

# **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department History**

## **1963-2003**

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## **Foreword**

This report is part of a completed project for the Natural Leaders Program, a leadership development training tool at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The information presented includes a detailed history of the events that shaped the Department and its divisions, an introduction to an employee recognition program called Conservation Heroes and recommendations for executing and maintaining this history report and recognition program.

The work to compile this information involved researching historical documents and reports as well as interviewing people who experienced these events first hand. The project was well timed to access the institutional knowledge that is rapidly leaving the Department via retirement of tenured employees. Many of the interviews conducted were recorded on video or audio tape and are included in an archive of historical reference materials included as a part of this report.

Through the course of this project the authors have been privileged to meet with past and current employees of the Department as well as other knowledgeable professionals who are or have been movers and shakers in their respective fields. The perspective gained by the authors during these meetings regarding TPWD's role in preserving the natural and cultural resources of Texas could have been gained through no other method and the authors are appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this project.

## **TPWD History 1963-2003 Executive Summary**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) provides outdoor recreational opportunities by managing and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat and acquiring and managing parklands and historic areas. It has inherited the functions of many state entities created to protect Texas' natural resources. In 1895, the legislature created the Fish and Oyster Commission to regulate fishing. The Game Department was added to the commission in 1907. The State Parks Board was created as a separate entity in 1923. In the 1930s, projects of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps added substantially to the state's parklands. In 1951, the term oyster was dropped from the wildlife agency's name, and in 1963, the Parks Board and the Game and Fish Commission were merged to form the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The legislature placed authority for managing fish and wildlife resources in all Texas counties with the Parks and Wildlife Department when it passed the Wildlife Conservation Act in 1983. Previously, county commissioner's courts had veto power over department regulations in many counties. The agency currently has 10 internal divisions: Administrative Resources, Coastal Fisheries, Communications, Human Resources, Infrastructure, Inland Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Resource Protection, State Parks and Wildlife. Intergovernmental affairs, internal audit and internal affairs are administered through the Executive Office.

This report provides the highlights of the Department's history from the creation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1963 to the present. More detailed historical events are reported in the Appendix for each of the Department's divisions and an interesting collection of notable quotes regarding the Department can be found in the Appendix as well.

### **Chronological List of Departmental Events:**

#### **1963**

The Texas Game and Fish Commission merged with the State Parks Board to create the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department controlled by a 3-member Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission.

The controlled dredging program was approved allowing the permitted harvest of oyster shell from Texas bays. Oyster shell was used extensively in road construction and concrete mixes. This program was very controversial with opposition from many people concerned with the health of bay ecosystems, including commercial and recreational fishermen. Funding from dredging leases supported TPWD operations.

The Department initiated a traveling wildlife exhibit show operated by Law Enforcement that most wardens called the "Possum

Show". It consisted of a tractor-trailer rig filled with various wild native animals that traveled to fairs and community events.

#### **1964**

Boat Registration Fees provided funds for the construction of boat ramps in State parks.

Cooperation between Texas Dept. of Correction and TPWD began which addressed maintenance and construction at state park facilities.

#### **1965**

The *Texas Game & Fish* magazine changed its name to *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, reflecting the comprehensive function of the Parks and Wildlife Department.

## 1966

The first statewide mourning dove research project was initiated.

The Texas Department of Transportation began construction and maintenance of park roads with funds appropriated by the legislature.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature approved a proposed constitutional amendment, enabling legislation to provide for a ten-year, \$75 million State Park acquisition and development program.

The “Data Processing” unit was formed at TPWD which included key punchers, supervisors, sorters, one computer operator and the first computer programmers using high level languages. Use of a mainframe computer to process custom programs was started. Mainframe computer time was rented (8 hours per night) from the Department of Public Welfare (now Department of Human Services) located in the basement of the Reagan Building in Austin. The computer was an IBM 1401 using vacuum tube technology with 4 kilobytes of memory.

## 1967

Legislature enacted House Bill 220 which authorized a state system of scientific areas for the purpose of education, scientific research and the preservation of flora and fauna.

## 1970

The Texas State Fish Records Program was established. Original state record list was acquired from the Texas Outdoor Writers. This program was the forerunner of the present Angler Recognition Program.

Game Warden accreditation through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) required 140 hours of law

enforcement training after September 1, 1970. This certification raised the standard for peace officers in Texas.

Funding through Federal, Land and Water Conservation Program provided the foundation of TPWD facility expansion from the late 1960 into the mid 1980’s. The Texas legislature authorized the purchase of land and the development of public use facilities.

## 1971

The Texas legislature increased the TPWD Commission from 3 to 6 members.

The white-winged dove stamp, costing \$3, was the first hunting stamp designated by the Department. Funds from this stamp were designated for the purchase of white-winged dove nesting habitat.

Twenty bighorn sheep were released on Black Gap Wildlife Management Area which began the reestablishment of this species in Texas.



Game wardens were given peace officer status by the Texas legislature.

Registration of motorboats was required under the Water Safety Act.

The Federal Boat Safety Act provided federal aid for boating safety education and law enforcement.

## 1972

Technical Guidance Program initiated by TPW Commission to provide dedicated Wildlife Division staff to directly assist private landowners in wildlife and habitat management.

The Boat and Motor Registration and Titling System moved from the Department of Transportation to TPWD. This was the first large automated system to be the responsibility of the Data Processing unit. The addition of this application strained the rented mainframe time which contributed to the need for TPWD to acquire its own mainframe.



TPWD acquired its first mainframe computer shortly after the Boat Registration System moved to TPWD. Computer operators were hired along with data control technicians. The functions of State Parks, Wildlife and Fisheries began to have applications programmed. The computer was an IBM 360 Model 40.

## 1973

Significant advances were made in the culture of marine fish such as red and black drum, Atlantic croaker, flounder and spotted seatrout. Future research with fish was aimed at perfecting production and stocking methods for freshwater reservoirs of high salinity.

The Environmental Branch of the Fisheries Division was organized. This branch was a precursor to the Resource Protection Branch, and later, Division.

## 1974



A standardized statewide saltwater fish harvest survey was initiated. The Fisheries Harvest Monitoring Program begins with a preliminary study in the Aransas, Galveston, San Antonio and upper Laguna Madre Bay systems. This program provided standardized fishery dependent data collected using a stratified random sample design. Bay boat ramps, wade/bank areas, private piers and commercial lighted piers and jetties were inventoried in each bay system.

Shell harvesting permits were revised with more restrictive dredging rules adopted and studies were started to assure protection of bay environments.

The first state list of endangered species was published. The list included five mammals, nine birds, two reptiles, five amphibians, and five fishes.

Policy was adopted by the TPWD Commission on mitigation of fish and wildlife losses as result of pollution.

**1975**



The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, a standardized statewide survey of saltwater fish populations, was initiated. This created a comprehensive fishery independent data collection program which utilized random sampling. Over the following years, experiments with various gears are conducted to determine the most appropriate methods of data collection for Texas coastal waters.

The archery hunting stamp was initiated.

Twelve surplus U.S. Navy liberty ships were placed at five sites in the Gulf of Mexico from 1975-76 to serve as artificial reefs.

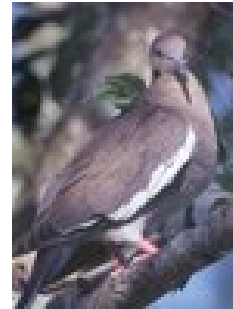
The Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Program for sampling coastal and inland public waters was established. Uniformity of sampling gear, sampling protocol, and fisheries management report writing was a result.

**1976**

Passage of U.S. Public Law 94-265, the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Magnuson Act) substantially affected TPWD. Fisheries of the new federal zone extending seaward from the outer limit of state jurisdiction to 200 miles in the Gulf of Mexico were now managed by a regional council of members from the five Gulf states with technical assistance from these states and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

TPWD headquarters moves from downtown Austin to its location at McKinney Falls State Park. This consolidated all Austin staff into one location.

**1977**



TPWD wildlife biologists and one from Mexico went on a 45-day reconnaissance trip to the white-winged dove wintering areas in Central America, noting areas of dove concentrations and existing habitat conditions, and contacting wildlife officials in each country to discuss formation of an International White-winged Dove Management Plan.

Red Drum Conservation Act became law, setting red drum limits for both sport and commercial fishermen.

**1978**



The game warden training academy was moved from College Station to its present location in Austin.

TPWD signed a consent agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice that, in its simplest terms, committed all agency employees to actively work toward the goal

of improving the representation of minority group members in the agency's workforce. The agency's effort in response to the consent agreement began a process that significantly improved the diversity of the department's workforce. During the 1980s and 1990s, great strides were made in developing hiring policies, guidelines and selection procedures that were objective and defensible.

**1979**

Texas becomes the first state to prohibit the use of single-strand monofilament gill nets in some situations.

**1980**

Gill nets were prohibited in Texas bays.

The Law Enforcement Division field network was established through IBM which linked the boat registration system and the Law Enforcement citation system to Law Enforcement offices.

**1981**



TPWD was given management authority over the American alligator in Texas.

Legislation passed requiring all Texas waterfowl hunters to possess a \$5 State Waterfowl Stamp.

The Texas legislature directed TPWD to issue a permit to Texas A&M University to study the effects of a grass carp introduction into Lake Conroe.



House Bill 1000 (Redfish Bill) passed which designated red drum and spotted seatrout as gamefish and prohibited their sale. An attempt to overturn the law in federal court by commercial finfish fishermen was unsuccessful. Commercial finfish fishermen subsequently directed their fishing effort at black drum, southern flounder and other species.

Redfish Bill violations increased to Class B misdemeanor with fines of \$200 to \$1,000.

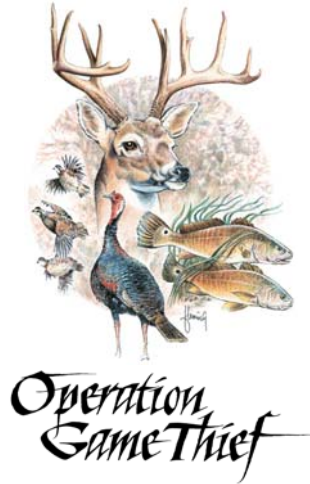
The Gulf Coast Conservation Association leases a \$1.2 million red drum hatchery to the Department to raise fingerlings to stock Texas bays.

The largest single park acquisition project to date occurred with a lease of land for the Choke Canyon State Park and what was later to be named James E. Daughtrey Wildlife Management Area, totaling 38,500 acres.

**1982**

State Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Development Program was initiated.





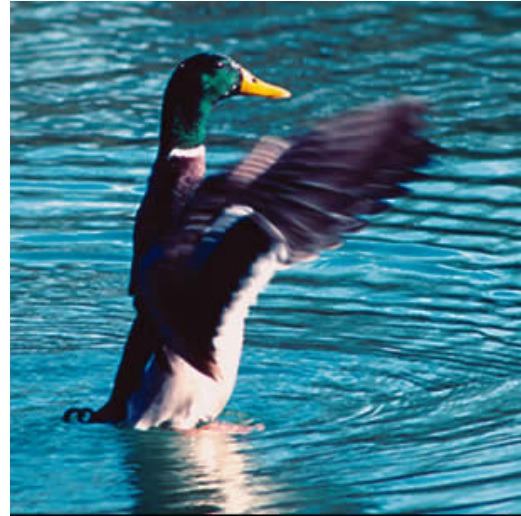
Operation Game Thief Program was implemented

### 1983

TPW Commission membership increased from 6 to 9 members.

The Wildlife Conservation Act passed giving the TPWD Commission authority to manage fish and wildlife to include finfish and crabs. Before passage of the act, all hunting and fishing laws in 13 Texas counties and certain laws in 72 counties were set by the Legislature while regulations set by the Department in other counties were subject to approval or veto by local county commissioners' courts.

The new John Wilson Saltwater Fish Hatchery, built with funds donated by the Gulf Coast Conservation Association on land provided by Central Power and Light Company of Corpus Christi, became operational. Department workers at the hatchery produced more than 7 million red drum fingerlings for stocking Texas' bays during the year.



The nontoxic (steel) shot zone for waterfowl hunting was expanded to include all coastal areas and a portion of the prairie region west of Houston. Prohibition of the use of toxic lead shot for waterfowl hunting within the zone was designed to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in waterfowl.

The Texas coast experienced unusually cold weather during late December 1983 through early January 1984 that caused massive fish kills in Texas bays. Slush ice covering the bays was common from Sabine Lake to lower Laguna Madre. About 14 million fish and one million invertebrates were estimated killed. Routine sampling in the months following the freeze revealed reduced populations of spotted seatrout and other finfishes. Recreational fishing was adversely affected for several years after the freeze. The TPWD Commission enacted emergency regulations which reduced bag and possession limits and increased minimum length limits on red drum and spotted seatrout. This same freeze also killed citrus orchards and native brush nesting habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and contributed to the expansion of white-winged dove range to other areas of Texas.

Senate Bill 325 provided continuation of the one-cent cigarette tax for local parks, with provision for rural areas to be eligible for funding.

The TPWD Commission authorized the purchase of 215,000-acre Big Bend Ranch in Brewster and Presidio Counties for \$8.8 million. The ranch is the largest tract ever acquired by TPWD, and the acquisition, in effect, doubled state park acreage.

## 1984

The Department's request to the Texas Water Commission resulted in the release of 10,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Texana near Edna, the first-ever release of impounded water in Texas intended solely to benefit an estuarine system.

The Department's first Non-game Stamp, Print, and Decal Program was launched, with proceeds dedicated to the Department's non-game and endangered species programs.

"Texas Outdoors" radio program produced with the Texas State Network in Dallas, aired on 24 stations.

The Vegetation Types of Texas map and accompanying document was published. Staff from the GIS Lab (Resource Protection) and Wildlife Division were instrumental in the development of this product.

## 1985

State Freshwater Trout Fishing Stamp was established to help fund the rainbow trout stocking program and to acquire river access locations.

The PBS film series titled, "Made in Texas" aired for the first time.

The Saltwater Stamp Bill created a \$5 stamp for saltwater anglers. This provided an estimate of the number of anglers fishing in saltwater and provided revenue for improved coastal fisheries management and law enforcement. Funding from this source allowed for expansion of Coastal Fisheries monitoring programs and an increase in staff to support them.

The 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature passed the Department's Sunset Review legislation broadening the agency's powers in the fields of licenses, water issues, penalties, recovery of values for lost or damaged wildlife resources and nongame programs. It designated the Department as the primary agency for protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources and set up a lifetime hunting and fishing license endowment fund. Another result of this legislation was the elevation of the Resource Protection Branch to full divisional status and its authority over protection of fish and wildlife resources was enhanced, particularly as relates to water quality.



The Texas legislature delegated authority over shrimp and oysters to the TPWD Commission contingent upon completion of Management Plans. This action also gave the Commission the authority to regulate the times, means and methods used to harvest these organisms.

House Bill 2 of the 1985 Legislature provided the statutory authority for TPWD to work with the Texas Water Development Board to establish and maintain a continuous data collection program and to jointly conduct special studies and analyses to determine the bay conditions necessary to support a sound ecological environment. The Texas Water Code required the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (currently Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) and TPWD to recommend the specific quantities and qualities of freshwater inflows necessary to

maintain fish and shellfish productivity of bays and estuaries.

The Texas Water Code authorized TPWD to enforce the Water Code to the extent that any violation affects aquatic life and wildlife. TPWD's response to fish kills and pollution incidents which threaten fish and wildlife was based in part upon this statutory authority.

## 1986

Statewide 14-inch minimum length limit and 5-fish daily bag were implemented on largemouth bass. This change marked the movement from Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) to Optimum Sustained Yield (OSY) fisheries management philosophy.

The ShareLunker Program was initiated when a 17.65-pound Lake Fork largemouth bass was caught and donated. This fish was also a new state record. The ShareLunker program originally contained two objectives: 1) to promote catch-and-release of trophy largemouth bass, and 2) to selectively breed trophy largemouth bass.

Law Enforcement Division, with cooperation of Fisheries, instated a Genetic Data Base Wildlife Forensic analysis for game wardens. Wardens began collecting blood and tissue samples from a broad spectrum of fishes and wildlife animals in Texas to build an extensive data base. This information assisted in the identification of species by blood and tissue cases filed by wardens.

Project WILD teacher workshops were approved by Texas Education Agency for advanced academic training credit.

The Mandatory Hunter Education Program was adopted by the Legislature.

## 1987



The Type II Wildlife Management Area Program was launched. This program was intended as a cooperative agreement with landowners to use private lands for public hunting opportunities. In its first year, the program garnered more than 436,000 acres, and 24,000 purchasers of \$35 Type II annual permits were allowed to hunt on any or all tracts during the open hunting season.

Mainframe computing capabilities were extended to all Law Enforcement offices. This allowed for citations and registration to be done at the field offices.

TPWD acquired its first microcomputer in state parks. Many skeptics said that microcomputers wouldn't work for the long term.

## 1988

TP&W Commission voted to close Texas waters to all trammel nets and drag seines. This action was designed to promote the escapement of adult red drum to the Gulf and reduce bycatch of non-targeted species.

The Fisheries Division expanded its state fish records program to include a listing of the largest fish caught from lakes, rivers and coastal bays.

A new fish and wildlife stocking policy was developed after public hearings were held across the state.

The first purchase of habitat with monies from the Special Non-game and Endangered Species Fund was a 208-acre tract in Chambers County, used by thousands of migrating birds as a resting place in the spring as they arrive from Central and South America.



Mandatory Hunter Education and Boater Education Programs began.

### 1989

The Texas coast experienced two cold weather periods (February and December) that caused massive fish kills. About 11 million fishes and 13,000 invertebrates were estimated killed in February and about 6 million fishes and more than 155,000 invertebrates in December. Subsequent TPWD routine sampling revealed spotted seatrout and other finfish populations were reduced. Recreational fishing was adversely affected for several years after the freezes.

### 1990

TPWD was designated as a State Natural Resource Trustee by the Governor pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. As a natural resource trustee, the Department is responsible for assessing injuries to natural resources and the services they provide from unauthorized discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances

and pursuing compensation from the responsible party(s).



The Texas Artificial Reef Plan was adopted by the TPWD Commission to guide future development and placement of reefs off the Texas coast.

### 1991

A major reorganization of the department created new divisions, including Fisheries and Wildlife, Public Lands, Conservation Communications, Legal Services, Human Resources and the Chief Financial Office. Law Enforcement and Resource Protection remained intact.

The Texas Big Game Awards Program was established to encourage quality private land management and promote recruitment of new and young hunters.

The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Incorporated, a private nonprofit organization, was founded to raise private donations for department conservation efforts.



The Texas Conservation Passport was introduced. This pass, at a cost of \$25,

offered entry to all state parks, guided tours and other benefits.

The Recruitment and Retention Program was established to focus on attracting and retaining qualified females and minorities to work for the Department.

The Strategic Plan for TPWD, Natural Agenda, was created and served as a model for the rest of state government. The mission, goals and objectives created from that original plan have not changed significantly during subsequent document renewals and the myriad of background information it provides is very useful to many employees and constituents of TPWD.

## 1992



The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Wildlife Expo celebrated the role hunters have played in conservation and to promote hunting and conservation. Subsequent Wildlife Expo events had expanded themes to include all divisions of TPWD.

Production of “Texas Outdoor Connection” radio program began.

The Nongame and Urban Fisheries and Wildlife Program were created, with nongame/urban biologists assigned to Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio.

## 1993

The TPWD GIS Lab was founded and placed under the direction of the Resource Protection Division.

Becoming an Outdoor Woman ® workshops were initiated.

Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch summer camps began under partnership with the Texas Game Warden Association.

Legislation passed which allowed TPWD to retain interest earnings on its fee-based revenue and receive the correct amount of unclaimed motorboat fuels tax refunds.

TPWD shifted from cigarette tax funding, which was declining, to the sporting goods sales tax which was increasing.

## 1994

The computer-based Central Reservation Center opened in December, allowing visitors to book reservations at almost all state parks with one phone call and pay for reservations by credit card. Previously, visitors had to call each park individually.



The TPWD Commission approved a new classification system for TPWD public lands, which included the Wildlife Division’s Wildlife Management Areas. The system categorized departmental lands

in four legislated classes: game management areas, recreational areas, natural areas, and historical areas.

The procurement card system was initiated following legislative action. This was in response to the need for decentralization of purchasing and for small value purchase transactions to be more efficient.



TPWD established its own node on the internet with a web page that was and continues to be considered one of the best in state government. This provided ability to reach a new customer base.

**1995**



Legislation passed giving TPWD Commission the authority to limit entry into the commercial bay and bait shrimp fisheries and to create a license buyback program. This allowed for a tool that would rationalize fishing effort and guarantee that at some point the fishery would reach sustainability.



