# Sportfishing Creel Census Pilot Study August 1973 

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Marine Science Institute Port Aransas, Texas March 15, 1974
to
The Lower Nueces River Water Supply District*

The sportfishing creel census project was originated to obtain information relating to the use of the Corpus Christi Bay area for sportfishing, the amount of fish caught and other environmental information relating to the total productivity cycles of the bay system. The Census is to be conducted during the summer months of June, July and August 1974 and the pilot study was made during August 1973. The total catch will be used in a current project to assess carbon, nitrogen, phosporous input and output to the bay system.

The pilot sportfishing creel census of August, 1973 was conducted for two reasons. As a pilot study, the censusing methods were tested and improved upon for future programs. The information collected will serve to fill the void in sportsfishing statistics in the Corpus Christi area. Basic information not only on fishing but also on individuals fishing and the weather was collected.

The 1974 project will be coordinated with the Economic Survey of the Texas Water Development Board and in part with a project being organized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Division.

METHODS
In order to facilitate surveillance and to include as many types of environments as possible, the Corpus Christi Bay study area (Figure 1)
*This study was made possible through a grant from the Lower Nueces River Water Supply District, volunteers from the Marine Science Institute and the cooporation of the Economics Branch of the Water Development Board who provided computer support for the data analysis.


Figure 1. Area of Survey
was divided into four survey districts. The range of the four districts were:
(1) Aransas Pass Causeway to Ferry landing to Ingleside
(2) Oso pier to Laguna Madre to Bob Hall Pier
(3) Port Aransas to the Fish Pass
(4) Indian Point Pier to Cole Park Pier

There were 2 full time and 4 part-time census takers participating in the creel census. The census takers randomly surveyed the fisherperson in each of these districts for approximately eight hours per day during varying hours, e.g., $10 \mathrm{AM}-6 \mathrm{PM}$ or $6 \mathrm{PM}-2 \mathrm{AM}$. To supplement the personal interviews, three aerial boat counts were made, two on Saturday, August 11 and one on Wednesday, August 15. This was done to get a total count of boats fishing in the census area and to arrive at an approximate number of persons fishing from these boats to compare with ground surveys.

The census takers were acquainted with the two forms used (Table 1 and 2). A briefing was given on the type of information sought and the way the information should be recorded on the forms. Table l used in the creel census is specifically concerned with information received from the individual fisherpersons. This involves not only catch information but also information on where the fisherpersons are from, how they rate fishing conditions and facilities, and any comments. Table 2 is concerned with climatological information observed by the census takers. The wind direction and velocity were taken from the radio weather reports until the census takers became familiar with the two. The barometer reading was also taken from the radio. To take air and water temperatures, the census takers
(1) Location of interview, (2) location where fishing done (Biotope)(3) positior: A
(4) date of interview, (5) time of interview, (6) no. of hours fishing

B
(7) species, number, weight, no. of hooks, Dait

C $\qquad$

C $\qquad$
C $\qquad$
C $\qquad$

C
"

C

C

C
(8) city of residence,
(9) county,
(10) state

D
(11) How many days per year do you fish in salt water in this area

E
(12) How many days per year do you fish in fresh water

F
(13) If both good fresh water and salt water fishing are available, which do you prefer.

G
Rank the following characteristics of this bay that most influenced your decision to come here:
(14) facilities, (15) accessibility, (16) good fishing

H
(17) present water conditions, (18) other

I
(19) comments,
lonth (2) date (3) time (4) Location (5) wind direction (6) wind velocity (7) cloud cover (8) barometer reading (9) air temp. (10) water temp.

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$\qquad$
were supplied with a thermometer. For identification and naming of the fishes several references and preserved fishes were used. The final list of fish are appended as taken from the literature. The reference list included:

Food and Game Fishes of the Texas Coast. Bulletin \#33. Publ. by the Texas Game \& Fish Commission. 1954. 68 pp., A List of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States \& Canada. 1970. American Fisheries Society, Special Publ. \#6. 150 pp., Key to the Estuarine $\&$ Marine Fishes of Texas. 1972. Texas A\&M Seagrant Publication. 178 pp., and Moore, R. and H. Hoese. Unpublished manuscript. (also a key on the fishes of Texas) After the month of surveying, a meeting was held by all participants to critique the forms and discuss any suggestions for the future survey. As the forms were received, they were checked for errors, and then sent to the Texas Water Development Board, Data Processing Division, for keypunching. The punched cards were used to generate a data file on magnetic tape at the UT computation center, and this file was used as input to a program which read the individual interview sheets, and produced a file of data which could be read by a generalized data management program, ENVIR (Environmental Information Retrieval). This program has been used for several different types of environmental information at the Marine Science Institute. The data file was programmed on the University of Texas timesharing computer system, TAURUS, through a teletype terminal at the Marine Science Institute.

The ENVIR program has provision for storing numerical or alphanumeric data with considerable flexibility, so that normal biological nomenclature can be used instead of codes. Commands to the program are formulated in natural language under simple syntax rules which are
relatively easy to learn. The basic unit of information which is manipulated is called an "item", each item is composed of a number of descriptors, and each descriptor has a characteristic state for each item. Table 3 shows the descriptors used for the creel census data bank, with an example item. A separate item was generated for each different species caught, as reported on the interview sheet; in addition, a summary item was generated for each interview, containing the total number of fish caught, the total weight, and the word "total" for the species descriptor. The climatological data will be incorporated using the additional descriptors shown in the Table.

After reading the creel census items, ENVIR produced a condensed form of the data, called a data bank, and a vocabulary of all terms used in the data bank. The data bank was stored on magnetic tape at the computation center and examined for misspellings and incorrect use of the various descriptors. Any errors were corrected in the ENVIR data bank, by special "correction" commands.

Finally, ENVIR was used with the corrected data bank, to selectively retrieve the creel census data to produce the various types of information reported in the "results" section. Several different forms of data retrieval are possible using ENVIR; selected data can be printed on the teletype, or at the central computer site, or data can be prepared for further processing by additional programs. In order to produce the totals of weight, hook-hours, etc. as reported in the results section, a program was written to summarize and tabulate the individual interview results.

CREEL CENSUS DATA BANK DESCRIPTORS

| Descriptor |  | Type | Size | Example |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number | Name |  |  |  |
| 1 | LOCATION | NAME | 240 | OSO PIER |
| 2 | BIOTOPE | NAME | 120 | OPEN BAY |
| 3 | POSITION | NAME | 30 | WADE |
| 4 | MONTH | NAME | 40 | AUG |
| 5 | DY | ORDER | 1 to 31 | 8 |
| 6 | YR | ORDER | 1970 to 1984 | 1973 |
| 7 | TIME | ORDER | 0 to 2500 | 1230 |
| 8 | HOURS FISHING | ORDER | 0 to 120 | 2 |
| 9 | SPECIES | NAME | 400 | CYNOSCION NEBULOSUS |
| 10 | NUMBER CAUGHT | ORDER | 0 to 500 | 2 |
| 11 | WEIGHT | ORDER | 0 to 15000 | 8 (ave wt in 0.1 lbs) |
| 12 | HOOKS | ORDER | 0 to 250 | 4 |
| 13 | BAIT | NAME | 200 | CUT MULLET |
| 14 | RESIDENCE | NAME | 400 | AUSTIN |
| 15 | COUNTY | NAME | 240 | GOLIAD |
| 16 | STATE | NAME | 100 | TEXAS |
| 17 | FISH SALT DAYS | ORDER | 0 to 366 | 10 |
| 18 | FISH FRESH DAYS | ORDER | 0 to 366 | 20 |
| 19 | PREFER TO FISH | NAME | 20 | SALT |
| 20 | RANK FACILITIES | NAME | 20 | 3 |
| 21 | RANK ACCESS | NAME | 20 | 2 |
| 22 | RANK FISHING | NAME | 20 | 1 |
| 23 | RANK WATER | NAME | 20 | 4 |
| 24 | RANK OTHER | NAME | 240 | 1 FREE BEACHES |
| 25 | COMMENTS | NAME | 500 | FISHING WORSE THIS YEAR |

