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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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SURVEY SHOWS TYPE II HAS SUCCESSFUL SECOND YEAR

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Type II wildlife management area public hunting program was successful in its second year of operation, with 22,335 hunters utilizing 676,000 acres of land during the 1988-89 season.

The department sold more than 35,000 of the \$35 Type II permits last year, along with some 2,000 Limited Use Permits to those who wished to visit the areas for purposes other than hunting or fishing.

Type II permit holders are in most instances able to hunt on any Type II area during open hunting seasons established for the county where the area is located.

The department mailed survey questionnaires to a random sample of Type II permit holders to obtain data on usage of the areas, according to Glenn Boydston, coordinator of technical programs for the department's Wildlife

Divisione

Deer hunting generated the most activity among Type II hunters, with 16,325 hunters taking 2,932 deer for a 14 percent hunter success rate

Other species hunted, the number of hunters and harvest totals are

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>HUNTERS</u>	<u>HARVEST</u>
Squirrel	7,070	62,290
Rabbit	2,964	14,856
Quail	3,125	17,155
Dove	2,505	24,533
Javelina, hogs	929	217
Waterfowl	1,274	6,001
Pheasant	643	378
Furbearers	679	2,894

In all, the Type II program provided more than 170,000 hunter-days of recreation, and hunters averaged visiting 1.5 areas during the season. An estimated 47,000 days of nonconsumptive use were provided, not including nonconsumptive use associated with purchase of the Limited Use Permit.

Landowners enrolling properties in the Type II program receive payment based on usage of the individual tracts. Participating landowners in 1988-89 included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State General Land Office, International Paper, Champion International, Kirby Forest Industries, Temple Inland, Inc., Sabine River Authority, Texas Utilities, U.S. Forest Service, the TPWD and several private landowners.

A second mail survey conducted by the department also polled Type II permit holders about their impressions of the program. Approximately 2,400 respondents to the survey indicated that most were pleased with their experiences in 1988-89.

Boydston said about 70 percent of the respondents indicated they actually hunted on Type II lands, and 51.7 percent said they were either satisfied or highly satisfied. Only 15.8 percent indicated they were dissatisfied or highly dissatisfied. The remaining 32.5 percent expressed mixed feelings about their hunting experiences.

Boydston said 53.8 percent of the respondents believed the Type II concept is a "great idea," while another 31.7 said they thought it was a "good idea," for an overall acceptance rate of 85.5 percent.

The most common complaint among survey respondents was "not enough game," as indicated by 45.7 percent of those polled. "Many of the Type II areas had been subjected to heavy or unregulated hunting pressure in the past and support relatively low game populations, especially deer," Boydston noted. "However, with additional stockings, habitat improvement and increased law enforcement efforts, game populations should increase to more desirable levels in the future." He pointed out that more than 1,900 white-tailed deer have been stocked on Type II areas during the past two years.

Type II permits for the 1989-90 hunting seasons are now on sale at TPWD Headquarters in Austin and law enforcement field offices across the state.

QUAIL POPULATIONS SPOTTY
FOR HUNTING SEASON

AUSTIN -- Quail hunting prospects will range from excellent to poor across Texas this season depending on location, but most hunters are likely to see fewer birds than last year

Quail season is Nov 4-Feb 25 statewide. The bag limit is 15 per day, with a possession limit of 45

Don Wilson, quail program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said 1989-90 bobwhite quail prospects are extremely difficult to predict because of spotty rainfall patterns across the state during the spring and summer. "Some hunters are going to find some pretty good shooting, while those in the next county might not find a bird," Wilson said

Quail census routes, however, indicate that prospects statewide are well below the long-term average. "Some of the traditionally good quail hunting areas showed the worst counts on record," Wilson said

These topsy-turvy census counts are especially noticeable in the top three quail hunting ecological areas: the Cross Timbers, Rolling Plains and South Texas, he said

In the Rolling Plains west of Fort Worth, counts were only half the long-term average. The main bright spots in that region were in the Clay

and Wichita County areas around Wichita Falls, Wilson said

Counts in the Rolling Plains of West Texas also were about half the long-term average. Observers counted as many as 60 quail on some routes, but saw none on others. "This results from varying rainfall patterns that caused good quail production in some areas and poor production in others," Wilson explained.

Bright spots in the Rolling Plains may be along the western edge of the region near the Panhandle, and along the Red River. Some of the better counts came from Archer, Fisher, Runnels, Throckmorton and Kent Counties.

The South Texas Plains, which usually produce good quail hunting, had counts that rank near the worst since the census project started in 1976. Wilson said 57 percent of the lines showed lower counts than last year, which was considered a poor year for quail, and 18 of 21 lines (86 percent) were below the long-term average.

Wilson said good counts came from Atascosa and Jim Hogg Counties, and fair numbers were recorded in Frio and LaSalle Counties.

The Edwards Plateau in Central Texas generally has only marginal quail habitat, but counts in that region indicate quail populations are at average levels. In the Trans-Pecos and Gulf Prairies regions, counts were at all-time lows, according to Wilson.

SAN ANTONIO BAY OYSTER
REEFS REHABILITATED

SEADRIFT -- About 8,000 cubic yards of clam shell material have been spread on three public oyster reefs in San Antonio Bay as part of a reef rehabilitation project contracted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Department officials said the federally-funded project is aimed at rehabilitating reefs damaged by flooding in 1987

The clean shell, spread by Pontchartrain Materials Corp of New Orleans during August, will provide improved areas for newly-spawned larval oysters (spat) to attach and grow, according to TPWD biologist Steve Marwitz of Rockport. The material was sprayed from barges with high-powered hoses on Mosquito Point, Panther Point and Live Oak reefs in San Antonio Bay.