Plans for the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, funded with a \$500,000 federal highways grant, were announced. The trail would link more than 200 sites along 500 miles of coastal highways to facilitate and promote public viewing from Beaumont to Brownsville.

The Texas Private Lands Initiative was expanded to provide technical and financial assistance for the development of wildlife conservation projects on private lands in Texas. The first phase of the program was completed this year after more than \$760,000 was raised to develop wildlife habitat enhancement projects on 60 sites in 34 counties.

The license point-of-sale system was established as the second and largest online automated licensing system in the nation. Many benefits were derived from this system including the availability of all products at all locations, the ability to shorten the receipt of funds from the license agents from three months to one week, the access to current information and customer information and the ability to make modifications to licenses with minimal impact and no printing requirements.

**1996**



The \$13 million Sea Center Texas marine development aquarium and educational

center at Lake Jackson opened in March providing a hatchery building, a visitor center, 36 one-acre grow-out ponds, a one half acre Youth Fishing Pond and a wetland composed of a 3 acre freshwater and 1.5 acre saltwater marsh wetland area. The facility had the capacity to produce 20 million fingerlings annually, primarily red drum and spotted seatrout, for release into Texas coastal waters.

*Passport to Texas* radio program begins



The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) opened in Athens. The project was originally designed to be a renovation of the Tyler fish hatchery with the addition of a Texas fishing hall of fame. The facility hosts a hatchery, research laboratory, aquarium, fishing pond, and educational center. The ShareLunker Program was transferred from the defunct hatchery in Tyler to TFFC.



The Texas Game Warden Association unveiled the Texas Game Warden Memorial at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in

Athens. The sculptured bronze statue was dedicated to game wardens that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, while protecting the wildlife and people of Texas.

State parks that charge entrance fees instituted a per-person pricing fee schedule. Instead of paying a per-vehicle price, adult visitors were charged fees ranging from \$1 to \$5 per person.



Texas Game Wardens became involved in a major boating safety campaign. The “Don’t Be A Pain In The Boat” initiative was designed to generate extensive public awareness about safe boating practices, while providing intensive Law Enforcement on some of Texas’ “high profile” lakes.

**1997**

Legislation passed creating a mandatory boater education program in Texas for boat operators under the age of 18, and who were born on or after September 1, 1984.



Operation Game Thief introduced the Wall of Shame Trailer which is taken to all types of events through out the state. The trailer contained mounts of illegally taken game and fish and unlawful gear.

**1998**

A new program entitled Outdoor Kids was started to: 1) create an umbrella program for all of the agency’s youth-oriented programs, 2) serve as a resource for field staff to adapt and use at the individual sites, and 3) recognize kids that participate in outdoor recreational, natural and historical programs and events.



TPWD initiated the World Birding Center located in the Rio Grande Valley.

**1999**

The 76<sup>th</sup> Legislature expanded the Department’s role in aquatic vegetation control by placing TPWD in an advisory role to reservoir/river controlling authorities.

Lone Star Legacy Weekend annual event began.



TPWD debuts the first conservation license plate featuring a horned lizard. Plates to

follow featured the blue bonnet, white-tailed deer and largemouth bass.

**2000**

TPWD compiled and established a Facility Management System to determine the life cycle and inventory of Department facilities.

**2001**

Proposition 8 passed as a constitutional amendment, providing TPWD with more than \$100 million to address capital repairs throughout the Parks and Wildlife system and to complete backlogged critical projects.

Inland Fisheries staff played a lead role in developing “Aquatic Vegetation Management in Texas: A Guidance Document” which is used to assist TPWD and reservoir/river controlling authorities in developing and implementing aquatic vegetation management plans.

**2002**

Education, Interpretation and Outreach Commission Committee, Task Force, Advisory Committee (an external group) and Project Manager for TPWD were all created as a result of the Sunset legislation.

A report by an outside consultant to the Finance Committee of the TPWD Commission found that the Department must do a better job of balancing its books and communicating financial information to the Texas Legislature. The report recommended revising internal financial systems so they are better coordinated with USAS, the state’s official accounting system; find ways to fund capital commitments that the Department is already committed to, and reorganize the structure of the Department to centralize operations. All of these identified needs were addressed.



## **Administrative Resources Division**

The Administrative Resources Division supports achievement of the agency's mission by providing financial and budgetary support, development and maintenance of the information technology infrastructure, strategic planning, strategic performance measurement and records management and warehousing. The Division administers all financial transactions and agreements; designs, installs and maintains automated information systems; coordinates the agency's strategic plan; prepares legislative appropriation requests and operating budgets; and maintains necessary records management and warehousing capabilities. Administrative Resources responsibilities include providing financial and budgetary information to the Executive Office, state legislative and oversight offices and the TPW Commission to facilitate informed financial management decision making for TPWD.

### **Chronological List of Divisional Events:**

#### **Mid-1960s**

“Data Processing” functions started at TPWD and were limited to key punching, sorting of cards and other functions. The most advanced machinery was IBM accounting machines which could be programmed to tally certain columns of cards as they were fed through them. This was the beginning of Information Technology at TPWD and mainly involved business functions such as payroll and accounting. Workers were located in the Finance Division with others in the Reagan Building in downtown Austin.

#### **1966**

“Data Processing” unit formed at TPWD which included key punchers, supervisors, sorters, one computer operator and the first computer programmers using high level languages. Use of a mainframe computer to process custom programs was started. Mainframe computer time was rented (8 hours per night) from the Department of Public Welfare (currently Department of Human Services) located in the basement of the Reagan Building in Austin. The computer was an IBM 1401 using vacuum tube technology with 4 kilobytes of memory.

#### **1967**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> legislature recognizing the limitations of the bond fund, created the Texas Park Fund Number 31 for planning, acquisition and development of state parks and historic sites. The program was funded by a one-cent tax on each pack of cigarettes sold in Texas.

#### **1972**

The Boat and Motor Registration and Titling System moved from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to TPWD. This was the first large automated system to be the responsibility of the Data Processing unit. Many workers from TXDOT moved with the application and it was placed in the Finance Division. The Data Processing group was located in the Oetting Building in Austin. The addition of this application strained the rented mainframe time which contributed to the need for TPWD to acquire its own mainframe.

TPWD acquired its first mainframe computer shortly after the Boat Registration System moved to TPWD. Computer operators were hired along with data control technicians. The functions of State Parks, Wildlife and Fisheries began to have applications programmed. The computer was an IBM 360 Model 40.

Data Processing was elevated to Divisional status. Previously it had been under Finance.

### **1975**

TPWD purchased its second mainframe computer, an IBM 360 Model 50, from Texas A&M University. The unit was housed in a room measuring 22 X 110 feet and had ½ megabyte of memory. The unit provided enough memory to manage LANSAT data in the Pattern Recognition Program for Wildlife Division allowing for monitoring of habitat changes through satellite imagery. This was the first time a computer was used by TPWD for natural resource operations and not just administrative support and law enforcement.

### **1976**

TPWD moves to its location at McKinney Falls State Park. This consolidated all Austin staff into one location.

Consolidation of all TPWD staff at headquarters resulted in closer communication between divisions especially with Data Processing which allowed for better design of applications. Up time for automated application reached an all time high since remote connections to other Austin users were practically eliminated. Distributed mainframe processing continued to grow as law enforcement and other field offices were given dial-up capabilities.

### **1978**

The legislature created a second fund for parks called the Texas Local Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund to help create more urban park areas.

### **1980**

The mainframe database language was chosen and TPWD purchased a mainframe database system, Model 204, as its standard. Staff began converting existing applications

to that database. More applications from divisions were developed for the database.

### **1987**

Mainframe computing capabilities were extended to all Law Enforcement offices. This allowed for citations and registration to be done at the field offices. The work was completed in 1988.

TPWD acquired its first microcomputer in state parks. Many skeptics said that microcomputers would not work for the long term.

Microcomputers began to make an impact with the decentralization of application development away from the Data Processing unit except for corporate applications. During this growth of personal computing, the Data Processing unit formed support functions like the Help Desk and an output distribution center to support the traditional mainframe and the emergence of personal computing.

### **1989**

The first Local Area Network (LAN) was set up using Netware to network 30 computers in a trial run. Networking began to take hold as LANs became prevalent within divisions. The need for standardization of hardware and software became increasingly apparent as Data Processing staff attempted to maintain equipment and keep software upgraded. The Data processing unit was changed to Information Resources to reflect current terminology.

### **1990**

A headquarters-wide network was established putting virtually all microcomputers in Austin on-line.

Information Resources was placed in Administrative Services Division.

## 1991

The Strategic Plan for TPWD, entitled *Natural Agenda*, was created and served as a model for the rest of state government. The mission, goals and objectives created from that original plan have not changed significantly during subsequent document renewals and the myriad of background information it provided has been useful to many employees and constituents of TPWD.

## 1993

Legislation passed which allowed TPWD to retain interest earnings on its fee based revenue and receive the correct amount of Unclaimed Motorboat Fuels Tax Refunds. Retaining the interest earnings not only allowed our appropriation to increase, but also helped project a more business like approach.

TPWD's organizational budget was converted to a strategic based budget for appropriations called a Legislative Appropriations Request.

Natural Quality Service was implemented for boat registration and titling and other sections. This included measurement and tracking of various customer service components called "critical success factors".

The educational assistance program was implemented which included tuition reimbursement and time off to attend classes.

Modifications to statute were accomplished during the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session to allow for an automated licensing system and to define and create a Super Combo license. By creating the Super Combo and subsequently the Senior Super Combo later in the 1990's, TPWD for the first time increased revenue by developing a product that offered convenience and to some extent, prestige, but was actually more expensive than what was required for the majority of purchasers to legally hunt.

Information resource standards were developed throughout TPWD resulting in standardization of desktop hardware and software. This was done through the work of the Management Advisory Committees. Through the 1990's the Management Advisory Committees were used to continue standardization and coordinate more useful training and help desk support.

TPWD shifted away from declining cigarette tax funding, which had no relationship to its mission, to the sporting goods sales tax which was increasing. This shift had the potential to be tapped for future growth of TPWD, specifically state parks.

The Entrepreneurial Budgeting System was developed and implemented to reward successful entrepreneurial activities at TPWD sites.

## 1994

The entire headquarters building was rewired with category 5 wiring to facilitate the use of network connections, phone connections, and other connections. This brought the connectivity quality to the high level needed for the ever-changing environment of technology at that time.

Variable pricing and per person pricing increased the self-sufficiency of state parks.

The Internal Financial System Alternatives Study led to the acquisition of the Oracle Financial System that ran on a server/client based system. Although the system was complicated and received mixed reviews, the availability and accuracy of the information increased the Department's ability to comply with legislative purchasing and accounting requirements.

The licensing point-of-sale system feasibility study was conducted by Sterling Information Group.

The procurement card system was initiated following legislative action. This was in

response to the need for decentralization of purchasing and for small value purchase transactions to be more efficient.

TPWD established its own node on the internet with a web page that was and continues to be considered one of the best in state government. This provided a new ability to reach a new customer base.

In the mid-1990s client-server concepts in information technology were introduced as the future way to deliver applications to customers. Dependence on the mainframe for corporate applications was giving way slowly to the use of large servers and personal computers. TPWD was one of the first state agencies to begin the move to client-server environments for large applications. All divisions of the Department were involved in this move. Each program division had added several technical staff to compliment the assistance they received from Information Resources. The divisions by now were responsible for their own data entry and centralized key punching had been dissolved.

### **1995**

The license point-of-sale system was established as the second and largest online automated licensing system in the nation. Many benefits were derived from this system including the availability of all products at all locations, the ability to shorten the receipt of funds from the license agents from 3 months to 1 week, the access to current information and customer information and the ability to make modifications to licenses with minimal impact and no printing requirements.

The new PBX phone system at headquarters was implemented which included voicemail and call center support.

### **1996**

The Integrated Financial System was developed which allowed for the availability

of time and leave accounting and real-time budgeting and expenditure information.

Ten TPWD field offices were connected to the LAN at headquarters via the Wide Area Network (WAN). Field office connections to the WAN would continue in the coming years.

Across the board fee increases were implemented.

The procurement card system was implemented.

A full time equivalent cap was implemented to address vacancy rate.

The headquarters motor pool was eliminated.

An online and offline automated license system was implemented that accommodated the Harvest Information Program. This system allowed for reduced license purchase time, one-stop access to all license and stamps, simplified process for license deputies, verification of purchaser information resulting in more accurate and current license holder information, shorter remittance cycle, paperless license for short term fishing and hunting of non-tagged species.

### **1997**

Legislation passed providing \$60 million in revenue bonds to address backlog of infrastructure needs.

### **1999**

The Department outsourced the mainframe since only a few applications were still operated on it.

### **2000**

An Analysis of Alternatives was conducted to select a system to replace the Transactive point-of-sale license system. The new

system would need to accommodate approximately 2,000 license agents and 3.2 million transactions.

All computer applications were reviewed to ensure that the systems were prepared for both fiscal and actual year 2000 during Y2K programming concerns.

The TPWD website and Wildnet (intranet) was developed.

## **2001**

Proposition 8 passed providing TPWD with more than \$100 million to address capital repairs throughout the Parks and Wildlife system and to complete backlogged critical projects.

TPWD experienced problems reconciling the Department's accounting system with those of other agencies resulting in some friction with legislators and other state agencies. An October 2001 audit focused on revenue management and criticized TPWD for not reconciling revenue since 1998. While no money was missing, the State Auditor's Office report noted that there was a \$23.4 million difference between the revenue the Department reported within its internal accounting system and the revenue reported within the state's official

accounting system, known as USAS. The difference was subsequently reconciled.

## **2002**

A report by an outside consultant to the Finance Committee of the TPW Commission found that TPWD must do a better job of balancing its books and communicating financial information to the Texas Legislature. The report recommended revising internal financial systems so they were better coordinated with USAS, the state's official accounting system; find ways to fund capital commitments that the Department is already committed to and reorganize the structure of the Department to centralize operations. All of these identified needs were addressed.

A new point-of-sale license system was completed and implemented in January, 2002. Later in the year, the contractor that developed and administered the new electronic license sales system experienced financial difficulties causing fears that they might not be able to meet their obligations. TPWD improvised to develop a back up paper licensing system. Fortunately the back up system was not needed as the contractor was able to deliver the electronic system in the end.

## Coastal Fisheries Division

The management strategies of the Coastal Fisheries Division are directed at making the best long-term use of the marine resources of Texas. Although the Division's mandate covers four million acres of saltwater, including the bays and estuaries and out to nine nautical miles in the Gulf of Mexico, the state's marine resources are not infinite. The Division's actions over the years reflect a growing demand on marine resources by recreational and commercial fishermen as well as additional stresses on the quality and quantity of marine habitat.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department through the Coastal Fisheries Division has been a leader in the U.S. in several aspects of marine fisheries management through the years. The Division's Marine Monitoring Program collects fishery dependent and independent data for hundreds of species of finfish, shellfish, and other marine life in one of the most comprehensive and longest lasting programs of its kind in North America. The Department has been a leader in marine resource enhancement through production and stocking of recreationally important finfish in Texas bays to supplement natural production. While the fishery management tool of effort limitation was still a new and relatively untested idea, Texas proceeded with limited entry and license buy-back in the commercial bay shrimp fishery followed by the commercial finfish and crab fisheries. Coastal Fisheries continued to lead into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with the creation of the first Gulf shrimp fishery seasonal closed area for the protection of nesting sea turtles and emigrating sub-adult shrimp.

Coastal Fisheries owes its success to the vision and daring of its leadership and dedicated professionalism of its biological and technical staff. This level of expertise resulted in fishery management decisions that are science based in biologic, economic, and human dimensions. In turn, the Division gained a level of trust within the Department and state government by demonstrating they were capable of accomplishing their mission and doing it well.

Prior to 1963 a regional organization had been established for the Department which placed Coastal Fisheries biologists in separate regions along the coast. Each region contained representation from other divisions in the area as well. A chief marine biologist existed at each region. Fisheries biological staff was stationed in several bay systems to conduct marine research on local issues. The work of these biologists was loosely supervised with each person working on independent programs and studies. This system would change during the 1960's, 70's, and 80's into marine fishery monitoring and research teams located at each major Texas bay ecosystem working on coastwide initiatives as well as local issues.

### Chronological List of Divisional Events:

#### 1963

The Texas Game and Fish Commission merged with the State Parks Board to create the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department controlled by a 3 member Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission.

In the new Texas Parks & Wildlife Department organization, Coastal Fisheries

Function was located within Wildlife Services Division.

The controlled dredging program was approved allowing the permitted harvest of oyster shell from Texas bays. Oyster shell was used extensively in road construction and concrete mixes. This program was very controversial with opposition from many people concerned with the health of bay

ecosystems including commercial and recreational fishermen.

Around this time considerable conflict was occurring between commercial and recreational fishermen. One strategy among many considered to deal with this problem was zoning of bays and seasons to separate the two user groups.

The Galveston Bay field station in Seabrook was built after Hurricane Carla destroyed the station's previous location in an old school house in 1961.

### **1966**

Texas joins the Federal Aid to Commercial Fisheries research and development program.

### **1967**

Winds from Hurricane Beulah and ensuing floods completely destroyed the Lower Laguna Madre field laboratory and boathouse. All boats and vehicle and a few items of equipment were saved, but most equipment and unduplicated records were lost.

First coastwide minimum size limit established for red drum at 14 inches with no bag limit. Previously the only size limit existed for red drum in Cameron, Kenedy and Willacy counties at 14 inches (since 1955).

The Research Vessel *Western Gulf* was built. This vessel conducted marine fisheries research in the Gulf of Mexico.

### **1968**

Seafood Marketing Program authorized by the Texas Legislature to inform the consumer about Texas seafood products.

The San Antonio Bay field station moved from Seadrift to Swan Point outside of Seadrift.

### **1969**

The Arroyo Colorado (Lower Laguna Madre) field station which was destroyed during Hurricane Beulah in 1967 was fully reactivated by replacement of all facilities and equipment.

The Marine Fishery Research Station at Palacios began operation.

The Upper Laguna Madre field station was established on Laguna Shores Road in Flour Bluff (Corpus Christi).

### **1970**

As a result of the loss of the Corpus Christi Bay field station to Hurricane Celia in August, personnel from that station were relocated on a temporary basis at the Upper Laguna Madre field station in Flower Bluff.

### **1971**

In a reorganization of the Department, Coastal Fisheries, Inland Fisheries, and Wildlife Functions were located within Wildlife Services under the Director of Current Operations.

### **1972**

In a reorganization of the Department, Coastal Fisheries Operations, Wildlife Operations, Inland Fisheries Operations, Hatcheries, Planning, and Environmental Operations were located in the Fish and Wildlife Division.

### **1973**

Significant advances made in the culture of marine fish such as red and black drum, Atlantic croaker, flounder and spotted seatrout. Future research with fish is aimed at perfecting production and stocking methods.

A breakthrough in spotted seatrout culture occurred with the hatching of 150,000 fish at

the Olmito Hatchery near Brownsville, Texas.

#### **1974**

A standardized statewide saltwater fish harvest survey was initiated. The Fisheries Harvest Monitoring Program begins with a preliminary study in the Aransas, Galveston, San Antonio and upper Laguna Madre Bay systems. This program provided standardized fishery dependent data collected using a stratified random sample design. Bay boat ramps, wade/bank areas, private piers and commercial lighted piers and jetties were inventoried in each bay system.

An initiative began which setup a fisheries resource monitoring program in an effort to depart from the old method of “fisheries management by hunch.” The goal was to collect fisheries data using scientific methodology upon which defensible management decisions could be made.

Shell harvesting permits were revised with more restrictive dredging rules adopted and studies were started to assure protection of bay environments.

The Fisheries Division was created which included Coastal Fisheries, Inland Fisheries, Hatcheries, Noxious Vegetation, Seafood Marketing, and Environmental Branches.

#### **1975**

The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, a standardized statewide survey of saltwater fish populations, was initiated. This created a comprehensive fishery independent data collection program which utilized random sampling. Over the following years, experiments with various gears are conducted to determine the most appropriate methods of data collection for Texas coastal waters.

Twelve surplus U.S. Navy liberty ships were placed at five sites in the Gulf of Mexico from 1975-76 to serve as artificial reefs.

#### **1976**

Passage of U.S. Public Law 94-265, the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Magnuson Act), substantially affects Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Fisheries of the new federal zone extending seaward from the outer limit of state jurisdiction to 200 miles in the Gulf of Mexico are now to be managed by a regional council of members from the five Gulf states with technical assistance from these states and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

#### **1977**

Red Drum Conservation Act becomes law setting red drum bag limits at 10 fish and possession limits at 20 fish for sport fishermen. A limit of 2 fish greater than 35 inches was also established. A limit of 200 pounds of red drum per day was set for commercial fishermen.

