

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



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Biologists predict strong numbers this season. **Page 6**

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Funds flow for boat buyers

Boat dealers facing financial woes, but buyers still out there, finding deals

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Potential boat buyers are wondering if financing is going to be a problem. Not so much for buyers, dealers say. Dealer financing, though, is another story.

The problem centers around wholesale financing (called Dealer Floor Plan financing), what dealers use to finance the boats on the lot.

"For buyers, money is available," said Rod Malone, president of Sail & Ski in Austin, San Antonio and Lakeway and the past president of the Boating Trades Association of Texas. "The underwriting is more rigorous, but that's probably not a bad thing."

But wholesale financing for dealers is tough.

"The financing on boats has tightened up," said Billy Holmes of Gulf Coast Marine in Corpus Christi and Hitchcock. "Some lenders are loaning the same way they did two or five years ago — they are the more conservative lenders that required 20 percent down. They don't have bad loans."

Others, though, loaned money more liberally.

"They aren't in the finance business for boats anymore, and some are out of any business," Holmes said.

See **FINANCE**, Page 25

FUN IN THE SUN: There's nothing like a new boat for couples in the Texas summer. Deals and financing are available for buyers, but they may see less inventory at dealerships. Dealers are having trouble securing financing for inventory. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.



Drought is bad, but not worst

El Nino could bring enough rain to break long-lived dry spell

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

People complain about the weather all the time. But maybe this time they're justified. Especially people in the Hill Country.

"It's about as low as it got (before rainy 2007)," said Allen Christenson, a fishing guide on Lake Travis. "It's heading now to where it was in 1984."

The region is nearing two years in drought conditions, lake levels have dropped dozens of feet, and rivers have become chains of pools, not flowing waterways.

Lake Travis, west of Austin, is down about 41.5 feet, and only one boat ramp is open. Canyon Lake, near New Braunfels, is down 14 feet.

"The last time (Canyon Lake) was this low



LIMITED ACCESS: Lake Travis is down about 41 feet, but fish are still biting. Anglers and boaters hope late summer and fall rains bring the levels back to normal. Photo by Erich Schlegel, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

it was a river," said Travis Smith, owner of the Tackle Box at Canyon Lake.

River "flows" have become trickles. Deep pools still hold water, but ripples between some have gone subterranean.

Despite the negative symptoms, though, the

See **DROUGHT**, Page 14

Desert bighorn tag sells for \$84,000

Hunter pays big for chance at grand slam

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

J. Michael Lewis of Dallas made the trip July 18 to San Antonio for the Texas Bighorn Society Roundup with his eye on the big-ticket auction item, a desert bighorn ram hunt.

Lewis, an avid hunter and lifetime Dallas Safari Club member, already has three legs of the North American Grand Slam: a Dall sheep, a Stone's sheep and a Rocky Mountain bighorn. The desert bighorn would complete the slam.

"It was something of a sentimental thing," Lewis said. "I'm hung up on hunting the desert bighorn in Texas."

As the auction progressed, worries of the effect

See **BIGHORN**, Page 23

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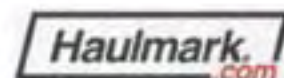
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CONSERVATION

Association: Fishing industry holding steady

Sport's low cost behind boost in license sales

The fishing industry is holding its own, according to the American Sportfishing Association.

At the industry breakfast at the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades show (ICAST), the keynote speaker was cautiously optimistic.

"We don't need any more big bites," said John Engler, former governor of Michigan and president of the National Association of Manufacturing. "We've been bitten enough."

Engler said the inexpensive nature of the sport and strong

license sales support an upswing.

"There's an opportunity in this economy because the struggles encourage people to get back to the basics," Engler said. "Fishing is a relatively inexpensive sport that does just that."

ASA president and CEO Mike Nussman said the double-digit percentage rise in fishing license sales from this time last year is an example of the fact that people are still fishing — the problem is they might be using last year's equipment.

"People want a breath of

fresh air, both literally and figuratively," Nussman said. "But to be truthful, like the general public, they seem to be deferring higher-end purchases."

ASA's plan for the future consists of four initiatives: create new, innovative products to excite anglers across the country and the world; increase participation across the sport, especially among youth; expand business opportunities; and manage policy issues that could affect the industry, individual businesses and the sport itself.

— *ESPN Outdoors report*



STILL STRONG: Crowds at hot spots and strong license sales nationwide indicate that people are still fishing, although many are holding off on large purchases. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Conservation News in Brief

Large federal grant to restore Galveston marsh a surprise

When the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration publicly announced the last week of June that it was providing \$5,148,369 to help restore critical wetlands in West Galveston Bay, the news took Texas Parks and Wildlife staffers who wrote the grant request by surprise.

"It's a very happy surprise that we got this money," said Mike Ray, interim Coastal Fisheries Division director for TPW. "The project will return long-term benefits both to Galveston Bay and to the people of Galveston Island."

With another \$647,597 from the Texas General Land Office and a \$250,000 in-kind donation from NRG Texas Power LLC, the project will restore 328 acres of intertidal marsh complex at Galveston Island State Park and Jumbile Cove.

The project will employ about 50 workers at the Galveston

Island State Park site and 52 workers at the Jumbile Cove site. It is scheduled to be completed in October 2010.

— *Texas Parks and Wildlife report*

NOAA, partners restore more than 2,000 acres of wetlands

Federal and state agencies worked with Chevron Corp. to restore coastal habitats that were injured by releases from refinery operations that took place decades ago.

The projects occurred in the Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area near the Gulf of Mexico and at J.D. Murphree WMA. Historic water and plant conditions were restored.

"These completed projects will not only provide habitat benefits to the fish and wildlife of the region, but will also enhance public use and outdoor recreation opportunities," said WMA manager Jim Sutherlin.

— *NOAA report*

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NATIONAL

CARIBOU REBOUND:

Caribou numbers in part of Alaska increased markedly after eight wolves that preyed on them were removed. Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



National News in Brief

Alaskan caribou numbers up after wolf removal

Caribou herds are gaining ground on the southern Alaska Peninsula, and officials are crediting a controversial state-sponsored predator control program for the increased numbers.

At least eight wolves were removed from the control area. The caribou herd is now about 800 animals, 200 more than before the program. The pregnancy rate for collared adult cows is 90 percent. In mid-June, the caribou survival rate was 71 percent, up from 2008.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, wolves and bears may kill up to 80 percent of the moose and caribou that die each year. The predator control programs, active in less than 10 percent of the state's landmass, reduce the numbers of wolves and bears in an effort to increase moose or caribou numbers. Nothing indicates the programs have had an adverse affect on wolf or bear populations.

— Alaska Fish and Game report

Wounded Florida officer in stable condition

A Florida game warden was in stable condition and good spirits two days after being shot multiple times while patrolling July 15 in Bre-

vard County, said Florida Wildlife Commission spokeswoman Carol Pratt.

Officer Vann Streety, a 10-year FWC veteran, was shot near the intersection of Satellite Boulevard and State Road 520 after stopping Christopher A. Eddy, 23, of Rockledge, Fla. Streety was trying to arrest Eddy on warrants issued from Brevard County for multiple traffic violations. A struggle ensued, during which Streety was shot.

Streety, 42, was wearing a bulletproof vest and sustained gunshot wounds to his limbs and torso. His injuries are not life threatening.

— Florida Wildlife Commission report

Louisiana to hold tax-free weekend for outdoor gear

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal signed a law that waives the state's 4-percent sales tax for purchases of firearms, ammunition and hunting supplies for a three-day weekend.

The Annual Second Amendment Weekend Holiday was approved 34-0 in the state senate and will be held the first weekend in September.

The tax break only applies to consumer purchases and covers such things as archery supplies, all-terrain vehicles, airboats and pirogues, accessories, animal feed, apparel, shoes, bags, float tubes, binoculars, tools, rangefinders, tree-stands, blinds, chairs and holsters.

— Staff report

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HUNTING

Young archers score at 3-D shoot

New range hosts kids shoot before public opening

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Quiet settled in on the tee box as Keith Brett took his stance. He didn't have a golf club in his hands, however. No, Keith pulled back, took aim and released an arrow from his compound bow.

Keith, 15, of Southlake and 43 other children were competing July 11 in Cabela's Youth 3D Archery Shoot.

The tournament-style shoot was a first for many of the young archers. Many were hunters who practice in their yards and had never shot competitively before the event.

"It's different," said Grant Malloy, 13, of Burleson.

Grant said he hadn't practiced much lately, but he did before deer season last year, when he shot his first doe.

Barton Ellis, 13, of Pilot Point does not hunt, but he liked competing with his bow.

"It's fun," he said.

Keith had been shooting about a year, practicing mostly on a 3-D target in his yard. Still, he finished with one of the highest scores from his foursome.

"I think it's pretty cool," Keith said.

Cabela's hosted the sporting-clays-style shoot at Cinnamon Creek Ranch, a new archery range with target courses. The ranch, located between Fort Worth and Roanoke, opened to the public in the days after the shoot.

The range's vice president of sales and marketing, Tracy Croisant, said midday the event was going well.

"It's good; I'm impressed with the turnout," Croisant said. "The course is good."



SIGHTED IN: Don Malone, 14, of Garland prepares to release during Cabela's 3D Archery Shoot. Malone scored the highest among his foursome. Photo by Thomas Phillips, LSON.



ON THE WEB
More photos from the shoot.
LSONews.com

Whitewing bonanza on the horizon

High numbers predicted in Mexico for dove season; season starts in mid-August

By Bob Hood

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Hunters who travel to Mexico this year looking for great wingshooting are in for a white-winged dove fiesta, said Dr. Ignacio Cinta, a wildlife biologist from Mexico City who has been monitoring the popular game bird.

The heart of Mexico's premier white-winged dove and quail hunting — about 160 miles south of Harlingen — has had good weather, Cinta said.

"We have received more than 10 inches of rain so far, and the whitewings are having a very good nesting season," he said.