Creel Census Data Bank Descriptors (cont.)

| Descriptor | Type | Size | Example |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Number $\quad$ Name |  |  |  |
| 26 | CODED BY | NAME | 120 |
| 27 | BATCH | ORDER | 0 to 100 |
| 28 | SHEET | ORDER | 0 to 5000 |
| 29 | WIND DIR | NAME | 30 |
| 30 | WIND VEL | ORDER | 0 to 60 |
| 31 | CLOUD COVER | NAME | 20 |
| 32 | BAROMETER | ORDER | 2800 to 3200 |
| 33 | AIR TEMP | ORDER | 0 to 125 |
| 34 | WATER TEMP | ORDER | 0 to 125 |

These data have been evaluated and are presented only for research purposes as they relate to a preliminary feasibility study for one month as a pilot project. We have shown the data for several parameters to illustrate how the information can be used and to correct our interview process. Some of the results are pertinent however, such as the total number of fishermen, their home base etc. We must emphasize that no generalizations can be made from the data at this time. The creel census data bank consisted of 1955 total interviews. During the 28 days of the survey there were 16225 fish caught weighing a total of 12206 pounds. Instead of counting the number of fisherpersons, the number of hooks used by the fisherpersons were counted. During the month 4237 hooks were fished for 6218 hours. Our best estimate indicates that this represents $20 \%$ of the total fisherpersons during the survey period. Of the 1955 total interviews 940 are from residents of the Corpus Christi Bay area, which includes Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Flour Bluff, Portland, and Ingleside. Residents from other areas are listed in Table 4. Of the total persons surveyed $37 \%$ preferred salt water, 7\% preferred fresh water, 6\% had no preference, and 50\% did not answer the question.

On Saturday morning, August ll, the aerial survey of the creel census counted 164 boats, on Saturday afternoon 184 boats were counted, and on Wednesday morning, August 15, 147 boats were counted. The Saturday census takers interviewed 16 boatmen, all after 1200. This represents about 10\% efficiency of fishing boats surveyed by land as compared to air. Wednesday 6 boatmen were interviewed, also all after 1200 hours. An overall estimate of fishermen per boat for the

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USERS ON LINE 14
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ONO. OF ITEMS IN QUERY RESHONSE $=5401$
NO. OF ITEMS IN THE DATA BANK $=5401$
HERCENTAGE OF RESHONSE/TOTAL DATA BANK $=100.00$
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FAIRBANKS

ARIZ
CASHIION
TUSCON
AUSTRIA
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CALIF
FRESNO
LOS ANGELES
CANADA
COLO
DENVER
FLA
MI AMI LAKES
ILL
CHICAGO
EDWARDSVILLE
EVANSTON
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rAxion
SIREAMWOOD
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BLOOMINGTON
EVANSVILLE
IOWA
dES MOINES
SIOUX CITY.
KAN
LAWRENCE
LA
DE RIDDER
NEW ORLEANS
MASS
BRDOKFIELD
MEX
MATAMOROS
MICH
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HOLLAND
Y FSILANTI
MINN
ST PAUL
mo
JOHLIN
KANSAS CITY
ST LOUIS
MONT
BILLINGS
MONTERREY
MONTERKEY MEXICO
NEB
BEATRICE
NEW JERSEY

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GRANVILLE
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OKLA

ALIUS
CARAGEE
CAKNEGIE
CHOCTAW
DUKE
EDMOND
ENID
HOLLENVILLE
LAWTON
MIDWESI CITY
MUSI ANG
OKLAHOMA CITY
IULSA
SAUDI ARAEIA
DHAHRAN
TENN
MEM.FHIS
TEX
ABILENE
ALICE
Ar
ARLINGION
AUSTIN
BANDERA
BASIROK
BEEV ILLE
BELTON
BISHOK
BOERNE
BRACKENRIDGE
BRADY
BKOWNSVILLE
BRyAN
BURKBURNETT
CALALLEN
CALDWELL
CC
CLEBURNE
COLLEGE STATION
COMFO RT
COMMANCHE
CONV ERSE
CORFUS COVE
COIULLA
DALHART
DALLAS
DEL RIO
DENTON
DEVINE
TEX
DRIrHING SPRINGS
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    FREEMONT
    FT WO KTH
    FULTON
    GALVESTON
    GARLAND
    GAleSVILLE
    GEORGETOWN
    GOLIAD
    GKAND fRAIRIE
    GKOV ES
    HAMILTON
    HONDO
    HOUSION
    INGLESIDE
    IRVING
    JACKSEORO
    JOURDANTON
    KARNES CITY
    KERRVILLE
    kILLEEN
    KINGSVILLE
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SI. AUGUSTINE
TAFT
TAYLOR
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UVALDE
VICIO RIA
WACO
WAELDER
WALNUI SHRING
WEATHERFORD
WESLACO
WICHITA FALLS
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VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
WESI VIRGINIA
CHAKLESTON
FAYETTEVILLE

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STAIISTICS TAYE FILE NO.\& 1

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OHOW MANY HAVE SHECIES, TOTAL AND RESIDENCE,CC AND NOT RANK ACCESS, UNKN
OWN*
ONO. OF I IEMS IN QUERY RESHONSE $=765$
NO. OF I TEMS IN THE DATA BANK $=5401$
FERCENTAGE OF RESPONSE/TOTAL DATA BANK $=14.16$
aerial survey was 2.5. The creel interviews showed 2.4 hooks per boat on Saturday and 1.7 hooks per boat on Wednesday.

To determine why the fisherpersons came to Corpus Christi Bay or fished where they did, they were asked to rank several characteristics from one to five, relative to each other. The data are summarized in Table 5 as taken from the computer printout Table 6.

Table 5

|  |  | $\frac{\text { Ranking }}{}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Characteristics     <br> Facilities Total Response 1 2 4 | $4 \& 5$ |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1443 |  | 227 | 403 | 448 |
| Access | 1734 | 642 | 597 | 302 | 193 |
| Fishing | 1702 | 790 | 484 | 278 | 150 |
| Water | 1315 | 40 | 127 | 298 | 850 |
| Other | 1571 | 151 | 113 | 183 | 1124 |

Fishing and accessibility were ranked number $l$ by the majority of the persons, while the facilities were ranked 3rd in relation to the other characteristics by $62 \%$ of the fisherpersons. The water conditions ranked the lowest. To see the other reasons why fisherpersons came to Corpus Christi Bay see the attached prinout sheet (Table 6).
A. District Breakdown

The district catches were compared to one another for the weight of fish caught, number of fish caught, hours spent fishing, and number of interviews for each districts. The data are shown in Table 7.