Commission adopts prohibition of weekend use of nets and trotlines in coastal regulatory county waters.

#### **1978**

Legislature establishes a coastwide minimum size limit of 12 inches for spotted seatrout. The bag limit was set at 20 fish and possession limit at 40 fish. Previously, a minimum size limit of 12 inches, but no bag limit had been in effect in Cameron, Kenedy and Willacy counties only since 1955.

Minimum 5-inch size limit on blue crabs is set by commission and limit of 300 crab traps per fisherman.

Shrimp tagging program is initiated in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Galveston to provide



data on migration, growth and mortality of brown shrimp in Gulf waters.

The Lower Laguna Madre Field Station moved from Arroyo City to the old Olmito State Fish Hatchery Property just north of Brownsville.

### **1979**

The legislature defines major/minor bait producing bays and nursery areas.

Texas becomes the first state to prohibit the use of single strand monofilament gill nets in some situations.

The requirement that gill nets have floats was established.

### **1980**

About 52,000 cubic yards of oysters were distributed in Galveston Bay to enhance oyster production following floods in 1979 that killed many oysters.

Gill nets prohibited in Texas bays.

### **1981**

House Bill 1000 (Redfish Bill) passed which designated red drum and spotted seatrout as game fish and prohibited their sale. An attempt to overturn the law in federal court by commercial finfish fishermen was unsuccessful. Commercial finfish fishermen subsequently directed their fishing effort at black drum, southern flounder and other species.

Red drum minimum length for recreational anglers was increased to 16 inches and maximum length was lowered to 30 inches. Bag limit remained at 10 fish. An exception was a 14 inch minimum length limit in Cameron County until October 1983.

The use of air boats or jet-driven devices to pursue and harass red drum and spotted seatrout was prohibited.

Redfish Bill violations increased to Class B misdemeanor with fines of \$200 to \$1,000.

The Gulf Coast Conservation Association leases a \$1.2 million red drum hatchery to the Department to raise fingerlings to stock Texas bays.

### **1982**

The requirement of individual sales tickets for reporting commercial landings of finfish was repealed.

Retention of red drum and spotted seatrout in nets (other than dip net) and on trotlines (except sail lines) was prohibited.

### **1983**

The Wildlife Conservation Act passed giving the TP&W Commission authority to manage fish and wildlife to include finfish and crabs. Before passage of the act, all hunting and fishing laws in 13 Texas counties and certain laws in 72 counties were set by the Legislature while regulations set by the Department in 30 other counties were subject to review by local county commissioners' courts.

A minimum size limit for cobia (ling) was established at 37 inches and for Spanish mackerel at 14 inches.

Senate Bill 1023 increases penalties for the illegal taking of red drum and spotted seatrout to include the confiscation of all equipment including vessels upon the third offense during a 5-year period.

The new John Wilson Saltwater Fish Hatchery, built with funds donated by the Gulf Coast Conservation Association on land provided by Central Power and Light Company of Corpus Christi, becomes operational. Department workers at the hatchery produce more than 7 million red drum fingerlings for stocking Texas' bays during the year.

The Texas coast experienced unusually cold weather during late December 1983 through early January 1984 that caused massive fish kills in Texas bays. Slush ice covering the bays was common from Sabine Lake to lower Laguna Madre. About 14 million fish and one million invertebrates were estimated killed. Routine sampling in the months following the freeze revealed reduced populations of spotted seatrout and other finfishes. Recreational fishing was adversely affected for several years after the freeze.

#### **1984**

East Matagorda Bay was established as a sanctuary for red drum and spotted seatrout for 120 days following the freeze in December 1983. The purpose of this was to study the recovery of the bay ecosystem with fishing mortality removed following the major fish kills encountered during the freeze.

The Department's request to the Texas Water Commission resulted in the release of 10,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Texana near Edna, the first-ever release of impounded water in Texas intended solely to benefit an estuarine system.

In response to the freeze-induced fish kill, spotted seatrout minimum length increased from 12 to 14 inches and daily bag limit decreased from 20 to 10 fish. Red drum minimum size was increased to 18 inches and the bag limit reduced to five fish. The maximum length remained unchanged at 30 inches.

Minimum mesh size was increased to 6-inch stretch for commercial trammel nets; mainlines on trotlines were required to be fished on bottom.

#### **1985**

Saltwater Stamp Bill created a \$5 stamp for saltwater anglers. This provided an estimate of the number of anglers fishing in saltwater

and provided revenue for improved coastal fisheries management and law enforcement. Funding allowed for expansion of Coastal Fisheries monitoring programs and an increase in staff to support them.

The 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature passes the Department's Sunset Review legislation broadening the agency's powers in the fields of licenses, water issues, penalties, recovery of values for lost or damaged wildlife resources and nongame programs. It designated the Department as the primary agency for protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources and set up a lifetime hunting and fishing license endowment fund.

The Texas Legislature delegated authority over shrimp and oysters to the TP&W Commission contingent upon completion of Management Plans. This action also gave the Commission authority to regulate the times, means and methods used to harvest these organisms.

The first red drum hatchery satellite pond at the Dow Chemical Company's facility at Lake Jackson was completed.

Regulations were modified to protect red snapper by requiring a 13-inch minimum size for retention. These conformed to those approved by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for federal waters.

King mackerel minimum size limit increased to 23 inches.

#### **1986**

An outbreak of red tide caused fish kills along the Texas coast beginning in September 1986 in the Gulf of Mexico off Galveston and continuing through January 1987 as far south as the Mexican Gulf Coast south of Port Isabel.

The field station at Port Arthur was established to sample Sabine Lake and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico.

Regulations were modified to protect king mackerel by establishing restrictive bag and possession limits in Texas waters. These conformed to those of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for federal waters.

The Upper Laguna Madre field station was moved to Bay Wood in Flour Bluff (Corpus Christi). It remained in this location until 1991.

The Matagorda Bay field station moved from the Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station into Palacios.

### **1987**

Work begins for \$3.5 million expansion of GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff near Corpus Christi.

Regulations were modified to protect red snapper by deleting the exception that allowed fishermen on headboats to be exempted from red snapper minimum limits.

Regulations were modified to protect striped bass and snook by establishing restrictive bag and possession limits and by prohibiting their catch on gear other than pole and line. Snook minimum size limits established at 18 inches and maximum size limit at 30 inches. Bag limit was set at 5 fish and possession limit at 10 fish. Striped bass minimum size limit was established at 18 inches, bag limit at 5 fish and possession limit at 10 fish.

Regulations were passed establishing 18 cubic feet as the maximum size of crab traps.

Regulations were modified to protect spawning stocks of red drum impacted by the 1986 red tide by prohibiting the use of fish trawls in Gulf waters of Aransas, Brazoria, Jefferson, Matagorda and Willacy Counties.

### **1988**

The Ben F. Vaughan Jr. Hatchery and Research Center opened at Corpus Christi.

TP&W Commission voted to close Texas waters to all trammel nets and drag seines. This action was designed to promote the escapement of adult red drum to the Gulf and reduce bycatch of non-targeted species.

The commission adopts the Oyster Management Plan mandated by the Texas Legislature. The plan set management guidelines for the oyster industry in Texas.

The reopening of Cedar Bayou (Aransas Bay System) by dredging was completed by TPWD.

Regulations were modified to better conserve red drum by establishing a recreational daily bag limit of three, a minimum length of 20 inches and a maximum length of 28 inches.

Regulations were modified to better conserve black drum by implementing a daily recreational bag limit of five, a minimum length of 14 inches and a maximum length of 30 inches. Commercial fishermen were required to comply with minimum and maximum size limits.

Regulations were modified to better conserve sheepshead by establishing a daily recreational bag limit of five and a minimum length of 12 inches. Commercial fishermen were required to comply with the minimum size.

Regulations were modified to better conserve flounder by implementing a daily recreational bag limit of 20 and a minimum length of 12 inches. Commercial fishermen were required to comply with the minimum size.

A daily bag limit of one and a minimum length of 48 inches were established for tarpon.

Regulations were modified to eliminate identification problems between king and Spanish mackerel and increase yield by establishing a 14-inch minimum length (same as for Spanish mackerel) on king mackerel. Bag limits were established for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel at 2 and 3, respectively.

The striped bass possession limit was increased from 10 to 15 fish.

Regulations were modified to apply state rules to the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone to prevent overexploitation of Texas stocks which migrate outside the Texas Territorial Sea.

The Fisheries Division expanded its state fish records program to include a listing of the largest fish caught from lakes, rivers and coastal bays.

## **1989**

The Texas coast experienced two cold weather periods (February and December) that caused massive fish kills. About 11 million fishes and 13,000 invertebrates were estimated killed in February and about 6 million fishes and more than 155,000 invertebrates in December. Subsequent TPWD routine sampling revealed spotted seatrout and other finfish populations were reduced. Recreational fishing was adversely affected for several years after the freezes.

Senate Bill 609 passed prohibiting possession of illegal fishing devices on or near Texas waters.

House Bill 1417 passed creating a new mechanism for civil restitution cases designed to strengthen fishing laws and their enforcement.

House Bill 1301 passed prohibiting the sale of wild red drum. This restricts the market for redfish in Texas to only farm-raised red drum.

Regulations were modified to better conserve sharks by establishing a daily limit of five sharks for both sport and commercial fishermen.

Regulations were modified to better conserve billfishes and to conform to federal regulations. Blue marlin minimum length was established at 114 inches. Sailfish minimum length was established at 76 inches. White marlin minimum length was established at 81 inches. No bag limit was established.

Regulations were modified to prohibit use of Top-water trotlines in saltwater and to establish circle hooks as the only hook that can legally be used on saltwater trotlines.

The Texas Shrimp Fishery Management Plan and Economic Impact Statement were adopted by the TP&W Commission. The plan sets management guidelines for the \$170 million shrimp industry in Texas.

The Texas legislature directed TPWD to develop the artificial reef potential off Texas for enhancing fishery resources and fishing and diving opportunities.

## **1990**

The Texas Artificial Reef Plan was adopted by the Commission to guide future development and placement of reefs off the Texas coast.

Regions of south Texas centered around the Laguna Madre experienced a dense algal bloom referred to as "brown tide" which lasted in varying degrees of intensity for the next 10 years. This monospecific bloom was caused by a small (4-5  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter) chrysophyte and reduced penetration of sunlight into the waters of the Laguna Madre. Subsequently, some seagrass meadows were impacted and sport fishing activities were disrupted.

Regulations were modified to better conserve spotted seatrout damaged by

freezing weather in 1989 by placing a 15-inch minimum size to increase spawning potential.

Regulations on size limits were modified to better conserve gafftopsail catfish (minimum size limit 14 inches, no bag limit) and Florida pompano (minimum size limit 9 inches, no bag limit) for both commercial and recreational fishermen.

Snook size and bag limits were modified to better conserve the species damaged by two freezes in 1989. Minimum length limit was set at 20 inches and maximum length limit was set at 28 inches. Bag limit was set at 3 fish and possession limit at 6 fish.

Exceptions to red snapper size limits were removed to prevent depletion and to conform to federal regulations.

Sharks were defined as game fish making pole and line the only legal means for their capture.

It was made unlawful for any person to use game fish as bait.

Snagging and jerking of fish were better defined to prevent the taking of fish stunned by cold weather.

Harmful or potentially harmful exotic fish, shellfish and aquatic plants were defined and rules for their importation, sale, purchase, propagation, possession or release into Texas public waters were adopted.

Exceptions allowing the retention of unlimited numbers of undersize blue crabs for bait and shedding purposes were removed and a 5% tolerance of undersize crabs was allowed.

Trotlines and fish traps were prohibited in the Gulf in compliance with federal rules.

Shrimping regulations were modified by 1) extending the Gulf closure, 2) eliminating the exception allowing shrimping in the 4-

fathom zone of the Gulf during the closure, 3) restricting night shrimping and creating a new season for pink shrimp, 4) increasing the bag limit and decreasing the fishing time in bays during the spring season and 5) clarifying the use of shrimping licenses and other measures to protect the resource, reduce incidental mortality of other organisms, increase efficiency, prevent waste, simplify and clarify regulations and enhance law enforcement.

## 1991

A major reorganization of the department created new divisions, including fisheries and wildlife, public lands, conservation communications, legal services, human resources and the chief financial office. Law enforcement and resource protection remained intact.

A large number of exotic shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) were accidentally released from aquaculture ponds into the Arroyo Colorado in the lower Laguna Madre. TPWD personnel and contract shrimpers captured the exotic species in the Arroyo.

The grandfather clause allowing some shrimp vessels to shrimp in bay nursery areas ended. No shrimping was allowed by anyone in designated nursery areas.

TPWD makes the tarpon fishery catch and release only.

Regulations were modified to better conserve mullet by establishing a 12-inch maximum size during October to January to increase spawning potential.

Regulations on size and bag limits were modified to conform with federal regulations and better conserve greater amberjack (32 inch minimum length, 3 fish bag), cobia (37 inch minimum length, 2 fish bag), jewfish (catch and release only), and lane (8 inch minimum length, no bag limit), red (13 inch minimum length, 7 fish bag

limit) and vermillion (8 inch minimum length, no bag limit) snappers.

Removal of the left claw from stone crabs was prohibited.

The Upper Laguna Madre field station moved to Agnes Street in Corpus Christi.

## 1992

The structure diverting the lower Colorado River into the east portion of Matagorda Bay was completed. This closure was the final construction phase of the Colorado River Diversion Project.

Exotic shrimp were found in the lower Laguna Madre, but further sampling caught no more exotics.

Modifications to daily bag, possession, and size limits were established for greater amberjack (increased possession limit to 6 fish), cobia (increased possession limit to 4 fish), king mackerel (increased possession limit to 4 fish), Spanish mackerel (increased possession limit to 14 fish), shark (increased possession limit to 10 fish) and red snapper (increased possession limit to 14 fish).

Retention of sharks on trotlines was allowed.

An exemption was provided for removing trotlines during weekend periods when the National Weather Service issues small craft warnings.

Plans were unveiled for the \$11 million Sea Center Texas hatchery and visitor center in Lake Jackson. This was a joint project of TPWD, the Gulf Coast Conservation Association and Dow Chemical.

## 1993

King mackerel minimum size limit was changed to 23 inches.

“Drum seining” permits were repealed.

## 1994

The Fish and Wildlife Division was split into three divisions: Coastal Fisheries, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The TP&W Commission and bay shrimpers agreed to work on a limited entry program after data revealed that increased shrimping effort could place the bay shrimp industry in jeopardy. Concurrent with all-time high shrimping effort was a rise in landings of small shrimp (>67 count, heads-off). The traditional balance in the shrimp fishery had shifted, and sustained high catches of small shrimp jeopardized the goal of long-term protection of the resource. Extensive workshops were conducted along the coast throughout the year to formulate a limited entry plan for the bay shrimp industry that would meet legislative approval.

Sea turtle strandings along the Texas coast were the highest recorded (n=520) since the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network was established in 1980. Strandings closely coincided with near shore shrimping effort and slack TED enforcement efforts. Peak strandings occurred from April to mid-May, during the last three weeks of July, and during late August.

In Matagorda Bay, the mitigation phase of the “Colorado River Diversion Project” began in October with placement of oyster shell in three reef site areas creating 37 acres of new reef. This mitigation was to replace public oyster reefs destroyed when the diversion canal was dug into Matagorda Bay.

The TP&W Commission was provided the authority to extend the Texas Gulf of Mexico shrimp closure from 60 to 75 days if biological conditions warrant.

Retention of one red drum over the maximum size limit (28 inches) was allowed with a properly attached red drum tag. After returning the tag, a bonus oversize red drum tag was issued. In effect, a maximum of two

oversize red drum were allowed in a fishing year.

The retention of one tarpon 80 inches in length or larger was allowed with a properly attached tag (\$100).

Minimum length limit for red snapper increased to 14 inches to coincide with federal regulations.

The TP&W Commission provided an exemption from requiring 50% shrimp in individual bait trawl catch, allowing retention of nongame fish in any amount for bait, excluding species that have bag or size limits.

A 2:00 p.m. closure for bay and bait shrimping from April 1 through August 14 was established.

The transfer of shrimp from one bay shrimping vessel to another vessel was prohibited.

The transfer of shrimp from a bait shrimping vessel in quantities larger than two quarts/individual or one gallon/vessel was prohibited.

## **1995**

Legislation passed giving TP&W Commission the authority to limit entry into the commercial bay and bait shrimp fisheries and to create a license buyback program. This allowed for a tool that would rationalize fishing effort and guarantee that at some point the fishery will reach sustainability.

Red snapper size limit increased to 15 inches, bag limit reduced to 5 fish and possession limit to 10 fish.

## **1996**

The \$13 million Sea Center Texas marine development aquarium and educational center at Lake Jackson opened in March

providing a hatchery building, a visitor center, 36 one-acre grow-out ponds, a one half acre Youth Fishing Pond and a wetland composed of a 3 acre freshwater and 1.5 acre saltwater marsh wetland area. The facility had the capacity to produce 20 million fingerlings annually, primarily red drum and spotted seatrout, for release into Texas coastal waters.

A naturally occurring “red tide” algae bloom was reported along the coast in mid-September killing more than 3 million fish before dissipating in November.

TPWD stepped up its efforts to protect native shrimp stocks from exotic diseases by working successfully with the aquaculture industry to prevent the spread of the Taura Virus and made use of all available measures including legal action against those not willing to cooperate.

To better address major conservation challenges, the executive director reorganized TPWD creating three senior division director positions in the areas of Land Policy, Water Policy and Administrative Resources. Several key programs were shifted to increase their effectiveness.

The Upper Laguna Madre Field Station moved to the Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi campus.

Flounder minimum size limit increased to 14 inches, bag limit decreased to 10 fish and possession limit to 20 fish.

Florida pompano minimum size limit removed.

Snook size and bag limits were modified to reflect new information on life history of the species. Minimum size limit was set at 24 inches and maximum size limit at 28 inches. The bag limit was set at one fish and possession limit at two fish.

The striped bass possession limit decreased from 15 to 10 fish.

### **1997**

Legislation passed giving TP&W Commission the authority to limit entry into the commercial crab fishery and to create a license buyback program.

Greater amberjack bag limit decreased to 1 fish and possession limit to 2 fish.

### **1999**

Legislation passed giving TP&W Commission the authority to limit entry into the commercial finfish fishery and to create a license buyback program.

### **2000**

The TP&W Commission adopted new comprehensive conservation measures in the shrimp fishery which added more nursery areas and bait bays, shortened the fall bay season, extended the winter Gulf closure, restricted the number and size of nets in the near shore Gulf, required bycatch reduction devices in trawls, created a near shore seasonal closure to shrimping off the southern Texas coast and increased license fees aimed at increasing funding for license buyback. The changes in regulation were designed primarily to reduce growth and biological over fishing as defined in the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan of 1989.

### **2001**

Legislation passed giving TP&W Commission the authority to create a crab trap removal program. This program would remove derelict traps from state waters to reduce navigational hazards and aquatic organism mortality due to ghost fishing.

### **2002**

Coastal Fisheries published a report to the Governor and Legislature on the Texas shrimp fishery culminating two years worth of intensive study. The study produced innovative analysis of biodiversity, habitat, bycatch, sea turtle conservation, socio-economics, and sustainable management.

Coastal Fisheries initiated a year of increased surveying of the recreational spotted seatrout fishery. In addition to routine monitoring data, the Division also sponsored town hall meetings, mailed out surveys and created a spotted seatrout working group of stakeholders to review the information that was being accumulated. This was a proactive initiative to deal with escalating coastal fishing pressure.

The first crab trap cleanup was held to remove derelict traps from the bay thus reducing navigational hazards and aquatic organism mortality due to ghost fishing. Almost 600 volunteers helped Division staff to remove more than 8,000 traps from public waters.

Regulations were created requiring all fish landed in Texas to meet Texas length, bag and possession limits.

### **2003**

Spotted seatrout regulations were enacted that created a maximum size limit of 25 inches with a bag limit of 10 fish, one of which could be >25 inches in length. Regulation of fishing guides also occurred with the creation of a boat limit for paying customers and the requirement that a saltwater fishing guide in Texas also have U.S. Coast Guard certification.