Cinta said he based his optimism for an above-average year for hunters on observations made in a 20,000-acre area of prime whitewing nesting habitat that includes a 2,000-acre federally owned white-winged dove sanctuary. The sanctuary is home to more than 4 million dove, said to be the largest concentration of whitewings in the world.

The sanctuary is a literal jungle of trees so close together that officials have cut "deer trail-like" paths into them so they can observe nesting activity. A 50-yard walk down one of the trails during the summer months often reveals from 20 to 40 active nests.

"The number of whitewings in that sanctuary is awesome," said Marty Malin of Laredo, who visited there in late June when thousands of doves were still nesting. "Two people standing 6 feet apart cannot hear one another speak because of the



loud and continuous cooing from the birds."

Whitewings typically lay from one to three eggs in their nests. The chicks hatch in 14 days, and the young birds can fly after only 10 days. In prime times where rainfalls provide the birds with needed moisture for their eggs, many of the doves will nest more than once. When vis-

ited, the sanctuary contained numerous nests that were empty, some with young birds that could fly, others with birds too young to fly. Some nests contained recently laid eggs.

Cinta said the forecast for an excellent whitewing hunting season this year is based on three factors: a good carryover of birds from last year, ample rains that provided moisture for

excellent nesting conditions, and an anticipated lack of hunting pressure.

Hunters who head south can anticipate one of three different types of hunts: field hunts, (mostly sorghum), brush hunts and waterhole hunts. Wingshooting at any of the three types of hunts is commonly outstanding because of the tremen-



NEST SUCCESS: The forecast for Mexico's white-winged doves shows an increase in the fast-flying birds. Nests are highly concentrated in a 2,000-acre federal sanctuary, where more than 4 million dove spend time. Photo at left by David J. Sams. Photo above by Bob Hood, for LSON.

dous number of birds that are raised in and around the sanctuary near Abasolo and other areas.

And many north-of-the-border hunters don't realize that most of the birds come from the other direction — migrating south to north from Central and South America.

The Mexico dove-hunting season runs from mid-August through mid-October. The whitewing hunting business in the large state of Tamaulipas brings more than \$10 million to the economy in the short season.

Cinta said all of the cards are in place for an outstanding white-winged season in Mexico. Many veteran hunters who have hunted there can't remember when it wasn't.

Applications out for public, private Big Time Texas Hunts

Deadline to enter TPW fundraiser raffle is Oct. 15

By Larry D. Hodge

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

An application booklet for drawings for hunts on Texas public lands should have landed in your mailbox by now if you've applied for one of the hunts in the past.

Texas Parks and Wildlife sends applications each July to the thousands of hopefuls who risk a \$3 or \$10 application fee to enter a drawing for a hunt on public and private lands across the state.

Private lands? That's right. Private-land hunts are being offered for

pronghorn antelope, white-tailed deer and mule deer. And winners of the private-land drawings do not have to pay an additional hunt fee. The application fee is all they pay.

The bulk of the hunts, however, take place on public lands such as wildlife management areas and state parks. The WMA hunts are generally more challenging and have a lower success rate than hunts in state parks, which are closed to other visitors on hunt days for safety reasons. The state park hunts are a good way to introduce someone new to hunting at low cost and without the need to rough it.

Hunts are offered for a variety of game, including feral hogs, white-tailed deer, mule deer, javelina, exotics and spring turkey. Some include the opportunity to take exotics or coyotes as part of the bag, and a few include elk of either sex in the package.

Three-day hunt fees are generally \$80 and five-day fees are \$130. Food, lodging and guide services are included in most prizes, and for most hunts, a non-hunting companion may accompany the winner.

The crème de la crème of the public hunts are the guided hunts on Mason Mountain WMA for exotics such as gemsbok, scimitar-horned oryx and waterbuck. These cost only the \$10 application fee and include food, lodging, guide service and taxidermy. Naturally, several thousand people apply for the handful of hunts, but somebody gets lucky every year, and it might be you.

Big Time Texas Hunts are advertised in the applications booklet; there are two main differences between them and the run-of-the-mill public hunts.

Public hunt prizes

Texas Grand Slam: The winner receives four separate hunts: for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope and desert mule deer.

Texas Premium Buck Hunt: The winner will take aim at a mature trophy white-tailed buck in South Texas at Caiman Ranch.

Texas Big Time Bird Hunt: The winner and up to three companions will enjoy two days of quail hunting, two days of pheasant hunting in the Panhandle and two afternoons of dove hunting. One guest can also join the winner for a two-day hunt for spring turkey.

Texas Exotic Safari: Two winners will hunt exotic game at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management

Area. Species available for hunting include sable antelope, gemsbok oryx, scimitar-horned oryx and common waterbuck.

Texas Gator Hunt: The prize here is a three-day alligator hunting trip at J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area on the Gulf Coast.

Texas Waterfowl Adventure: One winner and up to three friends will win three waterfowl hunting trips: on the Coastal Prairies for snows, blues and white-fronted geese; in the Coastal Marshes; and in East Texas for wood ducks and mallards.

Texas Whitetail Bonanza: Ten winners receive hunts for white-tailed deer on public and private land.

See DRAWING, Page 12

Governors unite to form new sportsmen's caucus

Group of 16 guvs modeled on Congress' advocacy foundation

By Ben Carter
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The National Governors Association conference took a major step to support hunting, fishing and trapping rights in America with the formation of the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus.

The inaugural meeting was held July 17 at the governors' meetings in Biloxi, Miss. Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi and Gov. Joe Manchin of West Virginia served as inaugural chairmen of the caucus.

The mission of the caucus is to unite governors in support of hunting, fishing and trapping in America; to ensure access to public lands for the enjoyment of outdoor pursuits; to safeguard the integrity of user-pay trust funds, license revenues and other dedicated funds; to support and enhance state fish and wildlife habitat management and conservation; and to encourage the growth of outdoor industries.

The caucus is patterned after the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, which has served the interests of outdoorsmen in the U.S. Congress and federal land management agencies.

Sixteen governors have joined the caucus and the membership crosses party lines.

Manchin, a Democrat, and Gov. Mike

Caucus members

- Gov. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., co-chairman
- Gov. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., co-chairman
- Gov. Rick Perry, R-Texas
- Gov. Bobby Jindal, R-Louisiana
- Gov. Brad Henry, R-Oklahoma
- Gov. Haley Barbour, R-Mississippi
- Gov. Sonny Perdue, R-Georgia
- Gov. Dave Freudenthal, D-Wyoming
- Gov. Phil Bredesen, D-Tennessee
- Gov. Butch Otter, R-Idaho
- Gov. Mitch Daniels, R-Indiana
- Gov. John Hoeven, R-N. Dakota
- Gov. Ted Strickland, D-Ohio
- Gov. Jim Douglas, R-Vermont
- Gov. John Lynch, D-New Hampshire
- Gov. John Baldacci, D-Maine

Rounds, R-S.D., are serving as co-chairmen this year, with Barbour, a Republican, and Gov. Dave Freudenthal, D-Wyo., to follow in their capacity next year.

"The quality of life in this country continues to rely on the outdoors opportunities we provide," Rounds said. "We don't want these rights and freedoms taken away from the next generation."

The Dallas Safari Club is a major supporter and sponsor of the Congressional Sportsman's Foundation and now the Governors Sportsman's Caucus. DSC Executive Director Ben Carter and Director Marty Markl attended the kickoff press conference.

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FISHING

New reef taking form closer to Port Mansfield

Tug sunk, culverts unloaded to create new habitat in Gulf

By Brandon D. Shuler
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

When Capt. Randall Hall steered his 32-foot Bertram, *Geaux Deep*, south out of the Port Mansfield East Cut Jetties, he had a beatific grin on his face.

"This year's been like a fisherman's Christmas," he said.

Indeed, for Port Mansfield offshore anglers, 2009 has been nothing short of releasing a bunch of unsupervised kids into a toy store.

It all started when the financially backlogged U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found it within its budget to dredge the shoaling East Cut after countless years of begging, lobbying and signature gathering by local anglers and environmentalists.

Then, after years of planning and talk of a near-shore artificial reef, a tug was found to



NEARSHORE REEF: A reef consisting of a sunken tug and tons of concrete is now located just 7 miles offshore from the East Cut jetties at Port Mansfield. Photo by Brandon D. Shuler, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

sink and create Port Mansfield's newest and closest reef. It will later receive bolstering by a couple of barges full of retired culvert and

concrete donated by Liston Pipe of La Feria. Already 2,215 tons of culvert ranging from 24 to 72 inches in diameter has been dropped at

the site.

The 160-acre new reef is larger than the typical 40-acre one common in Texas waters. Dale Shively, Texas Parks and Wildlife's artificial reef coordinator, is excited about the project.

"With the larger site, we can continue to enlarge the reef with materials such as culverts, bridge spans and concrete," Shively said. "The most exciting aspect is, with TPW guidance and pre-approved materials, the public can get involved and contribute to the reef structure."

TPW hopes the reef will also provide a positive economic impact to local communities from fishermen and divers. Shively adds, "Once established, we hope that local communities will become the 'owners' of the reef to promote the site for fishing and diving."

Most of Texas's 58 artificial reefs are in federal waters from 9 to 100 miles offshore. The Port Mansfield Reef is roughly 1 mile south of the East Cut jetties and 7 miles offshore (N 26 31.438' and W 097 08.880'). The proximity to shore is a boon for what is commonly referred to as the mosquito fleet: small bay boats

See REEF, Page 16



KEEPING COOL:
Photo by Mike Hughs, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Can't stand the heat

Anglers find different ways to beat triple-digit summer temps

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Anglers braving the summer sun come up with all sorts of creative ways to keep cool. And if you see a funny-looking contraption on a boat during a July afternoon, it may be worthy of another look.

Paul Zukowsky started fishing bass club tournaments at age 42 in 1982, and the veteran has seen some unique methods to create shade on a bass boat.

"A few people put PVC pipe over the pedestal and make a 'T' for an umbrella," he said. "Or they put PVC next to the seat and set a large umbrella in it."

Zukowsky said he has seen the contraptions both at the front and back ends of bass

boats, and the anglers are still able to cast and set the hook.