Marwitz said Coastal Fisheries Branch personnel were on site during the application to assure that the shell was placed at proper rates. The project's effectiveness will be assessed by sampling to measure the number of market oysters, small oysters and spat set over a given area and time.

"This rehabilitation project should provide economic benefits to the San Antonio Bay oyster fishery, which is the second most valuable in Texas. Coastwide 1988 oyster landings were 2.3 million pounds and an ex-vessel value of \$5.7 million," said Marwitz.

ARTIFICIAL REEF COMMITTEE
NAMED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has named a nine-member Artificial Reef Advisory Committee to assist the Parks and Wildlife Department in developing a state artificial reef plan by September 1990

Senate Bill 5, passed by the Texas Legislature during its 1989 session, mandates the department to promote, develop, monitor and enhance the artificial reef potential within the navigable waters of Texas and the federal fisheries conservation zone

The bill directs the committee to "advise and make recommendations to the department on details and specifications of the plan "

Members of the committee represent a cross-section of government, industry and private interests. The members are Irby Basco of Port Neches, representing saltwater sport fishing organizations; Win Thornton of Houston, representing offshore oil and gas interests; the executive director or designee of the State Department of Commerce, representing the Texas tourist industry; Greg Pollock of the Texas General Land Office; Harris Lasseigne of Brownsville, representing shrimping interests; Jim Morrison of Houston, representing sport diving; the Attorney General or designee of the State Attorney General's Office; William Fisher of Austin, representing Texas universities; and Sharron Stewart of Lake Jackson, representing environmental groups

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CADDO LAKE LARGEMOUTH BASS
FISHERY IMPROVING

KARNACK -- Caddo Lake is continuing its climb into the ranks of the Texas' "big bass" lakes, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Mark Webb of Marshall

Webb said Florida-strain largemouth bass were stocked in the Texas-Louisiana border reservoir in 1981 and 1982, and recent genetic surveys indicate the faster-growing fish have had an impact

"The lake record bass of 10 44 pounds set in 1988 was broken with a fish weighing 11 53 pounds caught during the spring 1989," Webb said

Caddo Lake is one of Texas' most scenic lakes, with dense stands of moss-draped cypress trees standing in its shallow waters "The presence of Florida bass along with the abundance of habitat should give Caddo Lake the opportunity to produce more good bass fishing in the future," Webb said

Caddo Lake is located a few miles east of Jefferson Harvest regulations in effect on the lake include a 12-inch minimum length limit and 10 per day bag limit for largemouth bass

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STUDY SHOWS MOST RED DRUM
SURVIVE AFTER RELEASE

ROCKPORT -- An experiment utilizing volunteer sport fishermen has reinforced biologists' belief that red drum (redfish) have an extremely high survival rate after being caught and released

Larry McEachron, fisheries resource program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Rockport, said the brief study was conducted during July and August to determine overall survival rates of released fish, and whether there are differences in survival among fish caught on various kinds of fishing gear

The anglers and Coastal Fisheries Branch personnel caught 125 redfish on a variety of gear, including artificial lures and live bait. Both single and treble hooks were used, McEachron said

"After being held 72 hours in soft-mesh enclosures, only six fish died," McEachron said. "This is a mortality rate of only five percent. This means that 95 percent of the fish will provide additional fishing opportunity, and more will be able to survive to reach spawning age."

Release of redfish that are not within the legal length for retention is important, since only those between 20 and 28 inches can legally be kept. The bag limit is three per day.

McEachron said there was no significant difference between single and

treble hook mortality Four of the six fish that died were caught on single hooks

The fish were handled normally, with no special techniques used to enhance survival "We did clip off the line on deeply-hooked fish, rather than attempting to extract the hook," McEachron said "This is a technique that definitely enhances survival "

McEachron advises anglers to use care in releasing undersized or oversized redfish. "You should wet your hands before handling a fish, and don't squeeze its body," he said Whenever possible, fish should be released while still in the water

"This study supports previous findings that red drum are a hardy species that can withstand handling, and it shows that length limits can be effective for improving fishing," he said

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ANNUAL GILL NET SURVEYS
UNDERWAY ON COAST

ROCKPORT -- Coastal Fisheries personnel of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have begun their annual fall gill net survey in Texas major bay systems

Fishermen may happen to see brightly-marked gill net floats extending perpendicularly from the shoreline in popular bay fishing areas

Biologist Karen Meador of Rockport said the nets will be set overnight 45 times in each bay system by mid-November. Crews record the species, numbers, size and other data on fish caught in the nets, then tag selected fish for additional data collection in the future.

"We will be tagging as many red drum, spotted seatrout, black drum, southern flounder and sheepshead as possible," Meador said. "Fishermen are reminded to look for yellow streamers protruding from the stomach of fish they catch."

Anglers catching tagged fish that are of legal size for retention are asked to cut the imbedded tag from the fish and send or take the tag to a department office. If the fish is not of legal size it should be released immediately. The department would, however, be interested in details of the catch.

TPWD biologists also ask anglers to not disturb the nets, which are marked with department insignia. Those finding nets without such markings should report the net location to a game warden or department law enforcement office, as soon as possible, according to biologist Billy Fuls.