## Communications Division

The Communication Division's primary responsibility is to increase awareness of the importance of conserving the natural and cultural resources of Texas, increase participation in outdoor recreational activities and encourage safe, legal and ethical behavior among resource users. Through a wide range of media products, the Communications Division drives traffic to the Department's revenue-producing products including hunting and fishing licenses, boat registrations, both day and overnight park visitation as well as other special programs and events. Media products include the TPWD website, the TPWD intranet website, the Texas Parks & Wildlife monthly magazine, a weekly PBS television series, the Passport to Texas daily radio program, video news reports and a variety of internal and external publications, video products and other public information items. Education and Outreach programs include a department-wide education, interpretation and outreach planning and evaluation effort, the state's mandatory boater and hunter education programs, mobile shooting ranges, aquatic education, angler education, Project WILD and Aquatic WILD, interactive web casts, target range grants, management of a youth ranch facility and summer camp program, minority outreach programs, Outdoors-Woman and Outdoor Kids. Marketing initiatives include Big Time Texas Hunts, the Texas Conservation Passport and conservation license plate series, sponsorship efforts, consumer research, advertising and promotional efforts. The Texas Wildlife Expo, TPWD's premier outreach event, is presented the first weekend of each October and reaches 45,000 visitors, introducing children and adults to many hands-on activities such as kayaking, shooting sports, rock climbing, hunting and fishing.

### Chronological List of Divisional Events:

#### 1963

The Texas Game and Fish Commission merged with the State Parks Board to form TPWD.

#### 1965

The name of the *Texas Fish and Game* magazine changed to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* in April. Color photos were used regularly inside the magazine beginning with the October issue.

#### 1967

An exhibit supervisor in Information and Education Branch was created.

Regional Information Officers were created.

#### 1971

The Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 provided federal aid for boating safety education and law enforcement.

#### 1972

The Commission authorized the executive director to expend federal boating safety act funds for the initial development of a water safety education program.

#### 1974

First boater education program becomes available.

The Texas Skipper's Course, a self-instruction program, was made available to the public through TPWD.

**1977**

The voluntary Water Safety Program became available. This later became boater education.

The Texas Skipper's Course was discontinued and approval was granted for the development of a classroom-type course to be established in the schools and eventually statewide.

The new Water Safety Program was approved and called the Texas Better Boating Course. The first Water Safety Coordinator was established

TPWD began a book publishing partnership with Texas A&M University Press

**1978**

Information and Education Branch set up a toll-free information line.

Fishing report becomes a part of the weekly news packet.

**1982**

The Department certified the 100,000<sup>th</sup> hunter education student.

**1983**

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary agreed to teach the Better Boating course along with the federal boating course.

The first U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors and students were state certified.

**1984**

The *Texas Outdoors* radio program was produced with the Texas State Network in Dallas. The program aired on 24 stations.

TPWD awards first grants for shooting range program as part of hunter education.

**1985**

The Project WILD Program was launched in Texas to provide public school curriculum regarding natural resources.

**1986**

TPW magazine published *150 Years of Change*, a special March/April issue.

Graphics unit moves from Information and Education to General Services in the Administrative Resources Division.

Project WILD teacher workshops approved by Texas Education Agency for advanced academic training credit.

**1987**

KERA in Dallas begins airing the PBS series, entitled *Made in Texas*.

**1988**

A mandatory hunter education program was established.

TPWD and U.S. Coast Guard Power Squadrons agreed to collaborate on boater education.

*Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine publishes article about the first 25 years of TPWD history in September.

Mandatory Boater Education Program began.

**1991**

The Information and Education Branch became a full division and was renamed the Conservation Communications Division. Bill Rutledge was hired as the Division Director.

The first internal communications video newsletter was produced called *Open Line*.

The PBS series title was changed to *Texas Parks and Wildlife*. A weekly satellite feed of the program in stereo supplied a full 26-week television season.

Legislature created the Texas Conservation Passport program.

### **1992**

The weekly news packet was made available on the TPWD electronic bulletin board.

The first Texas Wildlife Expo was held in October.

The Marketing Branch was established.

A centralized collection and distribution of park events listings began.

Production of *Texas Outdoor Connection* radio program began.

The *Passport Journal* launched and was mailed to all Texas Conservation Passport holders quarterly.

The TPW Magazine published a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue called *State of Nature*.

The TPWD television series won its first regional Emmy award.

### **1993**

Becoming an Outdoor Woman ® workshops were initiated.

Aquatic education programs began.

The TPWD catalog launched.

The distribution of Video News Releases began.

The graphics unit moved to the Marketing Branch.

Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch summer camps began in partnership with the Texas Game Warden Association

### **1994**

The marketing of nature tourism on private lands began.

### **1995**

Education Services created a position dedicated to enhancing our efforts in public schools.

TPWD Web site launched with contributions and support from all Department divisions.

### **1996**

Lydia Saldaña became Division Director.

News and Information Branch is created; Internal Communications, Video News Releases and PBS groups are merged to form Media Productions. News and Information, Publications and Marketing Services were also in the Division. The name of the Division was changed to Communications Division.

Education and outreach programs were re-organized and placed under the direction of the Senior Director of Aquatic Resources, Larry McKinney.

The *Passport to Texas* radio program began.

First high profile boating safety ad campaign launches. The campaign utilizes the theme line "Don't be a Pain in the Boat."

Advertising representatives were listed in the magazine for the first time in September.

### **1997**

A website developer was hired to improve the Department's Internet website.

The departmental internal communication intranet site called the Wildnet was launched.

A mandatory boater education law passed in the state legislature to become effective in 1998.

The Discovery Passport program was launched.

TPWD hired its first full-time director of Texas Wildlife Expo.

### **1998**

Outdoor Kids program began as an effort to promote all of the Department's youth-oriented programs.

The Department pilots its first Webcast to schools.

The "Park of the Month" feature, *This Week at TPW* and *Commission Brief* began.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas state parks promotion was conducted.

First Big Time Texas Hunts direct mail campaign developed and executed by Marketing Services.

### **1999**

Regional outreach staff hired in Dallas and Houston to develop community partnerships and to continue breaking down barriers to participation in outdoor recreational opportunities.

Home study materials for hunter education were made available.

500,000<sup>th</sup> hunter education students were certified.

*Hook & Bullet* newsletter launches as a renewal effort for the Super Combo license.

The photography section moves from News and Information into Media Productions.

Information Services Section (formerly Word Processing Center) became part of Graphics.

The Print Shop and Information Services Section move to Marketing Branch in the Communications Division.

The horned lizard conservation license plate debuted.

Lone Star Legacy Weekend annual event began. This effort raises funds to endow each TPWD facility.

### **2000**

Outdoor Kids Adventure Days program began.

Ducks Unlimited license plate debuted.

The waterfowl report, designed to provide basic web-based information during hunting seasons, was launched.

The Print Shop at TPWD closed.

First Texas Conservation Passport direct mail campaign was initiated.

Creative Services was created as a branch in the Communications Division. Branch units were the Print Design and Fine Art Unit (formerly Graphics), Print and Copy Services Unit and Web Unit.

Sponsorship of the state park map site program began. Chevrolet was the first sponsor.

### **2001**

The photography unit begins digital archives.

The bluebonnet license plate debuted.

The First State Park Annual was produced in cooperation with the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas.

The *Passport to Texas* radio program began in-house production.

Communications Division coordinated a multi-agency communications effort for Proposition 8. Voters approved the measure and \$100 million in bonds were approved for TPWD infrastructure needs.

## **2002**

The white-tailed deer and largemouth bass license plates debuted.

*Texas: The State of Water* communications initiative launched in July with a special issue of the magazine and the publication of *Texas Rivers*, a TPW Press book by John Graves and Wyman Meinzer.

Education and Outreach Branch were moved to the Communications Division.

Education, Interpretation and Outreach Commission Committee, Task Force,

Advisory Committee (external group) and Project Manager for TPWD were all created as a result of the 2001 Sunset report findings on education and outreach.

Boater education teaching partnerships were established with U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Coast Guard Power Squadron and American Sailing Association.

## **2003**

The first Education and Outreach Advisory Committee meeting was held.

Sales of conservation license plates top \$1 million.

The state park guide, sponsored by Toyota through the Parks & Wildlife Foundation was launched.

The waterfowl digest program began.

*Texas: The State of Water* high definition video documentary aired. This format for a feature length video documentary was a first for a TPWD television production.

## Executive Office

The Executive Office is charged with the management and oversight of a very diverse agency consisting of 10 divisions with a wide variety of programs, facilities and services. Executive staff coordinates all activities related to the Commission, Legislature, and Parks & Wildlife Foundation. This office includes both Internal Audit and Internal Investigation functions. Executive office staff receives and coordinates all incoming correspondence and most public contact. The Executive Director is Chief Executive Officer of the Department and, as such, coordinates the development of agency strategy and policy, supervises senior agency management and serves as the senior decision authority. In these matters, the Executive Office staff assists him. It is through the foresight and management of the Executive Office that the agency will maintain its rich history long into the future.

### Chronological List of Divisional Events:

#### 1963

The Texas State parks board and the Fish and Game Commission merged to form the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a 3 member commission. The legislature hoped the merger would allow more centralized control and effective management of the state's natural resources.

planning, acquisition and development of State Parks and Historic sites.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission increased from 3 to 6 members.

#### 1976

TPWD moved to its location at McKinney Falls State Park. Consolidation of all TPWD staff at the headquarters resulted in closer communications between divisions

#### 1965

Enactment of the Land and Water Conservation fund program provided 50% matching monies for acquisition and development of outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### 1983

TPW Commission membership increased from 6 to 9 members.

#### 1967

The Department was given the responsibility for acquisition and administration of state historic sites and structures.

#### 1991

A major reorganization of the Department created new divisions including fisheries and wildlife, public lands, conservation communications, legal services, human resources and the chief financial office.

#### 1969

Texas Conservation fund was established by the Legislature to acquire land.

The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Incorporated, a private nonprofit organization, was founded to raise private donations for Department conservation issues.

#### 1971

The Legislature created Fund 31 and dedicated a one cent tax on each pack of cigarettes sold in the state of Texas for

**1992**

TPWD staged the first Texas Wildlife Expo to celebrate the role hunters have played in conservation and to promote hunting and conservation.

**1996**

The Agency was reorganized to better address major conservation challenges. Three senior division director positions were created in land policy, water policy and administrative resources.

The public land division was reorganized into two divisions: Infrastructure and State Parks.

**1997**

A self-imposed “regulation sunset” decreasing the parks and wildlife code by nearly 30% was approved by the legislature.

The Executive Director reorganized the management team in order to streamline management, strengthen leadership and address issues facing the agency.

**1999**

Lone Star Legacy events began giving each site an endowment fund to draw from in the future.

**2001**

Proposition 8 passed providing TPWD with more than \$100 million to address capital repairs throughout the Department.

**2002**

A report by an outside consultant to the finance committee of the TPW Commission found that TPWD should do a better job of balancing its books and communicating financial information to the Legislature. The report recommended revising internal accounting systems finding ways to fund capital commitments that the Department is already committed to and reorganize the structure of the department to centralize operations.

New positions were created as a result of the business practice report including General Counsel, Deputy Executive Director for Operations and Deputy Executive Director for Administration.

**2003**

The Executive Office drafted the Land and Water Conservation Plan. This plan resulted from the last sunset review and outlined the Department’s direction for the future.

## Executive Directors

J. Weldon Watson  
8/23/1963 - 6/31/1966

J.R.Singleton  
9/14/1966 - 4/27/1971

James U. Cross  
5/1/1971 - 7/25/1972

Clayton T. Garrison  
7/25/1972 - 8/31/1977

Henry B. Burkett  
9/1/1977 - 12/31/1978

Charles D. Travis  
1/1/1979 - 7/31/1990

Andrew Sansom  
8/1/1990 - 12/31/2001

Robert L. Cook  
2/1/2002 - present



## Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division supports achievement of the Department's mission through services to attract, develop and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce. The Division's activities are largely customer-driven, with continual efforts to improve services. The Division maintains all personnel records and relies heavily on customer input in the development of policy and procedures; in determining training needs and resources; in providing day-to-day services in employee recruitment, benefits and relations; and in related legal services. Examples of recent service improvements include the development of a leadership development program, management training, team building services, and an employee assistance program.

From 1963 to 1990, human resources services for employees at TPWD were fragmented and located in different divisions at the agency. In 1990, this changed when newly appointed Executive Director Andy Sansom reorganized the services into the Human Resources Division.

### Chronological List of Divisional Events:

#### 1978

TPWD signed a consent agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice that, in its simplest terms, committed all agency employees to actively work toward the goal of improving the representation of minority group members in the Department's workforce. Although not everyone agreed with all of the means used to reach this goal, the Department's overall effort in response to the consent agreement began a process that significantly improved the diversity of the Department. In addition, through the 1980's and 1990's great strides were made in developing hiring policies, guidelines and selection procedures that were objective and defensible.

#### 1983

The first TPWD Personnel Manual was published. This document was an example of a movement toward a more inclusive decision making process that gave employees, other than senior managers, the opportunity to have meaningful input on how the agency was managed. This first Personnel Manual was the product of extensive work by a committee composed of representatives from all of the divisions. This movement led to later efforts such as the original salary equity project that

expanded on this concept and ensured that the committees included representation from all salary levels as well as all divisions.

#### 1990

Executive Director Andy Sansom reorganized the Department and created a Human Resources Division consolidating all programs and services affecting TPWD employees and placing them in one division.

An applicant tracking database was developed with the help of the Data Processing Unit to more efficiently process employment applications. The new system was especially useful in processing the large numbers of applications traditionally received during the selection process for Game Wardens.

#### 1991

The Recruitment and Retention Program was established to focus on attracting and retaining qualified females and minorities to work for the Department.

A Personnel Advisory Committee was established to provide employee input into the development of agency policies and procedures.

A task force was formed to complete a Salary Equity Study to reclassify all biologists, technicians, park superintendents, park rangers, etc. to bring their salaries in line with Game Warden salaries.

## **1992**

A program called Natural Quality Services was established as the Department's Total Quality Management process.

The Minority Student Intern Program was implemented to enhance diversity in the Department and introduce interested college students to various career opportunities. Fifty-seven students were hired from across the state during the first summer of the program. A student mentoring program also began to help interns gain experience.

An active and organized college recruitment program began to attract qualified students to work for the Department.

Cultural diversity workshops and classes began for departmental employees to increase the awareness of and appreciation for diversity in the workplace.

A Recruitment and Retention Plan was developed.

A Women Mentorship Program was established.

A goal based Employee Performance Evaluation System was established.

TPWD's Employee Complaint and Grievance Process was formalized so employee issues and concerns could be investigated and resolved through a formal agency process.

An Employee Assistance/Wellness Program was established.

A Gender Relations Committee was established.

## **1993**

An Employee Confidential Exit Survey was established to determine the motivations of employees leaving the Department and to identify areas of the Department needing improvement.

## **1994**

TPWD was recognized for its leadership in increasing workplace diversity at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia followed by an article on diversity in Fisheries magazine.

The annual Employee Recognition and Award Program began which recognized outstanding performance by employees in the areas of Natural Quality Service, Partnership, Conservation, Leadership, Innovation, Customer Service, Community Outreach, Special Achievements and Outstanding Team.

## **1995**

Human Resources changed and refined the job posting and new employee processing methodology. This included offering additional training for managers in the hiring process.

## **1998**

The Lone Star Legends Program began which recognized outstanding individual volunteer efforts as volunteers became a more significant part of TPWD's business.

## **2000**

The Natural Leaders program was initiated to provide an opportunity for employees to develop leadership skills and gain experience. The program provided training in leadership development and project management. Participants tested their skills in accomplishing a stretch project assigned to them. The program was recognized with the State Auditor's Award for Innovation.

**2001**

The Employee Assistance Program began which provided professional counseling and other services to Department employees in need. The need for this program arises primarily from the special jobs that many employees are called to take on such as natural disaster and emergency response.

**2002**

A survey of all employees was conducted via e-mail to assess the way Human Resources Division does its business. This aided in increasing the Division's efficiency during staffing shortages and tight budgets.

## **Infrastructure Division**

The Infrastructure Division provides project management, professional planning, design, construction and technical services to all divisions of the department. In support of the Department's mission, the Division's goals are to deliver environmentally appropriate projects on time and within budget and provide sound stewardship of public dollars. The Division manages the Capital Program for TPWD and administers all projects, which include all new construction, restoration, renovation, and repair projects. Additionally, Infrastructure is responsible for all professional design and construction contracts for the Department. The Division provides construction, inspection, technical assistance, drafting support for the production of construction documents and technical surveying services for field staff and facilities. The Division's Historic Sites Program prepares site preservation plans and coordinates architectural designs for historically designated structures and landscapes. Internal force account construction crews perform repair and capital improvements to projects across the state. The Division, through the use of advanced analysis techniques, provides agency-wide master planning services to develop environmentally compatible master plans for recreational and operational facility development. The Division is also responsible for the management of TPWD headquarters complex including plant operation, utilities, energy management, space management, repair and improvement projects, grounds and facility maintenance, custodial services and 24 hour manned security. In partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Division coordinates the state interagency program for road construction and repair in state parks, wildlife management areas, fisheries and other department facilities throughout the state.

The Division has oversight responsibilities for the Department's Fleet Management Program which follows the State Vehicle Fleet Management Plan. The program coordinates vehicle procurement, inspections, equipment, licensing, titling tracking, reporting and issuance of all agency vehicles.

Administering the Radio Management Program, the Division is responsible for all radios and radio systems throughout the state in accordance with federal operations and licensing regulations. Responsibilities include the installation, repair and maintenance of vehicle, facility and handheld radios. In addition, the program administers statewide agency radio tower and repeater licensing and tower lease management, maintenance and repair.

The Division also manages the agency Safety and Risk Management Program and is committed to protecting employees and provides a safe environment for the visiting public. The program is responsible for statewide safety programs and oversees internal Appointed Duty Safety Officers (ADSO) to ensure compliance with all regulations governing safety and health.

### **Chronological List of Divisional Events:**

#### **1960s**

Planning and design was based on site concept plans. Work was done by a small professional staff working through General Services.

#### **1963**

The Texas Game and Fish Commission merged with the State Parks Board to become the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Infrastructure Division initially was named the Planning, Design and Construction Division and/or Parks Services Division.

## 1967

The 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature authorized by constitutional amendment \$75 million in general obligation bonds for state park acquisition and development. The bonds were called the Texas Park Development Bonds.

## 1970s

TPWD forms the Engineering Division and implements its own design/construction process that is separate from the Building Commission. Major funding was through Federal Programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Program, which provided the foundation for TPWD facility expansion from the late 1960s into the mid-1980s. TPWD received legislative authority to purchase land and develop public use facilities.

Large expansion of professional staff occurred at all levels including acquisitions, planning, design, engineering and project management to implement an expanding demand for facilities to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the State.

Largest period of state park expansion, acquisition and development occurred (45 Parks expanded to 90). Approximately 4 new or existing parks were master planned and implemented through new construction each year.

The Master Planning Branch in the Public Lands Division provided master planning documents to the Engineering Division for implementation of design and construction of facilities and also monitored the design and construction process relating to new facility development. This ensured that the intent of the master plan and related resource impact issues were followed.

Planning was based on “Design with Nature” which used a process of land use measurements of existing conditions and resources to determine areas requiring

preservation versus area suitable for development.

Resource impact/site development issues were prepared by site field analysis and done by hand drawings.

The Historic Sites/Preservation Branch under the Public Lands Division provided planning and historic architectural guidance especially for renovation of various existing Civilian Conservation Corps Historic Sites.

Force Account Construction Crews supported various construction tasks in recreational and historic sites, landscaping and trail development in direct support of new master planned facility development.

Major projects were accomplished through professional architectural/engineering consultants and minor repair projects were accomplished in-house. There was a gradual shift to more in-house design of major projects by the 1980s.

Clayton Rutter was the Division Director from 1970 to 1978.

Johnny Buck was the Division Director from 1978 to 1982.

## 1980s

The Division merged with the Public Lands Division and was named the Development, Repair and Technical Support Branch. The planning, design and construction process shifted to a direct approach similar to the 1960s prior to the implementation of the master planning process.

Planning issues shifted to major metropolitan areas of the state such as the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.

Minor repairs and various construction tasks related to new development, landscaping and trail development in the recreational and historic sites placed greater demand on

Force Account crews to accomplish work due to declining funds.

Jim Bell was the Division Director from 1982 to 1990.

### **1990s**

Through a department-wide reorganization in 1992, the Development, Repair and Technical Support Branch became the Construction, Design and Management Branch under the Public Lands Division.

Planning projects reduced in number due to a reduction in acquisition (although Big Bend was purchased) and significance was placed on funding major facility repairs.

The Division was re-established within the Department as a separate division again and was named the Infrastructure Division.

Dale Robinson was Division Director from 1990 to 1992.

Bill Von Rosenberg was Division Director from 1992 to mid-1996.

Steve Whiston was Acting Division Director in 1996.

Dan Patton was Division Director from 1996 to 1999.