"But it has to be a side-arm cast," he said. "With the rods we use now, there's all the power you need to set the hook to the side, even when fishing a Carolina rig."

The husband-wife teams in tournaments often are the most creative, and Zukowsky said the wives' intelligence may top that of their respective husbands.

"The wife knows how to stay in the shade," he said.

Zukowsky prefers to use a light Turkish towel and folds it three times to create a box.

"I fill it with ice and lay it around my neck and it hangs to my stomach," he said. "The

See BEAT THE HEAT, Page 26

Wendlandt lands record 3rd FLW Angler of the Year title

Texan sees bright future for tourneys in young pros

A Leander man claimed his record third Angler of the Year title July 12 at the FLW Tour tournament on Lake Champlain.

Clark Wendlandt won the honor by having the highest point total in the standings at the conclusion of the regular season. Wendlandt was awarded \$25,000, a boat and motor.

He took the title after finishing the tournament at Lake Champlain, in New York, with 10 bass weighing 28 pounds, 7 ounces over the final two days of the final FLW Tour qualifying event of the season. The race for the AOY title went down to the last day of the regular season.

"I'm more excited about tourna-



TOPS AGAIN: Clark Wendlandt became the first angler to win three FLW Tour Angler of the Year titles.

ment bass fishing than maybe I've ever been," Wendlandt said. "Usually it's the young guys that are the excit-

See WENDLANDT, Page 23

When in drought, dig or expand your stock tank

Landowners prepare for next dry spell while hoping for rains

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

T.A. "Cap" Nowlin, a longtime rancher and farmer in Comanche County, knows a thing or two about droughts. And more than 10 years ago, he vowed to be ready for the next big one.

"It was real dry, and our ponds were out of water," Nowlin said. "So we got a bulldozer and cleaned out a bunch of ponds and dug some new ones."

One of the new ones was deep with a dry creek bringing runoff water from a good distance.

"It's more than 18 feet deep when full," he said. "It's still holding water this year but many of the other ones aren't."

His ranch is parched this summer, but he will keep cattle at least through the winter, hoping the predictions of fall rains from an El Nino weather pattern are true.

"It's bad to be out of grass," Nowlin said. "But it's worse to be out of water."

Experts in pond construction and management say a dry year is a good time to reevaluate the ponds on a landowner's property, and maybe save some money while doing it.

"If you're ever going to enlarge a pond, the less water and mud you have to deal with the cheaper

If you're ever going to enlarge a pond, the less water and mud you have to deal with the cheaper it is.

— Mike Otto,
pond builder

See TANK, Page 12

Fishing News in Brief

Texas schools fare well at college championship

Three Texas teams finished in the top 10 at the 2009 Under Armour College Bass National Championship on the Arkansas River.

Will White and Chris Wood of North Carolina State won the event with 14.43 pounds on the final day, July 12. White and Wood threw crankbaits along a stretch of bank in Fourche Creek.

The University of North Texas team of Brandon Dickenson and Austin Hollowell finished second with 6.23 pounds. Trey Epich and Bobby Frey of the University of Texas finished seventh, and Allen Coleman and Andrew Upshaw of Stephen F. Austin University finished ninth.

— College Bass National Championship report

Old, new products take honors at ICAST show

The New Product Showcase at the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades (ICAST) show in Orlando, Fla., selected its winners in several categories for new products. More than 200 companies entered 600 tackle products and accessories into the competition.

This year the Hobie Cat Mirage Pro Angler,

both a boat and a kayak, was voted by buyers and media as the most innovative product in the showcase in both the marine category and the overall best of show.

Award winners:

- **Overall Best of Show** — Hobie Cat, Hobie Mirage Pro Angler
- **Apparel** — Cablz, Inc., Cablz
- **Electronics** — Lowrance-Navico, Lowrance HDS-10
- **Eyewear** — Costa Del Mar Sunglasses, Zane
- **Fishing Accessory** — Durasafe, Codeable Locks
- **Giftware** — Master Vision, Mini Lantern
- **Kids Tackle** — Ross Reels USA/Ross Worldwide Outdoors, Journey Youth Fly Fishing Outfit
- **Line** — Pure Fishing, Berkley Trilene TransOptic
- **Soft Lure** — Sebile USA, Magic Swimmer Soft Pro Model
- **Hard Lure** — Sebile USA, Spin Shad
- **Freshwater Reel** — Shimano American Corp., Stradic C14
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— The American Sportfishing Association report



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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

WADERS CAUGHT NOODLING AT TEXOMA

As Grayson County Game Wardens Jim Ballard and Randolph McGee rounded Preston Peninsula on Lake Texoma, they noticed four men in about shoulder-deep water. A pontoon boat was tied close to shore. As the wardens approached, they saw that the men were wearing gloves and holding noodling poles. They were in possession of five flathead catfish, each weighing about 25 pounds. The men were charged with taking fish by illegal means (noodling) and with having no fishing license. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR, SUBMERGED ROD: HE'S ILLEGAL

Taylor County Game Warden Roy Johnson saw a man fishing from a creek bank as he drove over a bridge. When Johnson parked behind the man's vehicle, he saw the man looking at him through the trees then quickly disappear. Johnson found the man as he walked up the creek bank and asked if he had any luck. The man said he wasn't fishing. Searching the creek bank for the hidden fishing pole, Johnson noticed something white in the water. Upon closer inspection, about 3 inches of the white fishing rod could be seen under the surface. Johnson had the man retrieve the rod and reel and cited him for no fishing license.

BIG BUCK KILLED ON SOMEONE ELSE'S LAND

Ellis County Game Warden Jeff Powell concluded an investigation of a deer that was killed at night on a high fence ranch last December in Maypearl. A search warrant was issued for a residence, and a 12-point 165-class mount was seized. After more than a dozen interviews, five written confessions were obtained. The person who shot the buck was interviewed and shown pictures of the

Bear killed, parts seized from Menard

Menard County Game Warden Clint Graham and Concho County Game Warden Lee Dycus each received separate calls about a black bear on a ranch on the Menard-Concho county line. Both were asked what needed to be done and whether the bear could be killed. Both wardens told the callers (ranch workers and the owner) that the bear was protected and to leave it alone. Graham received another call that evening from the landowner, who said his livestock were unharmed and the bear was last seen going through a fence. The next morning, Dycus heard rumors in Concho County that a bear had been killed in Menard Coun-

ty the day before. He called Graham with the information. Graham began inquiring around Menard about the rumor. Within an hour, Graham learned that the bear had been killed and someone kept the head and feet from the bear at his residence. The person allegedly possessing the bear parts was a convicted felon. As the case developed, Dycus, Kimble County Game Warden Lee Morrison, Kerr County Game Warden Kenny Lee and Capt. Alan Teague went to Menard to assist in the investigation and develop a strategy. The wardens, joined by Menard County sheriff's deputies, split up, with one group going to the suspect's

house and the other group on standby with the ranch hands who had called about the bear the previous day. When the wardens told the suspect his options, he admitted to possessing the bear parts and voluntarily gave them to the wardens. He then accompanied the officers to the Menard County Sheriff's Office. Further investigation revealed the landowner killed the bear and claimed self-defense because the bear was coming toward them. He had the bear buried. The investigation continues, and the man with the bear parts was charged with illegal possession of a protected (threatened) animal.

No livestock or property was damaged, and the bear was not found.

LEG BROKEN, KEYS SUNK ON SAN JACINTO

While patrolling San Jacinto River, Harris County Game Wardens Kevin Creed and Susan Webb were called to assist a boater who broke his leg by jumping into shallow water. The wardens stabilized the man's injured leg and helped transport him to the nearest dock. While waiting at the dock for an ambulance, one of the patient's friends dropped the patient's keys into the water. The wardens returned later that night and recovered the keys from 6 feet of water. The keys were returned to the grateful friend the next day.

GRAVEYARD SHIFT A BUSY ONE IN WILLACY COUNTY

The morning started early and busy for Willacy County Game Warden Robbie Robinson. About 4 a.m., he cited six people on at the public pier in Port Mansfield for possession of undersized trout. While finishing up with the six, Robinson saw a vessel heading north to the public boat ramp without navigational lights. It was a local commercial fisherman and deck hand who had several citations pending. By 7 a.m., Robinson had traveled to a ranch and caught two trespassers snagging seven alligator gar. Cases pending.

BAD START TO TAXIDERMY CAREER

Hidalgo County Game Wardens Ira Zuniga and Will Plumas were patrolling for fishing violations along the floodway when they encountered three individuals bowfishing for carp. When the wardens looked in the bed of their pickup, they discovered a freshly killed black-bellied duck. A .22 caliber rifle was found behind the seat that was used to shoot the duck. The person who admitted responsibility had recently graduated from taxidermy school.

deer at his house, the mount and pictures of the deer on the landowner's game cam. He confessed and also confessed to killing another 10-point buck off of the road last November. An investigation is under way on numerous antlerless deer being killed during closed season. Charges pending include hunting without landowner's consent, hunting at night, waste of game, hunting from a public road, hunting with artificial light and other Class C charges. Two buck mounts and a 7 mm rifle were seized. Civil restitution is also pending.

while intoxicated by Game Wardens Brannon Meinkowsky, Kevin Glass and intern Buck Burchett. Soon after the call, Fitzpatrick and Corcoran observed a pickup pulling an empty boat trailer leaving the ramp. They followed the pickup and saw it speeding and failing to maintain a single lane of travel. The wardens stopped the vehicle, and inside they found the man they released. Corcoran arrested the man for driving while intoxicated. His truck and trailer were impounded, as was his boat at the BWI stop. Glass and Burchett processed the scene. Case pending.

man's pockets. Campbell recovered a switchblade knife from the other. Both men had lengthy arrest records that included murder and aggravated assault. Both men were also wanted on parole warrants and burglary warrants.

BORDER CAMERA USED TO FIND POLE OWNERS

Hudspeth County Game Warden Chad West encountered a group of fishing poles with no anglers. He questioned some nearby people who claimed that they were not their poles. With the aid of a remote border camera, he determined who had been fishing. Cases pending.