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BORDER CONFERENCE ON PARKS
AND WILDLIFE SET

McALLEN -- The Third Regional Conference of the U S -Mexico Border States on Parks and Wildlife will be held Oct 25-27 in McAllen

The City of McAllen will host the conference with co-sponsorship of the U S Department of the Interior, Mexico's Department of Urban Development and Ecology, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Antonio Narro University of Saltillo, Mexico, the ORVEN Group of Nuevo Leon, and the World Wildlife Fund

Officials said the international forum was organized to discuss common natural resource issues, identify cooperative programs and encourage the expansion of recreational opportunities

Maria Araujo, a TPWD employee and one of the organizers of the conference, said "Given natural resource issues and the mobility of the Mexican and U S populations across the border, governments and interest groups on both sides of the border should routinely coordinate programs on natural resource management and environmental education "

The first conference was held in 1985 in Laredo, as an implementation activity of the TPWD's Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan. The second was held in 1988 and was hosted by the State of Coahuila in Saltillo. The scope of the conference is now border-wide from Texas to California, but was originally focused on the five states that developed the concept for the conference: Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas and Texas.

The conference will have concurrent sessions on parks and wildlife issues, featuring professional papers, panel discussions and field trips. Featured topics include conservation mechanisms on both sides of the border for the Lower Rio Grande corridor, the proposed international park in Sierra del Carmen, Coahuila, comparative conservation ethics, simulation

models in wildlife management, the use of geographic information systems (GIS) for habitat protection, the new Texas hospitality training program, and international events jointly organized by border communities Araujo said the Texas hospitality training program should be of special interest because the front-line employee component is available in Spanish and could be the cornerstone for joint training programs

This conference seeks to have a problem solving orientation by emphasizing panel discussions and encouraging the formation of issue-oriented task forces to serve as advocates of specific issues In future conferences, these task forces will present progress reports on these issues

For conference information contact Larry Pressler, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, City of McAllen, Box 220, McAllen, TX 78502, (512) 682-1517

MA 9/20/89

STATE SHRIMP FISHERY PLAN
HEARINGS ANNOUNCED

AUSTIN -- A series of public hearings will be held across the state this month to obtain public comment on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Proposed Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

The public is invited to attend the hearings and comment on the plan Officials stress that no specific shrimping regulation changes are proposed The plan will establish guidelines for a proposed approach to

managing the shrimp fishery in Texas

The Parks and Wildlife Commission will review and consider testimony from the public hearings and have a public hearing before taking action on the plan

Additional information concerning the public hearings may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext 4863, or (512) 389-4863

Written comments may be sent to C E Bryan, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

Locations of the hearings are listed below All have a 7 p m. starting time

<u>CITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Amarillo	Co Courthouse, 4th Floor Commissioners Courtroom	Sept 26
Anahuac	White Park Building	Sept 28
Angleton	Commissioners Courtroom Old Courthouse, 3rd Floor	Sept 28
Bay City	County Courthouse 3rd Floor	Sept 27
Beaumont	County Courthouse Jury Panel Room	Sept 27
Brownsville	County Courthouse Central Jury Room	Sept 26
Corpus Christi	Texas A&M Ext Center Highway 44	Sept 28
Edna	County Courthouse	Sept 25
El Paso	City Council Chambers	Sept 27
Galveston	County Courthouse Jury Assembly Room	Sept 29
Grand Prairie	Criminal Justice Center 630 W Main	Sept 29
Kingsville	County Courthouse	Sept 27
LaPorte	Sub Courthouse	Sept 26
Orange	County Courthouse District Courtroom	Sept 26
Port Lavaca	Bauer Exhibit Bldg	Sept 27

Raymondville	City Community Room	Sept 27
Refugio	County Courthouse	Sept 28
Rockport	County Courthouse	Sept 27
	County Courtroom	
San Angelo	Courthouse Annex	Sept 27
	J P Courtroom	
	122 W Harris	
San Antonio	Naval Reserve Center	Sept 27
	3837 Binz-Engelmann Rd	
	Room 219	
Sarita	County Courthouse	Sept 26
Sinton	County Courthouse	Sept 26
Tyler	County Courthouse	Sept 25
Victoria	Town Plaza Mall	Sept 26
	1502 E Airline	

JC 9/20/89

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR
TYPE I PUBLIC HUNTS

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have issued a final reminder to hunters that the deadline is Sept 26 for submitting applications for firearm deer hunts on Type I Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

Application forms are on the back cover of the department's "Hunting Opportunities" booklets which can be obtained from the department's Austin headquarters, field offices, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext 4505

Completed application cards must be received at TPWD Headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, by 5 p.m. Sept 26 in order to be eligible

Applicants may select from 20 WMA's, and may apply for one of the listed

either-sex hunts and one of the listed antlerless-only hunts. Groups of up to four persons may make application as a party. Participants will be selected by drawing, and successful applicants will be charged a \$40 permit fee for each hunt.

Officials estimate approximately 5,000 permits will be offered for firearm deer hunts on Type I WMAs this year.

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CRANE HUNTERS REMINDED OF
PERMIT REQUIREMENT

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reminds sandhill crane hunters they need a free federal permit in addition to a valid hunting license to hunt cranes in any of the state's three hunting zones.

Ron George, sandhill crane program leader, said hunters also need to be aware that the areas for sandhill crane hunting have been expanded to include an area bounded roughly by Childress, Abilene and Junction on the west, and Interstate Highway 35 and 35-W on the east. It opens portions of the Rolling Plains, Cross Timbers and the northern Edwards Plateau ecological areas to crane hunting during the open season.

Sandhill crane hunters are reminded that season dates and zones are set by the department to protect the endangered whooping crane which migrates through Texas to wintering areas on the Texas Coast. Sandhill hunters should be alert to verifying their target species during any hunting outings.

