last year on the primary breeding grounds in the northern U.S. and Canada. Even with this year's improvement the current blue-winged teal population (about 3.8 million) is only back to approximately the same level it was when the season was first suspended in 1988.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will meet at 9 a.m., July 9 at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas to review and adopt the 1991-92 hunting regulations for early season migratory game birds, which includes doves, rails, gallinules and teal. Anyone interested in commenting on the proposed regulations may attend the public hearing or contact George at TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by calling 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4778 or (512) 389-4778.

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DEPARTMENT DEDICATES FIRST NONGAME AREA

SMITH POINT--The first acquisition made with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund was dedicated during a ceremony June 25.

Officials formally dedicated a 207-acre area of oak mottes and marsh as the Candy Cain Abshier Wildlife Management Area. The WMA, located on Smith Point in Chambers County, is the first nongame area purchased by the department through the Special Fund. Acquisition of the land was made possible by Oryx Energy, which contributed 50 percent of the land's \$200,000 appraised value to the fund.

"I'm very excited. This is a tremendous day in the history of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department," said Executive Director Andrew Sansom. "These trees are extremely important to migrating birds when they first arrive from South America."

Rudy Rosen, TPWD fisheries and wildlife division director, called the Abshier WMA the flagship of a fleet of future nongame areas across the state.

The ceremony included participation by Ann Abshier, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission member Terry Hershey and officials from Oryx. Department officials also accepted a donation of almost \$700 from Robert Honig, chairman of the Ornithology Group of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston. Honig said the money was collected during a bird-a-thon coordinated by the Houston Audubon Society and that another \$300 donation will be made in the near future.

The Special Fund, which began in 1983 and is sustained through donations and the sale of nongame artwork, stamps and decals, enables the department to acquire habitat or conduct research and management projects specifically for nongame and endangered wildlife.

Catrina Martin, assistant program leader for nongame resources, said the site, bounded on the south by Galveston Bay, was acquired as an important "stopover" area for spring migrant birds returning from Central and South America. Thousands of birds utilize the oak mottes as first landfall after an exhausting flight over the Gulf of Mexico. The area also serves as an important migration pathway for the southward movement of hawks and falcons in the fall.

Commissioners voted in August to name the area after Abshier, a former department employee who died June 24, 1989, in recognition of her dedication to environmental concerns.

For more information about the area or the Special Fund, contact the Nongame Resources Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4505, or (512) 389-4505.

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EXPERTS TO DISCUSS BROWN TIDE PROBLEM

PORT ARANSAS--A conference on brown tide, sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) and the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program is attracting international attention. Experts on the ocean phenomenon are making plans to attend the conference, scheduled for July 15-16 here.

Brown tide was first spotted in the Laguna Madre in June 1990 and is threatening plant and animal life. It's caused by blooms of a very small form of Chrysophyta, which is a phytoplankton. This single-cell algae appears to be new and has not been seen in the Laguna Madre before. Unlike the organism that causes red tide, the brown tide organism is not toxic, yet it's so abundant that with calm winds, warm temperatures and shallow depths, the blooms can deplete oxygen in the water and cause fish kills.

Brown tides were first documented in the United States in 1985, according to Dr. Terry Whitledge, senior research scientist at UTMSI. A brown tide off the coast of New York decimated the bay scallop population, destroying a multi-million dollar fishing industry. That's one reason research into what causes brown tides is so important.

"This will be the first conference to compare brown tides in different parts of the country," Whitledge said. "We need to come up with a research plan so we can better understand it."

There have been no documented fish kills from the Laguna Madre brown tide, although scientists are beginning to notice a decrease in some larval populations of redfish, trout and black drum. Whittledge says that mulinia, a type of small clam eaten by black drum, has almost completely disappeared.

Brown tide is already having an affect on the sea grass, which is an important habitat for young trout and redfish, as well as forage animals such as crabs and shrimp on which these valuable sportfish feed. Grass beds can contain 10 times as many animals as unvegetated bottoms.