NOT-SO-LARGE BEAR SIGHTED IN WEST TEXAS

A Reagan County resident reported a sighting of a 1,000-pound bear in a yard, and a second sighting was reported in the southern part of Glasscock County. Biologists were called out to the area to make sure the bear, which they said weighed 150 to 200 pounds, not 1,000, was not killed.

FIRST BOAT IMPOUNDED, THEN TRUCK

A constable called Montgomery County Game Warden Dean Fitzpatrick and Walker County Game Warden Anthony Corcoran at 2 a.m. to report that an intoxicated man, whom game wardens released minutes before to another adult, had returned to his truck at a boat ramp. The man had been riding in a boat whose operator was earlier arrested for boating

BAD GUYS BUSTED AT COMMUNITY FISHING LAKE

Coryell County Game Warden Andrew Alexander and McLennan County Game Warden Jason Campbell were checking fishermen at a community fishing lake when they encountered two men fishing without licenses. The wardens became suspicious of the two men, and Alexander recovered a bag of pills and white powder from one

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Tank

Continued from Page 8

it is," said Mike Otto of Otto's Dozer Service, who has been building ponds for 30 years. "With new construction, though, it can be too dry — you need a little bit of moisture in the dirt."

Otto said many landowners are expanding or adding ponds this summer.

"They think about it a lot more when they are out of water," he said. "They don't want it to happen to them again."

The key to success to retain water in a drought, Otto said, is depth.

"Usually 10 feet is enough, but if the drought is extended like this one in many parts of Texas, then that's not near enough to have useful water year-round."

Otto recommends going deep with new ponds, and deepening old ones.

"I always suggest going at least 12- to 16-feet deep," he said. "And 20 feet if they can do it — that's the best for agriculture and for wildlife."

Rehabilitation of older tanks is taking up much of this summer's time for Michael Morrow of Ranch Logistics.

"Many lakes and ponds get silted in over time or they have spillway erosion," he said. "This is a great time to clean out ponds — when it's wet, it's a whole lot more expensive."

Morrow said landowners are concerned about this drought — and the next, whenever that may be.

"They're saying they want to be ready next time," he said.

The larger or new ponds also may have the bonus of producing better fishing and hunting.

"The deep pond we dug has been a good bass pond," Nowlin said. "And the dove are barreling in there each night."

His hunters were glad to hear that.

Drawing

Continued from Page 6

One, they take place on well-managed private lands. And two, hunters can buy as many \$10 chances as they want for the Big Time Texas Hunts. They may enter only once for each of the hunts in the regular drawing.

Raffle tickets for Big Time Texas Hunts are sold through hunting license vendors.

Applications booklets may be requested by calling (800) 782-1111.

Hunters who don't win in the drawing still have a change at one of the hunts. A substantial number of winners never send in their hunt fee, and those slots are offered as standby positions on the first morning of the hunt.

To find out whether standby positions are available, call the hunt location directly. Numbers are listed in the application booklet.

Hunt fees still apply to standby hunters.

HEROES



KELLI and **GRAY THORNTON** pose with the warthog **Kelli** shot while on safari in the Northern Cape of South Africa.



IV WEBB, 4, caught this bass at the Vick Ranch. His grandfather, **Buddy Webb**, helped land the fish.



JOHN TALBOT caught this nice yellowfin tuna near the Boudreaux Rigs, fishing on the *Motsumi* in June.



JESSIE WICKER shot these three deer in January at the Fort Bullard Ranch outside Fort McKavett using a .243 rifle.



BRADY SULLIVAN of Midland took this pronghorn antelope at 180 yards with a Browning .270 while hunting with friends, **Marc**, left, and **Ron McWilliams**, right, in New Mexico in September 2008.

Share an adventure

Want to share hunting and fishing photos with the **Lone Star Outdoor News** family? Send them to us with a phone number and caption information.

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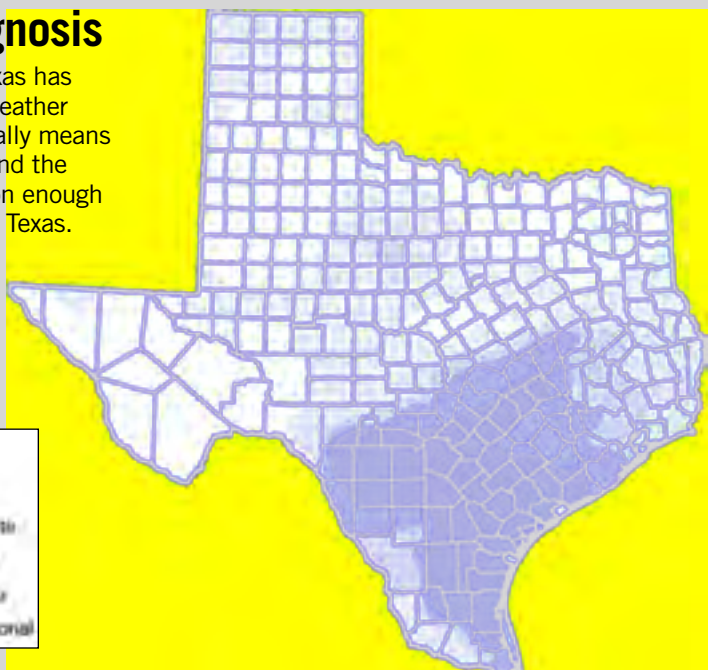
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Drought diagnosis

Forecasters say Texas has entered an El Nino weather pattern, which generally means more precipitation, and the relief won't come soon enough for much of southern Texas.



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Source: U.S. Drought Monitor

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Drought

Continued from Page 1

region is far from drying up or losing its quality fishing.

"It can be a boon to bass fishing," Christenson said, speaking about how lower water levels tend to concentrate fish.

Canyon and Travis are some of the deepest lakes in Texas, so the fish still have plenty of room to swim.

On the rivers, where temperatures can rise when flows drop, the situation has not become a nightmare.

"I'm not seeing a lot of fish kills, that type of level of alarming death," said Tim Bonner, an associate professor in the Biology Department at Texas State University in San Marcos.

The region has experienced many droughts over the last 500 years, Bonner said, and "this one that we have now probably isn't the worst one."

During the 1950s, the San Marcos River crept along at 45 cubic feet per second, down from a median flow of 183 cfs. On July 20, the flow was 86 cfs in San Marcos.

Bonner, too, said lower water levels can concentrate fish, which makes them susceptible to fishing pressure.

But "it's not like shooting fish out of a barrel just yet," he said.

Bonner and his son recently had success fishing on Canyon Lake. Whether the drought had much affect on their catch is hard to know, he said.

"Fishing right now is phenomenal," said Bonner, who is also the director of Texas State's aquatic research station. "But as far as how is this going to affect the fishes long-term, based on all of my knowledge, we're probably going to have little affect on the fishes in this area."

Fish in rivers and major reservoirs, that is.

Stock tanks and ponds might have a worse fate. Bonner is telling his students to catch what they can from ponds on campus. Even if the El Nino weather pattern that recently began brings saving rain, it might be a few months before it gets here.

"We are entering an El Nino, and sometimes those effects are three, four, five months down the pike," said Joe Baskin, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in New Braunfels. "It's sort of a delayed thing."

Relief, however, might be short-lived.

The Hill Country is an extension of the deserts of northern Mexico, an extension that has been blessed with rain the last 50 years. The climate could be shifting back to more arid conditions, Baskin said.

"We go through cycles down here," he said. "You're kind of at the mercy of the sun and nature and that sort of thing. The sun has the most to do with it. That's what generates the heat that affects all of this."

The El Nino can restore water levels, but the precipitation it brings will have to be significant and long-lasting, Baskin said. Some parts of the Hill Country received rain July 18.

"Conditions out there are horrible because it is so dry," he said. "It's going to take a long-term effort to change those."

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Reef

Continued from Page 8

that brave the Gulf on its calmer days.

Raul Flores, a member of the Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, shares in the enthusiasm for the reef.

"Although the chamber has not currently developed a marketing plan to get the word out, we are excited about the opportunity to continue a vibrant economic growth outlook for the port and help attract more traffic for our local guides and businesses," he said.

Mike Wilson, Port Mansfield Navigation District director, welcomes the potential economic boost the reef will provide for the sleepy fishing village.

"We're posting information on our Web site about the reef," Wilson said. "And we'll help and participate with our local chamber of commerce or other private entities with any other ideas to inform visitors of the new offshore structure."

With gas prices again rising and growing concerns of an even more restrictive red snapper fishery, the Port Mansfield reef offers boat owners a more economical and family friendly venue to reach offshore fisheries.

Hall said the reef will help local fishing — and local fishermen.

"Most of our fishing spots are north," Hall said. "That means we get a tailing wind in the morning and then take a pounding as we head home at the end of the day into the headwind. With the reef south of the cut, we can fish all day and then return on the tailing sea making it easier for clients and captains."

"And as far as the fish go, they're already here."



CREATING COVER: Top right, a tug is prepared for its new home on the Gulf's floor. Below, it disappears from sight. Left, more than 2,000 tons of culvert were dropped at the same spot the next day. Photos by Brandon D. Shuler, for Lone Star Outdoor News.



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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES LARGEMOUTH BASS



ALAN HENRY: Good on white spinnerbaits along brush and grass lines and on black/blue soft plastics and jigs worked in brush.

BROWNWOOD: Good on watermelon red and buzzbaits, crankbaits and artificial worms.

ARROWHEAD: Good on chatterbaits off rocky points and topwater baits early in day.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Good on soft plastic worms.

MEREDITH: Good on live bait, black/blue jigs, blue fleck soft plastic lizards around rocky points and grass lines and topwater lures along grass lines.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



CEDAR CREEK: White bass are excellent on slabs early, later switching to trolling with spoons.

RAY HUBBARD: White bass are excellent on Rat-L-Traps and slabs in 15-25 feet.

BOB SANDLIN: White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers over humps and off points.

TEXOMA: Striped bass are good on live shad in 25-50 feet.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait and cheesebait near the dam and the hot water discharge.