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        l
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O 24. RANK OTHER
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    RELatives
    SAFE
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    SAFFE FOR KIUS
    SAFE FOR SMALL BOYS
    VACATION
    WINTER FISHING
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    1 AREA
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    1 BEACHES
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    l COAST
    l ElBOW ROON
    1 EntERTAINmENT FGR KIDS
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－former rESIDENT
I FREE DEACIKKS
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」 habli
1 HOUSE HERE
I LIGHTEO
1 LIGHTEU＊FREE
1 LIVED HERE BEFOAE
1 NIGHT FISHING
1 NOT AS CROWDED
1 OCEAN
1 PLEASURE
1 KELATLVES
1 RELAXATION
1 SIGHTSEEING
1 SMALL TOWN
1 TRYING OUT
1 TRY OUT
1 Vacation
1 VACATLON aREA
I VARIETY OF FISH
I WORK HERE
」（VACATION）
2
$\angle$ AREA
2 BEACH
2 BEACHES
2 COAST
2 FAMILIARITY
2 FORMERLY STAT HERE
2 FORMER RESDDENT
2 FRIENUS
2 MABIT
2 HOUSE HERE
2 PEOPLE
2 RELAXATION
2 SAFE FOR KIOS
2 VACATION
2 （HABIT）

3 BEACH
3 BEACHES
3 CLEANER AREA
3 LIGHTED
ง KECCOMMENDATION
3 KELATIVES
3 VACATION
4
4 BEACHES
4 FRIENOS
4 VARIETY OF FISHES
5
5 BE゙ACHES
5 FIORMER RESDUENT
5 FREE
5 FREE＋LIGHTEO
5 GAGVESTON NOT LIGHTEU
5 GET AWAY
5 HABIT
5 LIGHTEU

- NEWS
5 NO TRASH ON BOTTOM
5 PRICE CHEAPER
5 MUIEJNESS
5 RELATIVES
5 RELAXATION
5 REST
5 SAFE
5 VACATION
5 WOMEN
0 25. COMMENTS
NO. OF CHARACTERS IN LONGEST STATE: 39
OPTION: NAME NOQ OF STATES: 123
NO. OF DELETEO STATES: 0
NO. OF DICTIONARY ENTRIES RESERVED: 500
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ACCESS RUADS IN POOR CONOITION
BAFFINGAY
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BAIT AND TACKLE TOO EXPENSIVE
OEACHES DIRTLER THIS YEAR
BEACH RESTUENT
BETTER HERE YESTERDAY-WATER WARMER
DETTER THAN AVERAGE OAY
BLUE WATER NEAF END OF PIER
buUY : 3
CALM
CALM CLEAR
CALM WATER
CALM * CLFAR
CALM + RAINY
CAL + CLEAR
CAL + MUDDY
CAMPSITES TOO CROWDEO
CATCH FOR PREVIOUS NIGHT
CLE゙ARWATER
CROAKERS CAUGHT IN SURF
CUMMINGS CUT
DOthS
EXTREMELY WINDY
Facilities cleaner than at galveston
FACILITLES IMPROVED
FAVORITE AREA UF COAST
FEKRY LINES TOO LONG
FIN AND FEATHER
FISHING BEST IN BAYS
FISHING BETTER IN LAGUNA MADRE
FISHING IS USUALLY BETTER
FISIING WORSE SINCE CELIA
FISHING WORSE THIS YEAR
FISH FOUND IN GILL NETS
FLYROD
HARD TO GET LIVE BAIT
$J$
JENRYFS MARINA
KINGFISHING GOOD CN CHARTER BOATS
LAGUNA SHORES ROAD
LIKES JETTIES
LOTS OF FLOATING SEAWEEO
LOTS OF SEAWEED

MOKE CHARTER BUAT INFORMATION
MOKF LIGHTS
MORE RESTROOMS BY PIE゙RS
MOSIVUIFUES
MODRUITO CONTROL
MUUDY WALK AFTER RAIN
NDM3
NEAR BAFFIN DAY
NEEE AKTIFICAL REEFS
NEEO LIGHTS AT NIGHT
NEEG LIGHTS ON JETTY
NEEO MONE FISHING PIERS
NEEI MOKE LIGHTS
NEEU MORE PARKING-CAMPING AREAS
NEEE MOKE PUELIC SHOWERS
NEED MORE RESTROOMS
NEEI RESTROOM FACILITIES
NICE PEOPLE HEKE
NOT ENOUGH CAMP FAC
NO BAY SHRIMPERS
NO DRINKING WATER ON REACH
NO LIVE BAIT AVAILABLE
NO RESTROOMS CLOSE BY + LIMITED PARKING
NO SIUEWALKS OR BATHRCOM
OIL
OIL IN CHANNEL
OIL ON SURFACE
OIL ON WATER
OIL SLICK
ONLY PIER OPEN
Pa more fishing oriented than galveston
peat island
PIER CRUWOED
PIER FISHING WORSE TODAY
PREFERS FISHING ON SOUTM PADRE
PREFERS INUIAN POINT
PRICES TOO HIGH
PROBLEM WITH SURFERS
RAINING
RAIN SHOWERS
REALLY LIKE FISHING HERE
REUS THROWN BACK
RE゙U AND SPECS IN BAY YESTERDAY
RED FISHING POOR THIS YEAR
REU THKOWN BACK
RETIKEO HERE
ROADS NEED REPAIR
RUAO TO OSO BRIDGE IS TERRIBLE
ROUGH
ROUGH MUDDY
ROUGH WATER
ROUGH: MUUOY
SAIL LINE
SEVERAL POMPANO THIS NORNING
SHAMROCK BAY
SHARK RIGS
SPECS AT FISH PASS
STATIONED AT PORT ARANSAS
STKONG CURRENT
SUGGEST RENTAL ROWBOATS

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TOO MUCH TRASH ON BEACH
TURGJO
TURBIO-CHOPPY
TURHID C&OPPY
TURBID + CHOPPY
UNUSUALLY BIG MACKEREL
WATER LOWER THIS YEAR
WATER MUDOY
WATER VERY CLEAR
WINDY
WINGY & ROUGH
WORSE IN JULY AND AUGUST
l
3 LARGE SPECS LAST NICHT
S-FOOT SWELLS
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0 26. COUED BY
NO OF CHARACTERS IN LONGEST STATE: I 1
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0 27. BATCH
NO. OF CHARACTEKS IN LONGEST STATE: 3
UPTION: ORUER NO. OF STATES: 101
FROM O
TO 100
Br 1
NO LABEL
0 28. SHEET
NO. OF CHARACTERS IN LONGEST STATE: 4
OPTION: ORUER NO. OF STATES: 500I
FROM O
TO 5000
GY 1
NO LABEL
OEND*
OTOTAL RUN TIME IN SECONDS
CENTKAL PROCESSUR: 235.598
PERIPHERAL PROCESSOR: 0.000

TABLE 7

| District |  | Weight |  | Number |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | Hours |  | Count |  |
| 2 |  | l608.1 |  | 1437 | 530 |

District 2 showed the highest overall totals perhaps because it was the largest district and had the highest fishing pressure. District l had some of the lowest returns because it was surveyed only 5 days a week with no night censusing and was started 4 days later than the other survey districts. Districts 3 and 4 were surveyed as originally planned. B. Daily Breakdown

To see if there was any particular day that received either more or less fishing pressure than other days and to test the method of daily surveys the same comparison as above was made. These data are in Table 8.

TABLE 8

|  | $\frac{\text { Sunday }}{}$ | Monday |  | Tuesday | Wednesday |  | Thursday | Friday |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | Saturday

The number of fish caught and the poundage were the greatest on Sundays while the greatest number of hours spent fishing and the surveys were on Saturdays.

Tuesdays were lowest in poundage and fish caught while Mondays were lowest in hours spent fishing and number of surveys.

## C. Time Breakdown

The time of day is believed to have some effect on the success of fishing. The results are shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9

| Time | $\frac{\text { Weight }}{}$ |  | Number |  | Hours |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- |
| $0600-1200$ | 922.8 | 977 | 528 |  | 185 | morning

The morning hours were less successful than the evening in all categories. The fact that most fishermen go to work on week day mornings and usually fish after work has some effect on these returns. The day returns were much higher than the night, even though there were a great number of people fishing at night, was shown by the information on 2 nights out of the week.
D. Biotope distribution

To compare the biotopes as outlined by Oppenheimer \& Gordon, 1973, the same type of breakdown was conducted in order to see if any particular environment was preferred by the fishermen. The data are in Table 10.

The shallow bay biotope was the highest in all categories, while the hypersaline was the next most successful. The hypersaline biotope is used for the Baffin Bay area or any unrecognized fishing spot in the upper Laguna Madre.

The jetty biotope was eliminated as such for most people fishing off the jetty were actually fishing in the channel or shallow Gulf. Very few persons were fishing directly amid the submerged rocks of the jetty.