"The Laguna Madre is unique in the world," said Dr. Larry McKinney, resource protection division director at TPWD. "That's why the Gulf Program's interest and financial support of the symposium is so important. They have set aside funds to help address critical Gulf problems by bringing in recognized experts together, and our brown tide certainly qualifies."

Experts scheduled to attend the conference include Dr. Theodore Smayda of the University of Rhode Island, an internationally recognized expert on plankton blooms; Dr. Elizabeth Cospers of State University of New York at Stony Brook and author of "Unusual Phytoplankton Blooms"; Dr. William Dennison, seagrass specialist from the Horn Point Laboratory at the University of Maryland; Dr. David Caron, an expert on grazing plankton from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; and Dr. Edna Graneli, an expert on blooms from the University of Lund in Sweden.

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FOURTH OF JULY BOATING
SAFER WITHOUT ALCOHOL

AUSTIN--A day on a boat with the sun shining, a breeze blowing and the boat gently rocking in the water sounds like pure relaxation. Add a few alcoholic drinks to the scene, though, and it's an idyllic Fourth of July vacation.

A few hours of small boat operation can be more stressful than the same amount of time spent driving on the highway. Jack Nasworthy, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department boater education specialist, said studies have shown that exposure to the sun, wind, engine noise, vibration and constant motion can slow reaction time significantly. Boat operators tested on specially designed courses showed a decreasing ability to deal with obstacles and to control their vessels in tight maneuvering situations as the day progressed.

"Consuming alcoholic beverages can make the situation worse," he said. "Peripheral vision is reduced and hearing is made less acute. Many boat operators who've been drinking don't feel the effects, so they feel fine until they hit the dock - or something else."

Nasworthy encourages holiday boaters not to become another statistic. "Make sure you take a break and deal with the fatigue from exposure to the environment for extended periods. The boat operator should refrain from drinking while operating a boat. Boating while intoxicated is illegal in Texas and can be deadly on a Fourth of July holiday."

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DOVE DISEASE COMMON THIS TIME OF YEAR

CLIFTON--Although the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has received no reports this summer of mourning doves dying from trichomoniasis, a common and contagious bird disease, it is prevalent this time of year

Ron George, dove program leader, said the department typically receives about six calls a year concerning trichomoniasis. Most of the calls involve backyard bird feeders and up to a dozen birds. The most serious cases are from automatic game feeders on ranches. These feeders are used by more birds, which can spread the disease more quickly, and are checked less frequently.

Jose Cano, wildlife biologist from Clifton, said trichomoniasis is caused by a protozoan parasite that infects the mouth, throat and crop of doves. Clinical signs usually include a yellow cheezy mass in the mouth. The bird shows signs of weakness from loss of appetite and difficulty in breathing. Although the bird is unable to swallow, it continues to feed, only to regurgitate the food.

"It is virtually impossible to treat wild birds infected with trichomoniasis," George said. The most effective control method is to quit feeding for three to four weeks, giving the disease a chance to run its course. It also is recommended that people with backyard feeders contact their neighbors if trichomoniasis is suspected so they also may curtail feeding.

Other than doves and pigeons, trichomoniasis does not affect other bird species, except birds of prey that feed on infected birds, Cano said. It is not transmittable to humans.

Anyone suspecting the disease as the cause of death in doves on their property should call the nearest TPWD office or Austin headquarters at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4778.

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

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 7 pounds on dark worms and white spinners in 12-16 feet of water; crappie are fair to good at night to 18 fish per string on minnows in 20 feet of water; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on live sunfish.

BELTON: Water clear, 86 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fairly slow in the 13 1/2 inch range on minnows; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair early on dough baits. Fisheries crews from Parks and Wildlife have stocked 133,832 hybrid striped bass fingerlings in Lake Belton this year.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly slow to 5 pounds on artificials; hybrid striper are good at night in the 18 inch range on white Roadrunners; striper are good on shrimp and jigs at night; crappie are good on minnows around brush piles; white bass are fairly slow; catfish are good to 6 pounds on shad and perch. Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 39,600 hybrid striper fingerlings in Lake Brownwood this year.

