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# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## BIGHORN EXPEDITION RETURNS WITH 25 SHEEP FOR TEXAS

VAN HORN -- A herd of 25 desert bighorn sheep is now roaming the Van Horn mountains where no bighorns have roamed in more than a half-century.

A cooperative roundup conducted by biologists of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife Oct. 29-31 resulted in collection of 47 sheep from two mountain ranges in Nevada. Nevada retained 22 of the animals for relocation there, while five rams and 20 ewes were flown to the Texas release site on a 100,000-acre ranch in southwestern Culberson County.

Charles Winkler, big game program leader, said three flights were required to transport the sheep from Nevada. "All of the sheep arrived in excellent condition, and we were able to place transmitters on 10 of them," he said. A graduate student from Sul Ross State University at Alpine will be tracking the movements of the sheep, Winkler said.

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Expenses of the sheep roundup were paid with funds from the sale of a special hunting permit authorized earlier this year by the Parks and Wildlife Commission. Two surplus rams not needed for reproduction will be harvested in the Sierra Diablo Mountains in early 1988, Winkler said.

Crews used a specialized net gun to capture the sheep, firing it from a helicopter hovering about 30 feet above the ground. Charles Allen, director of the TPWD's Wildlife Division, assisted the helicopter crew with the capture. A second helicopter transported the ground crews which captured the animals once they were entangled in the net.

Once subdued, each animal was placed individually in a special sling and flown by helicopter to a waiting trailer at a base station.

The release site is about 40 miles from the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area where the department already has a herd of desert bighorns. Winkler said bighorns brought into the state are stocked at new locations to prevent possible exchanges of disease organisms between the herds.

Winkler said the ranch owner, as a disease prevention measure, agreed to refrain from stocking the area with domestic sheep or goats. He said the rancher in return will receive half of any bighorn hunting permits issued for that tract of land in the future.

Desert bighorns are the least numerous of the four major bighorn subspecies found in North America. They were abundant in West Texas during the state's frontier days, but declined to the point of extinction shortly after the turn of the century, Winkler said.

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EASTERN TURKEYS STOCKED IN  
NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

NACOGDOCHES -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has stocked wild-trapped eastern turkeys for the first time in Nacogdoches County

Bill Brownlee, upland game program director, said 10 turkeys -- nine hens and one gobbler -- were captured on Champion Realty Co (a subsidiary of Champion International Corp ) lands in Florida on Oct 29 and released in Nacogdoches County on Oct 30

The capture was done with the help of biologists from the Florida Game and Freshwater Fishery Department, Brownlee said The release site is a 20,000-acre tract on the Angelina River, consisting of about 17,500 acres of private land and the remainder belonging to the U S Forest Service

The turkeys will be protected from hunting until their populations build to huntable numbers

The Nacogdoches County stocking brings the total of wild-trapped eastern turkeys obtained from other states during 1987 to 76 birds, Brownlee said

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MULE DEER PROSPECTS GOOD  
IN WEST TEXAS

ALPINE -- Mule deer hunters can expect good hunting when the nine-day mule deer seasons open Nov 21 in the Texas Panhandle and Nov 28 in the Trans-Pecos of West Texas

Ted Clark, mule deer program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said range conditions in both regions have been excellent throughout most of 1987, and body condition and antler development are good as a result

"Mule deer populations are expected to be about the same as last year in most areas, and we will issue some antlerless permits in the Trans-Pecos," said Clark

The Panhandle has considerably less mule deer habitat than the Trans-Pecos. The population remains fairly stable in spite of chronically low fawn crops, Clark said

Clark said while hunting opportunities are limited in the Panhandle region, some available leases are listed in the department's Deer Hunting Lease Register. Copies of the listing may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112. Also, the Silverton Chamber of Commerce is assisting some Panhandle landowners in leasing, he added

Qualifying landowners in the Trans-Pecos may obtain antlerless mule deer

permits at the following locations on Nov 10 Brewster County Courthouse, Alpine; Culberson County Courthouse, Van Horn; Pecos County, Community Building, Fort Stockton; and Presidio County Courthouse, Marfa For further information, landowners may contact biologist Mike Hobson in Alpine, (915) 837-2051