### **1997**

Emphasis was placed on addressing the Department's aging infrastructure. An Infrastructure Task Force was formed and estimated the total critical repair backlog at approximately \$75 million. The 75<sup>th</sup> Legislature recognized this need and authorized a \$60 million revenue bond program for the specific purpose of combating the backlog needs. The revenue bonds were released in four different issues over the course of four years starting with

### **1998**

The division implemented Project Management, developed a Team Organizational Matrix and established regional teams. A project manager led each regional team with team members consisting of a contract specialist, team administrative support-technician, accountant, architect, design production support and construction manager.

To address the need of planning, scheduling and estimating future facility needs, the Facility Management System was developed. The system provides an automated method for maintaining, tracking, analyzing and reporting infrastructure needs and provides management with timely, credible data for long-term fiscal planning.

Established construction contracts administration and funding control.

Steve Whiston was Acting Division Director from 1999 to mid-2000.

### **2000s**

In 2001, Texas voters approved Proposition 8, one of 19 constitutional amendments authorizing up to \$850 million in general obligation bonds for 13 state agencies. Of the \$850 million, TPWD was authorized to receive \$101.5 million for the purpose of construction and repair projects.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature approved the appropriation of \$36.68 million of the \$101.5 million for the fiscal years 2002 and 2003. TPWD will need to seek appropriation approval from future legislatures for the remaining \$64.8 million.

Scott Boruff was Division Director from 2000 – 2002.

### **2001**

The Division added to its program Fleet Management, Safety and Risk Management,

Facility Management, Custodial Services and Security for the headquarters complex when the Support Services Branch was moved from the Chief Operating Officer Division to the Infrastructure Division.

**2002**

Steve Whiston was named Division Director.

**2003**

The Radio Management Program was reorganized from the Administrative Resources Division to the Support Services Branch under the Infrastructure Division.

## **Inland Fisheries Division**

The Inland Fisheries Division evolved through many organizational and operational transformations in recent history. Predating the contemporary structure and function of the Division were several managing entities. The first attempts at manipulating the freshwater resources of the state had little to do with fisheries management and mostly dealt with the propagation and stocking of fish. From the 1920s through the 1950s, the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission acquired a number of fish hatcheries to enhance these efforts. Following the merger of the State Parks Board with the Texas Game and Fish Commission in 1963, Inland Fisheries was a branch within the Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. During these early years, most resource managers believed that resources were vast and over-harvest of gamefish was impossible, especially in larger reservoirs. Public water biologists spent the majority of their work on pre-impoundment surveys, stream categorization surveys, reservoir fish monitoring (without accompanied management recommendations), and pollution monitoring (this was before the creation of Resource Protection staff). Private water biologists were staffed to assist landowners with pond management issues and state fish hatcheries routinely provided fish to private as well as public water.

The growth of the Inland Fisheries staff roughly paralleled the rise in reservoir construction from the 1950s through the 1980s. During the 1960s, the striped bass and walleye stocking programs were established. The 1970s brought standardization of fisheries sampling methodology and equipment with the establishment of the Federal Aid Program. Implementation of an angler creel program, an angler recognition program, and Florida largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and hybrid striped bass stocking programs also occurred. Private-water biologists and stocking programs were terminated in favor of creating and managing fisheries within the expanding number of public reservoirs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funded herbicide applications by Inland Fisheries staff on problematic aquatic vegetation on many reservoirs. The decade closed with the first experiments with restrictive length limits on largemouth bass, as biologists began to recognize the negative impacts of overharvest.

The 1980s were remembered for the passage of the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983, which placed regulatory control of public fisheries firmly in control of TPWD. Florida bass stockings began paying dividends as the largemouth bass state record, which stood for 37 years, fell five times. Catches of trophy-sized bass became increasingly common, and the Sharelunker Program was developed to selectively breed these trophies and to encourage their release by anglers. The move to more restrictive harvest regulations on many fish species was best illustrated with the first experimental slot-length limits and the implementation of a statewide 14-inch minimum length and 5-fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass. Two other major events of the 1980s were the creation of a freshwater trout fishing stamp and the renovation of the A. E. Wood fish hatchery in San Marcos.

After several organizational shifts in the early 1990s, Inland Fisheries reached full divisional status in 1994. During this decade, Inland Fisheries staff grew to nearly 200 full time employees. The era of reservoir construction was all but finished, leaving over 800 large (> 100 acres) impoundments covering 1.7 million acres of water in addition to the over 80,000 miles of rivers and streams. Major events in the 1990s included the opening of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, implementation of the triploid grass carp program, banning of commercial netting in inland waters, initiation of the Native Aquatic Vegetation Restoration Initiative and documentation of the first largemouth bass kill associated with the largemouth bass virus. During this decade, herbicide treatments by Inland Fisheries staff were limited to state park lakes and



extreme cases of noxious infestations of exotic aquatic plants. Due to advances in technology and investigative research, significant modifications were made to fisheries sampling procedures during this period.

The new millennium brought further modifications to sampling procedures, stocking techniques and data collection strategies. The presence of golden algae and its associated toxins, especially in the upper Red and Brazos River drainages, caused fish kills in multiple reservoirs, river stretches, and hatchery ponds. Golden algae toxins seriously impacted the striped bass, hybrid striped bass, and smallmouth bass stocking programs. Significant staff resources were allocated to research and combat this problem. The Texas legislature mandated that TPWD play an advisory role in management issues associated with aquatic vegetation in public water. Inland Fisheries staff provided a crucial role in the development of an aquatic vegetation management guidance document to be used by reservoir/river controlling authorities in their decision making processes.

Inland Fisheries staff strives to provide the best possible angling while enhancing freshwater aquatic resources. The Division's activities include fisheries management and research, fish production, angler education and information, fishing access projects, and aquatic habitat management. Division personnel are located at TPWD headquarters in Austin, at 3 regional offices, 15 district offices, 1 research center, and 5 fish hatcheries.

#### **Chronological List of Divisional Events:**

##### **1963**

The Texas Game and Fish Commission merged with the State Parks Board to create the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department controlled by a three-member Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission.

Inland Fisheries became a Function within Wildlife Services.

##### **1965**

The first successful introduction of walleye in Lake Meredith occurred.

##### **1966**

The first rainbow trout were stocked in the Guadalupe River.

Electrofishing was first used as a sampling technique to monitor fish populations.

##### **1967**

The first successful introduction of striped bass into Texas waters occurred.

##### **1969**

The Heart of the Hills Fish Hatchery near Kerrville was renovated and renamed Heart of the Hills Fisheries Experimental Station.

##### **1970**

The Texas State Fish Records Program was established. The original state record list was acquired from the Texas Outdoor Writers Association. This program was the forerunner of the present Angler Recognition Program.

##### **1971**

The first Florida largemouth bass were brought to Texas by Fisheries Division Director, Robert J. Kemp. These fish were housed at the Tyler fish hatchery.

##### **1972**

Inland Fisheries became an Operation within the Fish and Wildlife Division.

The first Florida largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked in Texas waters.

### **1973**

The fishing license fee increased from \$2.15 to \$4.25.

The first introduction of hybrid striped bass in Texas occurred at Bastrop and Pat Mayse Reservoirs.

Cove rotenone surveys were initiated to estimate biomass of various fish species.

### **1974**

Inland Fisheries became a Branch within the Fisheries Division.

The first successful stocking of smallmouth bass occurred in Canyon Lake.

The angler Big Fish Award Program was established and incorporated into the Angler Recognition Program.

### **1975**

The Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Program was established. Uniformity of sampling gear, sampling protocol and fisheries management report writing was a result. Data collection changed from each district conducting its own management activity to more coordinated, standard and scientific methodologies. This program has withstood several major revisions over the years. A *Management Techniques Manual* was distributed to standardize techniques.

The first statewide management regulations on black basses (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, and Guadalupe) were implemented (10-inch minimum length, 10-fish daily bag).

### **1976**

The first revision of the *Management Techniques Manual* was finalized. Two

sections were added to include public water management techniques and farm pond technical assistance procedures.

The Sheldon fish hatchery in Henderson County was closed. This facility was in production since its acquisition in 1956.

### **1976**

The fish hatchery in Fort Worth was acquired through a donation from the federal government. Originally constructed in 1928, this facility offered 36 acres of pond space and a production operation until closing in 1986. This facility temporarily hosted Inland Fisheries research staff until it was converted into a management district office in 1992.

### **1977**

The fishing license fee increased from \$4.25 to \$4.50.

Private water biologists were reassigned and assets were only to be used for management of fisheries resources in public waters.

The Dundee Fish Hatchery near Electra was acquired by purchase from private ownership. This hatchery was constructed in 1927 and is one of five Inland Fisheries hatcheries still in operation. It has received several renovations throughout the years (e.g., 1958, 1977, and 1993). The Dundee fish hatchery plays a prominent role in striped bass, hybrid striped bass and smallmouth bass production.

The TPWD fish hatchery in Medina was closed. This facility was in production since its acquisition in 1938.

### **1978**

A second revision of the *Management Techniques Manual* was completed. Sections not dealing with public reservoir management were deleted and one section:

“Writing Management Reports” was added. Reservoirs were sampled every 5 to 7 years.

A statewide creel-survey program was established to monitor fishing pressure, angler catch-rates, opinions and other measures. Several modifications were made over the years.

The Lake Conroe Association applied for a permit to stock grass carp in Lake Conroe to control aquatic vegetation (primarily hydrilla). TPWD denied the permit.

### **1979**

Early experimentation with more restrictive length and bag limits on largemouth bass was initiated when 16-inch length and 3-fish bag limits were placed on Nacogdoches and Fayette County Reservoirs. The regulations were implemented to rebuild an overharvested largemouth bass population in Nacogdoches Reservoir and to prevent similar impacts to the largemouth bass population at newly opened Fayette County Reservoir. Both regulations proved successful in their objectives.

### **1980**

The largemouth bass state record that stood since 1937 (13.5 pounds) was broken by a 14.1-pound bass.

### **1981**

The fishing license fee increased from \$4.50 to \$5.00.

The first experiments with slot-length limits were implemented on Calaveras and Monticello Reservoirs. In both cases a 14 to 18 inch slot limit was utilized.

The practice of stocking private waters with state-reared fish was abolished.

The Texas legislature directed TPWD to issue a permit to Texas A&M University to study the effects of a grass carp introduction

into Lake Conroe. The Texas Association of Bass Clubs (TABC) brought litigation against TPWD after the permit was issued. The Lake Conroe project remains an emotional issue with anglers, home owners groups, reservoir controlling authorities and reservoir managers over twenty years later.

### **1983**

The passage of the Wildlife Conservation Act gave TPWD full authority to regulate public fisheries.

The Texas legislature appropriates funds for renovation of the Department’s hatcheries including indoor raceways for producing smallmouth bass at the San Marcos hatchery and a new striped bass spawning facility at the Dundee hatchery.

The fishing license fee increased from \$5.00 to \$8.00.

The Lewisville fish hatchery was closed. This facility was acquired as mitigation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and was in production from 1952 to 1983.

### **1985**

The state freshwater trout fishing stamp was established.

The TPWD fish hatchery in Huntsville was closed. This facility was in production since its acquisition in 1931.

### **1986**

The third revision of the *Management Techniques Manual* was completed. Sampling intensity decreased and reservoir sampling frequency increased. “Annual” lakes (N=13; one per district) were sampled every year. All other reservoirs  $\geq 500$  acres were considered “general survey” lakes and were sampled once every 3 years.

Statewide length and bag limits consisting of a 14 inch minimum length limit and 5 fish

daily bag were implemented on largemouth bass. This marked the movement from Maximum Sustained Yield to an Optimum Sustained Yield fisheries management philosophy. Texas Black Bass Unlimited was formed to oppose this regulation change.

The ShareLunker Program began on November 26, 1986, when a 17.65-pound Lake Fork largemouth bass was caught and donated. This fish was a new state record. The fish (Ethyl) was donated to Bass Pro Shops in Missouri, and became one of the most famous captive bass in history. The ShareLunker program originally contained two objectives: 1) to promote catch-and-release of trophy largemouth bass, and 2) to selectively breed trophy largemouth bass. The program was housed at the Tyler fish hatchery until it moved to new facilities at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in 1997.

### **1988**

A genetic sanctuary was set up for the Guadalupe bass at Lost Maples State Natural Area as a result of hybridization with smallmouth bass which were introduced into similar river drainages.

All black basses (Guadalupe, largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted basses) were brought under the 14-inch length limit.

The Angler Recognition Program expanded to include a listing of the largest fish caught from individual lakes and rivers.

The San Angelo Fish Hatchery Number 2 was closed. This facility, originally constructed in 1937, was acquired through a donation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1957.

### **1989**

In an effort to increase sampling efficiency and decrease duplication, physiochemical

data collection was not required if data were collected by other agencies.

Eagle Mountain fish hatchery in Tarrant County was closed. This hatchery was in production since its acquisition in 1942.

The A. E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos underwent major renovations. This hatchery was originally opened in 1949. The facility was completely renovated to include 50 plastic lined ponds totaling over 64 acres and a 33,000 square foot production building at a cost of \$14 million. The facility is one of five Inland Fisheries hatcheries in operation. Primary fish production is Florida largemouth bass and channel catfish.

### **1991**

Inland Fisheries became a Branch within the Fisheries and Wildlife Division.

The fishing license fee increased from \$8.00 to \$13.00.

Statistical analysis of catch by mesh size resulted in modification of standardized gill nets. Three mesh sizes (0.5, 3.5, and 4.0-inch) were no longer required.

All electrofishing boats were standardized utilizing Smith-Root equipment.

### **1992**

In an effort to increase frequency of reservoir surveys, two new management districts were added (N=15). This resulted in a major revision in Inland Fisheries District boundaries and reservoir assignments. New management districts were created in Wichita Falls and Fort Worth.

The non-profit Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Incorporated chose the city of Athens as the site for the \$12 million Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC).

TPWD allowed the stocking of triploid (i.e., sterile) grass carp into public and private Texas waters on a permit basis.

### **1993**

The fourth revision of the *Management Techniques Manual* was completed. Angler access and new habitat survey procedures were added. Major revisions were made in the fisheries management report format.

Commercial netting in inland waters was banned.

### **1994**

Inland Fisheries Branch became the Inland Fisheries Division.

The San Angelo Fish Hatchery Number 1 was closed. This facility was in operation since its acquisition in 1930.

### **1995**

To increase the accuracy of locating and documenting sampling sites, Global Positioning System units were first used. Lake maps were digitized using 7.5-minute quadrangles and provided to each crew for sample station and habitat mapping. Division staff began the process of migrating all databases to be geo-referenced and Geographic Information System compatible.

### **1996**

A random sampling site selection protocol was adopted for all gear types to increase the ability to statistically analyze statewide monitoring data sets. The time spent electrofishing at individual stations was reduced from 15 minutes to 5 minutes to increase the number of sampling locations on a given waterbody.

The TFFC opened in Athens. The project was originally designed to be a renovation of the Tyler fish hatchery with the addition

of a Texas fishing hall of fame. The facility hosts a hatchery, research laboratory, aquarium, fishing pond, and educational center. The ShareLunker Program was transferred from the defunct hatchery in Tyler to TFFC.

The fishing license fee increased from \$13.00 to \$19.00.

### **1997**

A committee comprised of Division management, research and data analysis staff (and in some cases outside consultants/experts) was formed to review all aspects of the 1993 version of the Assessment Procedures Manual. A secondary purpose was to identify research needs designed to strengthen sampling programs. During this year, committee work was initiated on electrofishing, trap net and gill net sampling procedures.

Division began a Native Vegetation Restoration Initiative to study methods for establishing native aquatic vegetation for fish habitat improvement and to serve as a deterrent to the spread of exotic aquatic plants.

The Tyler fish hatchery was closed. This facility was in production since its acquisition in 1926. The facility housed the first Florida largemouth bass brought to Texas in 1971 and the Sharelunker program from 1986 to 1997.

### **1998**

New electrofishing, trap netting and gill netting procedures were completed, approved and incorporated into the sampling manual. These changes improved sampling efficiency and standardization. New electrophoresis and tissue handling procedures were adopted to improve genetics information on largemouth bass. Additional committees were formed to address standardized creel survey, habitat

access, river seining and cove rotenone sampling procedures.

## 1999

New angler access procedures were completed and approved. Cove rotenone procedures were reviewed and deleted from the sampling manual. Draft creel survey, river and habitat sampling procedures were developed and tested. A new committee was formed to examine sampling rotation schedules.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Texas legislature expanded the Department's role in aquatic vegetation control by placing TPWD in an advisory role to reservoir/river controlling authorities. Inland Fisheries staff conducted research on initial and delayed mortality of tournament caught largemouth bass at Lake Fork. Data collected were used to evaluate impacts of a proposal to give exemptions to tournament participants for reservoirs managed under restrictive harvest regulations. The study originally was scheduled to include five additional tournaments, but significant total mortality (> 40%) of tournament fish precluded the hosting of more research events. The topic of slot length exemptions remains an emotional topic, but support for this action has diminished until the effects of bass mortality can be further addressed.

## 2000

A new 4-year sampling rotation was established to redirect both routine and additional sampling effort to areas of greatest need, increase manpower efficiency and increase timeliness of data needed for statewide management recommendations (regulations and stocking). New creel procedures were tested and implemented. A new committee was formed to standardize age and growth procedures.

The ShareLunker Program accepted its 300<sup>th</sup> entry during a season when 23 total fish were entered. Survival rate was 95.6%.

## 2001

New river sampling procedures were completed, approved and incorporated into the sampling manual. Trial age and growth procedures for largemouth bass were developed, implemented and tested. Refinements were made to existing creel survey procedures.

Division staff played a lead role in developing the *Aquatic Vegetation Management in Texas: A Guidance Document* which is used to assist TPWD and reservoir/river controlling authorities in developing and implementing aquatic vegetation management plans.

Golden algae began causing fish kills in reservoirs and river stretches of the upper Brazos and Red River drainages. Significant impacts to fisheries were documented in Possum Kingdom, Whitney and Granbury Reservoirs. Brood fish at Dundee and Possum Kingdom hatcheries were also lost to the algae toxins.

Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery in Palo Pinto County received a major renovation. This facility was originally opened in 1950 and is currently one of five Inland Fisheries hatcheries in operation. Primary fish species raised at this hatchery are striped bass, hybrid striped bass and rainbow trout.

## 2002

Trial age and growth procedures for catfishes using otoliths were developed, implemented and tested.

Because of deteriorating infrastructure at the Jasper fish hatchery, plans were discussed for either major renovations to this hatchery or closing it in favor of construction of a new hatchery near Toledo Bend Reservoir. This facility was opened in 1932, and is the oldest member of the five Inland Fisheries hatcheries in operation.

The sale of bass conservation license plates to raise money for largemouth bass management began.

## Law Enforcement Division

The Law Enforcement Division provides a comprehensive statewide law enforcement program to protect Texas' wildlife, the environment and other natural resources. The Division also provides safe boating and recreational water safety on public waters by ensuring compliance with applicable state laws and regulations.

Texas Game Wardens are responsible for enforcement of the Parks and Wildlife Code, all TPW regulations, the Texas Penal Code and selected statutes and regulations applicable to clean air and water, hazardous materials and human health. Wardens fulfill these responsibilities through educating the public about various laws and regulations, preventing violations by conducting high visibility patrols and apprehending and arresting violators.

The Law Enforcement Division employs about 500 wardens throughout the state and operates 27 field offices that sell licenses, register boats and provide the public with local information across the state.

### Chronological List of Divisional Events:

#### 1963

State Parks Board and the Texas Game and Fish Commission merged to form Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a three member Commission. The Legislature hoped the merger would allow for more centralized control and effective management of the state's natural resources.

Game Warden's salary in 1963 was \$300 a month.

The first state patrol cars were issued in 1962 but not all wardens were issued cars with radios in them.

A regional organization was in place during this time with Law Enforcement, Wildlife and Fisheries functions under the same regional director. Henry Burkett was the only Law Enforcement employee to hold the position of Regional Director.

Local Waco resident game warden had a television program airing weekly called the Harley Berg show.

The Department initiated a traveling wildlife exhibit show operated by Law Enforcement that most wardens called the "Possum Show". It consisted of a tractor-trailer rig

filled with various wild native animals that traveled to fairs and community events.

Community functions exhibiting various body mounts of our states natural wildlife resources.

Game Warden John David Murphree was slain near Mauriceville late in the evening of December 8 while rounding up duck hunting law violators.

The Texas Game Warden Academy at Texas A&M University was the main training facility. All game warden cadets had to maintain a 90 average on major academic tests and a 73 overall average. Cadets were suspended for 3 days with no pay and no uniform if they failed to meet this standard, which happened rarely.

#### 1964

The first V-8 engine patrol vehicles were purchased. These vehicles were battleship gray Plymouth 4-door sedans with 318 cubic inch engines.