BUCHANAN: A total of 350,706 striped bass fingerlings were stocked in Buchanan this year by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

CANYON: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good in number but small in size on black lizards with chartreuse tails in Jacob's Creek; smallmouth bass are fairly slow to 3 pounds on same baits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 14 pounds on trotline with live bait. Fish hatchery crews from Parks and Wildlife stocked 42,525 striped bass fingerlings in Canyon this year.

COLORADO BEND: Water muddy, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on topwaters; striper are poor; crappie are poor; white bass are poor; channel catfish are good to 5 pounds on cut bait and worms; yellow catfish are good to 30 pounds on live perch baited trotlines.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 92 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 7 1/4 pounds with good numbers through Saturday when the front hit; crappie are slow; catfish are fairly good to 9 pounds on rod and reel baited with goldfish, shrimp and stinkbait.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 93 degrees, normal level; black bass are good with a few over 21 inches, many within the slot limit on Carolina rigged worms and deep diving lures around dropoffs; crappie are good with limits on minnows; catfish are good in the 4-5 pound range on stink bait and live bait.

INKS LAKE: Water muddy from the rains, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good in the 16 inch range on chartreuse Roostertails; striper are good to 20 pounds on Redfins and shad, Tom's minners; crappie are good on medium sized minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow on worms. A total of 120,450 striped

bass fingerlings were stocked by Parks and Wildlife this year. LIMESTONE: Water murky, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on Poe's Ace in the Hole topwaters, Poe's 200 cranks and Jawtec Salt Craws; crappie are improving with some limits caught on minnows; white bass are good early and late on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines with live perch in 7 feet of water.

SOMERVILLE: Water is off color, 85 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 14 inches on worms and spinners early; hybrid striper are fair; white bass are fairly good with a few limits on slabspoons; catfish are slow. Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 116,651 hybrid striper fingerlings in Somerville this year.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in 2-35 feet of water on Rattle Traps, spinners and plastic worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are very slow; catfish are good in 6-25 feet of water on shrimp, bloodbait and worms; walleye are slow; sunfish are plentiful.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 72 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair in the 1 1/2 pound range on minnows in the cove areas and around docks; white bass are fair in the evenings; catfish are spotty on worms and wieners.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 85 degrees, 4 inches above normal level; largemouth bass are good to 40 fish per boat per day to 3 1/2 pounds on clear topwaters, firecracker grubs and smoke glitter Ring Worms; Guadalupe Bass are good to 16 inches on same lures; only a few bass limits caught; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are very good to 60 fish in 1 1/2 hours on the surface all over the lake with best fishing between 9 and 9:30 a.m., blue catfish are good on trotline in Bee Creek to 8 pounds, best bait is blood bait. Fish hatchery crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife stocked 94,600 striped bass fingerlings in Lake Travis this year.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 86 degrees, 5 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on Mudbugs in 10 feet of water; smallmouth bass are good at night to 5 pounds on Mudbugs also; striper are slow to good to 15 pounds on live bait in 20-40 feet of water; crappie are fair to good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to good schooling midlake on slabs and spoons; catfish fare good to 5 pounds on worms and shrimp. A total of 331,827 striped bass fingerlings were stocked in Lake Whitney this year by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on purple and black worms; crappie are good to 4 pounds on minnows; white bass are poor; catfish are good at night in the 3 pound range in good numbers on dead minnows and nightcrawler worms.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 14 inches on minnows; white bass are fair on slabs and silver spoons; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on

live bream and catalpa worms. BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 80 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair with good numbers of small bass caught on worms and spinners off rocky banks; striper and white bass are good on slabs and L'il Georges around Steel Island, Methodist Camp area and Rattlesnake Island; crappie are good on minnows and jigs around boat docks, crappie houses and around 380 bridge; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on shrimp.