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RAINBOW TROUT TO BE  
STOCKED AT MORE SITES

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said the state's rainbow trout stocking program will be expanded to 17 public sites and eight state parks this winter

Pat Hutson, trout program leader, said he anticipates stocking 137,000 rainbows beginning in early December "Although we will have about the same number of trout as last year, we are adding nine sites to determine how well the public utilizes them," said Hutson

The trout program is operated on a pay-as-you-go basis, funded entirely by proceeds from sales of \$5 State Trout Stamps, required of anglers to fish for trout in Texas waters Last year the department sold 18,760 stamps which produced more than \$85,500 in revenue

Fishermen also are required to possess a valid fishing license in addition to the trout stamp. The bag limit is five trout per day, 10 in possession statewide No additional fee is charged to fish for trout in state parks, only standard entrance and facility use fees

The following are locations to be stocked, the overall number of trout expected for the season and tentative stocking dates

Brazos River below Possum Kingdom, 35,000 trout, Dec 2, 16, 29 Jan 12, 27; Feb 10, 24

Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam, 45,000 trout, Dec 2, 22 Jan 12; Feb 2

Spring Creek, San Angelo, 10,000 trout, Dec 10, 22 Jan 5, 19

Boykin Springs, Angelina Co , 10,000 trout, Dec 16, 29 Jan 12, 27; Feb 10

Nelson Park, Abilene, 10,000 trout, Dec 2, 16, 29 Jan 12, 27

Junction, Llano River, 5,000 trout, Feb 2, 17

San Saba, downtown park, 5,000 trout, Feb 2, 17

Sandy Creek near Jasper, 1,000 trout, Dec 29

Martin Road Park, Amarillo, 10,000 trout, Dec 22 Jan 5, 19; Feb 2, 17

Trinity River, downtown Fort Worth, 5,000 trout, Feb 2, 17

N San Gabriel River, Georgetown, 3,000 trout, Dec 29

S San Gabriel River, Georgetown, 3,000 trout, Jan 12

Breckenridge Park, San Antonio, 2,000 trout, Jan 5

Oak Grove Park, Plano, 5,000 trout, Dec 22 Jan 5, 19

Pickens Lake, Sherman, 5,000 trout, Dec 16, 29 Jan 12

Barton Creek, Austin, 10,000 trout, Dec 16, 29 Jan 12, 27; Feb 10

Spring Lake Park, Texarkana, 5,000 trout, Dec 22 Jan 5, 19

The following are state parks slated to receive trout

Meridian, 10,000 trout, Dec 3, 17  
Jan 7, 21; Feb 4

Cleburne, 10,000 trout, Dec 3, 17  
Jan 7, 21; Feb 4

Buescher, 8,000 trout, Dec 17  
Jan 7, 21; Feb 4

Tyler, 10,000 trout, Dec 3, 17  
Jan 7, 21; Feb 4

Bonham, 10,000 trout, Dec 3, 17  
Jan 7, 21; Feb 4

Ft Richardson, 2,000 trout, Dec 3

Blanco, 12,000 trout, Dec 10, 22  
Jan 5, 19

Rusk, 6,000 trout, Dec 16, 29  
Jan 12, 27

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FREE WOOD DUCK NEST BOXES  
OFFERED TO LANDOWNERS

AUSTIN -- Private landowners may now obtain free wood duck nest boxes to place on their property, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

A cooperative project of the TPWD and the Waterfowl Habitat Alliance of Texas (WHAT Ducks) organization was formed recently with the goal of increasing nesting habitat for wood ducks and black-bellied whistling ducks in Texas. Both of these ducks normally nest in mature hollow trees but will readily accept man-made nest boxes.