## TABLE 10

| Biotopes | Weight | Number | Hours | Count |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Open Bay \& Oil Rigs | 144.6 | 112 | 24 | 6 |
| Open Bay | 365.8 | 284 | 77 | 20 |
| Bulkhead | 80 | 201 | 128 | 64 |
| Channel | 1077.2 | 1348 | 475 | 154 |
| Shallow Pass | 409.3 | 707 | 189 | 72 |
| Grass Flat | 1476.4 | 915 | 368 | 115 |
| Hypersaline | 2123.7 | 1552 | 669 | 128 |
| Gulf | 10 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| Inshore Gulf | 1346.2 | 125 | 67 | 12 |
| Shallow Gulf | 2045.1 | 2276 | 1086 | 323 |
| Surf | 947.7 | 1510 | 476 | 180 |
| Jetty | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Oil Rig (offshore) | 281 | 19 | 24 | 4 |
| Oyster Reef | 391.1 | 777 | 364 | 144 |
| Pier | 186.6 | 240 | 75 | 21 |
| Shallow Bay | 3376.1 | 4651 | 1983 | 695 |
| Shallow Channel | 90.2 | 50 | 10 | 5 |

E. 15 Major Species and Baits

Table 11 shows results concerning the success of the various baits used to catch the different species of fish.

Dead shrimp were used by more fishermen, produced mediocre catches per effort, and produced mediocre sized fishes. Gold spoons were highly successful in catching King mackerel, redfish, and speckled trout. King mackerel produced the highest catch per effort of all the species. It becomes obvious from only one return for the combination of cut hard head and croaker, that this combination is not used for some reason. For a comparison between live baits, dead baits, and artificial baits see Table 12.

Natural baits were more successful than artificial baits especially for black drum, sheepshead, and blue crabs. On a total weight basis, dead baited hooks caught more fish than live bait except speckled trout and sheepshead. However, live bait caught more fish per unit effort than dead bait.

## F. Sportfishing vs. Commercial Fishing

To see how the creel census poundage information compared with the commercial poundage, the Texas Parks \& Wildlife Commission fishery statistics for Corpus Christi Bay, Nueces Bay, and upper Laguna Madre during August 1973 and 1972 were used in Table 13.

| Species |  | Hours | Hooks | Number Caught | Total fish Weight(lbs) | Hook Hours | Catch/ Effort | Bait | Average fish Size (lbs) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Spotted | Seatrout | 1735 | 675 | 3017 | 3663.9 | 3358 | 1.091 | all baits | 1.214 |
|  | " | 221 | 98 | 149 | 150 | 425 | . 353 | dead shrimp | 1.016 |
| " | " | 1046 | 258 | 2205 | 2758.7 | 1487 | 1.855 | live shrimp | 1.251 |
| " | " | 17 | 6 | 40 | 37 | 23 | 1.000 | all color worms | . .475 |
| " | " | 54 | 32 | 21 | 40.8 | 161 | . 253 | cut bait | 1.943 |
| " | " | 10 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 10 | 1.700 | cut croaker | 4.250 |
| " | " | 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 27 | . 296 | cut bait \& eel | 4.000 |
| " | " | 68 | 13 | 109 | 89 | 116 | . 767 | cut pinfish | . 817 |
| " | " | 12 | 1 | 45 | 36 | 12 | 3.000 | flies | . 800 |
| " | " | 4 | 66 | 4 | 5.2 | 264 | . 020 | dead shrimp \& | 1.300 |
| " | " | 17 | 66 | 13 | 16.5 | 282 | . 059 | cut croaker dead shrimp \& cut bait | 1.269 |
| " | " | 25 | 4 | 44 | 52 | 19 | 2.737 | gold \& silver spoons | 1.182 |
| " | " | 55 | 11 | 120 | 198 | 63 | 3.143 | gold spoon | 1.650 |
| " | " | 9 | 2 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 1.778 | lure | 1.333 |
| " | " | 6 | 3 | 25 | 25 | 18 | 1. 389 | humpy lures | 1.000 |
| " | " | 3 | 1 | 1 | . 8 | 3 | . 267 | live pinfish | . 800 |
| " | " | 5 | 3 | 14 | 7 | 15 | . 467 | live shrimp \& red worms | . 500 |
| " | " | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1.500 | live threadfin | 3.000 |
| " | " | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1.5 | 3 | . 500 | orange \& yellow lure | 1.500 |
| " | " | 22 | 35 | 69 | 90.5 | 69 | 1.312 | plastic worm | 1.312 |
| " | " | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | . 167 | red \& orange worms | 1.000 |
| " | " | 15 | 7 | 30 | 30 | 34 | . 882 | red worm | 1.000 |
| " | " | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6.5 | 13 | . 500 | silver spoon | 1.625 |
| " | " | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | . 250 | spinners | 1. 500 |
| " | " | 15 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 90 | . 044 | squid | 4.000 |
| " | " | 23 | 6 | 29 | 29 | 25 | 1.160 | white worm | 1.000 |
| " | " | 12 | 11 | 30 | 29.5 | 42 | . 702 | yellow worm | 1.983 |
| " | " | 6 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 18 | . 389 | yellow \& red lure | 1.000 |
| " | " | 3 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 3.333 | live bait | 1.000 |
| " | " | 4 | 3 | 32 | 30.5 | 117 | . 261 | jigs/speck rig | 1.953 |
| " | " | 5 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 1.100 | mirror lure | 1.100 |

Hours

| Sand " | Seatrout " |
| :---: | :---: |
| " | \# |
| " | \# |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| \#1 | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| \# | " |
| \% | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| " | " |
| Atla | ntic Croake <br> " " |
|  | " 1 |
|  | $\pi \%$ |
|  | $\pi \sim$ |
|  | $\pi \%$ |
|  | \# " |
|  | $\pi \%$ |
|  | \# 4 |
|  | $\pi \%$ |
|  | " |
|  | \# $\%$ |
|  | \# 7 |

Black Drum
"
"
"
$\pi \quad \pi$

| 1018 | 690 | 2676 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 11 | 31 | 6 |
| 182 | 119 | 159 |
| 51 | 167 | 713 |
| 20 | 7 | 28 |
| 114 | 53 | 206 |
| 623 | 402 | 647 |
| 14 | 2 | 42 |
| 4 | 66 | 500 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 10 | 2 | 13 |
| 38 | 4 | 69 |
| 17 | 8 | 39 |
| 91 | 55 | 173 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 60 |
| 2 |  | 3 |
| 21 | 23 | 17 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 20 | 12 | 12 |
| 1283 | 1011 | 2186 |
| 249 | 205 | 285 |
| 66 | 132 | 391 |
| 6 | 2 | 12 |
| 29 | 15 | 50 |
| 95 | 32 | 106 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 21 | 5 | 57 |
| 972 | 638 | 1213 |
| 11 | 7 | 11 |
| 36 | 36 | 51 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 13 | 32 | 7 |
| 77 | 62 | 46 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 74 | 47 | 40 |
| 14 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | 46 | 2 |
|  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |

Number Caught

Hook
Hours
catch/ Effort

Bait
Average
Size (lbs)

| 2030.8 | 2213 |
| ---: | ---: |
| 3.6 | 98 |
| 162.1 | 565 |
| 571.3 | 647 |
| 27 | 24 |
| 165.6 | 177 |
| 508.9 | 1435 |
| 33 | 14 |
| 250 | 264 |
| .4 | 4 |
| 12.1 | 10 |
| 73.5 | 38 |
| 17.9 | 50 |
| 133.3 | 194 |
| .5 | 15 |
| 48 | 6 |
| 12 |  |
| 13.8 | 56 |
| 1 | 4 |
| 9.1 | 70 |
| 1069.8 | 3107 |
| 110.5 | 861 |
| 273.2 | 465 |
| 3.6 | 12 |
| 23.3 | 48 |
| 86.9 | 149 |
| .2 | 1 |
| 28.5 | 388 |
| 516 | 2365 |
| 4.3 | 42 |
| 15.9 | 118 |
| .8 | 4 |
| 7.2 | 99 |
| 75.4 | 176 |
| 3 | 5 |
| 62.9 | 168 |
| 8 | 54 |
| 1.5 | 184 |
|  |  |


