

# State boosts some quail limits to 20

AUSTIN—The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has set a 20-quail-per-day bag limit in south and west Texas for the upcoming hunting season.

In response to biological surveys which showed unusually high quail populations, the commission set limits of 20 per day and 60 in possession for counties under the department's regulatory authority in South Texas and the Trans-Pecos.

These are the highest quail bag and possession limits allowed in Texas since the department first was given authority to set the limits beginning in the early 1950's, Don Wilson, quail species leader for the department, said.

Other regions also were given increased limits, with a 16 per day and 48 in possession limit established for much of the western half of the state and in 16 Southeast Texas counties.

The smallest limits were assigned in East Texas and in roughly the western half of the Panhandle, at 12 per day and 36 in possession.

Wilson said overall quail populations should rival those of 1977, which was considered an unusually good year for quail production in most areas of the state. This year, timely rains provided food and cover during the nesting season, resulting in good hatches and high survival, Wilson said.

He told the commission the outstanding quail on this year warranted the increased bag limits to allow additional recreation from quail which would otherwise die from natural causes. Extensive research for some years has shown that quail populations are extremely cyclic. Annual mortality is commonly as high as 80 percent some years whether the population is hunted or not.

Counties which are not under the department's regulatory authority have their laws set by the Texas Legislature and affected by the increased limits.

Brazos County is one of 83

counties with the smallest limits of 12 per day and 36 in possession.

Other counties with 12 per day limits are: Anderson, Andrews, Bailey, Bastrop, Bell, Bowie, Burleson, Caldwell, Camp, Cass, Castro, Cherokee, Cochran, Collin, Crosby, Dallam, Dallas, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Ellis, Falls, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Freestone, Gaines, Grayson, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hale, Hansford, Hardin, Harrison, Hartley, Henderson, Hill, Hockley, Houston, Hunt, Jasper, Kaufman, Lamar, Lamb, Lee, Limestone, Lubbock, Lynn, Madison, Martin, McLennan, Millam, Montgomery, Moore, Morris, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Orange, Panola, Parmer, Polk, Randall, Red River, Robertson, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Sherman, Smith, Swisher, Terry, Titus, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Washington, Williamson, Wood and Yoakum.

Counties with bag limits of 16 per day and 48 in possession are: Armstrong, Austin, Bandera, Baylor, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Brazoria, Briscoe, Brown, Burnet, Calhoun, Callahan, Carson, Childress, Clay, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Cottle, Crockett, Denton, Donley, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, Erath, Fisher, Fort Bend, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Gray, Hall, Hamilton, Hardeman, Harris, Hays, Hemphill, Hood, Howard, Hutchison, Irion, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Knox, Lampasas, Lavaca, Liberty, Lipscomb, Llano, Mason, Matagorda, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Montague, Motley, Nolan, Ovtree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Parker, Potter, Reagan, Real, Roberts, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Somervell, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Tarrant, Taylor, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Upton, Waller, Wharton, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Wise and Young.

Counties with limits of 20 per

day and 60 in possession are: Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Bexar, Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Culberson, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, El

Paso, Frio, Goliad, Gonzales, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kinney, Kleberg, LaSalle, Live Oak, Maverick,

Medina, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Starr, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Winkler, Zapata and Zavala.

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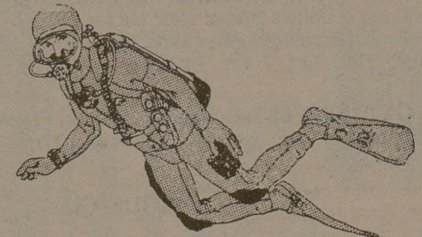
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## Commission votes to protect stripers

AUSTIN—To prevent overharvest of spawning concentrations of striped bass and to protect these valuable brood fish for its statewide striper stocking program, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has closed the Brazos River area immediately below the Lake Granbury Dam to all fishing during the March and April spawning season.

The area affected by the closure extends from the dam approximately three-fourths of a mile downstream. Each spring Parks and Wildlife Department biologists use electroshocking and netting to collect brood fish which are stripped of eggs and milt for hatchery production of fingerlings to be stocked in freshwater lakes throughout the state.

The commission also:

—Established a non-toxic (steel shot) zone for waterfowl hunters using 12-gauge shotguns for waterfowl hunting on the new Sea Rim National Wildlife Refuge. The 8,850-acre federal refuge will be

under the same lead-shot ban already in effect at the adjacent Sea Rim State Park and at the department's J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area.

All three areas are in Jefferson County. The national wildlife refuge, which is located roughly between the state park and Sabine Pass, will be open to waterfowl hunting each Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during the regular Jefferson County waterfowl season.

—Amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to include Starr and Zapata Counties with those counties authorizing the use of aircraft in controlling predatory animals.

—Authorized the tagging of bobcat pelts by licensed fur dealers.

—Approved initial facilities development for Palmetto Bend park site in Jackson County.

—Approved interpretive development funding for Fort Richardson State Historical Park, Jack County.