



TECH BULLETIN

TEXAS

GIBBONS CREEK

Compiled from the Diaries and Logs of the Luhr Jensen Fishing Research Team.

"This is one of the top trophy bass lakes around and could produce a state record at any time."

BY JIM BUTLER

Gibbons Creek is noted for its trophy bass with a lake record of 16.36 pounds. Dozens of bass over 10 pounds are caught each year. The lake is also excellent for crappie and catfish which may be kept in accordance with the state limits: 25 at least 10 inches for crappie and 25 at least 9 inches for channel catfish.

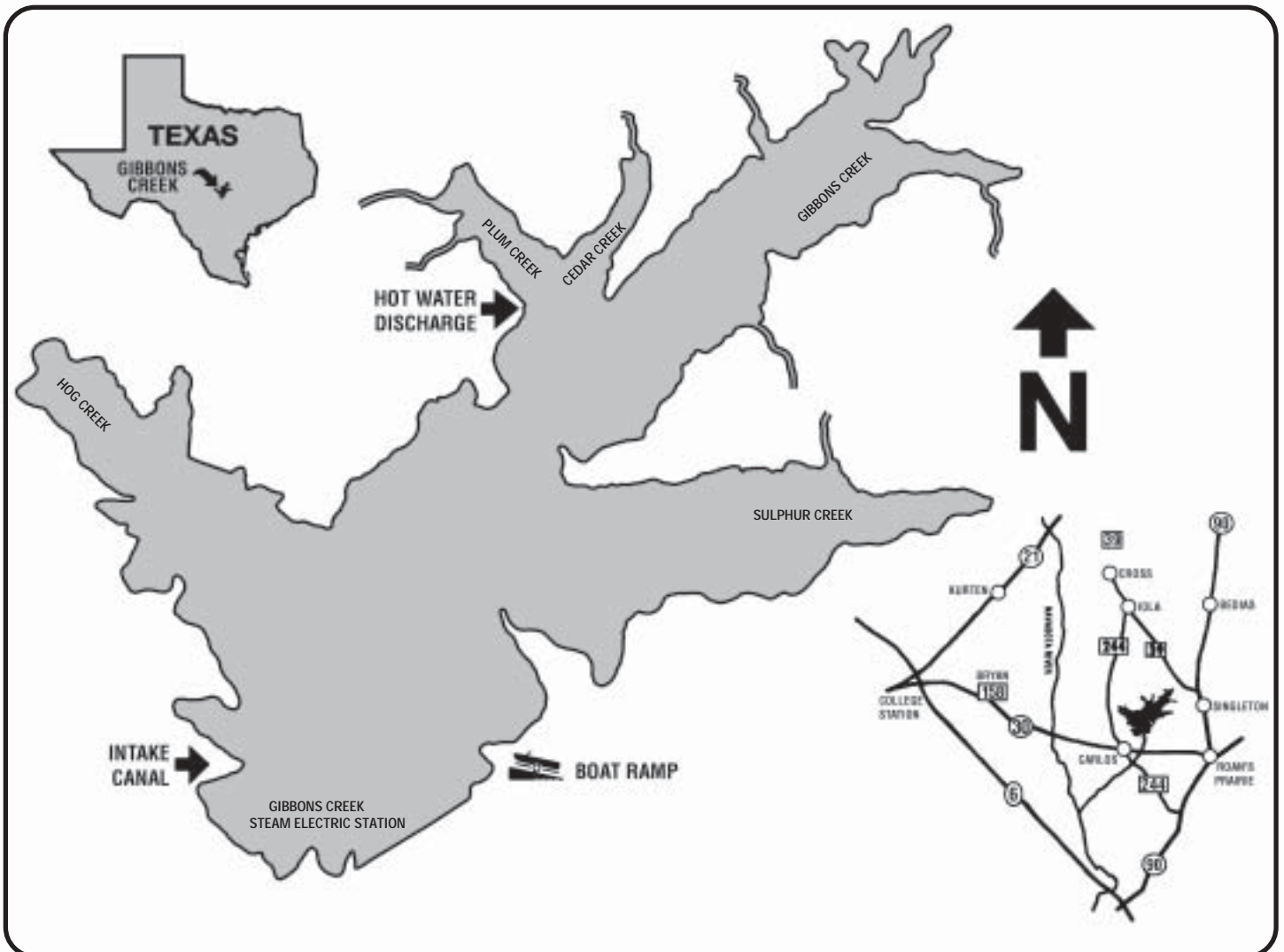
Impounded in 1981, Gibbons Creek was stocked with Florida largemouth bass, blue catfish, channel catfish, red ear sunfish and coppernose bluegill. The lake was opened to the public in 1985 and stocked with an additional 250,000 Kemp's largemouth bass, the first generation cross between Florida and northern bass.

The lake has a catch-and-release-only regulation for largemouth bass. A bass at least 22 inches may be taken to the certified scale at the launch ramp to be weighed before release, and one over 13 pounds may be donated to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Lone Star Lunker program between Dec. 1 and April 30.