CADDO: Water clear, 68 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on worms and some topwaters; crappie are good in numbers but most are small; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 15 pounds on small perch and goldfish. Good numbers of bream caught on worms and crickets.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 4 inches low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms and topwaters; hybrid striper are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on minnows; crappie are slow; white bass are good on chartreuse Roostertails and L'il Georges at night under lights.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 77 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good in 2-12 feet of water on pumpkin seed and bloodline worms and deep diving cranks; crappie are good in 16 feet of water around brush piles and tire reefs on white jigs and minnows; catfish are good to 23 pounds in 6-8 feet of water on nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 90 degrees, 8 inches high; black bass are good in the 2 1/2 to 7 pound range on cranks and Rattle Traps; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on cut bait, shad and stinkbait; redfish are fair in the 6 1/2 to 14 pound range on Rattle Traps and Bagley's. Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 36,700 hybrid striper fingerlings in Lake Fairfield this year.

FORK: Water clear, 79 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 10.43 pounds on dark worms in 20 feet of water; crappie are good with limits to 1 3/4 pounds each on minnows, most fish weigh about 1 1/2 pounds; catfish are slow.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in number to 4 pounds on 8 inch June Bug worms and spinners; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 6 pounds on shad gizzards and liver.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on June Bug worms, deep diving cranks and Tiny Torpedoes; some bass are schooling but most are small in size; crappie are fair to 15 inches on minnows in 15 to 20 feet of water around brush; catfish are good to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers with rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers.

LAVON: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners and black worms; crappie are fair around the stumps and brush piles mainly on minnows; white bass are good in schools on and near the points early and late on slabs and spoons; catfish are good to 5 pounds on shrimp and liver.

LEWISVILLE: Parks and Wildlife fisheries crews stocked 294,247 hybrid striper fingerlings in Lewisville this year.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal

level; fishing has been fairly slow.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 97 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 15 ounces on Chatterboxes and Long As; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp; bream are good on worms and crickets.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs; white bass are good to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs, minnows; catfish are good to 7 pounds on shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 79 degrees, 8 inches high; black bass are good to 6 pounds on Tiny Torpedoes and buzz baits early and late; crappie are fair with a few limits on minnows, many crappie are too small to keep; catfish are picking up on trotlines to 32 pounds on live perch.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/4 pounds on worms, some caught on topwaters early and late; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows and 8-12 feet of water; white bass are good with several limits schooling on slabspoons, spoons and Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 35 pounds on rod and reel and trotlines baited with chicken blood, nightcrawlers and catalpa worms. Texas Parks and Wildlife fisheries crews have stocked 257,270 hybrid striper fingerlings in Lake Palestine this year.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on spinners; crappie are good with some near limits on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 12 pounds on shrimp.

RAY HUBBARD: Water murky, 83 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 5 pounds on slabs; striper are good to 10 pounds on slabs; crappie are good in deep water on minnows; white bass are good with full strings on slabs; catfish are good to 40 pounds on shrimp and bloodbait. Fisheries crews have stocked 225,994 hybrid striped bass fingerlings in Lake Ray Hubbard this year.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 80 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on worms; crappie are good around brush piles on minnows; white bass are good on the flats with Rattle Traps and Bomber Model As; catfish are good to 17 pounds on shrimp around the rocks.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on worms and spinners; white bass are excellent to 3 pounds on slabs, L'il Georges; catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 84 degrees, 1 inch above normal; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 10 ounces in deep water on Roadrunners and Pinfish; striper began showing up to 16 pounds on shad and slabs; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent with schooling early and late on topwaters and slabs, minnow fishing at night is very productive; catfish are excellent to 7 pounds on bloodbait and worms. Parks and Wildlife fisheries crews have stocked 352,558 striper fingerlings in Tawakoni this year.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 84 degrees, 4 feet high; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on worms, pigs and jigs, cranks; striper are good to 20 pounds on live baits, topwaters and slabs, trolling; crappie are