#### 1965

The first firearms issued by the Department were .38 caliber model 61 Smith & Wesson



revolvers. Prior to this, wardens purchased their own firearms.

Game Warden Joe Evans was killed in a car wreck in Young County. He was driving his patrol car in a blinding rain storm and had a head on two car collision.

The sixteenth Game Warden Class was the first class to be funded with water safety dollars.

Law Enforcement wardens participated in many management projects including morning dove call counts, quail restoration projects and fisheries management projects.

### **1966**

The Department had authority to issue 282 non-salaried game warden commissions. Deputy Game Wardens were mainly employees of landowners who owned or controlled game ranges of the state.

### **1967**

Following Hurricane Beulah, game wardens from the Rio Grande Valley to San Antonio worked rescue operations due to major flooding inland.

### **1968**

The first air conditioned patrol vehicles were Plymouth 4 door sedans with 383 cubic inch engines.

Game Warden Lloyd Gustin was killed on Lake Somerville on March 25. Warden Gustin and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer were patrolling in a jet powered boat when the exhaust hose parted, filling the boat with water and causing it to sink immediately. Warden Gustin was trapped in the boat and drowned.

Major netting cases made at California Hole near Aransas Bay was the start of major attention to illegal commercial fishing operations in Texas bay systems.

### **1969**

Powers, duties and authority of the Highway Department under Water Safety Act transferred to TPWD for boat registration.

### **1970**

Game Warden accreditation through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education required 140 hours of law enforcement training after September 1, 1970. This certification raised the standard for peace officers in Texas.

Hurricane Celia hit the Texas coast line between Corpus Christi and Aransas Pass. Ninety-nine Game Wardens work area with rescue operations for weeks

Texas Game Warden Academy at Texas A&M University receives accreditation.

### **1971**

District Supervisor Stetson "Bubba" Reed of San Antonio was appointed to Director of Law Enforcement and remained in San Antonio to serve in this position.

Game Wardens were given peace officer status by the Legislature.

TPWD began registration of motorboats.

### **1972**

Texas Game Wardens title changed to Game Management Officers. Later went back to Game Wardens. 283 Game Wardens were employed at this time.

The first Boating Law Administrator for Law Enforcement was established.

Game Wardens were issued .357 Magnum Smith & Wesson Revolvers, model 28 Highway Patrol.

## 1973

The Game Warden Academy appoints a new Director to oversee training operations.

Game Warden Ronnie Germany was murdered in San Augustine County on July 29. Warden Germany and Bill Decker were patrolling and stopped at a house in a remote area. The owner of the house attacked Game Warden Germany with a .22 rifle.

## 1974

Game Warden Tom Browning became the new Director of Law Enforcement replacing Stetson "Bubba" Reed who retired.

Plymouth and Dodge Police pursuit vehicles issued with 400 cubic inch engines with a multi colored fleet.

## 1975

Game Warden Henry Burkett became the new Director of Law Enforcement replacing Tom Browning.

The last class of cadets attended the Game Warden Academy at Texas A&M University. The Academy was moved to Austin.

Game Wardens began enforcement of the archery hunting stamp which was initiated for the special archery season.

Statewide Manning Standards were adopted for Game Wardens.

With a force of 397 game wardens, the Law Enforcement Division was reorganized into 10 regions. In each region, a Captain Game Warden oversaw three Lieutenants and a regional office.

The film, *The Texas Game Warden*, was made for recruiting and was filmed at Texas A&M University and many other locations. One of the last classes of cadets at A&M took part in production of the film.

## 1976

The 65-foot offshore patrol boat *Captain Sprott* was purchased and stationed in Rockport. The 38-foot *Captain Sloan* was moved to Port Mansfield to cover the lower coast. Four 30-foot high-speed patrol boats were purchased to patrol Sabine Pass to Port Lavaca. The *Captian Cowsert*, a 50-foot boat, was stationed at Freeport.

## 1978

The Game Warden Academy was moved to Austin. An old warehouse was converted to dormitories, classrooms, and administrative offices for instructors.

Law Enforcement Division established a Water Safety Coordinator located at headquarters in Austin.

The Department required all Department pilots to attend the Game Warden Academy to become commissioned Game Warden pilots.

Game Warden James Daughtrey was killed in a car wreck on Hwy 624 near the Nueces River in McMullen County on December 11. Daughtrey was patrolling for night hunters when a head on collision with suspected night hunters occurred killing him and one of the suspects instantly.

## 1979

Game Warden Chester Burdett was appointed Director of Law Enforcement filling the vacancy of Dexter Harris.

A major Tornado hit the community of Wichita Falls. Game Wardens statewide were sent to render disaster relief to the community.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Game Warden Cadet Class Graduated from the Academy with 26 cadets promoted to Game Warden. Three females began the class, but only one completed it to

become the first female Game Warden in Texas.

The Texas Game Warden Association was formed. Game Warden Stanley Brooks served as the first president.

### **1980**

The Game Warden force now numbered 349.

The Law Enforcement 65 foot offshore patrol boat *Capt Murchison* was homeported in Freeport.

### **1981**

Operation Game Thief began which offered rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime. The program began as the result of laws passed by the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislature to curtail poaching. It has paid over \$140,000 in rewards.

HB 1000 passed which prohibited the sale of red drum and spotted sea trout caught in Texas waters.

Game Wardens began enforcement of the new \$5 State Waterfowl stamp which was required by all Texas waterfowl hunters.

### **1982**

Stainless Steel Ruger Mini-14 .223 cal rifles were issued to all Game Wardens.

The Department acquired the 43,000 acre Matagorda Island Air Force base. Two Game wardens and a Sergeant were assigned patrol duties for the property.

Multi-channel radios were purchased which allowed wardens to use one instead of multiple units.

### **1983**

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education required peace officer licensing. Officers were tested to receive a license in an effort to elevate the quality of enforcement professionals.

Uniform Wildlife Regulatory Act places all counties under regulatory authority.

### **1985**

Civil restitution was enacted allowing for the recovery of the value of fish, shellfish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and animals unlawfully killed, caught, taken, possessed or injured.

### **1986**

Game Wardens were placed under Fair Labor Standards Act rules mandating wardens to work within a 160 hour 28-day work month.

LE Division with cooperation of Fisheries initiated a genetically based wildlife forensic analysis for Game Wardens. Wardens began collecting blood and tissue samples of anything that walked, crawled, slithered, swam or flew in Texas to build an extensive data base to assist in detection of species via blood and tissue samples.

Game Wardens from around the State provided security for the Sesquicentennial Celebration at the San Jacinto Monument.

### **1987**

The Department adopted a governor approved program of fitness and wellness for Game Wardens and hired a full time Health Promotion Specialist.

In Comfort, a church bus with 44 students was caught in rising flood waters of the Guadalupe River. Game Wardens assisted with rescue operations by air, land and boat which recovered 33 students alive. Ten

victims were recovered when flood waters receded. Game Wardens patrolled the flooded river for all but one victim who was never found.

### **1988**

The first 4X4 patrol vehicles (Dodge Ram Chargers) were issued.

A mandatory hunter education program began for persons born on or after September 2, 1971.

### **1989**

Boating While Intoxicated was added to the Parks and Wildlife Code.

The first deer decoy was used in Texas to discourage hunting on public roads. The first 3 years of use produced 697 citations and 683 convictions. One decoy deer detail in Montgomery County resulted in 51 arrests the first day and another 51 arrests on the second day of operation.

All TPWD aircraft fell under the Aircraft Pooling Board operations control at Austin Miller Regional Airport. The aircraft fleet consisted of one Cessna 182, one Cessna 206 and one twin engine Cessna 310 and all three planes were assigned exclusively to the Department.

### **1990**

Two Game Wardens drowned in the line of Duty while on patrol. Game Wardens Barry Decker and Bruce Hill drowned while on duty on Lake Murvaul in Panola County on May 26. Inconclusive evidence suggested that the boat they were operating hit a partially submerged stump. Game Wardens searched the lake for days before recovery was made.

The Department purchased a twin engine 1984 Partenavia Observer airplane to help Law Enforcement and other divisions with operations.

Sixty college credit hours were required for Game Warden applicants.

### **1992**

Major Charlie Hensley was promoted to Director of Law Enforcement replacing Chester Burdett.

One Game Warden was assigned to conduct environmental investigations and to sit on the Texas Environmental Enforcement Task Force screening committee. Later in the year, two Game Wardens were assigned as full time environmental investigators and a Captain Game Warden supervised both the new Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) and the Covert Unit.

### **1993**

The Game Warden force reached 529, the largest force to date.

The patrol vehicle fleet included 4X4 Chevy Pick-ups and Chevy Caprice sedans.

Academy training instructors held field courses in the use of expandable batons and defensive and handcuffing techniques.

Cadet salary in 1993 was \$1938 per month.

### **1994**

Game Wardens transitioned from revolver to .40 cal. Glock automatic pistols. The wardens did their transition training at the Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch near Maxdale and Choke Canyon Camp near Tilden.

Boating While Intoxicated was transferred to the Texas Penal Code.

### **1995**

In 1995, Texas Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division joined the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers. The association was comprised of 18 U.S. states, the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, 6 Canadian provinces, and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Every year the Association honors a Game Warden of the Year.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Academy graduates in July after 7 months of training. Cadet Salary was \$2015 per month.

“Operation in the Hole” took place along the Trinity River near Wilson Shoals in Madison County. The undercover commercial fishing operation resulted in 11 subjects arrested for 8 class A, one class B and 21 class C misdemeanors totaling \$26,500 in fines plus restitution.

### **1996**

James Robertson was promoted to Director of Law Enforcement replacing Colonel Charles Hensley who retired.

The Texas Game Warden Association unveiled the Texas Game Warden Memorial at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. The sculptured bronze statue was dedicated to game wardens that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, while protecting the wildlife and people of Texas.

Game Warden applicants were required to have completed a Bachelor Degree.

Game Warden cadets begin receiving media training from the communications section.

“Operation Dalmatian” resulted in 23 East Texas men arrested in the largest covert investigation of poaching ever undertaken by Texas Game Wardens. The men faced various charges including running deer with dogs, public hunting violations and possession of illegal fishing devices.

Texas Game Wardens became involved in a major boating safety campaign called “Don’t Be A Pain In The Boat.” The initiative was designed to generate extensive public awareness about safe boating practices while providing intensive Law

Enforcement on some of Texas’ “high profile” lakes.

### **1997**

A Texas resident won the Texas Big Game Awards with a trophy buck that Game Wardens later proved was actually found dead in Kansas and transported to Texas. The cooperative investigation between Kansas Department of Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and TPWD resulted in a guilty plea on three felony counts of tampering with governmental records.

TPWD received a grant from the Texas National Guard for the purchase of Remington 870 pump shotguns.

Game Wardens were issued shotguns statewide.

All Peace Officers enforcing water safety were required to be certified as Marine Safety Officers.

The tornado in Jarrell left 27 dead and one subdivision demolished. Game Wardens assisted with recovery and identification of victims as well as security patrol on All Terrain Vehicles.

Operation Game Thief introduced the Wall of Shame Trailer which is taken to all types of events through out the state. The trailer contained mounts of illegally taken game and fish and unlawful gear.

### **1998**

During “Operation Venado Macho”, Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens apprehended 13 suspects in Webb, McMullen and LaSalle counties in the largest undercover trophy deer poaching investigation ever undertaken in Texas. Forty Game Wardens simultaneously served arrest warrants against 14 individuals on 124 charges ranging from 1 third degree felony, 8 state jail felonies, 68 Class B and 47 Class C Parks and Wildlife code misdemeanors.

The department receives two Bell Jet Ranger helicopters from the military to add to their fleet of aircraft. One of the helicopters was refurbished to be put in action while the other was saved for parts.

In 1998 the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) grew when six Game Wardens were promoted to Sergeant Investigators with a Captain over the ECU. The new investigators received advanced training in Environmental Investigation Techniques at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Hazardous Material training, environmental sampling, surveillance techniques, interview techniques, computer forensics and case development. Members of the ECU, upon request of the EPA-CID, have returned to FLETC as facilitators to the advanced training and regularly instruct at the basic environmental investigator training conducted in Texas.

One hundred thirty Sergeant Game Wardens were reclassified to the new Game Warden V status.

Since 1998, the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) has initiated over 300 criminal environmental investigations. Examples of successful environmental investigations include major corporate violations of the Clean Air Act and Texas Water Code against big names like Huntsman Chemical of Beaumont, Koch Refinery of Corpus Christi, and Newpark Shipbuilding and Repairs of Houston. Convictions have resulted in federal prison sentences and \$31.4 million in fines.

The Texas Game Warden Association unveiled the Texas Game Warden Memorial at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. The sculptured bronze statue was dedicated to game wardens that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, while protecting the wildlife and people of Texas.

## **1999**

Two Game Wardens sue the department over the sergeant reclassification issue.

Game Wardens trained in new firearms courses for semi-automatic pistol, Mini-14 rifle and shotgun.

The Law Enforcement Division trained 30 senior wardens to be the points of contact for the media when major tragedies occur.

## **2000**

Law Enforcement Division consists of 485 Game Wardens, 27 field offices, 100 Clerks and 20 Technicians.

## **2001**

Colonel James Stinebaugh becomes Director of Law Enforcement replacing James Robertson.

The Queen Isabella Causeway that links South Padre Island to the mainland at Port Isabel collapsed after a barge crashed into it killing eight people. Game Wardens conducted rescue and recovery operations and spent many weeks investigating the tragedy.

“Operation Yard Dog” results in 22 arrests and 235 criminal cases filed for deer, turkey, catfish, and alligator violations.

## **2002**

The Marine Theft Unit was established to help deal with dealer fraud, marine theft, titling and registration problems. This unit was comprised of two Game Wardens under the supervision of the Boating Law Administrator.

In a unique cooperative enforcement effort, TPWD Law Enforcement Division graduated 12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agents from a special training

course and the Special Agents received their commissions as Deputy Game Wardens.

Game Wardens were issued oleoresin capsicum pepper spray and received training that required the wardens to experience being sprayed if they were to carry the spray on their person.

Law Enforcement Division began an investigation into the growing problem of importation of white-tailed deer and the

manipulation of deer herds across the state. For this work two wildlife investigators were promoted to Sergeant.

### **2003**

The Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke up during re-entry over East Texas. Game Wardens were involved in recovery of astronaut remains, space shuttle pieces and security of evidence.

## Resource Protection Division

The Resource Protection Division was established by the 69th Legislature in 1986. The elevation of this conservation group, formerly a branch within the Inland Fisheries Division, to the division level was recommended as part of the sunset review process as the best means of addressing the broad range of environmental issues directly affecting the health and productivity of Texas' fish and wildlife resources.

The Resource Protection Division protects Texas fish, wildlife and their habitats from degradation or depletion. The Division leads the Department research and coordination of water planning and particularly in-stream flow issues for Texas' streams to ensure that adequate water remains in rivers and sufficient fresh water reaches bays and estuaries. The Division investigates any environmental contamination that may cause loss of fish or wildlife. Resource Protection staff provide information and recommendations to other government agencies and participate in administrative and judicial proceedings concerning pollution incidents, development projects and other actions that may affect fish and wildlife. Activities include reviewing permits proposed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Railroad Commission for wastewater discharges. The Division also investigates fish kills, and when responsibility for fish kills can be traced, recovers from the polluter the economic value of the lost fish and other aquatic life, which by law are the property of the state. As a State Natural Resource Trustee, the Division assesses injury to fish and wildlife resources from oil and hazardous chemical releases and seeks restoration of these injuries from the responsible party(s). The Division provides departmental representation for the Interagency Council for Oil Spill Response Planning and the Coastal Coordination Council, a multi-agency body that reviews and coordinates state and federal laws and actions affecting the Texas coast. The Division works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in protecting wetland areas with the disposal of dredged material from Texas bays. Division staff coordinated the development and implementation of two statewide conservation plans: the Texas Wetlands Plan and the Seagrass Conservation Plan for Texas. Both are multi-agency efforts to focus needed attention on these valuable natural resources. These efforts, along with other Division actions have the ultimate goal of conserving aquatic ecosystems for the use and enjoyment of future Texans.

Other integral parts of the Resource Protection Division are the Chemistry Lab and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Laboratory. The Chemistry Lab provides support to all divisions in the Department and external entities for analysis of metals and organic residues in fish tissue. The GIS Lab supports Department wide efforts to develop, manage and archive digital maps and natural and cultural resource databases that allow biologists and resource managers to more effectively manage state resources. The Lab has specialized expertise and unique hardware and software in the GIS, Global Positioning System and remote sensing technologies. The Lab, therefore, is able to provide specialized training and spatial analysis in support of the Department's mission.

### Chronological List of Divisional Events:

#### 1973

The Environmental Branch of the Fisheries Division was organized. This branch was a precursor to the Resource Protection (RP) Branch, and later, Division.

#### 1974

The first state list of endangered species was published. Five mammals, nine birds, two reptiles, five amphibians and five fishes were listed.



The Commission adopted a policy on mitigation of fish and wildlife losses as result of pollution.

Shell dredging permits were revised. Tough dredging rules were adopted and studies were initiated to protect bay environment.

#### **1984**

A TPWD request to the Texas Water Commission resulted in the release of 10,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Texana, the first-ever release of impounded water in Texas intended solely to benefit an estuarine system.

The Department's first Non-game Stamp, Print and Decal Program was launched with proceeds dedicated to the Department's non-game and endangered species programs.

The Vegetation Types of Texas map and accompanying document was published. This work was done by Resource Protection staff. Landsat MSS imagery from 1975 to 1981, aerial photography and ground-truthing technologies were used to map the existing vegetation of Texas. The map and document were later published on the web in the mid 1990s.

#### **1985**

House Bill 2 of the 1985 Legislature provided the statutory authority for TPWD to work with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to establish and maintain a continuous data collection program and to jointly conduct special studies and analyses to determine the bay conditions necessary to support a sound ecological environment. The Texas Water Code require the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC - currently called the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)) and TPWD to recommend the specific quantities and qualities of freshwater inflows necessary to maintain fish and shellfish productivity of bays and estuaries.

The Texas Water Code authorized TPWD to enforce water law to the extent that any violation affects aquatic life and wildlife. TPWD's ability to respond to fish kills and pollution incidents which threaten fish and wildlife resources was based in part upon this statutory authority.

#### **1986**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature passed the Department's Sunset Review legislation which elevated the Resource Protection Branch to full divisional status and its authority over protection of fish and wildlife resources was enhanced, particularly as related to water quality. The added responsibility and status caused the Division to grow substantially in number of employees and responsibility. A key aspect of this statute related to providing recommendations to the Texas Department of Water Resources on scheduling in-stream flows and freshwater inflows to Texas estuaries for the management of fish and wildlife resources. In effect, this made the Department a player in water issues.

The Trace Elements Program was established to conduct contaminant assessment studies primarily on fish collected from public water.

#### **1987**

In cooperation with the TWDB, Resource Protection staff initiated an intensive study of Texas' bays and estuaries and their dependence upon freshwater inflows.

Cooperative water quality studies with TNRCC were initiated. The biggest event involved the efforts of Resource Protection staff on water quality standards which determine how the state permits discharges to public waters. Through this work, data were collected that raised the presumed use on unclassified perennial (i.e., wadeable) streams (approximately 70% of Texas streams) from "Limited" (lowest amount of protection) to "High".

## 1990

Dr. Larry McKinney, Director of Resource Protection Division, was one of the founding members of the Texas GIS Planning Council.

TPWD was designated as a State Natural Resource Trustee by the Governor pursuant to Section 107 (f)(2)(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. Following the Department's responsibility for addressing pollution impacts on fish and wildlife resources under Chapter 12 of the Parks and Wildlife Code, as a Natural Resource Trustee, the Department is responsible for assessing injuries to natural resources and the services they provide from unauthorized discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances and pursuing compensation from the responsible party(s).

## 1991

Resource Protection Division gained funding from a distinct federal aid to sportfish projects. These revenues cover a broad array of environmental work that is aquatically oriented.

## 1993

The TPWD GIS Lab was founded and placed under the direction of Resource Protection. In the early 1990s, the value of GIS as a tool for coastal assessments was realized. The GIS Lab was established to provide computer-based mapping and spatial analysis support services to Department planners and biologists.

## 1994

*Freshwater Inflows to Texas Bays and Estuaries* was published. This collaborative report between TPWD and TWDB describes the procedure Texas will follow in estimating how much freshwater estuaries need to stay healthy. The published

procedure was nationally recognized for its analysis of freshwater inflow needs.

The Bighorn Sheep Project was an early project of the GIS Lab. The project entailed the development of slope classification maps using United States Geological Survey (USGS) elevation data overlaid with the locations of water catchment structures and property boundaries. These maps assisted the Wildlife Division in allocating sheep hunting permits to property owners and helped plan the locations of new watering sites for the sheep.

