



## Inland Fisheries Division



### Texas Freshwater Fisheries Resources

- ➔ 1.7 million acres of fishable public waters
- ➔ > 1,100 reservoirs and small impoundments
- ➔ 191,228 miles of streams, creeks, and rivers
- ➔ 1.8 million freshwater anglers
- ➔ \$1.5 billion in economic impact from freshwater fishing
- ➔ 12,363 jobs supported by freshwater fishing

### Overview of the Inland Fisheries Division

The Inland Fisheries Division supports the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) mission by providing the best possible fishing opportunities while protecting and enhancing freshwater resources, including the diversity of Texas freshwater fishes, other freshwater species, and their habitats. The Division's history can be traced to establishment of the Texas Office of the Fish Commissioner (1879) and TPWD's predecessor agencies, but the modern-day Inland Fisheries Division was formed in 1963. Core functions consist of the following:

- ➔ Assemble science-based and data-driven plans that guide the management and conservation of Texas freshwater fisheries resources
- ➔ Monitor fish populations and angler utilization, and recommend harvest regulations that achieve sustainable fisheries and high-quality fishing experiences
- ➔ Monitor the diversity of Texas freshwater fishes and implement actions to ensure their long-term persistence
- ➔ Restore, enhance, and preserve habitats for fish and other aquatic resources
- ➔ Improve and expand angler access to fishing opportunities on public waters
- ➔ Operate, maintain, and periodically upgrade five freshwater fish hatcheries to produce high quality fish for stocking in Texas public waters
- ➔ Conduct fish health inspections and fish genetics certifications
- ➔ Conduct applied fisheries research
- ➔ Manage and prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species
- ➔ Perform regulatory consultations and permitting of projects affecting fish, their habitats, and other aquatic resources
- ➔ Investigate, restore, or recover damages to fish and other aquatic resources
- ➔ Increase public awareness and appreciation of Texas fisheries resources through outreach activities
- ➔ Recruit, retain, and reactivate freshwater anglers

*Last updated: March 2022*





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2021 Outcomes Achieved

- ➔ 12.8 million fingerlings stocked in 388 public waterbodies
- ➔ 410 fisheries surveys performed on 178 public waterbodies
- ➔ 28 fish habitat improvement projects completed
- ➔ 13,392 acres of watersheds and riverscapes restored
- ➔ 15,460 acres of reservoir fish habitats enhanced
- ➔ 23,352 visitors hosted at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center
- ➔ 2,362 regulatory consultations or permits issued
- ➔ 49 fisheries research projects
- ➔ 100 fish health or fish kill investigations



Learn More:

[www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishing](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishing)

Challenges Facing Texas Freshwater Fisheries Resources

- ➔ Watershed alteration, habitat fragmentation, and loss of connectivity in freshwater systems
- ➔ Sedimentation and loss of structural fish habitats in reservoirs
- ➔ Water management strategies inconsistent with the needs of freshwater fisheries resources
- ➔ Increased and competing demands for water
- ➔ Degradation of water quality
- ➔ Recurring severe droughts
- ➔ Introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species
- ➔ Increased pressure on fisheries resources from human population growth
- ➔ Changing angler demographics and the need for diverse angling opportunities, especially near human population centers

Inland Fisheries Division Priority Growth Areas

- 1) Broaden and diversify our constituency through increased investments in urban fisheries management, engagement of river anglers, shoreline-based access improvements, and implementation of R3 initiatives
- 2) Increase the scope and scale of fish habitat improvements including in-water structural habitat improvements and watershed and riparian best management practices
- 3) Conserve Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 4) Enhance fish hatchery production capabilities to achieve fisheries management goals