.947 dead shrimp \& cut croaker
. 1 dead shrimp \& cut perch

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 1.21 \\
& 7
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
1.934
$$

.358
. 687
8
.246
.25
.13
.344
.128
. 58
. 3
.48
.58
. 2
.073
.218
.102
.135
. 2
.073
.42
.374
.148
.008

| all baits all color worms cut bait |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| cut bait \& dead shrimp | . 801 |
| cut croaker | 964 |
| cut croaker \& pinfish | 804 |
| dead shrimp | 787 |
| ribbonfish | 786 |
| dead shrimp \& cut croaker | 5 |
| ead shrimp \& cut perch | 2 |
| spoon | . 930 |
| jig | 1.065 |
| red worm | . 459 |
| live shrimp | . 770 |
| live shrimp \& red worm | . 5 |
| plastic worm | . 8 |
| seine | 4 |
| squid | . 812 |
| shrimp \& cut ribbonfish | . 5 |
| speck rig | 758 |
| all baits | . 489 |
| cut bait | . 389 |
| cut bait \& dead shrimp | . 699 |
| eel | 3 |
| cut pinfish | . 466 |
| live shrimp | . 82 |
| cut mullet | 2 |
| cut croaker | . 5 |
| dead shrimp | . 425 |
| ribbonfish | . 39 |
| squid | . 312 |
| dead shrimp \& squid | . 4 |
| plastic worm \& | 1.02 |
| all color worm |  |
| all baits | 1.639 |
| cut pinfish | 3 |
| dead shrimp | 1.573 |
| live shrimp | 2.667 |
| dead shrimp \& cut bait | . 75 |

.759
1.019
.801
.964
.804
.787
.786
. 5
.930
1.065
. 459
.770
. 5

4
1.573
2.667

| Gafftopsail Catfish | 609 | 503 | 458 | 637.3 | 2445 | . 261 | all baits | 1.391 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gafftopsail catis | 97 | 43 | 54 | 172.8 | 212 | . 815 | cut bait | 3.200 |
| $\because \%$ | 35 | 148 | 30 | 58.1 | 594 | . 978 | cut bait \& dead shrimp | 1.937 |
| " $\#$ | 13 | 7 | 5 | 4.3 | 22 | . 195 | cut croaker | . 86 |
| " " | 7 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 14 | . 714 | cut pinfish | 5 |
| " " | 356 | 193 | 321 | 265 | 1102 | . 240 | dead shrimp | . 826 |
| " | 4 | 66 | 5 | 15 | 264 | . 057 | dead shrimp \& cut croaker | 3 |
| " | 24 | 18 | 10 | 38.3 | 61 | . 628 | eel | 3.83 |
| " 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | . 25 | eel \& squid | 2 |
| " | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | gold spoon | 1 |
| \% | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1.5 | 5 | . 3 | jig | . 5 |
| " | 12 | 11 | 9 | 10.8 | 31 | . 348 | live shrimp | 1.200 |
| " | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | . 6 | plastic worm | 3 |
| " | 46 | 12 | 17 | 54.5 | 132 | . 413 | squid | 3.206 |
| " " | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | . 833 | squid \& cut mullet | 5 |
| Southern Kingfish | 176 | 136 | 392 | 266.8 | 483 | . 552 | all baits | . 681 |
| " | 19 | 15 | 10 | 3.3 | 57 | . 058 | cut bait | . 33 |
| " | 9 | 3 | 5 | 2.0 | 27 | . 074 | cut bait \& eel | . 4 |
| " | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3.0 | 6 | . 5 | cut pinfish | 1 |
| " ${ }^{\prime \prime}$ | 153 | 84 | 147 | 92.9 | 376 | . 247 | dead shrimp | . 632 |
| " | 4 | 66 | 100 | 100 | 264 | . 379 | dead shrimp \& cut croaker | 1 |
| \# \# | 14 | 106 | 106 | 54.7 | 408 | . 134 | cut croaker \& cut bait | . 516 |
| " | 4 | 2 | 3 | . 9 | 8 | . 113 | live shrimp | . 3 |
| " | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1. | 36 | . 028 | ribbonfish | . 5 |
| H | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1. | 4 | . 25 | spoon | . 5 |
| " | 8 | 14 | 15 | 8.3 | 42 | . 198 | squid | . 553 |
| Gulf Kingfish | 580 | 375 | 642 | 480.6 | 1517 | . 317 | all baits | . 749 |
| " $\%$ | 39 | 12 | 16 | 11.1 | 129 | . 086 | squid | . 694 |
| "1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | . 1 | 2 | . 05 | crab \& squid | . 1 |
| " $\#$ | 108 | 68 | 94 | 96.6 | 321 | . 301 | cut bait | 1.028 |
| " " | 6 | 10 | 15 | 18.9 | 20 | . 945 | dead shrimp \& cut bait | 1. 260 |
| " | 354 | 263 | 469 | 325.6 | 913 | . 338 | dead shrimp | . 653 |
| i1 is | 2 | 1 | 1 | . 5 | 2 | . 25 | dead shrimp \& cut croaker | . 5 |
| " $\%$ | 14 | 6 | 11 | 8.9 | 22 | . 405 | live shrimp | . 809 |
| " $\#$ | 1 | 2 | 1 | . 3 | 2 | . 15 | speck rig | . 300 |
| $\pi$ " | 47 | 8 | 18 | 14.5 | 90 | . 161 | cut pinfish | . 81 |


| Species | Hours | Hooks | Number Caught |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| Pinfish | 1118 | 875 | 2133 |
| + | 2 | 20 | 1 |
| " | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| " | 148 | 128 | 259 |
| " | 57 | 116 | 200 |
| " | 12 | 4 | 45 |
| " | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| " | 772 | 511 | 1502 |
| " | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| " | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| " | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| " | 32 | 23 | 47 |
| " | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| " | 15 | 6 | 5 |
| " | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| " | 12 | 6 | 8 |
| " | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| " | 57 | 58 | 64 |
| Red Drum | 855 | 367 | 844 |
| \% ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 30 | 58 | 35 |
| " | 29 | 18 | 9 |
| " | 24 | 14 | 10 |
| " | 22 | 9 | 7 |
| " | 315 | 160 | 331 |
| " | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| " | 33 | 5 | 31 |
| " | 24 | 1 | 1 |
| " | 25 | 9 | 45 |
| " | 2 | 5 | 3 |
|  | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| " | 327 | 72 | 296 |
| " | 4 | 3 | 13 |
| " | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| " \# | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| " " | 4 | 1 | 2 |