Season dates are Zone A, Nov 11-Feb 11

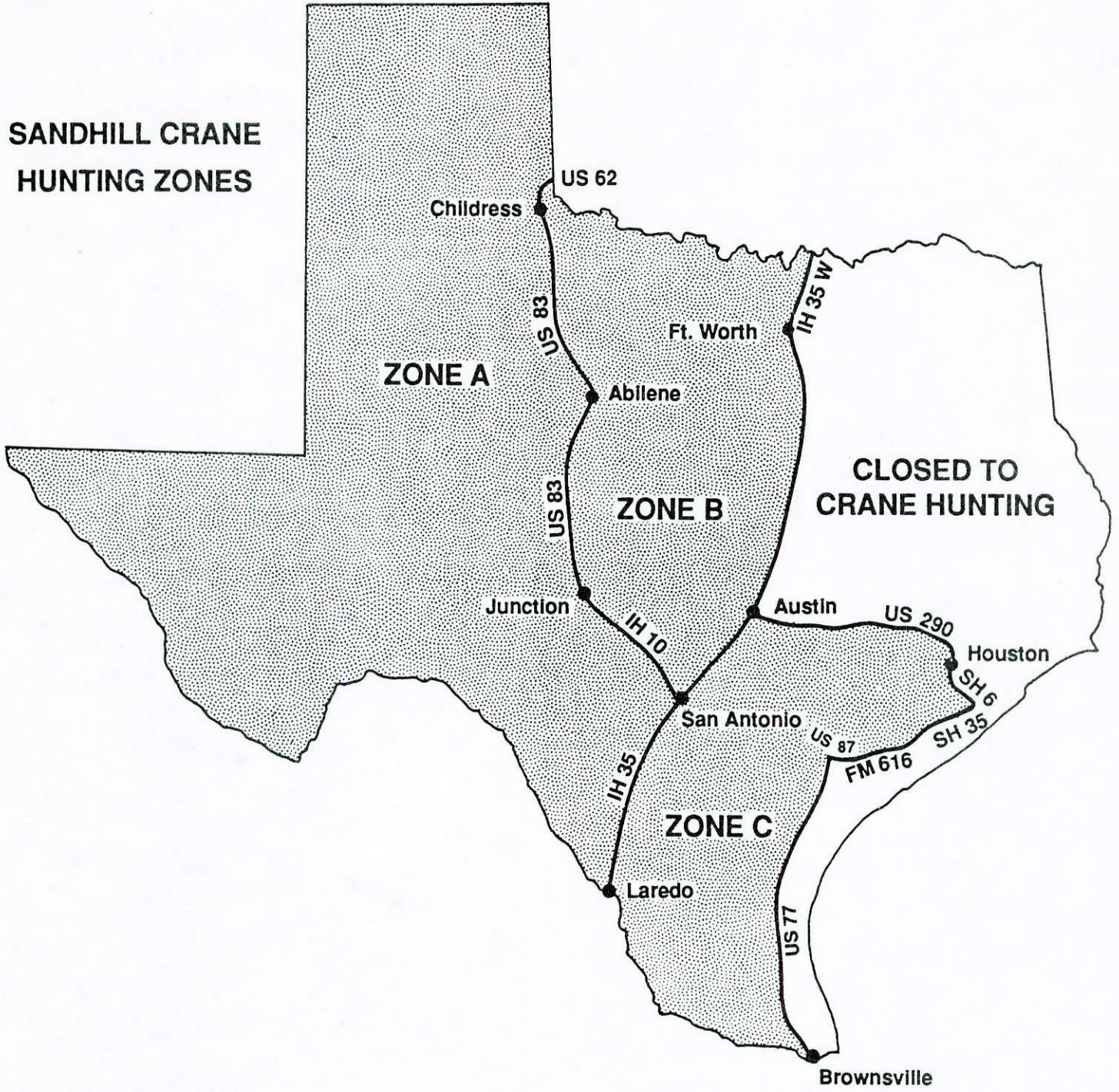
Zone B, Nov 25-Feb 4; and Zone C, Jan 6-Feb 11 Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset The bag limit is three per day, six in possession

Permits may be obtained by submitting in writing the name and address of each hunter to any of the following TPWD offices or the Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Box 228, Umbarger, TX 79091, (806) 499-3382, or the Muleshoe NWR, Box 549, Muleshoe, TX 79347, (806) 946-3341

<u>CITY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
ABILENE	281 N Willis, 79603	915-673-3333
AMARILLO	2736 S. Georgia, 79109	806-335-9246
AUSTIN	4200 Smith School Road, 78744	512-389-4505
FORT WORTH	5400 Airport Fwy , Suite E, 76117	817-831-3128
HOUSTON	10700 N Fwy , Suite 180, 77037	713-931-6471
HOUSTON	8441 Gulf Fwy , Suite 100, 77017	713-645-0212
LUBBOCK	5104 Ave T, 79452	806-744-0213
MIDLAND	4500 W Illinois, Suite 206, 79703	915-699-4649
SAN ANGELO	3407 S Chadbourne, 76901	915-655-2014
SAN ANTONIO	9503 Southton Rd , 78223	512-633-3220
WICHITA FALLS	100 Fremar Valley, 76301	817-723-7327

JC 9/20/89

**SANDHILL CRANE
HUNTING ZONES**



AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Sept. 21

CENTRAL

BELTON: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 4 pounds on black Craw Worms in 10 feet or less of water. hybrid striper have been fair in number to 6 pounds trolling white jigs in 40 feet of water. crappie have been slow. white bass have been fair to 20 fish per string on chrome Rat-L-Traps and Lil Georges in 20 feet of water. channel catfish have been good to 12 fish per string to 9 pounds each on rod and reel baited with dough bait and worms.