CALAVERAS: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, cheesebait, shrimp and shad near the railroad trestle and 181 Cove. Blue catfish are excellent on liver and cheesebait.

FORK: Channel catfish are excellent on prepared bait.

LAVON: Catfish are excellent on punch bait and fresh shad.

LEWISVILLE: Catfish are excellent on fresh shad under schooling white bass.

CRAPPIE



LIVINGSTON: Excellent on minnows.

RAY ROBERTS: Excellent on minnows and jigs over brush piles — if catching small fish, hop holes until you find larger fish.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 0.12' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live bait.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 85 degrees; 0.83' high. Black bass are fair to good on crankbaits, topwaters and 10" soft plastic worms. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on stinkbait and on juglines baited with live perch. Yellow catfish are good on juglines baited with live perch.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 5.68' low. Crappie are good on jigs suspended 10-14 feet. White bass are good trolling and casting towards rocky points in Sailboat Cove area. Blue catfish are good drift fishing with cut shad or cheese bait on flats at 12-15 feet deep and on juglines baited with shad.

BASTROP: Water clear. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on frozen shrimp and minnows.

BELTON: Water clear; 86 degrees; 3.80' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. Hybrid striped are good on live shad. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows under lights at night in 18 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, doughbait and hot dogs in 6 feet.

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained; 85-92 degrees; 0.19' low. Black bass are good on topwaters and spinnerbaits early, later switching to Texas and Carolina rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows under the railroad bridge at night. Catfish are good on live bait and punch bait.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 84 degrees. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in reeds and near the jetty and dam. Striped bass are good on liver and shad off points near the pier and downrigging silver and gold spoons near the jetty and dam. Redfish are excellent on perch, tilapia, shad and silver spoons and down rigging.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 85 degrees; 6.62' low. Hybrid striped are slow. White bass are excellent on crankbaits. Crappie are good on tube jigs over brush piles in 8-15 feet. Channel catfish are good on cut bait over baited holes in 8-10 feet and on nightcrawlers along shorelines. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch in the rivers.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 85 degrees; 21.67' low. Black bass are fair to good on flukes, white buzzbaits, Chug Bugs and Texas-rigged 5" watermelon candy soft plastics in Morgan and Silver Creeks. Striped bass to 26" are good on Rat-L-Traps and plastic swim baits. White bass are fair on 2" to 4" plastic swim bait. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are good on liver, minnows and dip bait. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on goldfish and perch upriver.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 84 degrees. Black bass are fair on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits and crankbaits over reed beds. Striped bass are good on spoons and striper jigs. Redfish are excellent down rigging silver and gold spoons and live bait. Crappie are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 84 degrees; 14.00' low. Black bass are fair on topwaters and watermelon candy flukes. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Smallmouth bass are fair on grubs, crickets and white crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in standing timber. Channel catfish are fair. Yellow and blue catfish are good on goldfish and perch upriver.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 86-93 degrees; 0.38' low. Black bass are fair on topwaters early, later switching to Texas-rigged worms. Hybrid striped are good on live shad. Crappie are fair on tube jigs around the shady side of bridge columns and under boathouses in water 8 feet or deeper. Catfish are excellent around steep humps and ledges.

CHOKE CANYON: Water clear; 86 degrees; 8.15' low. Black bass are fair on small white/chartreuse spinnerbaits, shallow running crankbaits and pumpkin soft plastics with chartreuse tails. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are very good on live bait in 4-15 feet. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on live bait upriver.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 85 degrees; 8.22' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and chartreuse spinnerbaits and soft plastic worms. Hybrid striped are fair on live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch and liver.

CONROE: Water murky; 0.98' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse and watermelon Carolina-rigged soft plastics and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Catfish are good on stinkbait, chicken livers and shrimp.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 85-90 degrees; 0.55' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs around standing timber. Catfish are good on juglines with live bait. White bass are fair on small spoons and slabs.

FALCON: Water stained; 88 degrees. Black bass are good on soft plastics and brush hogs off points in 10-12 feet. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are good on chartreuse jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and cut bait.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 85-91 degrees; 0.51' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics around points and humps with vegetation close to deep channels. Crappie are fair on live minnows and jigs. White bass are good on small topwaters early, later switching to slabs. Channel catfish are good on punch bait.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 85-91 degrees; 1.3' high. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits and topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cheesebait.

LAVON: Water stained; 85-90 degrees; 0.26' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are good on live minnows. White bass are good early on slabs.

LBI: Water stained; 86 degrees; 0.23' low. Black bass are fair on black/blue worms, watermelon topwaters and watermelon red soft plastics. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and watermelon jigs. Channel catfish are good on minnows and stinkbait. Yellow

bass are fair on live bait. Walleye are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 83 degrees; 4.30' low. Black bass to 6 1/2 pounds are good on chartreuse soft plastics and silver Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs. White bass are good on silver jiggling spoons. Strippers are good on spoons. Catfish are fair on live shad and cut liver.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 85 degrees; 5.76' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are fair on live shad. White bass are good on shad. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines and juglines baited with cut shad. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear; 85-91 degrees; 0.16' low. Black bass are fair early on soft plastic frogs thrown in pads, later switching to Carolina rigs, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows under the bridges. Hybrid striped are good in 20 feet on slabs. Catfish are good on prepared bait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear; 86-90 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are fair early on spinnerbaits, later switching to 10" worms. White bass are excellent on spoons. Catfish are good on prepared bait over holes baited with sour grain.

SAM RAYBURN: Water murky; 86 degrees; 2.91' low. Black bass are good on minnows and dark soft plastic worms. White bass are fair on silver and gold spoons. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs over baited holes in 20-25 feet. Bream are fair on nightcrawlers. Catfish are very good on trotlines baited with live bait and cut bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 89 degrees; 2.15' low. Black bass are good on minnows and on watermelon red and green pumpkin soft plastics. White bass are good on slabs and minnows. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on doughbait, chicken livers and chicken bloodbait.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 5.32' low. Black bass are fair on live bait. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait. Catfish are fair on live and cut bait.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 85-91 degrees; 0.75' low. Black bass are good on white/chartreuse chatterbaits, Texas rigs and medium running crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on Humdingers and topwaters. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on live shad. Catfish are good on prepared and cut bait.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 84-89 degrees; 0.06' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigs, medium diving crankbaits and spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

TOLEDO BEND: Water murky; 85 degrees; 2.03' low. Black bass are fair on redbug soft plastic worms. Striped bass are fair on minnows and silver striper jigs. White bass are good on spoons in the river. Crappie are fair on minnows at night. Bream are good on crickets and nightcrawlers. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, stinkbait, livers and hearts in 30 feet.

TRAVIS: Water stained; 86 degrees; 40.75' low. Black bass are good on plum worms, smoke grubs and bone topwaters in 10-25 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on chrome topwaters and white grubs in 10-30 feet. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on bloodbait and nightcrawlers in 25-40 feet.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 21.66' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and topwater lures along tree and brush lines. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

WHITNEY: Water stained; 10.45' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water stained; 84-90 degrees; 9.08' high. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on trotlines.



HOT SPOT

Caddo

Water off-color; 85-93 degrees; 0.29' high. Black bass are good on Texas-rigged worms and spinnerbaits on the outside edge of lily pads. Crappie are good on live minnows around brush. White bass are good in the river channel with some schooling activity in the Big Lake area. Channel catfish are good on small live bream and on punch bait around baited holes. Bream are good on crickets and worms. Warmouth are excellent on bits of nightcrawlers fished along the edge of lily pad fields.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 90 degrees. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Channel and blue catfish are good on baitfish and cut shad over baited holes.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 85-94 degrees; 0.09' high. Black bass are good at first light on topwaters fished over shallow grass close to deep water, later switching to Carolina rigs and shad imitations. Night fishing is good on black spinnerbaits and 10" worms.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are fair on chartreuse soft plastic worms and watermelon/white crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and cut bait.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 3.18' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are fair on minnows and silver spoons. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and white tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, livers and frozen shrimp.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 84-92 degrees; 2.16' low. Black bass are fair early on Pop Rs, later switching to Carolina rigs and crankbaits. Crappie are good at night on live minnows in 15-20 feet. White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers. Catfish are good on prepared bait and fresh shad in 15-20 feet.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear; 90 degrees; 0.57' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows over brush piles near the pump station. Bream are very good on live worms off piers and grass beds. Channel and blue catfish are very good on trotlines baited with perch on the north side of the lake.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 5.82' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits and watermelon red soft plastic lures worked along trees and stickups. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live bait and inline spinners. Catfish are fair on live bait.

and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 85-92 degrees; 0.31' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and Texas rigs during early. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in 10-15 feet around bridge columns. White bass are good on slabs.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 86 degrees; 0.04' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are excellent on pet spoons, trolling tubes and Charlie slabs. Blue catfish are good on shad. Yellow catfish are fair on live bait.

MEREDITH: Water stained; 77 degrees; 70.18' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and crankbaits. Walleye are good on live bait and bottom bouncers. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 77 degrees; 12.43' low. Black bass are good on live bait, white spinnerbaits and junebug soft plastic jerkbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

PALESTINE: Water lightly stained; 85-90 degrees; 0.99' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, 4" Senkos and drop-shot rigs around shaded boat houses with brush. Crappie are good on minnows in 15-20 feet around lower lake timber and brush piles. Catfish are good on trotlines with live perch. White bass are good early on slabs and spoons around main lake points and humps. Hybrid striped are fair on live perch and large Rat-L-Traps.

PALO DURO: Water stained; 76 degrees; 56.29' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and white spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Smallmouth

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good on the Louisiana shoreline on topwaters. Flounder are fair on jigs tipped with shrimp around marsh drains.

SOUTH SABINE: Sheephead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp. Trout are fair to good around Lighthouse Cove and around the jetty rocks on topwaters.

BOLIVAR: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on soft plastics and plugs. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass. Croakers are good on dead shrimp in the channel and around the pass.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Catfish are good on shrimp. Redfish and trout are fair to good at the spillway on shrimp.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good on the south shoreline. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp. Mid-bay reefs have held trout on plastics and croakers.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good for drifters working shell on live shrimp. Trout, sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp. Tarpon are showing on the beachfront. Kingfish, ling and red snapper are good offshore.