The project also has received donations of lumber from Temple-Eastex

Inc and Lufkin-based Texas Forestry Association Inmates of the Texas Department of Corrections Beto #1 Unit are constructing the boxes

Carl Frentress of Athens, TPWD assistant waterfowl program leader, said landowners with suitable habitat can qualify if they agree to install the boxes, check and clean them in December or January prior to each nesting season and report nesting information on forms provided by the TPWD

Additional information on nesting structures is available in a TPWD brochure entitled "Cooperative Project For Production of Wood Ducks and Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks " It may be obtained by writing TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112 They also are available from most TPWD field offices

Frentress explained that wood and whistling ducks are cavity nesters, often using hollow trees "The scarcity of suitable nesting sites is believed to affect the abundance and distribution of these ducks in Texas," Frentress said "That's why this cooperative project has the potential to provide benefits to these two species "

The nesting box program has been two years in the making, Frentress said "In fall 1985, WHAT Ducks offered to donate nesting units for a wood duck study," he said "Then Warden Terry Carroll and Capt Alfred Janicek of the TDC became involved in 1986 by supplying inmate labor to construct boxes and predator guards "

The Wildlife Operations Branch of Temple-Eastex made early donations of lumber to WHAT Ducks to get the TDC project operational As the program



grew, the need for more lumber also grew, Frentress said, and the Texas Forestry Association responded with a donation of a large trailer load of lumber

"All members and contributors to WHAT Ducks have provided funds and equipment that would not otherwise have been available," Frentress continued "Now Texas landowners can complete the cooperative effort by placing and maintaining the boxes in productive habitat "

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WEST TEXAS FISHING  
PROSPECTS BEST IN YEARS

ABILENE -- West Texas reservoirs are producing more largemouth bass and other game fish than ever before, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Biologist Roy Bamberg of Abilene said surveys indicate bass populations are at record levels in virtually all lakes in his West Texas district "We have had two years of high water levels, and two or three years of excellent spawns," Bamberg explained "The high water brought on an influx of nutrients, and also provided cover for juvenile fish "

An expanding population of forage fish such as shad helped fuel the largemouth bass boom, Bamberg said "In addition to having more bass, the fish we have collected and examined have had excellent length/weight ratios This indicates the fish are getting plenty to eat "

Bamberg said the 14-inch minimum length limit and five per day bag limit in effect on most West Texas lakes also has been a boon to fishing. "The 14-inch minimum could not have come at a better time, because two or three excellent year-classes of bass were coming into the system," he said. "The limit has helped protect large numbers of 10- to 14-inch fish, so fishermen will be catching more 14- to 17-inch bass in the next couple of years."

He added that creel survey data indicate that since the regulation went into effect, the number of fish caught and retained has decreased by about half, but the total weight has increased. "Fishermen are catching more fish than ever, but they are putting more back into the lakes under the new limit," Bamberg said.

Recent electrofishing surveys at three West Texas lakes were typical of the improved bass situation, Bamberg said. At Lake Clyde in Callahan County, a one-hour survey turned up 122 bass, with a large number of four- to six-pound fish observed; a 1 1/2-hour expedition at Lake Fort Phantom Hill near Abilene also collected more than 100 bass; and a similar survey at Lake Leon just south of Eastland found large numbers of 14- to 16-inch bass.

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BALD EAGLE SURVEY  
PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is seeking volunteers to assist in the Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey conducted by the department.

and the National Wildlife Federation

The survey is designed to assess long-term trends in eagle populations, according to Bruce Thompson, nongame and endangered species program leader for the department

The counts are planned for Jan 8-9, 1988 Local coordinators are needed at Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Lake O' the Pines Observers are needed at Lakes Livingston, Wright Patman, Meredith, Conroe, Warren, Fairfield, Tawakoni, Fork and Toledo Bend

Persons interested in participating, or knowing of other areas where 10 or more bald eagles are routinely seen during January, should contact the department by Dec 15

Contact Catrina Martin, Endangered Species Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or call (512) 389-4771

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LAKE BOB SANDLIN STATE  
PARK OPEN TO PUBLIC

MOUNT PLEASANT -- Lake Bob Sandlin State Recreation Area on the shores of Lake Bob Sandlin is now open for public use

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said the 640-acre park offers the full range of day use and overnight camping facilities

The park is located 12 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant off FM 21 in Titus County

Facilities include 25 picnic sites, a group picnic shelter, 20 screened shelters, 75 multi-use campsites, primitive camping, trails, a two-lane boat ramp and fishing pier

Officials said the park is located on a wooded shoreline tract with oak, hickory and pine. The park is expected to be popular with fishermen as the 9,400-acre reservoir offers good fishing for largemouth bass, catfish and crappie. It also is just a few minutes drive to two other excellent fishing lakes, Monticello and Cypress Springs.