CANYON: Water clear, 81 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low. black bass have been fair to 5 pounds on Rat-L-Traps early and dark worms in the middle of the day in 20-25 feet of water. striper fair at night near the dam; crappie fair at night on minnows in 20 feet of water. white bass slow. catfish fairly good in the 5-15 pound range at night on trotlines baited with live perch.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 87 degrees, 6 inches above normal level. black bass fairly good in the 19-20 inch range in fairly good numbers but few keepers above 21 inches on dark worms, Boy Howdies and Rat-L-Traps. crappie slow. catfish have been fair in number but fish are small. bream excellent in number on nightcrawlers in 15-18 feet of water, some caught in shallower water.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass fairly good within the slot, a single 9 pound, 2 1/2 ounce keeper 24 inches long caught last Saturday on a black worm; crappie are fairly good on minnows, no full limits. catfish are fairly good to 12 pounds on rod and reel baited with your favorite bait, many in the 2-3 pound range.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level. black bass fairly good to 4 pounds on worms and frog colored topwaters and chartreuse worms in 3-8 feet of water. striper slow, fish scattered all over lake, best fishing should be between 1-4 p.m. during the full moon phase. white bass schooling early and late, fish are scattered, best bait is chartreuse and white Tom's Minners. catfish fair on minnows or large yellow grasshoppers.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 85 degrees plus, 18 inches low; black bass fair to good to 5 pounds on dark worms and Jaw-Tec Wacky Craw Worms, buzz baits, Poe's Ace in the hole. crappie good on minnows, limits common in 12-20 feet of water around isolated trees; white bass fair to good with a few limits on slabs and deep diving cranks, schooling early and late from high lines to the dam. channel catfish fair to 5 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch, fishing has improved since the cold front.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass good with near limits on spinners and Castmasters. catfish good on shrimp to 5 pounds.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 83 degrees, 2 feet below normal level. black bass slow; striper slow. crappie are fairly good at night to 15 fish per string on minnows and white jigs. white bass good on minnows and white jigs to 10 fish per string at night and early morning, schooling fairly common around marina. channel catfish are fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with liver, shrimp, and cut bait.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 82 degrees, 21 feet low. black bass excellent to more than 40 fish per boat per morning in order to glean 5 keepers per boat to 3 1/2 pounds each, fish are hitting chrome Crazy Shad, chartreuse spinners and a wide range of Ringworms in the middle of the day, fish show no selectivity on color of 4-inch Ring Worms, about half are Guadalupe and the rest largemouth. other fishing slow. Chartreuse spinners are fantastic until 9 a.m. when the worm fishing begins. Fishing has improved greatly since the cold front.

WACO: Water off color, 75 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 5 pounds on chartreuse and white spinners in 5 feet of water, several 5 fish limits; striper slow; crappie fair with some limits on minnows; white bass have been fair to 1 pound on Tiny Torpedoes and Skipjacks. catfish have been fair in number to 20 pounds on trotline with live bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear near the dam, muddy up river because of rains

late last week, 18 inches low; largemouth bass good to 4 pounds on cranks, plastic worms, spinners and buzz baits in shallow water; smallmouth picking up to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks and Smokey Joes; striper fair to 20 pounds, average 4-10 pounds range with small fish schooling hitting top water Redfins, large fish are hitting shad or deep diving redfins in 20 feet of water; crappie good to 25 fish per string to 1 3/4 pounds each on minnows; white bass good on minnows and fleaflies, a few limits but most fish are small catfish are good to 2 1/2 pounds drifting shrimp

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 78 degrees, 10 inches below pool level. black bass are fair to 6 pounds on dark worms in 10 feet of water, no limits; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 20-25 feet of water white bass slow; catfish good 12 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp, goldfish and stink bait bream are very good in 6-7 feet of water just over bottom moss beds on worms and crickets.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 84 degrees, 18 inches low black bass are fair to 7.2 pounds on buzz baits, spinners, worms and Craw Worms; crappie are good under the bridges and in the stump area in 14 feet of water on minnows, white bass slow catfish are good in the creek channels to 8 pounds on night crawlers, shrimp, chicken hearts and chicken livers.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 81 degrees, lake full black bass have been fair to 7 pounds on worms and Rat-L-Traps, many small bass hooked; hybrid striper have been fair on Rat-L-Traps in 6 feet of water crappie are fair to good in number but small in size on minnows and jigs white bass good early and late with Rat-L-Traps; catfish good drifting shrimp and worms, several good catches made. CADDO Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 3 pounds on crab apple worms and Skipjacks in 6 feet of water striper slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on worms white bass slow; catfish fair to 15 pounds, many in the 2 pound range on goldfish baited trotline.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 20 inches low black bass have been good to 7 3/4 pounds on black and chartreuse worms hybrid striper are slow; crappie have been fair to 15 fish per string early on minnows in 18-20 feet of water; white bass good with early and late surfacing on chartreuse and white slabs as well as Rooster Tails yellow catfish are good to 42 pounds on live bait in 7-12 feet of water.