Total
Weight(lbs)
Hook Catch/
Hours Effort

Bait

| 557.5 | 3228 | . 173 | all baits | . 261 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| . 1 | 40 | . 003 | worms | . 1 |
| . 5 | 2 | . 25 | crab \& squid | . 1 |
| 67.5 | 386 | . 175 | cut bait | . 261 |
| 48.0 | 459 | . 105 | cut bait \& dead shrimp | . 24 |
| 15.0 | 19 | . 789 | cut pinfish | . 333 |
| 1.2 | 6 | . 2 | cut pinfish \& ribbonfish | . 4 |
| 400.7 | 1920 | . 209 | dead shrimp | . 267 |
| 2.4 | 12 | . 2 | eel | . 4 |
| . 2 | 2 | . 1 | dead shrimp \& cut croaker | 2 |
| 2. | 4 | . 5 | dead shrimp \& cut perch | . 2 |
| 9.3 | 66 | . 141 | live shrimp | . 198 |
| . 3 | 1 | . 3 | orange worm | . 3 |
| 1.0 | 90 | . 011 | ribbonfish | . 2 |
| . 6 | 4 | . 15 | silver spoon | . 15 |
| 1.6 | 24 | . 067 | speck rig | . 2 |
| . 2 | 4 | . 05 | spinners | . 1 |
| 12.9 | 218 | . 059 | squid | . 202 |
| 2126.2 | 1732 | 1.228 | all baits | 2.519 |
| 83.4 | 173 | . 482 | all color worms | 2.383 |
| 14.8 | 97 | . 153 | cut bait | 1.644 |
| 7.8 | 64 | . 122 | cut bait \& dead shrimp | . 78 |
| 20 | 26 | . 769 | cut pinfish | 2.857 |
| 750.3 | 729 | 1.029 | dead shrim? | 2.267 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | gig | 2 |
| 112 | 33 | 3.613 | spoons | 3.393 |
| 1 | 24 | . 041 | jig |  |
| 125 | 43 | 2.907 | gold spoon | 2.778 |
| 9 | 10 | . 9 | live mullet | 3 |
| 5.3 | 14 | . 379 | squid | . 663 |
| 747.1 | 473 | 1.579 | live shrim? | 2.524 |
| 32.5 | 12 | 2.708 | mullet | 2.5 |
| 4.0 | 27 | . 148 | live pinfish | 4 |
| 4.0 | 2 | 2 | live threasfin | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | silver spoon | 4 |


| Species | Hours | Hooks | Number Caught | Total <br> Weight(lbs) | Hook Hours | Catch/ <br> Effort | Bait | Average <br> Size (lbs) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sea Catfish | 1208 | 892 | 1905 | 811. 5 | 2877 | . 282 | all baits | . 426 |
| " | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1.6 | 8 | . 2 | all color worms | . 8 |
| " " | 225 | 137 | 197 | 76.8 | 744 | . 103 | cut bait | . 39 |
| " | 1 | 2 | 10 | 4.0 | 2 | 2 | cut bait \& croaker | . 4 |
| " " | 67 | 85 | 107 | 38.0 | 322 | 1.18 | dead shrimp \& cut croaker | $r .355$ |
| " | 37 | 18 | 67 | 39.8 | 53 | . 751 | cut pinfish | . 594 |
| " | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1.6 | 27 | . 059 | cut bait \& eel | . 4 |
| " " | 971 | 635 | 1220 | 521.2 | 2456 | . 212 | dead shrimp | . 424 |
| " " | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 2 | . 5 | eel | . 5 |
| " | 3 | 2 | 3 | . 6 | 6 | . 1 | cut ribbonfish | . 2 |
| " | 4 | 66 | 50 | 25.0 | 264 | . 095 | dead shrimp \& cut croaker | - 5 |
| " | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1.2 | 4 | . 3 | dead shrimp \& squid | . 3 |
| " | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1.0 | 4 | . 25 | dead shrimp \& cut perch | . 2 |
| " | 4 | 2 | 2 | . 6 | 8 | . 075 | eel \& squid | . 3 |
| " | 5 | 1 | 15 | 7.5 | 5 | 1.5 | jig | . 5 |
| " | 2 | 1 | 1 | . 3 | 2 | . 15 | live fish | . 3 |
| " " | 105 | 77 | 141 | 50.8 | 359 | . 142 | squid | . 360 |
| " | 86 | 43 | 69 | 41.1 | 158 | . 260 | live squid | . 596 |
| " | 2 | 2 | 1 | . 3 | 4 | . 075 | speck rig | . 3 |
| " " | 4 | 1 | 1 | . 2 | 4 | . 05 | yellow worm \& cut bait | . 2 |
| Sheepshead | 45 | 40 | 29 | 46.7 | 106 | . 441 | all baits | 1.610 |
| Sheepshead | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | crabs | 1 |
| " | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12.8 | 34 | . 376 | dead shrimp | . 985 |
| " | 29 | 25 | 14 | 31.9 | 71 | . 449 | live shrimp | 2.279 |
| Southern Flounder | 135 | 58 | 74 | 102.7 | 246 | . 417 | all baits | 1.388 |
| " ${ }^{\text {\% }}$ | 14 | 2 | 5 | 17.0 | 14 | 1.214 | plastic worm $\varepsilon$ all color worm | 3.4 |
| " | 12 | 3 | 8 | 13.4 | 12 | 1.170 | gig | 1.675 |
| " | 22 | 6 | 2 | 1.5 | 68 | . 022 | cut bait | . 75 |
| " " | 10 | 8 | 2 | . 6 | 36 | . 017 | cut bait \& dead shrimp | . 300 |
| " | 58 | 29 | 22 | 39.3 | 126 | . 312 | dead shrimp | 1.790 |
| " | 51 | 15 | 22 | 26.7 | 79 | . 338 | live shrimp | 1.213 |
| " \# | 5 | 5 | 1 | . 6 | 25 | . 024 | mullet | . 600 |
| " | 8 | 1 | 12 | 136 | 8 | . 450 | lure | . 300 |


| Species |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hours | Hooks | Number Caught | Total <br> Weight(lbs) | Hook Hours | catch/ <br> Effort | Bait | Average <br> Size (llbs) |
| Spanish Mackerel | 57 | 29 | 40 | 57.7 | 115 | . 502 | all baits | 1.443 |
| " " | 3 | 4 | 3 | 8.0 | 5 | 1.500 | cut bait | 2.667 |
| " | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1.0 | 27 | . 037 | cut bait \& lure | 1.000 |
| " | 12 | 10 | 8 | 31.0 | 29 | 1.069 | ribbonfish | 3.875 |
| " | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2.3 | 8 | . 288 | dead shrimp | . 575 |
| " | 14 | 5 | 21 | 13.5 | 23 | . 587 | jig | . 643 |
| " | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0.4 | 18 | . 222 | lure | . 400 |
| " $\quad$ " | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 3 | . 333 | spoon | 1.000 |
| " " | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | . 250 | squid | . 500 |
| King Mackerel | 52 | 35 | 146 | 2150.0 | 224 | 9.513 | all baits | 14.73 |
| " | 9 | 3 | 9 | 180.0 | 27 | 6.67 | cut bait \& lure | 20.000 |
| " | 7 | 1 | 4 | 80.0 | 7 | 11.428 | gold spoon | 20.000 |
| " | 6 | 3 | 8 | 80.0 | 18 | 4.444 | red \& white feather jig | 10.000 |
| " | 4 | 2 | 20 | 260.0 | 8 | 32.5 | revel lure | 13.000 |
| " | 59 | 26 | 105 | 1550.0 | 164 | 9.451 | ribbonfish | 14.762 |
| Blue Crab | 306 | 369 | 1159 | 532.6 | 917 | . 581 | all baits | . 460 |
| " | 98 | 134 | 539 | 264.1 | 287 | . 920 | chicken | . 490 |
| " | 2 |  | 12 | 4.8 |  |  | chicken \& hardhead | . 4 |
| " $\quad$ | 62 | 57 | 118 | 44.2 | 166 | . 266 | cut bait | . 375 |
| " | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1.8 | 27 | . 067 | cut bait \& eel | . 3 |
| " | 3 | 14 | 20 | 12.8 | 14 | . 914 | cut hardhead | . 64 |
| " | 1 | 5 | 4 | . 8 | 5 | . $177^{\circ}$ | cut hardhead \& croaker | . 2 |
| " | 11 | 19 | 89 | 41.8 | 25 | 1.672 | cut mullet | . 470 |
| " | 3 | 7 | 14 | 5.8 | 9 | . 644 | cut mullet \& pinfish | . 414 |
| " | 120 | 85 | 154 | 55.6 | 429 | . 130 | dead shrimp | . 361 |
| " | 14 | 26 | 87 | 42.1 | 86 | . 490 | fish head | . 484 |
| " | 8 | 10 | 7 | 2.9 | 22 | . 132 | live shrimp | . 414 |
| " | 4 | 1 | 1 | . 4 | 4 | . 1 | pork rind | . 4 |
| " | 15 | 6 | 3 | 1.5 | 90 | . 017 | ribbonfish | . 5 |
| " | 2 | 2 | 1 | . 3 | 4 | . 075 | shrimp \& cut ribbonfish | . 3 |
| " | 6 | 9 | 52 | 26 | 18 | 1.444 | soupbone | . 5 |
| " | 8 | 10 | 5 | 1.8 | 26 | . 069 | squid | . 36 |
| " | 5 | 9 | 55 | 27.5 | 25 | 1.1 | stew meat | . 5 |