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SCHOOLS COLLECTING CANS  
FOR BATTLESHIP 'TEXAS'

HOUSTON -- Most large organizations recycling used aluminum cans to help "Save the Battleship 'Texas'" have elected to wait until the end of the campaign Dec 3 to take their cans to participating recycling centers.

However, individual collectors in the first few weeks have already collected more than six tons of aluminum cans, according to campaign officials. That represents about 316,000 cans, according to Larry Emard, Alcoa Recycling Co Southwest Area Manager.

On Nov 21, Cub and Boy Scouts from throughout North Texas will take their aluminum cans to Spring Ridge Elementary School in Richardson. Girl

Scouts of Tarrant County will donate cans on Dec 5

Campbell Middle School in the Houston area has already saved more than 3,000 pounds and will wait until they have reached a goal of more than 7,000 pounds before they go to a participating recycling center

Volunteer and corporate sponsors are assisting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which operates the battleship, in the three-month campaign

The 73-year-old battleship, berthed at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park, needs major and expensive repairs. The 'Texas' is the last surviving battleship that fought in two wars

So far about 2,000 calls have been logged at Save the Battleship hotline, 1-800-64-TEXAS. Of the organizations that call the hotline, 42 percent are schools. Corporations and organizations account for 16 percent of the calls

More than 1,200 recycling centers throughout the state are accepting the aluminum cans. Corporate sponsors include Alcoa, Alumax, American National Can; Coca-Cola Bottling companies of Beaumont, Houston, North Texas, Austin, San Antonio and McAllen; Container Recovery Corp, Continental Resource Recovery, Coors-Cash for Cans, Patrick Media Group, Renolds Metals Co. Stroh Brewery and Texaco Inc

SC 11/4/87

VETERAN BROODFISH PROGRAM  
LAUNCHED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- In years past, fish that completed their work as brooders on state hatcheries were quietly put out to pasture in public lakes

While this probably suited the fish just fine, it did little for fishery management since the brooders could not be identified later

Now the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Hatcheries Branch has launched a new program that will encourage the catch-and-release concept while giving anglers complete information about the fish's past

Under the "Veteran Broodfish" program, brooders of five species will be tagged when released back into the wild. The internal tags will have an external streamer inscribed with "veteran brooder," a broodfish number and the department's toll-free telephone number, 1-800-792-1112

Anglers catching these fish are encouraged to write down the broodfish number and release the fish. Then by calling the toll-free number the angler will receive a history of the fish's production record and a copy of its "honorable discharge."

Bill Rutledge, hatcheries chief, said the program will focus attention on the catch and release concept, and also call attention to the contribution the hatcheries make to fishery management in the state. "The department is implementing several programs that promote catch and release

because we feel as fishing pressure increases it will be necessary to use larger fish more than one time," Rutledge said "Besides, the department has a considerable investment in these fish because genetic selection and hatchery maintenance are costly "

He added that the veteran brooders may be more susceptible to being caught after spending all their lives on a hatchery "We would like to protect as many of them as possible to give them ample opportunities to spawn," said Rutledge

The first 1,000 Veteran Broodfish (largemouth and smallmouth bass, channel and blue catfish and red drum) will be released at the following locations Lakes Coleman, Ray Roberts, Fork, Meredith, Medina (lake and river), Possum Kingdom, Greenbelt, Twin Buttes, Cisco, Town (Austin), Ascarate, Casa Blanca, Livingston, Brownwood, Red Bluff, Spence, Waco, White Rock, H-4, H-5 and Dunlap.

