



ALLIGATOR SURVEY INFORMATION SHEET

This survey is conducted to determine annual trends in the population of the American alligator. Night counts are made in selected area over predetermined lines. Lines surveyed during previous years are particularly important and every effort should be made to survey these each year. With each annual survey of a certain line, the information obtained gains further meaning.

Counts should be made during the dark of the moon and should begin about **one hour after sunset**. The air temperature should be **above 70 degrees Fahrenheit** during the count. **Winds should not exceed 10 mph**. 12-volt spotlights should be used during counts, lights with greater intensity will improve observability of alligators. Alligator can be classified while traveling at a fairly rapid pace. However, the observer should **adjust boat speed to make certain that alligators are not overlooked**. At least two people should conduct surveys whenever possible to promote safety considerations.

The number of alligators seen should be tabulated on the tally sheet by one-foot size classes. The distance from the nostril to the eye in inches provides a reliable estimate of the total body length in feet (Example: 7 inch length between nostril-to-eye equals an estimated 7 feet total body length size). Alligators of unknown length should be tallied in an appropriate category. If you are totally unsure of length, classify as unknown rather than "forcing" into a length category.

It is important that some measure of comparability be maintained between years for each survey route. Therefore, a detailed description of survey conditions should be given on the general information form to provide a record of factors to be duplicated in later years. It is especially important that you note any factors that influence your completion of the line or may affect the data gathered. Your comments or impressions are welcomed.

Please ensure that appropriate information is recorded on Tally Sheets and Information Forms.

Completed forms should be mailed by August 5th to:

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Alligator Program
10 Parks & Wildlife Drive
Port Arthur, Texas 77640



TEXAS ANNUAL ALLIGATOR SURVEY FORM

DATE: _____

LINE #: _____

OR *SPECIAL SURVEY*

Landowner name

address

phone no.

COUNTY: _____

Route Description _____

Start time: _____ End time: _____

Total miles/acres surveyed _____ does this differ from master line ___(Y/N)

Boat type _____ Motor _____

Observer _____ Operator _____

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Rainfall (within the past 24 hrs) _____ Air Temperature _____ Cloud cover _____

Water Temp _____

Water Level ___(L) Low ___(N) Normal ___(A) Above Normal ___(F) Flooding

Wind Velocity _____ Wind Direction _____

Moon Phase: check applicable period (<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/>)



NEW MOON WAXING CRESCENT FIRST QUARTER WAXING GIBBOUS FULL MOON WANING GIBBOUS LAST QUARTER WANING CRESCENT

ALLIGATORS OBSERVED, TOTAL LENGHT (feet)

Less than 1 _____ 4-5 _____ 8-9 _____ unknown >6 _____

1-2 _____ 5-6 _____ 9-10 _____ unknown _____

2-3 _____ 6-7 _____ 10 & over _____

3-4 _____ 7-8 _____ UNKNOWN <6 _____ TOTAL SEEN _____

Was any portion of the survey line on a wildlife refuge, park, management area, or other area provided special protection? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, what percent?

This line should be:
____ continued as is
____ modified and continued
____ discontinued

COMMENTS:

TOTAL LENGTH (FEET)			
Less than 1			
1-2			
2-3			
3-4			
4-5			
5-6			
6-7			
7-8			
8-9			
9-10			
10 & Over			
Unknown <6			
Unknown >6			
or UNKNOWN SIZE			
TOTAL			