fair to 4 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good to 2 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad, slabs; catfish are excellent 20 pounds on trotlines baited with cut bait, rod and reel with worms is productive in 10-35 feet of water.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 2-3 pound range along points and brushy bank lines on worms, spinners, Rattle Traps; striper are good to 1 1/2 pounds, fish are schooling; crappie are good to 2 pounds in the river channels in 6-8 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass are schooling to 2 pounds, best fishing is below the dam on L'il Georges; catfish are good in the 1-4 pound range on trotlines and drifting worms, cut shad and cheese baits.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 87 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 7.5 pounds on worms, Rattle Traps, early fishing is best; white bass are good all over the lake, fish are schooling over 23-25 feet of water; crappie are slow; channel catfish are excellent to 7 pounds on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers and stinkbait; no trotlines are in use during hot weather; bream fishing has been very good in 8 feet of water on nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water is slightly off color due to Monday night rains, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on pumpkin seed and glitter black worms near the dropoffs in the creek channels and around the dam; crappie are slow; white bass are good on minnows and small shad around the pump house; catfish are very good to 21 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait, crawfish, live perch; redear and blue gill sunfish are good from the piers and across from the marina on worms.

LIVINGSTON: Water very clear for Livingston, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/4 pounds on Craw Worms; striper are fair to 8 pounds on white slabs while fishing for white bass; crappie are fair on minnows in deep water; white bass are very good with easy limits on slabs or Pet Spoons on the surface, fish are staying on the surface 1 1/2 to 2 hours at a time, several areas of surfacing white bass are several acres in size; yellow catfish are good to 65 pounds on trotline and on rod and reel; blue catfish are good to 45 pounds on trotlines with cut bait; channel catfish are good to 8 pounds rod and reel and trotline baited with shad; bream fishing is very good on worms.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 84 degrees, 6 feet high and dropping 1 1/2 inches per day; black bass are fair and most fishermen having trouble catching a full limit, mostly schoolies on PopRs, early morning, Plum Crazy and June Bug worms are good along the outside edge of the grass in 14 to 18 feet of water; white bass are good along main lake points on spoons, fish are spotty; crappie are good with limits around main lake points near brush piles at 15 feet in 30 feet of water on minnows; catfish are excellent to 2 pounds in good numbers on soap and cut bait.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 92 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow to 6 3/4 pounds on

topwaters, jigs and blue worms with metal flake and pumpkin seed worms; striper are fair to 7 pounds on Redfins near the generators and dam; crappie are fairly good at night on live bait, during the day yellow, chartreuse and black crappie jigs are good; white bass are slow; catfish are slow. Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 240,364 striper fingerlings in Toledo Bend this year.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 80 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are good to 3 pounds off ledges on red or purple worms with yellow tails; striper are good in 70-90 feet of water around the dam and up to Marker 18 using green Bananahead jigs with a 6 inch pearl grub trailer; crappie are slow; white bass are good around Caballo and Burro Canyons on chartreuse slabs and minnows; catfish are good in the 1 1/2 to 3 pound range in shallow water with shrimp, worms and cheese stink bait. A total of 332,371 striper fingerlings were stocked by Parks and Wildlife crews this year.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in number in the 5-7 pound range but most are under keeper size on plastic worms and Big Wags; hybrid striper are slow in the 6-8 pound range downrigging Tony Accetta spoons; channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp, cheesebait, nightcrawlers and shad; catfish are located near the hay bales; redfish are fair to good to 20 pounds downrigging spoons and crawfish. Fisheries crews have stocked 139,893 hybrid striper fingerlings in Lake Victor Braunig this year.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 5 pounds, 3 ounces on cranks; striper are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on liver; channel catfish are good on cheese baits; blue catfish are good to 9 pounds, 5 ounces on live perch; redfish are good along the shoreline to 21 1/4 pounds on crawfish; covina are excellent along shorelines to 12 1/4 pounds on crawfish and shad. Fish hatchery crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 52,170 hybrid striper fingerlings in Calaveras this year.