Several red drum broodfish will be released in Galveston, Matagorda, Corpus Christi and Laguna Madre bays Brooders also will be released into small lakes at the following state parks Purtis Creek (not yet open for visitation), Choke Canyon, Lady Bird Johnson, Tyler, Rusk, Bastrop, Buescher, Huntsville, Blanco, Arrowhead, Mineral Wells, Balmorhea, Caddo, Palmetto and the J D Murphree Wildlife Management Area at Port Arthur

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# TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

## VETERAN BROODFISH PROGRAM



Practice  
Catch & Release

## ATTENTION FISHERMEN

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
WANTS YOU  
TO KNOW

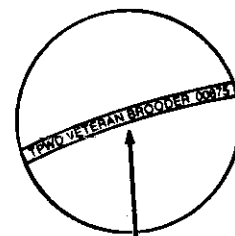
that there may be Veteran BROODFISH in this area.

These broodfish have spent their entire lives on state fish hatcheries producing legions of young warriors to stock Texas reservoirs.

They represent a unique platoon of highly specialized soldiers. They have been selected for their genetic integrity and specially trained at hatchery boot camp.

Their last special mission is to help make fishing better in this local area.

IF you catch a VETERAN BROODER, please release it so it may complete its assignment. Record its serial number from its "dog tag" and call our TOLL FREE HOTLINE 1-800-792-1112 or write us at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744. You will be provided with a history of your fish's production record and a copy of the honorable discharge.



Watch for special  
yellow "dog tags"



AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for November 4, 1987.

#### CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 78 degrees, 4 inches low; black bass fair to good to 5 pounds on strawberry worms with white tails, Skipjacks early and late; hybrid striper slow; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on live minnows in 15 feet of water; catfish fair to 4 pounds on live bait and stinkbait.

BELTON: Water clear, 70 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass real good to 4 pounds on minnows in 15-22 feet of water; striper slow; crappie real good to 20 fish per string on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 14 inches below spillway; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair with limits but most fish fairly small on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on jointed gold Rapalas; striper fair to 10 pounds on Bayou Boogie silver shad; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in 15-18 feet of water; white bass good to 60 fish per string on metallic silver and black shad; catfish good to 34 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish.

CANYON: Water clear, 75 degrees, 8 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie good on minnows to 20 fish per string; white bass fair and improving on topwaters early and jig and spoon later; catfish fair on shrimp to 4 pounds.

FAYETTE: Water clear, normal level; black bass fairly good to 7 1/2 pounds on plastic worms; crappie fair on minnows; catfish good to 41 pounds on live bait with a trotline.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 77 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 5 pounds, 7 ounces on black lizards, most fish in slot; crappie good to 30 fish per boat on minnows; catfish slow to 6 pounds due to lack of fisherman.

LBJ: Water murky, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 2 3/4 pounds on chartreuse grubs or spinners; striper fair to 6 pounds on silver Hotspots; crappie fair with some large fish at night on minnows; white bass good to 40 fish per string on chrome Bomber cranks; catfish good to 5 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish and ripe shrimp.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 4 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds to 18 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on slabs and minnows; catfish fair to 3 pounds on rod and reel and trotline with stinkbait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 74 degrees, 10 1/2 feet low; black bass very good to 4 1/4 pounds on chartreuse spinners, Crazy Shad, Tiny Torpedoes, strawberry worms; striper fair to 10 pounds near the dam; crappie good on minnows around Lakeway; white bass slow; catfish slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 69 degrees, 5 1/4 feet low; black bass good to 2 1/2 pounds, an occasional bass to 4 1/2 pounds with a few limits, on live bait; striper fair on live bait in 22 feet of water to 10 pounds; crappie good but with very few limits to 1 pound on minnows from the barges; white bass good to 1 pound with strings to 21 fish on Critter Gitters, Flea Flies, slabs; catfish improving to 2 pounds; yellow catfish good on perch to 12 pounds.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear 70 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good up to 3 pounds, many just below keeper size, on wide variety of surface bait in shallow water around shoreline in weeds and moss; crappie excellent with limits to 2 pounds on minnows in 20 feet of water on brushpiles; white bass slow; catfish fairly good to 14 pounds on trotline with shrimp and small perch; Panfish excellent to 70 per string in 8 feet of water on top of bottom moss on worms and EuroLarvae.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds, good numbers of 4 pound fish, on spinners in the weeds;

striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 67 degrees, 38 inches low; black bass good with good numbers of keepers on black worms with chartreuse tails. hybrid striper slow; crappie good with strings to 20 fish per person on minnows; white bass excellent to 50 fish per person surfacing late on chartreuse Rooster Tails. catfish good on trotline and drifting to 4 1/2 pounds on shrimp and night crawlers.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 68 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair early and late in 3-5 pound range on topwaters, jigs and frogs. crappie real good in 25 feet of water on minnows; catfish fair to 18 feet of water on shrimp and minnows.

FORK: Water clear, 70 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good to 8 pounds on dark worms and topwaters; crappie excellent with limits fairly easy to get on minnows and jigs. catfish slow due to lack of fishermen.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 65 degrees, 5 inches above normal level. black bass fairly good to 5 pounds on dark worms and frogs. crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows above 259 bridge; white bass good while schooling to 3 1/2 pounds to 20 fish per string on cranks; catfish slow.

LAVON: Water clear, 65 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good with limits on minnows and chartreuse and black jigs. white bass fair to 15 fish per string on Roadrunners and slabs. catfish very good to 6 pounds on shrimp and bloodbait with trotline and rod and reel.

LEWISVILLE: Water murky, 69 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass slow; hybrid striper slow; crappie good in 12 feet of water to 20 fish per string on blue jigs; white bass fairly slow when wind lays; catfish good drifting to 7 pounds.

MARTIN CREEK: Water muddy due to rain, 78 degrees, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 3 pounds on spinners mostly; striper slow; crappie picking up at night to 1 pound on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good from the bank to 2 pounds, trotline activity slow.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 8 pounds, 9 ounces on live minnow in 20 feet of water, another 7 pounder caught in 3 feet of water. crappie poor. catfish very good to 10 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; crappie good to 15 fish to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 12-15 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on shrimp and chicken livers.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 70 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass slow to 5 pounds, 3 ounces on dark worms and cranks. crappie good around 1971 bridge on small minnows and jigs; channel catfish fair on trotline to 5 1/2 pounds on cut shad and nightcrawlers; yellow catfish slow.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear, 71 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass slow, a few in slot; crappie fair on minnows; catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 70 degrees, 20 inches low; black bass good to 7 pounds on plastic worms in the creek channels. striper good to 9 pounds on cranks; crappie fair with a few limits on minnows under the bridge early and late; white bass fairly good on cranks. catfish good to 8 pounds on blood bait and catalpa worms.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 66 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on white spinners. striper fair to 6 pounds trolling Hellbenders with jig trailers; crappie fairly good with good numbers of limits on minnows; white bass slow to 15 fish per string on slabs. catfish good on chicken liver and shad with limits of 25 fish to 5 pounds each.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level. black bass scattered to 4 pounds on plastic worms; striper plentiful to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners and L'il Georges, slabs; crappie fairly good in deeper water on minnows; catfish good to 2 1/4 pounds on big minnows, live bait, shrimp.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 66 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks; striper good to 13 3/4 pounds on slabs; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass good to 1 1/2 pounds on cork and jig; catfish good to 37 pounds on

cutbait on rod and reel

WELSH: Water slightly muddy, 84 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 6 pounds, 15 ounces on chartreuse spinners; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on minnow baited trotline.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 2 3/4 feet low; black bass fair to 8 pounds on chrome blue backed Rat-L-Trap, fish not concentrated even on artificial reefs, stumps and broken bottoms best. hybrid striper slow; crappie improving a little on the north end of the lake on minnows and jigs in 12 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fairly good to 2 pounds on catfish bait, shad, night crawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on waterdogs, Fire and Ice worms; striper slow; crappie very good to 3 pounds with some limits on minnows; white bass fairly slow, seems to be improving; catfish fair to 8 pounds on waterdogs

