

Report of Fisheries Investigations

Introduction of Smallmouth Black Bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*, in the Upper
Regions of the Llano River Lying within Sutton, Edwards and
Kimble Counties, Texas

by

Fred G. Lowman, Jr.
Assistant Project Leader

Dingell-Johnson Project F-9-R-5, Job F-1
July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1958

H. D. Dodgen - Executive Secretary

Texas Game and Fish Commission
Austin, Texas

Marion Toole
Coordinator

Kenneth Jurgens and William H. Brown
Assistant Coordinators

SEGMENT COMPLETION REPORT

State of TEXAS

Project No. F-9-R-5

Name: Fisheries Investigations and Surveys of the Waters of Region 7-B.

Job No. F-1

Title: Introduction of Smallmouth Black Bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*, in the Upper Regions of the Llano River Lying within Sutton, Edwards and Kimble Counties, Texas.

Period Covered:

July 1, 1957 through June 30, 1958

ABSTRACT:

As an experimental attempt to bring smallmouth black bass into Texas, 6,500 smallmouth fingerlings were stocked in the South Fork of the Llano River in May 1958. These bass were released at 11 locations (see map) from Paint Creek, south of Telegraph, to U. S. Highway 290 crossing at Junction extending over approximately 30 miles of river. From all literature obtained on smallmouth, black bass and from studies made on the Llano, this river seems to offer a suitable habitat for this species.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To experimentally introduce smallmouth black bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*, into the upper regions of the Llano River in an attempt to improve sport fishing by stocking a suitable predator fish in stream areas where biological, chemical and physical conditions are believed to be satisfactory.
2. To make periodic investigations as to survival and growth of the stocked fish.

TECHNIQUES:

The biological, chemical and physical conditions of this portion of the Llano River have been checked and reported under Job E-2, Project F-9-R-4. The river was found to contain the habitat requirements of this species, with the exception of water temperatures which are thought to be near maximum survival temperature for smallmouth bass in summer.

RESULTS:

On May 28, 1958, 7,300 one and two inch smallmouth black bass fingerlings were obtained from the U. S. Fish Cultural Station at Tishomingo, Oklahoma. These fish were transported on a pick-up truck in a 180-gallon fish distribution tank. The temperature of the water in the tank when the fish were picked up was 56° F. In an attempt to maintain the most favorable temperature in the tank, 25 pounds of crushed and 50 pounds of block ice were added in addition to transporting the fish at night. The estimated mortality during transport was approximately five percent.

Approximately 6,500 fingerlings were liberated at 12 sites (see map) on the South Fork of the Llano River on May 29, 1958 extending from Paint Creek, south of Telegraph, to U. S. Highway 290 crossing at Junction. The approximate number of smallmouth liberated at each location is shown in Table 1.

In an effort to raise smallmouth for brood stock, some 500 fish were brought to the State Fish Hatchery at San Marcos, but due to the lack of available ponds, only 25 fish could be stocked at that hatchery. Approximately 200 fish were also stocked at the U. S. Fish Cultural Station in San Marcos for the purpose of raising brood stock.

Because of the cool water (72° F to 78° F), abundance of food, and cover present in the upper reaches of the San Marcos River, approximately 200 smallmouth were liberated on May 30, 1958 in the headwaters known as Spring Lake and 54 were released one mile below the lake at Thompson's Island. The smallmouth were stocked in the San Marcos River to see if it would be feasible to stock additional fish of this species in this river at a future date.