TPWD received \$1.3 million in a case involving an oil spill from the Apex barge in Galveston Bay. The money was used to restore the affected resources including fisheries, wetlands and birds.

## 1995

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) approached TPWD with a proposal to develop a wetlands mitigation bank in Brazoria County. For this to succeed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) had to formally approve the delineation of the wetlands present on this site. Due to the nature of the habitat on this site, traditional wetland delineation techniques were too expensive and time consuming. As a result, USACOE, TXDOT, and TPWD agreed to use remote sensing/GIS techniques along with intensive ground verification to delineate the wetlands. Resource Protection staff and TXDOT personnel successfully delineated the extent of the wetlands on the property and a wetland mitigation bank was agreed to by the USACOE on June 15, 1999. This allowed for the addition of the 3,552 Nannie M. Stringfellow WMA to the Texas Public Land System in August 1999.

## 1996

A Senior Division Director position overseeing Resource Protection, Inland Fisheries and Coastal Fisheries Divisions

was created in water policy with Dr. Larry McKinney filling the post. This reorganization better addressed major conservation challenges.

### **1997**

Senate Bill 1, the Brown-Lewis Water Plan was signed into law by Governor Bush. This legislation called for the development of regionally-based water plans that protect agricultural and natural resources. TPWD staff were designated as non-voting members.

The Texas GIS Planning Council merged with the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) Task Force to form the Texas Geographic Information Council.

The development of the Texas Orthoimagery and Stratmap program through the efforts of the Department of Information Resources and TNRIS provided TPWD with a wealth of digital geospatial data for natural resources assessments and planning. The production of the digital orthophoto quads (DOQs) was supported by a \$20,000 contribution from Resource Protection by Dr. McKinney to acquire the U.S. Geological Survey National Aerial Photography Program CIR photography which served as a source for the DOQ production. All told, Stratmap has placed some \$40 million of Texas data in the public domain for the benefit of agencies like TPWD and its customers.

The consensus-based Water Plan was released. This was the first state water plan to include TPWD recommendations that addressed environmental concerns.

### **1998**

The *Freshwater Inflow Recommendation for the Guadalupe Estuary of Texas* was published. TPWD verified the modeled freshwater inflows needed to keep the San Antonio Bay system healthy. This was the

first time the procedure published in 1994 is applied to a Texas estuary.

Dr. Larry McKinney, Division Director, led the initiation of the Water Data Access (WDA) Project.

### **1999**

Coastal Expos were held in San Antonio and McAllen focusing on minorities and non-traditional users. TPWD provided hands-on activities in English and Spanish to nearly 10,000 members of the public. Later Coastal Expos expanded to Beaumont, Sea Rim State Park, Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park and Corpus Christi.

In collaboration with the General Land Office and TCEQ, TPWD developed and published the *Seagrass Conservation Plan for Texas* setting the stage for a variety of seagrass monitoring and protection activities. This led to the creation of a stakeholder-based Seagrass Task Force with representation by anglers, fishing guides and local representatives and a research-based Seagrass Steering Committee with representation by university and government seagrass scientists.

The Texas Legislature created the Drought Preparedness Council to coordinate drought response activities statewide. TPWD was a member agency.

### **2000**

The WDA Project was brought online. It utilized what at that time was the latest Internet Map Service (IMS) technology to provide water-related data for Senate Bill 1 water planning and for both internal and external users.

### **2001**

The *Freshwater Inflow Recommendation for the Trinity-San Jacinto Estuary of Texas* was published. TPWD verified the modeled

freshwater inflows needed to keep Galveston Bay healthy.

## **2002**

The 2002 State Water Plan was released which was the product of 16 regional water plans called for by Senate Bill 1. The cost to implement the plan exceeded \$18 billion.

The State Wildlife Grant funds were directed by Dr. Larry McKinney and Dr. Gary Graham, Wildlife Division Director, to implement the Resource Information System (RIS). The RIS was designed to upgrade the WDA using the latest IMS technology and to build on lessons learned while

implementing and using the WDA. In addition, the Texas Wildlife Information System GIS application was expanded and incorporated into the RIS with support from Wildlife Division staff.

*The Freshwater Inflow Recommendation for the Nueces Estuary* was published. TPWD verified the modeled freshwater inflows needed for Nueces Bay.

## **2003**

The GIS lab assisted with the recovery of debris from the space shuttle *Columbia* disaster.

## State Parks Division

As early as 1883, the Texas Legislature began acquiring and setting aside land tracts of historical significance for future preservation. New funding from the Legislature and work provided by the Civilian Conservation Corps laid the foundation for the park system that we have today. From that point, the parks system of Texas has become a national leader in park development, acquisition and interpretation.

It is through the hard work and dedication of the employees and continuing support from the commission that this same rich history will continue long into the future.

### Chronological list of Divisional Events:

#### 1963

Texas Parks and Wildlife formed by merging the Texas Parks Board with the Fish and Game Commission.

There were 58 total parks at this time including 28 State Recreational Parks, 11 State Scenic Parks, 9 State Historical Parks and 10 State Historic Sites.

#### 1964

Falcon, Dam B (Martian Dies Jr.) and Whitney State Park were developed at a cost of \$1.3 million.

State Park visitation reached 7,910,691 for the year.

A 5-year interim plan of the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* began to guide the state, its political subdivisions and private sectors in meeting the outdoor recreational demand in Texas.

The Port Lavaca Fishing Pier became a state park.

Texas Department of Transportation began construction and maintenance of park roads with funds appropriated by the Legislature.

Boat Registration Fees provided funds for the construction of boat ramps in state parks.

The Texas Department of Correction began cooperation with Park Services through inter-agency agreements in the maintenance and construction of park facilities.

#### 1965

Total state parks numbered 61.

Lake Whitney State Park opened to the public.

Development of an Interpretive Master Plan began for each state park.

#### 1966

LBJ State Historic Site was donated by private individuals.

The Copano Bay Causeway was transferred to the state park system from the Texas Department of Transportation.

The State Parks Archeological Program began.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature approved a proposed constitutional amendment for a 10 year, \$75 million state park acquisition and development program.

Attendance at state parks totals 12 million.

**1967**

The Legislature authorized Texas Park Development Bonds up to \$75 million. These funds were designated for the purchase of land to create state parks.

**1968**

Land for Dinosaur Valley State Park totaling 1,221 acres was acquired at a cost of \$270,644 with matching funds from the U.S. Government.

Fort Mckavett opened to the public.

Balmorea State Park opened to the public.

**1970**

Hueco Tanks State Park opens to the public.

Lake Somerville State Park opened to the public.

**1971**

The Department initiated a program of reforestation and beautification for reestablishing wildflowers and other native flora. This program was designed to recreate environments which have been changed and enhance those which have been retained.

Pedernales Falls State Park opened to the public.

**1972**

Texas State Railroad, 26 miles of abandoned railroad between Rusk and Palestine, was transferred to the department.

Dinosaur Valley State Park opened to the public.

Two new state park sites, two new historic sites and additions made to several existing parks totaled more than 2,300 acres of new park acquisitions. Total park acreage was 63,401.

**1973**

Three new parks were acquired: Mustang Island, Sea Rim and Sabinal Canyon for a total of 19,420 acres. Total park acreage was 83,923.

**1974**

One new state park site, two new historic sites and several additions to existing parks were acquired for a total of 3,161 acres. Total park acreage was 86,984.

**1975**

Three new state park sites, one new historic site are added to existing parks for a total of 24,186 acres. Total park acreage was 111,170.

Galveston Island State Park opened to the public.

**1976**

A major Houston area park was among three new sites acquired. In addition, 5 new historical sites, 1 new fishing pier and additions to existing parks were also acquired for a total of 6,941 new acres. Total park acreage was 116,942.

McKinney Falls State park opened to the public.

Martin Creek State Park opened to the public.

Fairfield Lake State Park opened to the public.

**1977**

The Texas State Railroad State Historical Park becomes operational providing passenger rides in restored, antique coaches pulled by authentic steam locomotives.

Lake Livingston State Park opened to the public.

Seven park donations and two leases add almost 8,000 acres to the state park system. Total acquisition for the year was 10,161 acres. Total park acreage was 127,192.

### **1979**

The Legislature creates the Local Parks, Recreation and Open Space Fund to finance local park and recreation projects in urban areas utilizing cigarette tax revenues.

Mustang Island State Park near Port Aransas opened to the public.

Lost Maples State Park opened to the public.

The Legislature authorizes acquisition of land for Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso County.

### **1980**

Seminole Canyon State Historical Park in Val Verde County opened to the public.

### **1981**

The largest single park acquisition project to date was completed with a lease of land for Choke Canyon State Park and what was later to be named James E. Daughtrey Wildlife Management Area totaling 38,500 acres.

The largest sum to date for a state park, \$13.6 million, was paid for Lake Houston State Park.

Lake Mineral Wells opened to the public.

Lake Texana State Park and Landmark Inn State Historic Site opened to the public.

### **1982**

South Llano River State Park and Walter Buck Wildlife Management area created by the Commission near Junction.

The Department acquired the Admiral Nimitz Museum including Japanese peace garden and history walk from the Admiral Nimitz Museum Commission.

Restoration was completed on the historic Fulton Mansion near Rockport.

The Department acquired jurisdiction over 43,893 acres of federal and state lands on Matagorda Island for joint management purposes creating Matagorda Island State Park and Wildlife Management Area.

### **1983**

Senate Bill 325 provided continuation of the one-cent cigarette tax for local parks with provisions for rural areas to be eligible for funding.

The Department's Parks Division began planning for establishment of Matagorda Island State Park on a 7,325-acre portion of the island adjacent to the property designated as a Wildlife Management Area.

Guadalupe River State Park opened to the public.

Monument Hill State Park opened to the public.

Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site opened and the Department assumed control of the Confederate Reunion Grounds near Mexia.

### **1984**

The 4,897-acre Brazos Bend State Park opened to the public offering Houston and Southeast Texas residents an excellent nearby park resource.

Hill Country State Natural Area opened to the public.

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area opened to the public.

Sheldon Lake State Park opened to the public.

### **1985**

Honey Creek State Natural Area opened to the public.

### **1986**

The state of Texas 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday was celebrated at San Jacinto State Historical Park.

Choke Canyon State Park on the shores of Choke Canyon Reservoir in Live Oak and McMullen Counties opened to the public.

Lake Lewisville State Park located on the shores of Lake Lewisville north of Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex opened to the public.

### **1987**

Lake Bob Sandlin State Park in East Texas and the Calliham Unit of Choke Canyon State Park in South Texas opened to the public.

Franklin Mountains State Park opened to the public.

Colorado Bend State Park opened to the public.

### **1988**

Martin Creek State Recreation Area, Colorado Bend State Park and Purtilo State Park opened to the public.

The Commission authorized purchase of the 215,000-acre Big Bend Ranch in Brewster and Presidio Counties for \$8.8 million. The ranch was the largest tract ever acquired by the Department to date and the acquisition in effect doubled state park acreage.

The 19,888-acre Dolan Creek Ranch adjacent to the Devils River in Val Verde County was acquired by the Department.

Total park acreage was 433,365.

A record 20,960,284 people visited Texas state parks during the 1987-88 fiscal year.

The Battleship Texas was towed from her berth at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site and placed in dry dock for major repairs.

### **1989**

Sebastopol House State Historical Park in Seguin and the George Observatory at Brazos Bend State Park south of Houston opened to the public.

### **1990**

The Public Lands division opened 3 new facilities in July welcoming the refurbished Battleship Texas to San Jacinto State Historical Park, opening Lubbock Lake Landmark Historical Park and South Llano River State Park.

Annual visitation reached more than 21 million people at state parks in 1990, the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year it topped 20 million people.

### **1991**

Daily entrance fees to all state parks rose to \$3-\$5 and camping fees to \$4-\$18 depending on the park and the time of the year.

Land for Lake Casa Blanca State Park in Laredo was acquired. Cedar Hill State Park near Dallas and Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area were opened to the public.

Three undeveloped parks were opened for limited use: Kickapoo Cavern (Edwards County), Devil' River (Val Verde County) and Lake Bastrop (near Bastrop State Park).



**1991**

The Texas Conservation Passport was introduced. This \$25 annual pass offered free entry to state parks, guided tours and other benefits.

**1992**

Devil's Sink Hole State Park opened to the public for limited access.

**1993**

Texas law HB 706 replaced TPWD revenue from the declining state cigarette tax with a portion of revenue from the state tax on sporting goods.

Ray Roberts Lake State Park near Denton opened to the public.

Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway, the largest rails-to-trails project to date in Texas, opened to the public.

Government Canyon near San Antonio was acquired.

**1994**

The computer based Central Reservation Center opened in December allowing visitors to book reservations at almost all state parks with one phone call and pay for reservations by credit card. Previously, visitors had to call each park individually.

Monahans Sandhills State Park becomes the second Texas state park to receive a private financial endowment for park operations when Sen. John Montford of Lubbock presented a check to the private, non-profit Friends of the Monahans Sand hills State Park.

Boca Chica State Park opened to the public.

Village Creek State Park opened to the public.

**1995**

Two new parks, San Angelo and Lake Rita Blanca, opened to the public.

The Department received 5 donated tracts of land including Bright Leaf, a large piece of prime underdeveloped land in west Austin, and 3 new Wildlife Management Areas were acquired.

**1996**

State parks that charged entrance fees instituted a per-person pricing fee schedule. Instead of paying a per-vehicle price, adult visitors were charged fees ranging from \$1 to \$5 per person.

Cooper Lake State Park opened to the public. The park land, which is adjacent to the White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area, was leased to the state by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The drought of 1996 not only affected park visitation and stressed Texas wildlife, it also pointed out the critical nature of issues such as water development and water management and their impact on Texas fish and wildlife resources.

**1997**

Chinati Mountains State Natural Area opened to the public. This area contained 38,000 acres.

**1997**

Total park acreage was 672,000 acres.

**2001**

Fort Boggy State Park opened to the public.

State voters passed Proposition 8 which provided funding for the repair of deteriorating park facilities.

**2002**

Lake Tawakoni State Park opened to the public.

**2003**

The Department drafts the Land and Water Conservation Plan which identified parks located near urban areas for further development.

## Wildlife Division

Wildlife management in Texas has made tremendous strides since the first legislated game law establishing a two-year closed season on bobwhite quail on Galveston Island in 1861. Wildlife management as a profession did not even exist during the late 1800s and early 1900s when heavy exploitation and depletion of the state's wildlife resources was occurring. An attempt to sustain the state's wildlife resources was enacted with the creation of the Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission and the first bag limits placed on whitetail deer and turkeys in 1907. The first hunting license law went into effect in 1909, when 5,000 were sold that year. Wildlife management received a tremendous boost in 1936 when the Department of Wildlife Management was established at Texas A&M University to train the first students in wildlife management and ecological concepts. Presently, the Wildlife Division continues to recruit top professionals trained at institutions of higher learning in Texas and the nation. The life blood of funding for wildlife research and management was established in 1937 with the passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act by the U.S. Congress, which required an 11% excise tax placed on sporting arms and ammunition. Funds from this revenue source were earmarked for wildlife research and management. Some of the early management programs conducted by the Wildlife Division were trapping and restocking suitable habitat with big game animals, such as desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer and pronghorn antelope. Many of these restocking efforts continued until the 1980s and 1990s. The first land was acquired for wildlife research and management in the 1940s and early 1950s (Sierra Diablo, Black Gap, Kerr, Engeling and Gene Howe Wildlife Management Areas). At this time, white-tailed deer populations increased to high levels, especially in the Edwards Plateau region. Habitat degradation due to deer overpopulation and overgrazing practices of domestic livestock was common and emotionally-charged discussions ensued concerning the value and ethics of antlerless deer harvest. The first antlerless deer harvest was allowed in Mason, Gillespie and Kerr counties in 1953. Prior to the merger of the Game and Fish Commission and the State Parks Board in 1963, the Wildlife Division primarily dealt with game harvest recommendations and restocking efforts.

Presently, the Wildlife Division's mission is to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. To accomplish this mission, Division personnel annually conduct about 2,100 wildlife population surveys, maintain scientific databases, analyze data, provide recommendations concerning the management of about 1,200 vertebrate wildlife species, conduct about 75 wildlife research studies, manage 51 wildlife management areas totaling 755,000 acres, hold public hunts on more than 200 tracts of land totaling more than 1.4 million acres, inform the public about wildlife, issue about 1,500 permits of various kinds to take or hold wildlife, review and provide recommendations concerning the natural resource impact of more than 700 land development projects, coordinate the activities of 39 non-profit land trusts protecting over 995,000 acres, provide landowner incentives to manage for rare species, provide technical guidance to private landowners and develop more than 3,818 active wildlife management plans for about 15.2 million acres of private lands.

Key issues facing Wildlife Division staff:

- Loss of wildlife habitat and wildlife diversity
- Fragmentation of land and habitat
- Private property issues and access to wildlife resources on private land

- Assistance for private landowners (technical guidance, wildlife management plans, conservation easements, Landowner Incentive Program)
- Privatization of wildlife
- Threatened and endangered species issues
- Declining hunter numbers in relation to human population growth
- Access and increased public use on TPWD lands
- Endowment of operations on TPWD Lands (Lone Star Legacy)
- Snow goose overpopulation
- Eastern wild turkey restoration
- Desert Bighorn Sheep Program
- State Bison Herd
- Nature Tourism (World Birding Center, Birding Classic, Birding Trails)
- Outer Continental Shelf oil revenues (CARA - Conservation and Reinvestment Act)
- Federal Funding (Pittman-Robertson Act, Section 6, State Wildlife Grants)
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and other wildlife disease issues
- Use of Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmate labor on TPWD lands

**Chronological List of Divisional Events:**

**1963**

The Texas Game and Fish Commission merged with the State Parks Board to create the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department controlled by a three member Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission.

beginning of an effort to “stop managing mourning doves by petition.”

**1969**

Additional white-winged dove nesting areas were obtained in Rio Grande Valley.

**1964**

Wild-trapped pheasants from California released on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Chaparral Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was purchased.

Season opened on aoudad sheep in the Texas Panhandle.

The American alligator was protected by the Texas Legislature.

**1970**

**1965**

Emphasis at Tyler Management and Research Station shifted from quail to pheasant production.

A point system was established for waterfowl hunting.

The first spring turkey hunting season was conducted in Kerr County where 12 gobblers were harvested.

**1966**

The total population of exotic mammals set at 30,000 animals and 13 different species, including axis deer, black buck antelope, and mouflon sheep.

**1971**

\$3 dollar White-winged Dove Stamp was required to hunt this species. Money generated by this stamp was primarily used for acquisition of land to be used for white-winged dove habitat.

The first statewide mourning dove research project was initiated. This project was the

20 bighorn sheep were released on Black Gap WMA.

### **1972**

Voluntary Hunter Education Program was initiated in Texas with assistance of National Rifle Association.

The Technical Guidance Program was initiated by TPW Commission to provide dedicated Wildlife Division staff to directly assist private landowners in wildlife and habitat management. This program was the predecessor of the Private Lands Enhancement Program currently in place.

The first split mourning dove season was initiated with a fall segment and a brief January segment.

Voluntary Hunter Safety Program was initiated to train Texans in the safe handling of firearms.

### **1973**

The hunting license fee increased from \$3.25 to \$5.25.

The Texas Endangered Species Act was adopted preceding the federal Endangered Species Act. One nongame biologist was hired for the entire state.

### **1974**

A study of the rare golden-cheeked warbler was initiated.

Turkey tags were added to hunting licenses.

Prior to this year, public hunting opportunities on WMA property were allowed only to “facilitate research”. The first public hunt occurred (75 names were drawn to hunt white-tailed deer) on the Kerr WMA in 1954. A change in this philosophy began to prevail as hunting opportunities on WMA property were increased dramatically

as long as these activities were “compatible” with the resources.

### **1975**

Prior to this year, wildlife management was primarily conducted within semi-autonomous game management regions. Data collection strategies, data reporting methods, and management philosophies varied among regions. Division Director Ted Clark led the shift to more of a centralized, species-based concept of management. This change was incorporated to standardize species monitoring and reporting with uniform philosophies applied on a statewide basis.

The peregrine falcon survey began in West Texas.

An archery hunting stamp was initiated.

The first eastern and hybrid turkeys were released in Texas.

The first major attempt to collect harvest data on white-tailed deer and turkeys was initiated.

### **1976**

The first pheasant season opened on the Gulf Coast.

### **1977**

Bighorn sheep on the Black Gap WMA were supplemented by six ewes captured in Baja California, Mexico.