CYPRESS SPRINGS Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 1/2 pounds on topwaters and deep diving cranks in 12-15 feet of water; crappie good with limits in 25 feet of water on the bottom fishing with minnows and jigs; channel catfish good to 13 1/2 pounds on stinkbait; yellow catfish fair to 27 1/2 pounds on minnows with a rod and reel

FAIRFIELD Water clear, 87 degrees, normal level black bass slow in the 15 inch range, 33 fish caught with only 3 keeper sized fish; crappie slow; catfish slow redfish slow.

FORK: Water clear, 83 degrees, lake full black bass good to 14 1/4 pounds on a black jig in 20 feet of water, also an 8 and a 9 pounder were also landed; crappie have been good with limits of 25 fish on minnows in 15 to 20 feet of water; catfish fair to 9 pounds on trotline baited with live bream

JOE POOL: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 6 pounds on spinners, minnows and dark worms in 12-16 feet of water; crappie are good to 2 1/2 ponds on minnows and jigs in 12-16 feet of water catfish slow on liver, minnows and stink bait in 5-12 feet of water.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 78 degrees, 18 inches above winter level; black bass have been fairly good to 8 1/4 pounds on cranks and worms around the laydowns in 3-8 feet of water, most bass are small in size and prefer jigs and small cranks; crappie have been fair to 15 fish per string on minnows white bass fair schooling, most fish are small, best bait are cranks; catfish have been fair to 25 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish.

LAVON Water clear, 84 degrees, 1 foot above normal level black bass have been good in the 3 1/2 to 7 pound range on white spinners, cranks and worms in 2-8 feet of water in the main lake. striper have been excellent in number to 9 pounds below the dam on live shad; crappie good to 25 fish per string in 18 feet of water on minnows, many limits around the trees and barge white bass fair to good to

with a plastic worm. Fishing is best at night during the full moon phase

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level. black bass have been good to 7 pounds on black and blue Craw worms, black worms, Tequila Sunrise worms, Rat-L-Traps striper slow; crappie good to 10 fish per string around the dam on minnows; white bass have moved from the pump station to the islands, but are not biting. catfish slow.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level. black bass are beginning to move into shallow water because of cooler weather, a couple of 8 pounders along with many 4s, 5s and 6s on black worms with chartreuse tails or black worms with blue tails in 2-4 feet of water; striper fair in the 12-14 pound range mostly just above the dam on live perch and minnows; crappie slow, some beginning to move; white bass good in the deeper water, along river channels with several limits on white slabs. channel catfish good to 8 pounds on shad; blue catfish to 25 pounds on shad. yellow catfish good to 45 pounds on live baits and trotline.

RAYBURN Water clear, 83 degrees, 1 foot low black bass have been good in the 3-4 pound range in 15-20 feet of water around moss beds, many limits; striper slow; crappie good in baited holes in 20-25 feet of water on minnows. white bass are fair in number but most fish are small on poppers with few limits. catfish slow to fair on trotlines and rod and reel.

TOLEDO BEND Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 1/4 feet low; black bass fair in the 4-5 pound range on chartreuse spinners; striper are schooling in the 8-10 pound range up the river on Boy Howdies; crappie fair on jigs. white bass slow; catfish fair to 38 pounds on a trotline with live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD Water clear, 81 degrees, 5 3/4 feet low; black bass good to 7 pounds, 2 ounces in 8-10 feet of water on red crawfish Bombers and purple whitetailed worms; striper are good around the dam and Markers 15 and 16 on 1/2 ounce Ponyhead jigs with trailers. crappie slow; white bass slow, some around dam; catfish are excellent in 80 feet of water and around ledges on Roger's Cheese Bait.

BRAUNIG Water murky, 85 degrees, normal level. black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow. catfish good to 6 pounds on tilapia, chicken liver and perch on trotline; corvina slow; redbfish improving to 22 pounds on spoons, tilapia and shad.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 92 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow. crappie slow. catfish fairly good on shad and tilapia; corvina good to 6 pounds on shad and tilapia; redbfish good to 17 pounds on tilapia, shad and perch.

CHOKO: Water clear, 84 degrees, 12 1/2 feet low. black bass fair with some topwater fishing early in the river on Rat-L-Traps around humps, points and ridges in the lake and along the river channel. best depth for worm fishing is between 6 feet and 15 feet, some 10 pound plus fish caught early near deep water. crappie fair to good on minnows around scattered brush and tree tops in 12-16 feet of water near the mouth of the river and above Highway 99 bridge in 20 feet of water, some limits, crappie fishing should be very good in October. catfish fair to good on cheese and blood bait around Possum Creek area in 20-25 feet of water around trees and stickups. catfish are beginning to move so fishing should be good in October. some catfish in shallow water at night in 4-6 feet of water on rod and reel.

COLETO CREEK Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair on spinners and worms in deep water, many undersized fish; striper slow; crappie fair in number but small in size on worms at minnows at night; white bass slow; catfish fair to 28 pounds on trotline with live bait, channel catfish good in the 1-2 pound range on liver and shrimp.

CORPUS CHRISTI Water clear, 83 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds since last week's cool front on white spinners and black worms with chartreuse curl tails; striper slow; crappie good early in 12-15 feet of water at Alice Pump House and state park piers on minnows. white bass good with limits under birds at Sunrise Beach area on 1/8 ounce on curl tail jigs and chrome slabs; blue catfish are good to 12 pounds on topwater trotlines baited with lye soap and cut shad; good numbers of limits of channel catfish on rod and reel baited with crawfish or shrimp; yellow catfish slow.