CHOKE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 14 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on cheesebait shrimp and nightcrawlers.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 13 inches on jigs, spoons and Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows, many limits caught; catfish are good to 5 1/4 pounds on shrimp, cheese and bloodbait. Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 46,000 hybrid striper fingerlings in Coletto Creek this year.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 220,900 hybrid striped bass fingerlings in Lake Corpus Christi this year.

FALCON: Water a little off color, 83 degrees, 17 feet low; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on cranks in 10 feet of water; striper are slow, some caught around the dam but nothing of any size; crappie are slow; white bass are small, some in the midlake area and most of these are

small; catfish are good to 4 pounds on shrimp baited rod and reel.

MEDINA: Water mostly clear, a little dirty in the river, 36 feet low; black bass are slow, some caught early but most of these are small and were caught on topwaters; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on slabs and spoons; catfish are good to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers.

TEXANA: Water murky, normal level; black bass are fair in the jungle area to 3 pounds on dark worms; crappie are fair in the Navidad River to 15 fish per string on minnows; catfish are slow.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clearing, 78 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on Craw Worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair in number to 10 fish per string on minnows in 8-10 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds on minnows and shrimp; yellow catfish are good to 15 pounds on goldfish and perch.

BAYLOR: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds, several 3s and 4s on topwater buzz baits, topwaters, Craw Worms; crappie are slow and spotty on minnows; catfish are good 10 1/2 pounds on chicken livers, shrimp, worms and minnows.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on purple worms and spinners; hybrid striper are fairly good in the 4 pound range on live shad; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are picking up on minnows in 6 to 10 feet of water; catfish are good to 7 pounds on worms and stinkbait. Fisheries crews from Parks and Wildlife have stocked 64,180 striped bass fingerlings in Fort Phantom Hill this year.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 78 degrees, near normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds on plastic worms and Slug-Os; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fairly good in 12-18 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 18 pounds most in the 6-7 pound range, on liver and shrimp; walleye are good to 7 1/2 pound around the dam on nightcrawlers.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds, 5 ounces on worms; crappie are fair at night in 20-30 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 4 pounds on Slug-Gos; striper are good around the dam in the 15 to 20 pound range on toothpick lures and deep diving Bombers; crappie are slow; white bass are good schooling on Near Nothing lures, full strings landed; catfish are good to 8 pounds on rod and reels baited with worms; catfish are good to 30 pounds on trotlines with cut bait and Charly B blood bait. Parks and Wildlife fisheries crews stocked 212,726 striper fingerlings in PK this year.

PROCTOR: Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife have stocked 70,080 hybrid striper fingerlings in Lake Proctor this year.

SPENCE: Fisheries crews from Texas

Parks and Wildlife have stocked 68,644 striper fingerlings in Lake Spence this year.

STAMFORD: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 20 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on shrimp.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow, some to 6 pounds caught on Motoroil colored worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow, some caught on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are slow, some white bass were caught on minnows, slabs and small jigs; catfish are fairly good in the 4 to 6 pound range on stinkbait and worms.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 78 degrees at 12 feet, 9 feet 7 inches low; black bass are good in the 7-9 pound range on cranks, worms and trolling early; crappie are excellent in 10-12 feet of water on minnows and jigs; catfish are excellent at night to 8 pounds on large worms, shrimp, liver and stinkbait.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has improved some; redfish are caught from the bank and East Pass and Old River Cove; some sheepshead, flounder and croakers also caught; crabbing has improved; some thunder showers hit the area most every day; no live bait shrimp available, some mud minnows and dead shrimp are available; Fisheries crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have stocked 183,343 striped bass fingerlings in Sabine Lake this year.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of trout and redfish were caught at the jetties; about one third of the redfish are oversized and have to be returned to the water; good numbers of trout in East Bay and West Bay under the birds, most fish are small; the beach front is producing a lot of sandtrout, croaker, whiting and some gafftops and a fair number of blacktip sharks in the 3 to 3 1/2 foot range; tarpon are rolling off the jetties and off San Luis Pass; dolphin, ling and red snapper catches are good offshore; live bait plentiful in the \$8.50 to \$10 per quart range. Diving conditions around the Flower Gardens, about 110 miles offshore, had 90 feet visibility and mild currents. No manta rays sighted, but spotted eagle rays were fairly plentiful. At Stetson Rock, about 100 miles offshore, visibility was 60 to 70 feet with low visibility above 30 feet depths. Divers reported black velvet sea hairs and huge queen angels.