Department biologists and one from Mexico went on a 45-day reconnaissance trip to the white-wing wintering areas in Central America noting areas of dove concentrations, existing habitat conditions and contacting wildlife officials in each country to discuss formation of an international White-winged Dove Management Plan.

The first spring turkey hunting season was established in East Texas as a result of the Department's eastern turkey restocking efforts.

### **1978**

Nontoxic steel shot was required to take waterfowl on J.D. Murphree WMA. Research conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and field work conducted by Wildlife Division staff greatly assisted with the push to ban lead shot based on its toxic effects on feeding waterfowl.

### **1979**

Trapper's license sales reached an all-time high 46,245 and estimated wild fur harvest was 1,272,462 pelts of 14 species valued at \$18.8 million.

The TPW Commission initiated a policy of setting quail bag limits based on August population trends.

The first pronghorn antelope introduction from another state occurred with 100 animals from Wyoming released on 3 North Texas ranches.

### **1980**

Nontoxic (steel) shot was required for waterfowl hunting on public hunting areas in Jefferson County.

Antler development studies at the Kerr WMA revealed that spike antlers may be inherited as well as being caused by nutritional deficiencies. Data from these studies assisted in discussions on harvesting spike bucks. This topic represented a major controversy among Wildlife Division staff and the public concerning white-tailed deer harvest strategies.

### **1981**

Legislation passed requiring all Texas waterfowl hunters to possess a \$5 State Waterfowl Stamp.

Nontoxic (steel) shot was required for waterfowl hunting in all or portions of five counties on the upper coast. The nontoxic shot rule was upheld in court.

The Department was given management authority over the American alligator in Texas.

The spring turkey season expanded to 127 counties.

The Department acquired the James E. Daughtrey WMA.

### **1982**

The Walter Buck WMA was established in conjunction with the development of South Llano River State Park near Junction.

The nontoxic (steel) shot zone was expanded to include five mid-coast counties. Biologists examine 7,626 waterfowl gizzards in lead ingestion study.

The first public pheasant hunt held on a WMA was held at the Granger WMA.

The Hunter Safety Program certified more than 100,000 students.

Two tracts of land in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties totaling 320 acres were purchased with revenue from white-winged dove stamps.

The State Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Development Program was initiated.

### **1983**

The Wildlife Conservation Act was passed by the Texas Legislature placing authority for managing fish and wildlife resources in

all Texas counties in the hands of TPW Commission.

The Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Stamp and Fund were created providing over \$100,000 in its first year for nongame and rare species research.

The TPW Commission created the state's first three-zone dove hunting alignment, replacing a two zone system which had been basically unchanged since 1943.

Wildlife Division established Matagorda Island WMA as a result of the transfer of management authority of the island from federal government to the state. The first state-controlled public hunts were held on the island.

The nontoxic (steel) shot zone for waterfowl hunting expanded to include all coastal areas and a portion of the prairie region west of Houston. The prohibition of the use of toxic lead shot for waterfowl hunting within the zone was designed to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in waterfowl.

The spring turkey gobbler season was authorized for an additional 21 counties, bring the total to 146.

#### **1984**

A freeze in late 1983 and early 1984 killed citrus orchards and native brush nesting habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and contributed to the expansion of white-winged dove range to other areas of Texas in 1984.

The Department conducted the first controlled alligator hunting season in Texas with a total harvest of 437 from selected portions of 11 Southeast Texas counties.

#### **1985**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature passed the Department's Sunset Review legislation, broadening the Department's powers and

designating the Department as the primary agency for protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

Elephant Mountain Ranch in Brewster County was donated to TPWD for use as a WMA.

The statewide harvest of white-tailed deer set a record with an estimated 383,500 animals including a record antlerless harvest of 129,000.

The Department added 59 counties to those having an either-sex system of antlerless deer harvest.

The first post-season antlerless deer hunting season was held in six South Texas counties.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan was initiated. This plan was a result of cooperation among thousands of individuals and partnerships across the continent. A considerable amount of the work of the Wildlife Division waterfowl and wetland ecosystems program was guided by this plan.

#### **1987**

The Type II Wildlife Management Area Program was launched. This program was intended as a cooperative agreement with landowners to use private lands for public hunting opportunities. In its first year, the program garnered more than 436,000 acres and 24,000 purchasers of \$35 Type II annual permits were allowed to hunt on any or all tracts during the open hunting season.

The spring turkey season was expanded from 16 to 23 days.

The mandatory Hunter Education Program was adopted by the Legislature.

The first release of eastern turkeys purchased through proceeds from the turkey stamp and assistance from the National Wild

Turkey Federation was conducted in Wood County.

### **1988**

The TPW Commission adopted mandatory hunter education program for persons born on or after September 2, 1971.

Hunters harvested an estimated 504,900 white-tailed deer during the 1987-1988 hunting season setting a harvest record.

Wildlife Division staff trapped and released 2,253 wild turkeys on 54 sites in 35 counties including 396 eastern turkeys obtained from other states.

The TPW Commission lengthened the white-tailed deer season authorized separate seasons dates for South Texas.

The TPW Commission added 58 counties to the either-sex system of white-tailed deer bag limits.

The mule deer season was lengthened from 9 to 16 days in both the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle regions.

Endangered plants on state lands were protected by law.

### **1989**

Wildlife Division staff obtained 424 eastern turkeys from other states and released them into East Texas along with 18 birds trapped from Texas sites. This was the largest eastern turkey stocking operation attempted by any state in a single year.

Wildlife Division staff continued a record-setting deer stocking program trapping some 1,000 surplus animals in South and Central Texas and releasing them on Type II public hunting areas in East Texas.

A total of 35 desert bighorn sheep produced at the Sierra Diablo WMA were released into the Sierra Diablo Mountains. This was

the largest release from the facility in a single year.

A new fish and wildlife stocking policy was developed after public hearings were held across the state.

The first purchase of habitat with monies from the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Fund was a 208-acre tract in Chambers County used by thousands of migrating birds as a resting place in the spring as they arrive from Central and South America.

### **1990**

TPWD, USFWS, Phillips Petroleum Company, Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated and the National Wildlife Federation joined to launch the \$1.3 million Playa Lakes Joint Venture waterfowl habitat program.

### **1991**

The Fisheries Division and Wildlife Divisions were consolidated into the Fisheries and Wildlife Division as part of a major reorganization of the department.

The hunting license fee was increased to \$13.

A turkey hunting stamp was established.

The Texas Big Game Awards Program was established to encourage quality private land management and promote recruitment of new and young hunters.

### **1992**

Division staff participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Wildlife Expo to celebrate the role hunters have played in conservation and to promote hunting and conservation.

The TPW Commission created a \$35 annual public hunting permit to serve as a Type II WMA permit and as an annual public hunting permit on many Type I areas.



### 1993

The Landowner Assisted Management Permit System was created to involve landowners in better deer management for East Texas.

The Nongame and Urban Fisheries and Wildlife Program was created with nongame/urban biologists assigned to Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio.

### 1994

The 55-year-old program to restore white-tailed deer in Texas came to an end in January. The white-tailed deer restoration project transplanted more than 16,500 deer into the Pineywoods and Post Oak Savannah ecological regions.

Twenty desert bighorn sheep were captured northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and transported to Black Gap WMA as part of an on-going bighorn sheep restoration project.

A cooperative pilot effort that put 600 inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to work at two WMAs saved the department more than \$1 million in labor-related costs in that year.

The Nature Conservancy of Texas dedicated the Clive Runnells Family Mad Island Marsh Preserve near Collegeport in Matagorda County. The 7,043-acre preserve borders Mad Island WMA, bringing the total managed acreage to about 12,500 acres.

Champion International Corporation signed an agreement with TPWD, USFWS, and the U.S. Forest Service to manage 2,000 acres of its property in East Texas and to help bring back the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

The TPW Commission approved a new classification system for TPWD public lands which included the Wildlife Division's

WMAs. The system categorized departmental lands in four legislated classes: game management areas, recreational areas, natural areas and historical areas.

### 1995

The 74<sup>th</sup> Legislature authorized a constitutional amendment for a discount on property tax evaluation of land used for wildlife management purposes.

A partnership between TPWD and Champion International Corporation paved the way for a unique study designed to enhance wildlife and environmental diversity on 50,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests in East Texas.

Bottomland hardwood forests within the Old Sabine WMA were expanded by 2,446 acres as a result of land acquisition by TPWD and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). A similar agreement led to the acquisition of 3,343 acres of bottomland hardwood forests in Orange County to offset impacts in Southeast Texas.

The public hunting program reached several milestones:

It provided more than 1.4 million acres of land for hunting.

Net revenue from public hunting increased 9.6% to > \$1 million.

For the first time, dove hunting areas were leased near urban areas to allow more accessible public hunting opportunities for families in cities.

Plans for the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, funded with a \$500,000 federal highways grant, were announced this year. The trail would link more than 200 sites along 500 miles of coastal highways to facilitate and promote public viewing from Beaumont to Brownsville.

The Texas Private Lands Initiative was expanded to provide technical and financial assistance for the development of wildlife conservation projects on private lands in

Texas. The first phase of the program was completed after more than \$760,000 was raised to develop wildlife habitat enhancement projects on 60 sites in 34 counties.

The Lone Star Land Steward Program was initiated to recognize the top private lands wildlife managers in each of the 10 ecological regions of Texas.

### **1996**

Hunting licenses were first sold electronically.

The Texas Grand Slam drawing was created in which applicants pay a \$10 fee for each chance to win a package of hunts for the state's four top big game animals. Proceeds raised support efforts directed toward desert bighorn sheep restoration, big game research, habitat conservation and public hunting.

The Texas Youth Hunting Association (TYHA) was formed to provide hunting opportunities for young people and pass on the heritage of conservation ethics and hunter safety. In its first year, TYHA scheduled eight youth hunts across the state, with one hunt specially designed to accommodate wheel-chair bound participants.

The "Wildlife Research Highlights" publication series was initiated.

### **1997**

The Landowner Incentive Program was created, providing competitive grants for landowners willing to manage their land for rare species.

The First Great Texas Birding Classic was held. This was a competitive birding event demonstrating the importance of birding and tourism to Gulf Coast communities, as well as raising \$50,000 a year for conservation projects.

### **1998**

The World Birding Center was initiated in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The Endangered Resource Branch was transferred from Resource Protection Division and combined with the Nongame and Urban Wildlife Program to create the Wildlife Diversity Branch. This reorganization consolidated staff and reassigned 15 nongame and urban wildlife biologists to the field.

The Charles Goodnight Bison Herd was donated to TPWD and moved from JA Ranch to Caprock Canyons State Park in the hope of preserving these genetically unique animals and eventually developing a herd of several hundred bison.

### **1999**

TPWD introduces its first conservation license plate, featuring a horned lizard, with income earmarked for nongame species conservation. Within 3 years, the plate becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> best selling specialty plate in Texas.

### **2002**

White-tailed deer conservation license plates went on sale to raise money for white-tailed deer research by Wildlife Division staff.

The Wildlife Division hosted "Quail V", the 5<sup>th</sup> National Quail Symposium in Corpus Christi.

### **2003**

The High Plains Partnership was initiated with the USFWS, Natural Resources Conservation Service and other partners to address loss of shortgrass prairie habitat in the High Plains.

The Wildlife Division hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage in Houston.

Private lands under TPWD approved  
Wildlife Management Plans increased to  
15.2 million acres.

## **Conservation Heroes**

Conservation Heroes are those Departmental employees, past or present, that made a truly significant, positive contribution to natural resource conservation in Texas. The intent of this program is to provide recognition and express appreciation for those people who have brought conservation in Texas to where it is today. Following is a list of criteria developed to assist in the designation of these heroes.

### **Conservation Hero Selection Criteria:**

1. TPWD employee during all or a portion of the event or events they influenced.
2. Person caused, played a major role in causing, or greatly facilitated lasting and landmark natural resource conservation.
3. Person's contribution was above and beyond most others contributions in natural resource conservation.
4. Person may have been instrumental in facilitating a major change in the organizational structure of TPWD that enhances the agency's ability to serve its constituents.
5. Person may have been highly influential in initiating a new policy or cultural change within TPWD (preferably at the division level or higher) that enhances the agency's ability to serve its constituents.
6. Person may have played a key role in the acquisition or establishment of a major or high profile TPWD facility (e.g., Sea Center, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, a major state park or wildlife management area, etc.).
7. Persons sacrificing their lives while enforcing Texas law.
8. For the initial nominations, the person was most frequently recommended by past and current employee contacts.

## Notable Quotes

Ted Clark - "It (The Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983) let professionals address our problems on a statewide basis."

Ted Clark - "It (The Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983) was the only piece of legislation that didn't get amended."

Bob Cook - "We are a better organization, we have a better understanding of conservation in Texas, of what Texans want in the way of conservation, what they're willing to do for conservation because we are in this thing together." (speaking on the 1963 merger of the Game and Fish Commission and the State Parks Board).

Bob Cook - "There's always someone out there who still wants us to separate these two organizations (State Parks and Fisheries/Wildlife). That would be a huge mistake."

Bob Cook - "I think from a conservation, a management, and an enforcement standpoint, that was an absolutely critical issue." (speaking on the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983).

Bob Cook - "Our willingness to hear from the public, to hear from the citizens of Texas, and to seriously consider their concerns in our business...I think has been a positive change for us. That has mostly come about in the last 15 years". (speaking on the agency's increased level of transparency).

Bob Cook - "At heart, Dan Lay was a conservationist. Dan Lay was an absolute genius of habitat at a time when other names in that group were Aldo Leopold. Dan Lay was that kind of conservationist; a great gentleman."

Bob Cook - "He (Bob Kemp) initiated some programs in fisheries that wouldn't have happened without him."

Bob Cook - "Andy Sansom will stand the test of time and become a conservation hero. One of the greatest things he (Andy Sansom) did for this agency that I think will live forever is the Parks and Wildlife Foundation. It was an incredible program to initiate. I think he led the charge and did a tremendous amount of work and got that program off to a great start. It's important that we continue it."

Bob Cook - "Three top issues in Texas: water, water, water." (speaking on the greatest future challenge to TPWD).

Phil Durocher - "Bob Kemp was loyal to his people. At first he (Bob Kemp) was skeptical of my recommendation to raise the statewide length limit on largemouth bass to 14 inches. However, he told me that if I could support my case with sound scientific data, he would support me all the way."

Phil Durocher - "Bob Kemp was a brainstormer, and can be credited with initiating our fisheries research program at the HOH (Heart of the Hills Research Station)".

Carl Fentress - "Dan Lay was the Aldo Leopold of Texas. He was a tenacious ecologist with unflagging determination to conserve the ecological integrity of natural resources. He was the

father of the nongame program in Texas. He was an impeccable professional biologist and mentor to his colleagues.”

Ed Hegen - “We are where we are today because good leaders sacrificed to stand up for what they believe in.”

Landy Johnston - “In addition to their direct contributions to conservation, from my perspective as an employee in support services, I believe that Donnie (Harmel) and other conservation heroes served another valuable role in TPW. In HR work, and many other support services, it is often difficult to avoid becoming cynical. Employees tend to take these services for granted (and, ideally, they should be able to). Because of this, those of us in support services tend to interact with employees when they are upset by a problem that they don’t really have time to deal with and, certainly don’t think they should have to mess with at all. As my tenure with TPW progressed, the pressures of continuing budget challenges, increasingly complex HR laws/regulations, etc., made this tendency increasingly common. Donnie was a prime example of the reason TPW continued to be a good place to work in spite of these pressures. When I talked to him, his genuine enjoyment of his work and commitment to conservation always came through, even when he was frustrated with some bureaucratic requirement. This enjoyment and commitment from Donnie and others like him was contagious. While I can’t speak for others, I know that it always inspired me to do the best I could to support the efforts of field employees who were trying to navigate the bureaucracy with the same commitment they showed in doing their jobs. That I didn’t always succeed should in no way diminish the value of the inspiration.”

Gary Matlock - “The most important development in marine fisheries management in Texas and the U.S. was the realization that human impacts through fishing affects the abundance of fish. Prior to the 1970’s, it was the accepted view that in regard to coastal management, nature would take care of itself.”

Gary Matlock - “Texas has led the way in recovering the value of illegally taken resources. Texas used American Fisheries Society values to do this and created legislation to do this. This reflects the importance that Texas has placed on natural resources that Texas realizes they are limited.”

Gary Matlock - “Texas has used all three methods of fisheries management: 1) kill a lake and restock it, 2) protect and/or restore habitat and 3) manage through fishing regulation. They have incorporated social, political and economic aspects through all of this and did it before the U.S. government and other states did. It reflects back on Bob Kemp’s willingness to try things and bring science to bear, Charles Travis’s stability in the Executive Office, Perry R. Bass’ political involvement and the involvement of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association.”

Hal Osburn - “The most seminal events for Coastal Fisheries have not happened yet. The demands today are such that we need to be preparing and empowering people to be the conservation heroes of the future.”

Hal Osburn - “Limited Entry and license buyback allows for a tool that would rationalize the effort to where the benefits would become apparent even without the data collection programs. Traditional fishery management methods are always doomed to the “tragedy of the commons. They always hurt either people or the resource. They delay the “tragedy,” but can’t stop it.”

Bill Provine - "Bob Kemp was not only an outstanding biologist, but an exceptional manager of people. He would actually take the time to mail complementary letters to his subordinates."

Dr. James Teer - "The Department became less regulatory and the general public became much more participatory in the affairs of the Department. Those two things, I think, were the most important occurrences in the Department's programs, even to this day."

Dr. James Teer - "There began to be a number of NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) who had a place at the table...all of these organizations began to have a say in what was being done in TPWD."

Dr. James Teer - "He (Dan Lay) was a field biologist of the first rank. He was also a naturalist biologist. He knew and understood what he was seeing in nature, and he had a bent for putting things together."

Dr. James Teer - "If we go ahead and use what he (Dan Lay) wrote, we wouldn't be in the shape we are in right now with our quail decline."

Dr. James Teer - "He (Dan Lay) and A. S. Jackson wrote the manual on quail management that is still germane today."

Dr. James Teer - "As a field biologist, by his (Dan Lay's) intellect, desire, and dedication, he was a person...we all looked up to."

Charlie Winkler - "The main accomplishment of the species concept in my mind was to get uniform philosophies applied throughout the state." (speaking on the Wildlife Division's move to species concept of management).

Charlie Winkler - "Texas is regarded as a leader in wildlife management because our accomplishments are through working with private landowners."

Charlie Winkler - "Everybody's afraid that deer-proof fences will lead to the privatization of wildlife, and I think that this will be a major issue that we see on the horizon, and it's poking its head up right now."

Charlie Winkler - "Many people feel that if deer remain behind fences, it'll become the property of the landowner, and no longer be a public resource. I tend to agree, but I don't know what to do about it."

Charlie Winkler - "Even if with the stroke of a pen I could ban the use of deer-proof fences, I don't think that's the answer. It's got to be something deeper than that."

## **Recommendations**

Following are recommendations for the maintenance and execution of the report and program presented herein:

- History Report Maintenance:
  - Periodically update this report, perhaps every 2-5 years.
  - Further identify key people in the historical timelines.
  - Investigate pre-1963 history.
  - Provide this report to constituent groups for review and comment.
  - Publish this report and/or include it or portions of it on the Department website.
  - Designate a responsible party for hosting the report and archive materials.
  
- Develop a committee to govern Conservation Hero designation and develop a Conservation Hero display.



## **Index of Archived Materials**

1. Natural Leaders Class III Deliverables
  - 1.1. TPWD report (1 hard and 1 electronic copy of each)
  - 1.2. TPWD project presentation (1 hard and 1 electronic copy of each)
  - 1.3. Conservation Hero nominations
2. Audio Tapes
  - 2.1. Lynn Benefield (Coastal Fisheries; 1 tape)
  - 2.2. Ted Clark (Wildlife; 1 tape)
  - 2.3. Dr. James Teer (Wildlife; 1 tape)
  - 2.4. Charlie Winkler (Wildlife; 1 tape)
3. Video Tapes
  - 3.1. Chester Burdett (Law Enforcement; 3 tapes)
  - 3.2. Bob Cook (Executive Director; 2 tapes)
  - 3.3. Charlie Hensley (Law Enforcement; 3 tapes)
  - 3.4. Andy Sansom (Former Executive Director; 3 tapes)
  - 3.5. Charles "Dickie" Travis (Former Executive Director; 2 tapes)
4. Photographs
5. General TPWD history (including pre-1963 information)
6. TPWD Commission
7. TPWD Planning Reports
8. Administrative Resources Division
9. Coastal Fisheries Division
10. Communications Division
11. Executive Office
12. Human Resources Division
13. Infrastructure Division
14. Inland Fisheries Division
15. Law Enforcement Division
16. Resource Protection Division
17. State Parks Division
18. Wildlife Division
19. Miscellaneous