TEXAS CITY: Trout are good on the channel on croakers. Reefs and wells have held good trout on live bait.

FREEPORT: Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp and minnows. Crappie are good on doughbait, chicken livers and chicken bloodbait.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair to good on the edge of Oyster Lake on shrimp and crabs. Trout are fair on sand and grass on soft plastics. Gafftop are good on shrimp under birds.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout and redfish are good on topwaters over soft mud in waist-deep water in San Antonio Bay. Trout and redfish are fair at the mouths of bayous on the outgoing tide.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair in Big Bayou on free-lined shrimp. Trout are fair over grass while drifting with live shrimp. Redfish are good in shallow water on pin perch.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish are fair to good at East Flats on shrimp. Redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp. Offshore is good for red snapper, ling and kingfish.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on live shrimp. Trout are good in the holes around Pita Island on croakers.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair in mud and grass on Corkies and topwaters. Trout are fair to good in the Land Cut on live shrimp. Trout are fair to good while drifting with topwaters at Rocky Slough.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are good on large topwaters around sand and grass. Several trout over 25 inches have been taken. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes and while working shallow water on the sand flats.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout are good around the spoil islands, channel edges and color changes on DOA Shrimp. Tarpon, snook, trout and Spanish mackerel have been sold at the jetty on live bait.

PORT ISABEL: Snook are fair to good in South Bay on shrimp and DOA Shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair to good at Gas Well Flats on live shrimp.

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Sun | Moon | Tides

Texas Coast Tides

Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	6:42 a.m.	2.1H	12:27 p.m.	1.1L	6:14 p.m.	2.0H
Jul 26	12:19 a.m.	0.5L	7:02 a.m.	2.1H	1:35 p.m.	0.5L
Jul 27	1:14 a.m.	1.3L	7:19 a.m.	2.0H	2:39 p.m.	0.2L
Jul 28	2:38 a.m.	1.8L	7:28 a.m.	2.0H	3:38 p.m.	-0.2L
Jul 29	12:53 a.m.	2.3H	4:33 p.m.	-0.4L		
Jul 30	2:19 a.m.	2.5H	5:25 p.m.	-0.5L		
Jul 31	3:13 a.m.	2.7H	6:13 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 1	3:58 a.m.	2.7H	6:57 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 2	4:35 a.m.	2.5H	7:37 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 3	4:58 a.m.	2.5H	8:12 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 4	5:05 a.m.	2.3H	9:06 a.m.	2.1L	12:00 p.m.	2.3H
Aug 5	5:10 a.m.	2.3H	9:04 a.m.	2.1L	12:59 p.m.	2.3H
Aug 6	5:19 a.m.	2.3H	9:39 a.m.	2.0L	1:55 p.m.	2.1H
Aug 7	5:32 a.m.	2.3H	10:22 a.m.	1.8L	2:57 p.m.	2.0H
Aug 8	5:45 a.m.	2.1H	11:04 a.m.	1.4L	4:10 p.m.	1.8H

Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	7:29 a.m.	1.7H	12:53 p.m.	0.9L	7:01 p.m.	1.6H
Jul 26	12:45 a.m.	0.4L	7:49 a.m.	1.7H	2:01 p.m.	0.4L
Jul 27	1:40 a.m.	1.0L	8:06 a.m.	1.6H	3:05 p.m.	0.1L
Jul 28	3:04 a.m.	1.4L	8:15 a.m.	1.6H	4:04 p.m.	-0.1L
Jul 29	1:40 a.m.	1.9H	4:59 p.m.	-0.3L		
Jul 30	3:06 a.m.	2.0H	5:51 p.m.	-0.4L		
Jul 31	4:00 a.m.	2.1H	6:39 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 1	4:45 a.m.	2.1H	7:23 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 2	5:22 a.m.	2.0H	8:03 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 3	5:45 a.m.	2.0H	8:38 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 4	5:52 a.m.	1.9H	9:32 a.m.	1.7L	12:47 p.m.	1.9H
Aug 5	5:57 a.m.	1.9H	9:30 a.m.	1.7L	1:46 p.m.	1.9H
Aug 6	6:06 a.m.	1.9H	10:05 a.m.	1.6L	2:42 p.m.	1.7H
Aug 7	6:19 a.m.	1.9H	10:48 a.m.	1.4L	3:44 p.m.	1.6H
Aug 8	6:32 a.m.	1.7H	11:30 a.m.	1.1L	4:57 p.m.	1.4H

San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	12:51 a.m.	0.0L	7:59 a.m.	1.0H	1:49 p.m.	0.5L
Jul 26	1:41 a.m.	0.3L	8:19 a.m.	1.0H	2:57 p.m.	0.3L
Jul 27	2:36 a.m.	0.6L	8:36 a.m.	0.9H	4:01 p.m.	0.1L
Jul 28	4:00 a.m.	0.9L	8:45 a.m.	0.9H	5:00 p.m.	-0.1L
Jul 29	2:10 a.m.	1.1H	5:55 p.m.	-0.2L		
Jul 30	3:36 a.m.	1.2H	6:47 p.m.	-0.3L		
Jul 31	4:30 a.m.	1.3H	7:35 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 1	5:15 a.m.	1.3H	8:19 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 2	5:52 a.m.	1.2H	8:59 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 3	6:15 a.m.	1.2H	9:34 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 4	6:22 a.m.	1.1H	10:28 a.m.	1.0L	1:17 p.m.	1.1H
Aug 5	6:27 a.m.	1.1H	10:26 a.m.	1.0L	2:16 p.m.	1.1H
Aug 6	6:36 a.m.	1.1H	11:01 a.m.	0.9L	3:12 p.m.	1.0H
Aug 7	6:49 a.m.	1.1H	11:44 a.m.	0.9L	4:14 p.m.	0.9H
Aug 8	7:02 a.m.	1.0H	12:26 p.m.	0.7L	5:27 p.m.	0.9H

Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	6:51 a.m.	1.5H	12:50 p.m.	0.5L	6:23 p.m.	1.4H
Jul 26	12:42 a.m.	0.3L	7:11 a.m.	1.5H	1:58 p.m.	0.3L
Jul 27	1:37 a.m.	0.6L	7:28 a.m.	1.4H	3:02 p.m.	0.1L
Jul 28	3:01 a.m.	0.9L	7:37 a.m.	1.4H	4:01 p.m.	-0.1L
Jul 29	1:02 a.m.	1.6H	4:56 p.m.	-0.2L		
Jul 30	2:28 a.m.	1.7H	5:48 p.m.	-0.3L		
Jul 31	3:22 a.m.	1.8H	6:36 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 1	4:07 a.m.	1.8H	7:20 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 2	4:44 a.m.	1.7H	8:00 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 3	5:07 a.m.	1.7H	8:35 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 4	5:14 a.m.	1.6H	9:29 a.m.	1.1L	12:09 p.m.	1.6H
Aug 5	5:19 a.m.	1.6H	9:27 a.m.	1.1L	1:08 p.m.	1.6H
Aug 6	5:28 a.m.	1.6H	10:02 a.m.	1.0L	2:04 p.m.	1.5H
Aug 7	5:41 a.m.	1.6H	10:45 a.m.	0.9L	3:06 p.m.	1.4H
Aug 8	5:54 a.m.	1.5H	11:27 a.m.	0.7L	4:19 p.m.	1.2H

Moon Phases



Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	2:40 a.m.	-0.3L	10:31 a.m.	0.2H	2:21 p.m.	0.1L
Jul 26	3:03 a.m.	-0.1L	9:34 a.m.	0.2H	3:54 p.m.	0.0L
Jul 27	2:55 a.m.	0.1L	9:02 a.m.	0.3H	5:08 p.m.	-0.2L
Jul 28	8:39 a.m.	0.4H	6:18 p.m.	-0.3L		
Jul 29	8:25 a.m.	0.5H	7:26 p.m.	-0.4L		
Jul 30	8:27 a.m.	0.6H	8:34 p.m.	-0.4L		
Jul 31	8:46 a.m.	0.6H	9:38 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 1	9:19 a.m.	0.7H	10:38 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 2	10:00 a.m.	0.7H	11:30 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 3	10:46 a.m.	0.7H				
Aug 4	12:16 a.m.	-0.5L	11:37 a.m.	0.6H		
Aug 5	12:56 a.m.	-0.4L	12:34 p.m.	0.6H		
Aug 6	1:30 a.m.	-0.4L	1:54 p.m.	0.5H		
Aug 7	2:00 a.m.	-0.3L	4:06 p.m.	0.5H		
Aug 8	2:26 a.m.	-0.2L	5:58 p.m.	0.4H		

Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	3:02 a.m.	-0.05L	11:01 a.m.	0.06H	3:01 p.m.	0.05L
Jul 26	2:31 a.m.	0.02L	9:22 a.m.	0.09H	5:17 p.m.	-0.02L
Jul 27	8:55 a.m.	0.15H	6:20 p.m.	-0.08L		
Jul 28	9:01 a.m.	0.19H	7:10 p.m.	-0.12L		
Jul 29	9:28 a.m.	0.23H	7:57 p.m.	-0.15L		
Jul 30	10:08 a.m.	0.24H	8:47 p.m.	-0.15L		
Jul 31	11:01 a.m.	0.25H	9:41 p.m.	-0.14L		
Aug 01	12:02 p.m.	0.25H	10:40 p.m.	-0.13L		
Aug 02	1:05 p.m.	0.25H	11:37 p.m.	-0.12L		
Aug 03	2:03 p.m.	0.25H				
Aug 04	12:27 a.m.	-0.11L	2:53 p.m.	0.24H		
Aug 05	1:07 a.m.	-0.09L	3:35 p.m.	0.23H		
Aug 06	1:36 a.m.	-0.07L	4:12 p.m.	0.20H		
Aug 07	1:56 a.m.	-0.04L	4:55 p.m.	0.17H		
Aug 08	2:10 a.m.	-0.00L	10:54 a.m.	0.13H	2:24 p.m.	0.12L

Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	7:22 a.m.	1.4H	12:32 p.m.	0.5L	6:54 p.m.	1.3H
Jul 26	12:24 a.m.	0.2L	7:42 a.m.	1.4H	1:40 p.m.	0.2L
Jul 27	1:19 a.m.	0.5L	7:59 a.m.	1.3H	2:44 p.m.	0.1L
Jul 28	2:43 a.m.	0.8L	8:08 a.m.	1.3H	3:43 p.m.	-0.1L
Jul 29	1:33 a.m.	1.5H	4:38 p.m.	-0.2L		
Jul 30	2:59 a.m.	1.6H	5:30 p.m.	-0.2L		
Jul 31	3:53 a.m.	1.7H	6:18 p.m.	-0.2L		
Aug 1	4:38 a.m.	1.7H	7:02 p.m.	-0.2L		
Aug 2	5:15 a.m.	1.6H	7:42 p.m.	-0.2L		
Aug 3	5:38 a.m.	1.6H	8:17 p.m.	-0.2L		
Aug 4	5:45 a.m.	1.5H	9:11 a.m.	0.9L	12:40 p.m.	1.5H
Aug 5	5:50 a.m.	1.5H	9:09 a.m.	0.9L	1:39 p.m.	1.5H
Aug 6	5:59 a.m.	1.5H	9:44 a.m.	0.8L	2:35 p.m.	1.4H
Aug 7	6:12 a.m.	1.5H	10:27 a.m.	0.8L	3:37 p.m.	1.3H
Aug 8	6:25 a.m.	1.4H	11:09 a.m.	0.6L	4:50 p.m.	1.1H

South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jul 25	7:02 a.m.	1.1H	12:28 p.m.	0.6L	5:52 p.m.	1.0H
Jul 26	12:31 a.m.	0.3L	6:52 a.m.	1.0H	1:17 p.m.	0.3L
Jul 27	1:18 a.m.	0.6L	6:37 a.m.	1.0H	2:11 p.m.	0.0L
Jul 28	2:08 a.m.	0.9L	6:10 a.m.	1.0H	3:09 p.m.	-0.3L
Jul 29	1:54 a.m.	1.2H	4:08 p.m.	-0.4L		
Jul 30	3:14 a.m.	1.3H	5:09 p.m.	-0.5L		
Jul 31	4:02 a.m.	1.4H	6:09 p.m.	-0.6L		
Aug 1	4:47 a.m.	1.5H	7:04 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 2	5:27 a.m.	1.5H	7:53 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 3	6:03 a.m.	1.5H	8:35 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 4	6:29 a.m.	1.5H	9:11 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 5	6:43 a.m.	1.5H	9:42 p.m.	-0.1L		
Aug 6	6:45 a.m.	1.4H	10:11 p.m.	0.0L		
Aug 7	6:38 a.m.	1.3H	11:22 a.m.	1.1L	2:21 p.m.	1.2H
Aug 8	6:27 a.m.	1.2H	11:34 a.m.	1.0L	3:49 p.m.	1.1H

Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

Houston		A.M.		P.M.		SUN		MOON	
Date	Time	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Rises	Sets	Rises	Sets
24 Fri	>	8:06	1:54	8:32	2:19	6:36	8:18	10:33a	10:13p
25 Sat		9:03	2:51	9:28	3:15	6:36	8:17	11:36a	11:19p
26 Sun		9:58	3:46	10:21	4:09	6:36	8:17	12:38p	11:53p
27 Mon		10:50	4:38	11:13	5:02	6:37	8:17	1:39p	NoMoon
28 Tue		11:40	5:28	-----	5:52	6:37	8:16	2:39p	12:29a
29 Wed	Q	12:04	6:16	12:28	6:41	6:38	8:15	3:37p	1:09a
30 Thu		12:51	7:03	1:16	7:28	6:38	8:15	4:32p	1:53a
31 Fri		1:37	7:50	2:02	8:15	6:39	8:14	5:24p	2:40a
01 Sat		2:22	8:35	2:48	9:00	6:40	8:13	6:10p	3:32a
02 Sun		3:08	9:20	3:33	9:45	6:40	8:13	7:02p	4:26a
03 Mon		3:53	10:05	4:17	10:29	6:41	8:12	7:30p	5:22a
04 Tue	>	4:37	10:49	5:01	11:13	6:41	8:11	8:04p	6:18a
05 Wed	>	5:22	11:33	5:44	11:56	6:42	8:10	8:34p	7:14a
06 Thu	F	6:06	-----	6:28	12:17	6:43	8:10	9:03p	8:09a
07 Fri	>	6:51	12:40	7:11	1:01	6:43	8:09	9:31p	9:02a
08 Sat	>	7:36	1:25	7:56	1:46	6:44	8:08	10:00p	9:56a
09 Sun		8:22	2:11	8:42	2:32	6:44	8:07	10:30p	10:52a
10 Mon		9:09	2:58	9:30	3:19	6:45	8:06	11:03p	11:50a
11 Tue		9:58	3:46	10:21	4:09	6:46	8:05	11:41p	12:51p
12 Wed		10:49	4:37	11:14	5:02	6:46	8:05	NoMoon	1:55p
13 Thu	Q	11:43	5:29	-----	5:56	6:47	8:04		

Dallas		A.M.		P.M.		SUN		MOON	
Date	Time	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Rises	Sets	Rises	Sets
24 Fri	>	8:12	1:59	8:38	2:25	6:34	8:30	9:31a	10:20p
25 Sat		9:09	2:57	9:33	3:21	6:35	8:30	10:38a	10:51p
26 Sun		10:03	3:51	10:27	4:15	6:35	8:29	11:43a	11:22p
27 Mon		10:55	4:43	11:19	5:07	6			

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Since its inception in 1982, Exmark Manufacturing Company Inc. has been the leading manufacturer of mid-mount zero-turn mowers for landscape professionals. Now the company is aiming to reach and impact the more than 32 million outdoor enthusiasts in the U.S.

Building upon the significant momentum created by its inaugural 2008 "Mow Less. Fish and Hunt More." consumer marketing campaign, Exmark is partnering with outdoor legends Hank Parker and Bill Jordan. Parker, a two-time Bassmaster Classic champion, hosts the hugely popular "Hank Parker's Outdoor Magazine" television series airing on Versus. Jordan, a pioneer in camouflage development and technology, is president and founder of Realtree, and also hosts "Realtree Outdoors" airing on the Outdoor Channel.

"When considering companies and people to align the Exmark brand with, it was easy for us to determine that Bill Jordan and Hank Parker were the best fits for our brand," says John Cloutier, senior marketing manager at Exmark. "From a distance we understood Bill and Hank's popularity, credibility and overall image. It was when we personally met both men and witnessed how they interacted with our channel partners that we realized we could achieve great things together. Each has achieved their successful positions the right way: through hard work and integrity. We could not be more excited and honored to be working with these two industry icons and, more importantly, good people."

"We were confident the Exmark partnership made great sense from a sheer marketing perspective," Parker said. "I was blown away with the quality of Exmark's mowers from the moment I sat on one. I've used many consumer-grade



Hank Parker, left, longtime professional bass angler and host of "Hank Parker's Outdoor Magazine," and Bill Jordan, who revolutionized camouflage and hosts "Realtree Outdoors," are helping outdoorsmen find Exmark. The company manufactures professional-grade lawnmowers and landscaping equipment. Exmark helps outdoorsmen "Mow Less. Fish and Hunt More."

zero-turns in the past but had no idea an Exmark could be so much further ahead of competitive brands. It was immediately apparent to me that Exmarks are well thought out by professionals, extremely easy to use and incredibly well built. I'm very excited to be showcasing such a high-quality brand on 'Hank Parker's Outdoor Magazine.'"

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August 6
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Piney Woods Coastal Conservation Association
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August 7
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Hunter education class
 Spring, Gander Mountain
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 Crawford, Old Amsler Building
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Longview Delta Waterfowl
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 Maude Cobb Center
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August 20
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August 21
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Wendlandt

Continued from Page 8

ed ones. It's just been a fun year. My roommate, Mike Surman, and I have just had a fun year, and we've enjoyed being out here. And I'm looking forward to next year."

A 13-year veteran of the FLW Tour, Wendlandt claimed his first Angler of the Year title in 1997 and received his second title in 2000. He has accumulated 34 top-10 finishes and three victories while earning \$1.6 million.

"There's going to be a bunch of young anglers coming on in the next few years," Wendlandt said. "We're going to see tons of them. The old guys better get it together — and I'm one of them — they'd better get it together because they're about to be taken over by the young guys."

Rounding out the top five anglers in the Angler of the Year race were Luke Clausen of Gainesville, Ga.; Brent Ehler of Redlands, Calif.; Andy Morgan of Dayton, Tenn.; and Bryan Thrift of Shelby, N.C.

— FLW Outdoors report

Bighorn

Continued from Page 1

of "the economy" on the bidding disappeared as the bidding wound down to Lewis and a bidder on the phone with TBS volunteers.

"My heart was beating like crazy," Lewis said.

Lewis won the bidding, and at the same time, contributed \$84,000 to Texas Parks and Wildlife's bighorn sheep program.

Texas Parks and Wildlife designates one desert bighorn permit each year to be auctioned by a conservation group, with the proceeds going to help fund the program. This year, it was TBS's turn.

Other auction items upped the ante for the program, which relies heavily on conservation groups and individuals for funding.

"The program is self-supporting," said Calvin Richardson, TPW desert bighorn sheep program director. "The partnership with TBS is a big reason for its success."

Richardson said TBS has raised between \$1.5 and \$2 million for the program.

"Anything we need, they come through," he said.

And it has paid off. In 2007, surveys showed 991 of the animals in the mountains of West Texas, Richardson said.

"In 2008, there were 1,193 sheep, and a record 15 permits were issued," he said. "Our survey will be complete in August, but we expect it will exceed 1,500 animals."

David Wetzel, a former president of TBS, said the reasons to pursue the desert bighorn in Texas are plentiful.