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 70 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass slow due to lack of fishermen; striper slow; crappie fair around docks on minnows; white bass slow, most fish up the river or on the way; catfish fairly good.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 63 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on topwaters, worms, spinners; striper slow; crappie good at 15 feet in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass fair up the Angelina, slow in the middle of the lake; catfish fair to 4 pounds on trotlines; yellow catfish slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on buzz baits and deep runners; striper fairly good on magnum Hellbenders and Boy Howdies; crappie fairly good on small jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds, good numbers of bass in 3-7 pound range, on topwaters, black and chartreuse worms, red and purple metal flake worms in Zorro and Caballo Canyons; striper good to 5 pounds but mixed with white bass on white slabs near the dam and up the river; crappie slow; white bass good on slabs in front of the dam; catfish good to 5 pounds in San Pedro Canyon in 65-85 feet of water on stinkbait.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 72 degrees, normal level black bass slow; striper fair to 3 pounds on chicken liver and artificials; crappie slow; catfish good to 2 pounds on shad and shrimp; redfish good to 15 pounds on tilapia and artificials; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 6 1/2 pounds on dark worms; striper slow; crappie slow; channel catfish fair on shad; blue catfish good to 19 pounds on plastic worms; yellow catfish slow to 19 pounds on tilapia from the bank; redfish slow; corvina good to 5 pound average on Rat-L-Traps.

CHOCHE: Water clear, normal level black bass spotty to 6 1/2 pounds on wide variety of lures; striper slow; crappie excellent to 2 pounds with full strings in 15-35 feet of water on minnows; white bass slow; catfish excellent to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited with Roger's Cheese Bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 76 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 16 inches, a single 5 1/2 pound bass landed this week, on dark worms, many undersized fish; striper slow; crappie poor; white bass slow; catfish excellent to 5 pounds on blood bait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 7 pounds on dark worms; hybrid striper good on L'il Georges and silver spoons; crappie good under lights on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good drifting shrimp to 1 1/2 pounds.

FALCON: Water clear, 6 inches above full black bass slow; striper slow, some along with white bass on jigs; crappie slow; white bass good up river; catfish good on frozen shrimp to 4 pounds.

MEDINA: Water clear, 71 degrees, lake full black bass good to 19 inches on worms, topwaters; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass excellent on surface lures, spoons, catfish fairly good to 3 pounds on stinkbait baited trotlines.

TEXANA: Water stained to murky, 78 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass slow to 2 1/2 pounds on chartreuse spinners and chrome Rat-L-Traps in the jungle area; striper and white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish fairly good to 13 pounds on trotline with cut shad.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water stained due to winds, 71 degrees, 1 foot below

spillway level black bass fair along the dam and riprap to 2 1/2 pounds on chartreuse spinners and chartreuse Weed Walkers; striper fair to 4 pounds on silver spoons in 10 feet of water; crappie fair on migs and minnows in 15-16 feet of water; white bass in the shallows on chartreuse and yellow jigs catfish slow.

BAYLOR: Water clear, normal level, black bass good to 6 pounds, 5 ounces crappie good to 16 fish per string to 2 pounds on minnows, channel catfish good to 16 pounds on stinkbait. Sunfish plentiful on worms.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 64 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good to 5 pounds on silver slabs, crappie fair; white bass good to 8 fish per string; catfish good to 3 pounds to 5 fish per string on liver baited trotline; walleye good to 5 pounds to 3 fish per string.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass fairly good to 4 3/4 pounds on white split tailed grub; striper fairly slow; crappie fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 7 pounds on green lizard with chartreuse top; striper fairly good to 9 1/4 pounds on Sassy Shad; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level, black bass slow; crappie slow; white good on minnows, nightcrawlers and jigs to 20 fish per string; catfish good to 40 pounds on shrimp and shiners, largest on rod and reel was 21 pounds.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 13 1/2 feet low; black bass fair good to 5 pounds, striper good to 5 pounds, crappie good in crappie houses on minnows; white bass fair with good strings; catfish slow.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 72 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on Model A Bombers, white or yellow spinners; striper good to 6 pounds under birds feeding on shad, silver spoons seem to be best baits, crappie fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; catfish fair to 3 pounds on shad and stinkbaited trotlines.