TABLE 12

| Species | Live <br> Catch/ <br> Effort | Bait <br> Average <br> Size | Dead <br> Catch/ <br> Effort | Bait <br> Average <br> Size | Natu catch/ Effort | al Bait Average Size | Artific catch/ Effort | cial Bait Average Size | Total Weight Iive Bait | Total Weight Dead Bait | Total Weight Natural | Total Weig <br> Artificial |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Spotted S | 1.855 | I. 251 | . 240 | 1.091 | 1.081 | 1.231 | 1.240 | 1.201 | 2772.5 | 330.59 | 3103 | 601.5 |
|  |  |  |  |  | . 551 | . 749 | . 604 | . 825 | 133.3 | 1732.1 | 1865.4 | 164.2 |
| Sand Seatrout | . 687 | . 770 | . 543 | . 748 | . 551 | . 749 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Atlantic Croaker | . 583 | . 820 | . 227 | . 470 | . 239 | . 487 | . 073 | 1.020 | 86.9 | 976.3 | 1063.2 | 7.2 |
| Black Drum | . 148 | 2.667 | . 189 | 1.567 | .183 | 1.639 | -- | -- | 8 | 67.4 | 75.4 | 0 |
| Gafftopsail Catfish | . 348 | 1.200 | . 259 | 1.401 | . 260 | 1.397 | . 500 | 1.100 | 10.8 | 525 | 635.8 | 5.5 |
| Southern Kingfish | . 113 | . 300 | . 218 | . 684 | . 217 | .681 | . 250 | . 500 | . 9 | 265.2 | 266.1 | 1 |
| Gulf Kingfish | . 405 | . 809 | . 304 | . 731 | . 306 | . 732 | . 150 | . 300 | 8.9 | 449.3 | 458.2 | . 3 |
| Pinfish | . 141 | . 198 | . 177 | . 263 | . 176 | . 261 | . 038 | . 175 | 9.3 | 551.4 | 560.7 | 2.8 |
| Red Drum | 1.492 | 2.539 | . 882 | 2.198 | 1.097 | 2.349 | 1.189 | 2.889 | 764.1 | 830.7 | 1594.8 | 329.4 |
| Sea Catfish | . 259 | . 591 | . 179 | . 420 | .182 | . 427 | . 457 | . 505 | 41.4 | 761.6 | 803.0 | 9.6 |
| Sheepshead | . 471 | 2.119 | . 376 | . 985 | . 441 | 1.610 | -- | -- | 33.9 | 12.8 | 46.7 | 0 |
| Southern Flounder | . 338 | 1.213 | . 165 | 1.556 | . 206 | 1.402 | 2.409 | 3.118 | 26.7 | 42, | 68.7 | 53 |
| Spanish Mackerel | -- | -- | . 950 | 2.613 | . 950 | 2.613 | . 339 | . 648 | -- | 41.8 | 41.8 | 14.9 |
| King Mackerel | -- | -- | 9.451 | 14.762 | 9.451 | 14.762 | 12.727 | 13.125 | -- | 1550.0 | 1550.0 | 420.0 |
| Blue Crab | . 132 | . 414 | . 436 | . 457 | . 431 | . 456 | -- | -- | 2.9 | 529.7 | 532.6 | 0 |


|  | Aug. 1973 <br> Creel Census | Aug. 1973 Comm. Fishing Stat.* | Aug. 1972 <br> Comm. Fishing Stat.: |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Croaker | $1069.8$ | 7846 | 0 |
| Redfish | 2126.2 | 33970 | 21273 |
| Flounder | 102.7 | 513 | 633 |
| Trout | 5694.7 | 29054 | 20373 |
| Crabs | 532.6 | 0 | 963 |
| Black Drum | 75.4 | 12833 | 41504 |
| Gafftop | 637.3 | 860 | 0 |
| Sheepshead | 46.7 | 769 | 2405 |
| Pompano | 16.2 | 3 | 154 |

In some cases the creel census poundage is very close to the commercial poundage, so if the total estimated sport fishing population (present data $x 5$ ) had been surveyed, the sport fishing poundage would have exceeded the commercial poundage.

It has been suggested that the reason that no crabs were reported during August 1973 in the commercial fishery report is that the crabs are shipped to Palacios for processing and missed being counted.

## CONCIUSION

The pilot creel census of August 1973 indicated that only minor changes were necessary to fulfill the two main purposes of the Summer 1974 summer study to supply sportsfishing statistics on the local area. Sampling will be extended to a 24 hour basis to cover night and afternoon fishing effort.

Since August, both Tables 1 and 2 have been revised (Tables 14 E 15), to add more needed information and to simplify the filling out *Texas Parks and Wildlife information on commercial fish catch.

Water Development Board and University of Texas Sport Fishing Creel Census
(1) site
(2) date
(3) time
(4) interviewer
(5) biotope
(6) position
A
(7) species
(8) \# caught (9) \# kept (10) average (11) \# hooks (12) bait weight
B $\qquad$
B
B -
B $\qquad$
B $\qquad$
B $\qquad$
B $\qquad$
B $\qquad$
B $\qquad$
(13) \# hours fishing
(14) check if previously
(15) total duration of trip interviewed
C $\qquad$ $\square$
(16) city of residence
(17) county
(1.8) type of outing
family
other
D
D
(19) \# person in party (20) \# under 18 (21) total expected cost of trip
E
(22) How many days/yr. do you fish
(23) freshwater?
(24) preference in saltwater in this area?
F $\qquad$

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

procedure. The ranking question of the original survey form was dropped because of the confusion of the fishermen in answering the question. Also, a complete information guide has been written in order to assist the census takers while they are in the field. District 2 will be split in future surveys, so instead of 4 survey districts there will be 5 .

There will be 5 barometer stations established, one in each district in order to achieve better climatological results. The climatological data of August 1973 has not been processed and will be discussed at a later date.

The future creel census will be run in the same manner as previously discussed except for the above changes as shown in Table 16 Instructions.

At present, January-June 1974, approximately 50 students from 5 area high schools are participating in the creel census as volunteers which will provide some continuity. The summer program will be conducted during June, July and August of 1974.

From the effort evaluation we have concluded that the August data represent $20 \%$ of the total effort in the system. This indication will be used to determine the creel census efficiency during the summer of 1974.

Budget Summary
Total funds available from Lower Nueces Water District were \$1500. Salaries ( 7 persons) and mileage (loł mile) \$ $1,287.79$ Aerial survey and communications, etc. 212.21

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS (CENSUS SHEET)

1. For a given category and situation, try to use a descriptor which is already in the dictionary instead of creating a new one. For example, for the category position: "shore" is already in the dictionary; do not use "bank" since for our purposes it means the same as "shore".
2. Whenever you find a situation not already defined in the dietimary: create a new descriptor, but be sure to add it to the dictionary.
3. Uniformity in spelling, word order, spacing, and punctuation is necessary, Although "dead shrimp" and "shrimp-dead" mean the same thing they would be listed as two separate descriptors in the data bank.
4. The symbols: "," (comma) "and" "or" "for" "with" "not" have special meaning to the ENVIR program. They can't be used within any descriptor.
(a) In place of "and", use "+" (plus)
(b) In place of $", "$ (comma) use "-" (hyphen)
5. Any descriptor state not known should be left blank. Comnas must be included between all blanks unless at the end of a line.
6. The letter "o" should be written " $\phi$ ". The number "zero is written normally.