Prepared by: Fred G. Lowman, Jr.
Assistant Project Leader

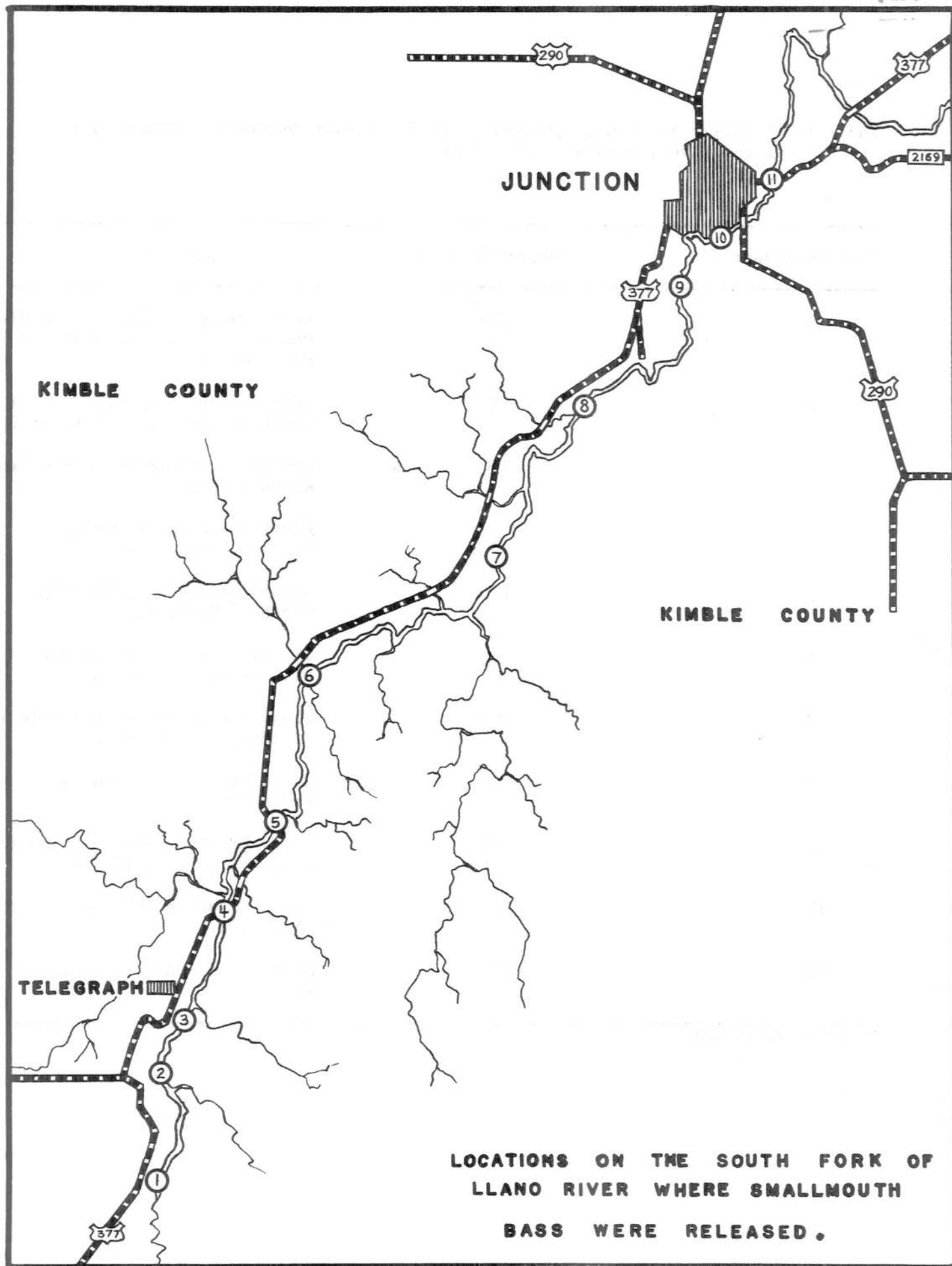
Approved by: Marion Toole
Director Inland Fisheries Division

Date: November 18, 1958

Table 1. Location and Number of Smallmouth Black Bass Released on South Fork Llano River, Kimble County, Texas.

Station Number *	Number Released	Location
1	550	At entrance of Paint Creek Ranch one mile south from mouth of Paint Creek.
2	450	Coke Stevenson Ranch- .3 mile north of the mouth of Paint Creek.
3	550	Entrance of Coke Stevenson Ranch at Telegraph.
4	650	First crossing of Hwy. 377- north of Telegraph.
5	700	Second crossing of Hwy. 377- north of Telegraph.
6	750	Two miles north of Station 5 on William LaForge Ranch.
7	700	Floyd Meacum Ranch- one mile south of mouth of Joy Creek.
8	650	Howell Wright Ranch at mouth of Potter Creek.
9	500	B. L. Smith Ranch- $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Junction City Limits.
10	500	Llano River crossing at Junction City Park.
11	500	Mouth of North Fork of Llano River

* See attached map.



LOCATIONS ON THE SOUTH FORK OF
LLANO RIVER WHERE SMALLMOUTH
BASS WERE RELEASED.