Gibbons Creek Reservoir is located 15 miles east of Bryan-College Station off Highway 30 in central Texas. This 2,500-acre lake is a cooling pond for the lignite-burning Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA) power plant.

SPRING

Since Gibbons Creek is a power plant reservoir, spring



THE HOT LURES FOR GIBBONS CREEK



fishing begins in February with the start of the spawn, which runs through March. Soft plastics, such as lizards, craw-worms and jerkbaits such as the **Power Minnow™** are the #1 lures for spawning bass. They should be fished on 20-lb. test monofilament or braided line, very slowly along the shore-lines of Plum, Cedar, Gibbons and Sulphur creeks.

April and May are excellent topwater months. The lake has a variety of vegetation, including hydrilla, lotus pads, pepper grass and duckweed, so working surface lures such as **Buzzer'd™** or **Herb's Dilly™** buzz baits, **Jerk 'n Sam™** or **P.J. Pop™** around and over emerging vegetation can be productive, even on bright days. Lotus pads are the prime vegetation in Sulphur Creek while hydrilla is located all around the main lake and along the shorelines of the other feeder creeks.

SUMMER

Summer provides the most consistent action of the year as bass set up in a deep water pattern. Gibbons Creek has numerous submerged tank dams, humps, point and ridges that hold bass from June through October.

This lake is unique in that more 10-lb. bass are caught in June than in any other month, mostly on deep-diving crank-baits such as the **Hot Lips TA®**. Carolina-rigged soft plastics can also be very successful. **Crippled Herring®** jigging spoons are extremely effective on summer bass holding on and around humps and channels.

A good strategy is to work surface lures over and around hydrilla and lotus pads for the first and last hour of each day, and concentrate on deeper water during the middle of the day.

Best deep water areas include two long ridges in the cove just south of the intake canal on the west side of the lake. Throw out two or three marker buoys to define the ridges, then work them over with a Hot Lips Express.

FALL

Plum, Cedar, Gibbons and Sulphur Creek channels are the most productive in October and November as bass follow shad migrations to the back of the feeder creeks. A **Speed Trap™** or any Luhr-Jensen topwater lure that imitates shad is the most effective bait during this time of year. Topwater action picks up with a P.J. Pop, Jerk 'n Sam or **Nip-I-Diddee®** as good choices.

WINTER

The most productive area during December and January is around the hot water discharge canal on the north end of the lake. Though you aren't likely to catch many bass, the odds of catching a 10-pounder are pretty good. This is the area where the lake record was caught and it annually produces several bass in the 12-lb. range.

Crankbaits are the ticket. The Hot Lips Express series and the Speed Trap are the lures of choice.

COLOR

Color of lure makes no difference on Gibbons Creek. Throw whatever color you prefer, and if it's in the right place at the right time, you'll have a good chance to catch a trophy bass!

HOURS & FACILITIES

Gibbons Creek is closed on Wednesdays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day and Christmas Day. Hours are 5:40 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. March through October and 6:10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. November through February. Admission fee is \$2 per vehicle, \$2 for boat launch and \$1.50 per person over 13. No reservations are required.

There are no camping facilities at Gibbons Creek. The closest place to spend the night is Bryan-College Station, which has dozens of motels in all price ranges.

This is an excellent lake for anglers who are tired of boat traffic. The TMPA allows no water skiing, jet skiing, sailboating, swimming or trotlines so the conditions are just about perfect for some serious and relaxing fishing.

CATCH AND RELEASE

1. Play the fish in quickly so it is not too tired.
2. Handle the fish as little as possible and never let it flop on a hard or dirty surface.
3. Use hemostats or needle-nose pliers to back the hook out the way it went in. Barbless hooks make the process easier.
4. Never release a fish until it is fully revived and acts strong. A tired fish can tumble and get lodged in rocks or moss and suffocate. Carefully work the fish back and forth to pump water through its gills. You will know when it's ready to leave.
5. When taking a picture of your catch, leave it in the water until the camera is ready and then gently cradle the fish in both hands as you lift it out of the water. Never put your fingers in its gills or squeeze it too hard. Keep the fish out of the water only long enough to take the picture.
6. Be gentle and release the fish carefully. *Never throw a fish back into the water.*

SHARP HOOKS PAY OFF!

One of the easiest things you can do to improve your fishing success is to maintain super-sharp hooks on your lures at all times. A fine-toothed file such as Luhr Jensen's **Sharp Hook File™** is the absolute best hook sharpening tool available. Hold the file parallel to the hook point and with gentle, one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal on at least two sides to obtain a sticky-sharp point with a knife-like cutting edge.

To obtain a copy of our **Hook Sharpening Tech Sheet #8822-565**, send a business size self-addressed, stamped envelope to Luhr Jensen Hook Sharpening Tech Sheet, P.O. Box 297, Hood River, OR 97031, Attn: Customer Service.

CHECK RULES & REGULATIONS

Because rules, regulations, conditions and fees can change from time to time, it is recommend that you check them all out before heading out.

FOR GUIDE INFORMATION

Call

Jim Butler at 409-846-2851