"There have been more 180-class desert bighorns out of Texas than anywhere else," he said.

TBS is small compared with other conservation groups, billing itself as "the best little conservation group in Texas." About 120 people attended the auction, the group's only annual fundraiser.

"We have no paid employees, and all the money raised goes to the bighorn sheep program," Wetzel said.

Eric Flynt of Nacogdoches became involved with TBS out of chance.

"A buddy of mine and I decided to drive to Biloxi (Miss.) to check out the Grand Slam Club/OVIS convention," he said. "We got there and ended up booking a dall sheep hunt (in Canada's Northwest Territories)."

They both went, and both were successful.

"I fell in love with mountain hunting," he said. "It's a different kind of hunting — even if you're in good shape you lose 10 to 15 pounds."

Flynt admired the veteran sheep hunters attending the event.

"You don't see so many 60-year-old men in such good shape as around here."

Flynt also brought his wallet, buying a Marco Polo Sheep Hunt in Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet state, at the auction.

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from Page 18



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PROBLEM 2: EXCESSIVE WATER IN THE FUEL AND PHASE SEPARATION

Ethanol attracts moisture from the atmosphere, chemically bonding with it to form an ethanol/water molecule. Water in the fuel causes engines to run rough, stall and can lead to internal damage to engine components. Fuel will naturally hold .5% water in suspension, but if water levels exceed this threshold the water drops out of suspension. The water/ethanol molecules are heavier than the fuel and drop to the bottom of the tank. This is phase separation. Ethanol provides a significant amount of the fuel's octane, so when the ethanol separates and drops to the bottom of the tank, the remaining fuel is left without enough octane to properly operate the engine. Plus, the ethanol/water mixture is only partially combustible which can lead to severe engine problems.

STAR TRON® SOLUTION: Star Tron's enzymes prevent the water and ethanol molecules from chemically bonding. Therefore the water falls harmlessly to the bottom of the tank leaving the ethanol molecules in suspension with the fuel and preserving the fuel's octane rating. This prevents phase separation from occurring. The remaining water on the bottom of the tank is broken down to sub-micron size allowing it to be safely burned away while the engine is operating.

PROBLEM 3: ETHANOL FUELS BREAK DOWN QUICKLY

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PROBLEM 4: ETHANOL CAUSES LOST POWER PERFORMANCE AND DECREASED FUEL ECONOMY.

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Continued from Page 1

Texas hasn't seen many dealers close, but they aren't out of the woods.

"Some dealers have gone out of business," said Darren Royal of Tracker Boating Center in San Antonio. "Some financiers have bailed out completely — it squeezes the bottle. If dealers have no inventory, they have no cash flow. If they have no cash flow, they can't get any inventory."

"This winter will tell the tale," Malone said.

Malone said that unlike California and Florida, where real estate values dropped sharply, affecting the boating market, in the South and in Texas the economies were OK.

"The inventory at the dealer level began to age," he said. "Even in the South, the consumer went into hibernation — dealers went from 10- to 15-percent to 40-percent non-current inventory."

Then floor plan lenders became nervous.

"It goes back to the whole AIG and banking issues," Malone said. "Previously if dealers were paying the interest, the lenders wouldn't hold their feet to the fire. But as the inventory aged, they put the screws down, and a lot of lines of credit were canceled."

Local banks are nervous, too.

"They read and see the same economic news we do," Malone said. "It scares them off."

Holmes said credit unions haven't been affected nearly as much and are lending to dealers that are members.

Malone said the dealer situation is improving, but "you have to sell your way out of the problem."

The federal government is getting involved, and the reviews are mixed at best.

Part of the federal stimulus program (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) offers government-guaranteed loans to finance inventory for boats, RVs and autos through the Small Business Administration. The loans act as a revolving line of credit for a dealer to obtain financing for inventory. The dealer repays the debt as inventory is sold and can borrow against the line to add new inventory.

The SBA touts the program, saying it will keep dealers from having to close and will save jobs.

Malone has looked into it and isn't so sure.

"It could help some small dealers or entrepreneurial start-ups, but it's capped at \$2 million," Malone said. "That equates to a \$4 million dealer. That's marginal for existence for any dealer."

Holmes said the extra hassle shies lenders away from SBA loans.

"There's so much red tape," he said. "It can be more trouble than it's worth."

There is good news. Each of the dealers agreed plenty of potential buyers are still out there, and it is a good time to buy a boat.

"We are moving a lot of other dealer's inventory, whether the dealer has gone out of business or repo inventory," Royal said. "We've had one of our best three weeks in a long time, but much of the reason for that is discounted inventory."

Malone said sales recovered some. "We thought we were coming out of it," he said. "Until we were hit by this drought."

Malone is adjusting.

"We are taking our inventory down 20 percent for the future," he said. "Boaters are still boating," and prices are low.

"This may be the buying opportunity of a lifetime," he said. "We saw factory rebates over the 4th of July — I've been in the business 35 years and I've never heard of that."

Holmes said business is not nearly as bad as what was projected by many in November or December.

"Our May sales were equal to May of 2008," he said. "If inflation begins to take off — it's already happened with the engine manufacturers — the prices start to go up. People may be asking, 'Why didn't we buy one last year?'"



NOW IS THE TIME: Prices are down for new boats, with manufacturers offering incentives and rebates. Price increases are expected next year. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

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STAR tournament leaderboard

With a little more than one month left in the CCA STAR tournament, big fish are still resulting in new leaders. A third tagged redfish has been legally caught, with another boat package being awarded to the angler. The contest fundraiser ends Labor Day.

- Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division
- Truck-boat package**
- John Sendejas
 - Sam Campos
 - David Raska
 - Ronald Scheck
 - Keith McLaren
- Boat package**
- Ty Howard
 - Charles Maresh
 - Benjamin Bo Patrick II
- Starkids Scholarship Division
Ages 6-10 \$50,000 Scholarship
- Flounder:** 6 pounds, 6 ounces
 Anthony Skrobarczyk, 9, of Corpus Christi
 - Sheepshead:** 9 pounds
 Rodolpho Ibarra III, age 9, of Dayton
 - Gafftop:** 7 pounds, 8 ounces
 Jeremy Chessher, 10, of Warren

- Academy Sports & Outdoors Starteens
**Scholarship Trout Division (Ages 11-17)
 6-pound min., \$20,000 scholarship**
- Speckled trout Upper Coast:**
 8 pounds, 11 ounces
 Cory Cobler, 16, of Lake Jackson
 - Speckled trout Mid-Coast:**
 7 pounds, 14 ounces
 Jeremy Patrick, 13, of Corpus Christi
 - Speckled trout Lower Coast:**
 8 pounds, 2 ounces
 Jacob Adams, 14, of Willow Park
- Time Warner Cable Starteens
**Scholarship Inshore Division (11-17)
 \$20,000 Scholarship**
- Flounder:** 6 pounds, 1 ounce
 Cody Meineke, 15, of Spring
 - Sheepshead:** 9 pounds, 4 ounces
 Nicholas Pantoja, 16, of Highlands
 - Gafftop:** 7 pounds, 10 ounces
 Bryce Darder, 16, of Nederland
- Ford / Tilson Home Corp. Leader Board
- Speckled trout Upper Coast:**
 9 pounds, 2 ounces
 Harold Riley of Webster

- Speckled trout Mid-Coast:**
 9 pounds, 2 ounces
 Robert Hibbert of Houston
 - Speckled Trout Lower Coast:**
 10 pounds, 7 ounces
 Robb Sherron of Corpus Christi
 - Kingfish:** 52 pounds, 12 ounces
 Jeffery Wagen of Seabrook
 - Dorado:** 46 pounds, 2 ounces
 W. R. Trey Buford III of Harlingen
 - Ling (cobia):**
 79 pounds, 3 ounces
 Steven A. Richards of Porter
 - Flounder:** 6 pounds, 14 ounces
 Joseph Jackson of Corpus Christi
 - Sheepshead:** 10 pounds, 3 ounces
 David Martin of Baytown
 - Gafftop:** 7 pounds, 11 ounces
 Amanda Darder-Hebert of Nederland
- Results are as of July 20. For more information, including a list of weigh-in stations and registration locations, visit www.ccatexas.org. Proceeds from STAR go to CCA Texas and its conservation programs.



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Beat the heat

Continued from Page 8

ice over the carotid artery keeps me nice and cool."

He also suggests some of the old stand-bys.

"A wide-brimmed hat instead of a ballcap helps, and so does a white, long-sleeved shirt," he said.

A quick dip in the water works in freshwater lakes, but many saltwater anglers don't like the aftereffects of salt on the skin. A quick boat ride to cool off is a favorite, but one offshore angler created his own portable bimini top.

Jimmy Crainer teaches and coaches football at Brazosport High School in Freeport, and heads offshore in his 24-foot Sea Chaser.

When the wind stops, the heat is brutal.

"We have to pace ourselves — smooth seas are great but it means a hot day," Crainer said. "You feel like you're in an oven."

Crainer decided to create some shade.

"I went to Lowe's, bought some PVC and 'engineered' me a tarp over the back for more shade," he said. "It might look rigged but it works — and I only have about \$30 into it."

Steve Cange of Seabrook gets a little more sophisticated, attaching two plastic clamps to one end of the tarp via zip ties and then small ropes along the edges to the rear where two pipes extend from the rear rod holders.

He stows the pipes in his boat's rod storage and folds the tarp to store in the cuddy.

Manufacturers are getting into keeping cool, too. Pro-Techt makes a personalized and portable shade that connects to a boat seat, bench or, with mounting brackets, to almost anything.

Similar to the misting systems seen on restaurant patios, Boat Misters, a California company, markets a system using a pump that uses 1 gallon of water per hour to provide a mist for anglers or boaters, claiming the system can drop the temperature 30 degrees. The misting line is installed under most any bimini top.

And then there are personal cooling devices. Cool Under Fire markets a Cool Zone vest, originally developed for military and law enforcement use.

It remains at 55 degrees for up to four hours, the manufacturer said. The vest contains cooling packs that don't inhibit movement but provide cooling.

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