The number "one" should be written 1.
The number "seven" should be written 7 .
The letter "zee" should be written $Z$.
7. Print legibly only in \#2 pencil (signatures as well).
8. The following symbols can't be used.
$\xi($ ampersand $)$
(apostrophe)
9. Any abbreviations may be used as long as they are recorded as such in the dictionary and explained in the appendix.
10. Any category using numeric descriptors will not accept words of any kind.
11. The numeric categories: no. of hours fishing, no. caught, no. kept, and no. of hooks should contain only integer numbers.
12. For the numeric category no. of hours fishing all values less than one hour should be considered one hour. For values greater than one hour: round up if one-half or greater, round down if less than one-half.

1. The category time will use a 24 hour clock.
2. All date categories will use numbers only and include month, day, year in that order.
3. The category location should correspond exactly to the location of interview category on the census sheets.
4. The category wind direction will use letter abbreviation (e.g. NW) and should be as specific as "SSE".
5. The category wind velocity should use knots and approximate to the nearest 5 knots (in multiples of 5).
6. All temperatures should be recorded as Farenheit values, with no degree ( ${ }^{( }$) symbols used.
7. No words can be used in any numeric category (e.g. 50F is not acceptable) except for \#15.
8. All climatological readings will be taken at specified areas.
(1) Location of Interview

| 1 - Caldwell Pier | 17 - Marina Madre |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 - City Pier | 18 - Ocean Drive |
| 3 - CCSC 3 | 19 - Oso Bridge |
| 4 - CCSC 7 | 20 - Oso Pier |
| 5 - Fish Pass | 21 - Aransas Pass Causeway |
| 6 - Gulf Beach - City | 22 - Fin E Feather |
| 7 - Gulf Beach - lA | 23 - Hogan's Ramp |
| 8 - Gulf Beach - l | 24 - Mom's Bait Stand |
| 9 - Gulf Beach - 2 | 25 - Redfish Bay |
| 10 - Gulf Beach - 3 | 26 - Bahia Marina |
| 11 - PA Jetty | 27 - Indian Point Pier |
| 12 - PA Marina | 28 - Paradise Pier |
| 13 - Station St. Pier | 29 - T-head |
| 14 - Bob Hall Pier | 30 - L-head |
| 15 - Jerry s Marina | 31 - Cole Park Pier |
| 16 - Kennedy Causeway | 32 - Portland Causeway Boat Ramp |

(2) Location Where Fishing Done (Biotope)
l - Bulkhead
2 - Channel
3 - Grassflats
4 - Hypersaline
5 - Inshore Gulf
6 - Oil Platform
7 - Open Bay

8 - River Mouth
9 - Shallow Bay
10 - Shallow Gulf
ll - Shallow Pass
12 - Surf
13 - Open Gulf
14 - Oyster Reef
(3) Position

Bridge
Boat
Jetty
Pier
Shore
Wade
(4) Date of Interview

| Month |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $\frac{\text { Day }}{1-31}$ | $\frac{\text { Year }}{1973}$ |
|  |  | 1974 |

(5) Time of Interview

0005 - 2400 (5 minute intervals)
(6) No. of Hours Fishing
l-128 (integers)
(7) Species

| Carcharhinus falciformis | Archosargus probatocephalus |
| :--- | :--- |
| Carcharhinus leucas | Lagodon rhomboides |
| Carcharhinus lumbatus | Bairdiella chrysura |
| Rhizoprionodon terraenovae | Cynoscion arenarius |
| Sphyrna lewini | Cynoscion nebulosus |
| Sphyrna tiburo | Cynoscion nothus |
| Raja texana | Leiostomus xanthurus |
| Dasyatis sabina | Sciaenops ocellata |
| Dasyatis sayi | Menticirrhus littoralis |
| Lepisosteus spatula | Menticirrhus americanus |
| Elops saurus | Micropogon undulatus |
| Megalops altantica | Umbrina coroides |
| Anguilla rostrata | Menticirrhus saxatilis |
| Ophichthus gomesi | Chaetodipterus faber |
| Gymnothorax nigromarginatus | Mugil cephalus |
| Brevoortia patronus | Polydactylus octonemus |
| Synodus foetens | Trichiurus lepturus |
| Galeichthys felis | Scomberomorus cavalla |
| Bagre marinus | Scomberomorus maculatus |
| Opsanus tau | Prionotus tribulus |
| Centropomus undecimalis | Paralichthys lethostigma |
| Epinephelus nigritus | Paralichthys albigutta |
| Epinephelus itajara | Balistes capriscus |
| Pomatomus saltatrix | Aluterus schoepfi |
| Rachycentron canadum | Lagocephalus laevigatus |
| Caranx hippos | Chilomycterus shoepfi |
| Caranx crysos | Eel |
| oligoplites saurus |  |
| Seriola dumerili |  |
| Trachinotus carolinus |  |
| Trachinotus falcatus |  |
| Lutjanus campechanus |  |
| Lutjanus griseus |  |
| Lutjanus jocu |  |
| Lutjanus analis |  |
| Rhomboplites aurorubens |  |
| Lobotes surenamensis |  |
| conodon nobilis |  |

Orthopristis chrysoptera
Number caught
1-500
Number kept
1-500
Weight
1-15000
No. of Hooks

Bait

1 - Chicken
2 - Cut Bait
3 - Dead Shrimp
4 - Dead Mullet
5 - Eel
6 - Jig
7 - Fish heads
8 - Goldspoon
9 - Hootie
10 - Live Mullet
11 - Live Shrimp
12 - Lure
13 - Plastic worms
City of Residence
SA - San Antonio
CC - Corpus Christi
PA - Port Aransas
PA - Port Aransas
AP - Aransas Pass
Ft W申rth
(9) County

14 - Plastic worm-red
15 - Plastic worm-white
16 - Plastic worm -yellow
17 - Plastic worm-orange
18 - Plastic worm-pink
19 - Ribbonfish
20 - Silverspoon
21 - Spec Rig
22 - Squid
23 - Mirror Lure
24 - Live pinfish
25 - Bingo lure
(10) Days Per Year Fish in Salt Water
$0-366$
(11) Days Per Year Fish in Fresh Water
$0-366$
(12) Salt or Fresh Water Preference

S - Salt
F - Fresh
N $\phi$ - N $\varnothing$ Preference

## VOCABULARY（climatøl申gical data）

（1）Mфnth
1－12
（2）Date
I－3I
（3）Year
1973
1974
（4）Løcati申n（same as on census sheets）
（5）Wind Directi申n

| N | E | S | W |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| NNE | ESE | SSW | WNW |
| NE | SE | SW | NW |
| ENE | SSE | WSW | NNW |

（6）Wind Velocity

| 5 | 25 | 45 | 65 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 10 | 30 | 50 | 70 |
| 15 | 35 | 55 | 75 |
| 20 | 40 | 60 | 80 |

（7）Cloud Cфver
1－clфudy
3－Clear
5 －St申rm
2 －Hazy
4 －Rain
6 －Partly Clфudy
（8）Bar申meter reading
（9）Air Temp
$0-125$
（10）Water Temp
0－125
（II）Tidal FI $\phi \mathrm{w}$
R－Rising
F－Falling
S－Slack
(12) No. of Peфple Fishing
$0-500$
(13) No. of Peфple Interviewed
$0-500$

## ABBREVIATION APPENDIX

City

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{SA}=\text { San Ant申ni } \phi \\
& \mathrm{CC}=\text { C } \phi \text { rpus Christi } \\
& \mathrm{PA}=\text { Pфrt Aransas } \\
& \mathrm{AP}=\text { Aransas Pass } \\
& \mathrm{Tex}=\text { Texas }
\end{aligned}
$$