3 pounds, surface schooling early and late around points on L'il Georges and Rat-L-Traps; catfish have been good to 12 pounds on chicken livers, blood bait and worms.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass good in number to 5 pounds on cranks and spinners, most fish are small hybrid striper have been slow to 9 pounds on slabs; crappie slow; white bass spotty; catfish good to 4 pounds with some limits drifting stink baits and night crawlers.

MARTIN CREEK Water clear, 72 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 17 inches on dark worms, all other fishing slow.

MONTECELLO: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 pounds on blue and white spinners; crappie have been fair to 10 fish per string on minnows and jigs; catfish good to 9 pounds on live minnows, worms and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie has been fair to 8 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish are good to 15 pounds on rod and reel baited with shad and shrimp.

MURVAUL Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass have been fair to 6 pounds, 13 ounces on dark worms around the moss beds, smaller fish are caught on buzz baits and topwaters; crappie are picking up since the cool weather with 2 limits from 1971 bridge area on minnows; trotline fishing is picking up to 5 pounds on cut shad, no limits

PALESTINE: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass have been good to 6 1/4 pounds on cranks, topwaters and spinners; striper have been fairly good with some surfacing around points, some fish to 7 pounds on cranks and live bait; crappie slow; white bass have been fairly good on spoons between Henderson Point and the north end; catfish are good to 19 pounds on trotline as well as rod and reel using blood bait and catalpa worms

PURTIS CREEK Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass slow; crappie have been fair early and late on jigs and minnows in deep water; catfish have been good in the 11 to 15 pound range on dough bait, stink bait and blood bait

RAY HUBBARD Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 3 pounds on white spinners; striper have been good to 5 pounds on Smokin' Slabs; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass good to 25 fish per string with many limits; catfish good to 4 pound on rod and reel baited with shrimp

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 1/4 feet low; black bass good with limits to 5 pounds on dark worms primarily; crappie good with several limits on minnows and jigs; white bass are plentiful with many limits on slabs and L'il Cleos, Rat-L-Traps in 20 feet of water; catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass have been fair in number to 5 pounds on spinners over the moss beds; striper slow; crappie are improving to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are schooling, several limits; catfish good to 6 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp

TEXOMA: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass good to 5 pounds on Pigs and Jigs and worms; smallmouth bass have been good to 6 pounds, 6 ounces on topwaters and Jigs and Pigs; striper have been good to 15 1/2 pounds on live bait, slabs and topwaters; crappie have been good with full strings on minnows; white bass have been good around the islands on slabs and topwaters; catfish good to 28 pounds on shrimp, stink bait, worms and live bait, most fish are in the 2-5 pound range.

WELSH Water clear, 93 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are very good to 9 pounds worms along the creek channels in 8-12 feet of water; crappie have been fair with few fishermen, fish are caught on minnows and jigs in 15-20 feet of water near the dam; catfish have been good to 5 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers in 8-12 feet of water on the moss lines; bream are good to 3/4 pound on wigglers, EuroLarvae and shrimp in 6-12 feet of water.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 4 inches low; black bass fair to good to 7 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and plum worms, black or smoke bluetailed worms in 4-17 feet of water, most in 12 feet of water; striper, white bass and crappie are slow; channel catfish are good to 2 pounds; a single 14 1/2 pound yellow catfish was caught at night

FALCON: Water slightly off color, 82 degrees, 17 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 8 1/2 pounds around old trees on dark worms; striper slow; crappie slow; catfish fair to good to 4 pounds on shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 35 feet low; bass and all fishing slow.

TEXANA: Water murky in main lake, clear in the creeks and rivers, 85 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on Tequila Sunrise worms, smaller fish on white spinners; striper slow; crappie fair in number in Sandies Creek with a few limits on live minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 12 pounds on live bait and trotline.

WEST

ARROWHEAD Water murky, 75 degrees, lake full; black bass have been poor; striper poor; crappie fair on minnows to 10 fish per string; white bass have been fair to 10 fish per string on Mepps Spinners; catfish good to 6 pounds on punch bait.

BAYLOR: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 5 pounds, 5 ounces with several smaller fish on black lizards, firetailed worms, Rat-L-Traps and topwaters in 5-6 feet of water; crappie slow; catfish good to 8 pounds, 3 ounces on water dogs.

FORT PHANTOM HILL Water clearing, 3 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on spinners and deep diving lures, worms and jigs; hybrid striper fairly good in the 6-18 pound range on Model A Bombers and deep diving baits; crappie are fairly good to 12 fish per string to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass have been good to 20 fish per string on small spinners and Lil Georges; catfish are fairly slow, some trotline activity but no full strings.

GRANBURY: Water clear, normal level; black bass slow to 14 inches on spinners; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair in number on shad and minnows.

GREENBELT Water fairly clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds in Kelly Creek on minnows; crappie slow; white bass good trolling minnows; blue and channel catfish good to 5 1/2 pounds on waters to 15 fish per string; walleye good on bottom to 7 pounds in deep water on slabs.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass have been fairly good in the 3-5 pound range on spinners in 6-8 feet of water; striper good to 9 pounds on heavy lures in 6 to 20 feet of water; crappie good with full strings; white bass good in the 1 1/2 pound range on slabs; catfish good to 51 pounds on trotline with live bait.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair in 12-24 feet of water on minnows and worms; white bass slow; catfish good to 33 3/4 pounds on trotline baited with liver.

OAK CREEK Water clear, 71 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks; crappie are picking up to 1 1/2 pounds in deep water; white bass are slow; catfish fair to 45 pounds on trotline baited with live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 1 foot above normal level; black bass fair in the 4-5 pound range on topwaters; striper fair in the 8-12 pound range on Pencil Poppers and slabs; crappie fairly good on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; channel catfish are fairly good on live perch and shrimp.