FREEPORT: Super snapper fishing going on around 40 miles around 21 fathom markers inshore; no trouble getting limits; good numbers of kingfish the season for which opens July 1 offshore; limits of kingfish should be fairly easy to get offshore; good numbers of schooling dolphin; a few nice sized ling brought in. Divers report visibility at 50 plus feet on the wreck of the V.A. Fogg with low visibility under 95 feet and above 30 feet with very mild current. Baitfish, amberjacks, queen angels and Spanish hogs were sighted. Four dolphin swam within a few feet of divers for a few minutes, divers said.

PORT OCONNOR: Fair numbers of specks caught around the jetties, the wells and in the back bays on

live shrimp; offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of snapper, kingfish and shark; big sandtrout plentiful offshore; quite a few small sandtrout caught in the bays; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of specks to 2 pounds along the south shoreline of West Matagorda; specks on the north shoreline are in the 3-6 pound range; not many redfish caught, tides have been a little low; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; a flounder run going in the Colorado River, good numbers of flounder to 2 pounds, many limits caught.

PALACIOS: General rains hit Monday, thunderstorms have kept fishermen out of the bays; tides are normal, water is good; redfish and trout caught along the south shoreline of Matagorda Peninsula on artificial and live baits; some trout and redfish caught in Keller's Bay mostly on pearl with black back Hogies Swimming Shad; some redfish caught around the mouth of the Carancahua River to limit on live shrimp and Hogies smoke with chartreuse tail Swimming Jacks; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. Good catches of flounder on rod and reel as well as gig all over.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of keeper redfish and trout in Redfish Bay, live croaker are good baits for trout while red touts are good for redfish; flounder are excellent to 3 pounds in good number, the average flounder weighs about 1 1/2 pounds and caught by gig at night with lantern in Aransas Bay, Mesquite Bay and Carlos Bay; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart; live croaker are hard to come by.

PORT ARANSAS: Keeper redfish caught in the 22 inch range caught; specks in the 18-20 inch range caught in the potholes and channels on live shrimp, perch and live bait; some flounder caught on rod and reel around Hog Island; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$7.50 per quart. Offshore fishermen have been catching a few blue marlin to 325 pounds by trolling mullet, most marlin have been released; wahoo fishing has been good from 40-65 miles offshore; snapper and amberjack range from good to excellent depending on current; amberjack range from 15 to 50 pounds on live bait and ribbon fish; snapper range from 1 to 15 pounds, some big sows were landed on squid and cut bait; king mackerel picking up some, fair numbers are caught in 42-55 feet of water just inside state water; no grass; some blacktip sharks to 125 pounds caught; tarpon fishing has been good in the same area while drifting for kings; 8 fish have been caught, 6 were released and 2 fish, weighing 100 and 130 pounds respectively, were mounted; inshore trout and redfish have been very good with croaker; live bait shrimp generally catches smaller fish while croaker catches larger fish; trout are fairly common on croaker in the 2 to 6 pound range; redfish are good on finger mullet, live shrimp and live perch; tides are normal.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Four inches of rain fell in less than 1 hour on Monday; trout and redfish were fairly good right after the rain, but have slowed down midweek; water murky; live bait shrimp available at 12 cents each; few fishermen out midweek.

SOUTH PADRE: Fair numbers of specks to 4 pounds caught at

Laguna Vista and gas well flats;
redfish are slow; live bait shrimp
plentiful at \$10 per quart.
PH 6/26/91