SPENCE: Water clear, 72 degrees, 18 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on buzz baits and spinners; striper fair to 15 pounds on big shiners and topwaters; crappie slow; white bass good to 40 fish per string, about 20 fish per string average on slabs; catfish fair to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with minnows and worms.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 pounds on spinners and worms, hybrid striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish good to 5 pounds on bream, shrimp, shad and minnows.

COASTAL

SABINE LAKE: Redfish fairly good to 8 pounds on white touts at the mouth of the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Coffee Ground Cove and in Bessie Heights Marsh; trout good to 2 1/2 pounds at the mouth of the rivers and under the birds, still many undersized trout; good numbers of drum to 5 pounds on dead shrimp; croaker plentiful almost anywhere, good tides, most fish caught on outgoing tides, fairly good numbers of sheepshead; flounder fairly good; live bait shrimp available at 6 cents each. No geese spotted; fairly good flights of teal ducks.

GALVESTON: Some keeper redfish around Green's Cut in West Bay in 19-23 inch range; some bull reds off beach front; specks good in most all bays to 6 pounds, still many throwback trout, good numbers of golden croaker and restaurant sized flounder in the ship channel, the cuts, the jetties, jetties also producing sandtrout and sheepshead; offshore has good water but not many fishermen, not many fishermen. Good numbers of limits of bluewing teal, limits of spoonbills on the duck season opener last weekend; geese opening slow due to clear weather despite

good numbers of geese in the area.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish good with some over 30 inches in the back bays on artificials and live shrimp; trout good to 3 1/2 pounds on shrimp, still a few undersized; live bait shrimp available at \$9.50 per quart. Few fishermen out this week.

PALACIOS: Redfish good to 30 inches on shrimp and finer mullet in Carancahua Bay, Oyster Lake; trout bigger and more plentiful than last week to 8 pounds off the Pavilion Pier on life shrimp and Mir-O Lures; flounder and black drum good; live bait shrimp available. Good duck and goose opener last weekend; pintails plentiful along with specks, Canadas and snows. Doves still fairly plentiful.

ROCKPORT: Redfish good around Traylor island to 30 inches on live mullet; trout good in Copano Bay and in San Antonio Bay around Panther Reef to 3 pounds on red touts; live bait available but not overly plentiful to \$7.50 quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish good to 26 inches around Spaulding Lake and Allan's Bight; trout good in Corpus Christi Bay to 3 pounds; good numbers of redfish in East Flats between the commercial shacks and the points of Mustang; croakers good around jetties; sheephead good in the same area; flounder fairly good with gig, especially at night; flounder good on rod and reel with live shrimp and mud minnows in Redfish Bay; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Mixed catches of redfish, flounder and trout in from Corpus Christi to the Landcut, including Baffin Bay; both live bait and artificials work; live bait shrimp scarce. Fishing fairly slow this week off Oso Pier. Winds light, fog heavy early. Bob Hall producing pompano to 2 pounds on white speck rigs, fair numbers of specks in the 14-15 inch range; some Spanish mackerel to 3 pounds; some blacktip shark to 4 feet, a single 8 foot hammerhead which weighed about 200 pounds caught over the weekend; some croaker, whiting and a few flounder close to the shore. Water fairly clear and smooth.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish fairly good to 9 pounds on the clear waters, potholes around Three Islands, east of Green Island, along the sand flats of Padre Island; trout to 8 pounds in the same area on mostly on cranks and touts. good numbers of pintails canvasbacks and teal. some flights of geese.

PH 11/04/87