STAMFORD: Water murky, 80 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are poor; striper poor; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds with most fishermen catching a limit on minnows; catfish are fairly good on rod and reel with minnows, trotline fishing is slow.

TWIN BUTTES Water clear, 6 inches low; black bass fair to slow in the 3-4 pound range on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair in the 5-10 pound range on trotlines baited with live perch.

WHITE RIVER Water slightly cloudy, 71 degrees at 14 feet, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on worms off the humps; crappie are good in 10-15 feet of water around brush on minnows, some limits; catfish good on live bait to 4 pounds.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish have been good to 28 inches with some just above keeper size, some oversized fish on shrimp as well as spoons on the Louisiana side; some redfish in the Bessie Heights Marsh, south of Stewart's and Sydnes Islands on shrimp; good numbers of specks to 4 pounds, most are small and many have to be returned to the water, on shrimp; good numbers of flounder to 2 pounds and black

drum to 5 pounds, still many small fish fair numbers of sheepshead and good numbers of croaker.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish have been good in the lake to 8 pounds on shrimp; some flounder to 2 3/4 pounds on white and pink touts; specks have been good to 7 pounds, 2 ounces on mud minnows no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON Good numbers of oversized redfish along the surf, piers and jetties very few keepers; good numbers of Spanish mackerel, a 28 pound king mackerel from the Gulf Coast Pier scattered specks and sand trout along the beach front fair numbers of specks in all the bays, most are big schoolies in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range, the largest weighed 7 3/4 pounds; good numbers of flounder to 3 pounds, most are restaurant sized in the ship channel, passes, the jetties on mud minnows, good numbers of big jackfish in the 25 pound range at the jetties, in the ship channel, offshore fishermen catching good numbers of king mackerel in the 10-12 pound range good catches of pompano dolphin; live bait is hard to get; numbers of fishermen are down since the beginning of school and probably because of the economy Flounder come in three sizes restaurant, doormat and saddle blanket.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing boats not running this week due to lack of fishermen a single trip Monday produced 500 pounds of snapper for 25 fishermen, individual fish went to 15 pounds, most in the 3-5 pound range; some grouper to 35 pounds

PORT OCONNOR: Fishing has been slow, tides are very high, fish are scattered good numbers of redfish in the 25-27 inch range at the jetties on live shrimp when available, dead shrimp otherwise many redfish to 45 inches which must be returned to the water offshore fishermen are catching snapper to 12 pounds and barracuda to 25 pounds; kingfish to 25 pounds inside the big jetties while fishing for Spanish mackerel with feathered Hooties back bay fishing has been slow because of high tides; no live bait shrimp since last weekend

MATAGORDA Good redfish in the surf, most legal size with a few above and below keeper size on fingerling mullet; trout fishing has been spotty depending on water conditions in the surf Spanish mackerel good on a wide variety of baits; a few tarpon hooked but none landed; bay fishing has been a little slow; live bait shrimp available at \$9 per quart; gulf fishing has slowed down just a little probably because of winds and lack of fishermen

PALACIOS: Redfish have been good with limits in the 25-26 inch range on fresh dead shrimp and touts in South Bay, Turtle Bay and Carancahua Bay specks have been fair, but most are undersized, few keepers on live shrimp and speck rigs; live bait shrimp scarce

ROCKPORT: Fishing has been fairly tough; high tides and fish are scattered some nice redfish and bluefish in the surf on Mirr-O-Lures and spoons; specks have been slow no live bait shrimp available

PORT ARANSAS Tides high and northeast winds have slowed the fishing midweek no boats offshore midweek some redfish and trout, some croaker in the ship channel some live bait shrimp at \$7 50 per quart Fewer boats going offshore since school started good numbers of dorado since the weekend, blackfin tuna good in the 15 to 20 pound range from 30 fathoms about 30 miles offshore kingfish have been slowing somewhat; snapper fishing good with 19 fishermen bringing in 1000 pounds of snapper and amberjack over the weekend offshore bottom fishing good water still very clear even in the ship channel Spanish mackerel still good on Hooties live bait shrimp short but piggy perch plentiful

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout good in the 22 to 24 inch range south of the Intracoastal Bridge, the Pure Oil Channel winds to 25 knots midweek, tides high midweek, water in parking lots; no live bait shrimp available Oso Pier fishermen catching a few specks to 2 1/4 pounds on dead shrimp; gafftop fairly good to 5 pounds on dead shrimp; a good sized school of jackfish swam by the end of the pier around 10 a.m Tuesday Bob Hall Pier fishermen producing oversized redfish at the end of the pier, one fish to 60 inches, an 8 foot, 9 inch tiger shark caught Sunday night; some smaller blacktip sharks to 4 foot; a few kingfish landed; good numbers of tarpon, a single 5 1/2 foot fish landed last week; Spanish mackerel and bluefish plentiful some keeper sized redfish and trout at the third light reds to 28 inch and specks to 25 inches Water still in good shape, seaweed almost gone.

PORT MANSFIELD: Some oversized redfish but numbers of keeper sized fish are increasing on spoons and touts; trout fishing has been slow; no live bait shrimp available. Offshore activity slow due to north winds

SOUTH PADRE: A few redfish, many over 28 inches, others between 20 and 28 inches on live shrimp; most caught by Three Islands some trout just above keeper size in the Intracoastal live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; some offshore activities; some Spanish mackerel, some tarpon, a few kingfish offshore

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