



## ALLIGATOR SURVEY INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

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

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

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

Completed forms should be mailed by August 5th to:

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



# TEXAS ANNUAL ALLIGATOR SURVEY FORM

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LINE #: \_\_\_\_\_

OR *SPECIAL SURVEY*

*Landowner name*

*address*

*phone no.*

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

Route Description \_\_\_\_\_

Start time: \_\_\_\_\_ End time: \_\_\_\_\_

Total miles/acres surveyed \_\_\_\_\_ does this differ from master line \_\_\_(Y/N)

Boat type \_\_\_\_\_ Motor \_\_\_\_\_

Observer \_\_\_\_\_ Operator \_\_\_\_\_

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

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

Water Temp \_\_\_\_\_

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

Wind Velocity \_\_\_\_\_ Wind Direction \_\_\_\_\_

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



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

## ALLIGATORS OBSERVED, TOTAL LENGHT (feet)

Less than 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 4-5 \_\_\_\_\_ 8-9 \_\_\_\_\_ unknown >6 \_\_\_\_\_

1-2 \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6 \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10 \_\_\_\_\_ unknown \_\_\_\_\_

2-3 \_\_\_\_\_ 6-7 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 & over \_\_\_\_\_

3-4 \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8 \_\_\_\_\_ UNKNOWN <6 \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL SEEN \_\_\_\_\_

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

This line should be:

\_\_\_\_\_ continued as is

\_\_\_\_\_ modified and continued

\_\_\_\_\_ discontinued

COMMENTS:

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