

Pro Staff News

Volume 6 Issue 12 December

Team Ocean Kayak at Galveston Trophy Trout Series

Team Ocean Kayak's Vincent Rinando and Sam Rinando competed against a strong field of power boat guides in the third event of the Galveston Trophy Trout Series in Galveston, Texas. This is a three man, three trout event with a live weigh in. Since this is a power boat event, Team Ocean Kayak has been utilizing the Ocean Kayak Torque to get them to and from their fishing destination. Competing against some of the best professional guides in the state who fish for speckled trout almost every day is a challenge. Our team concentrates on catching redfish for the majority of the year, and locating and catching trophy speckled trout is now our main focus. Team Ocean Kayak placed 13th in this event, coming into the event in 13th place for Team of the Year.

The Galveston Trophy trout series has it's final event in February, and the championship in March. Like many of the power boat tournaments in our area, we were the only kayak team entered. We are a well recognized face in the power boat tournament scene in the Galveston area, competing against many of the same professional fishing guides and anglers in both redfish and trout tournaments. Weather has been a big factor for us in the previous tournaments, temperatures seem to be too warm and the winds too strong for us to fish our normal spots and we have had to scramble to find fish. Hopefully the February tournament will give us the opportunity to fish for trout in our normal places. This event also held a toys for tots charity benefiting the Children's Center of Galveston, it was nice to see the donations put a smile on some kids faces for Christmas, and we were honored to be able to help some needy families.

Upcoming Events

January 6-15, 2012 Houston Boat Show

January 19-22, 2012 Austin Boat Show

January 26-29, 2012 San Antonio Boat Show

February 4, 2012 Galveston Trophy Trout Series



Team Ocean Kayak in Print

Team Ocean Kayak's Jeff Herman recently had his running article published in Gulf Coast Fisherman Magazine, which is on news stands now, just in time for the holidays. Jeff's article focuses on catching trophy trout during the winter.

by Jeff Herman

Paddling Out It's Patience & Tenacity for Winter Trout

Bundle up against the whip and slash of the cold wind. A long open fetch of bay in winter seems to sharpen the sting of the northerlies and tests the will of all fishermen. Kayak fishermen more so, as the salt splash chips away your resolve and the car heater back at the launch beckons you to comfort. But, if you can find resolve, if you can weather 30 more minutes of casting with a retrieve slower coming than Christmas, you will hang that big speckled trout.

Thomas Huxely once wrote: "Patience and tenacity are worth more than twice their weight of cleverness."

I doubt he was referring to the winter trout bite on the Texas Coast, but he should have been. Finding areas that hold big winter trout is as easy as looking at Hook and Line maps and locating a bay reef highlighted in red. If there is deep water adjacent to the reef and decent tidal flow, chances are there are fish hanging around. So, it is definitely not rocket science to find a good spot for a day of fishing in winter.

The hard part is the patience and tenacity that Huxely mentioned. You have to accept that a day of winter fishing has a very good chance of offering up only a few fish. Bites will be few and far between. However, the chance of them being big trout, mid to upper twenties, is much greater than almost any other time of the year.

Patience will be tested on every single cast and enduring through all the empty retrieves is essential. As you slowly bring back your twentieth cast with not even a nibble, you will start thinking about that warm car heater and the easy comfort of the IHOP that sits waiting on the drive home. Friend, you have only just begun. Pick up anchor and move down the reef a few hundred feet. Start fan casting again and avoid all those thoughts of bonfires and steaming cocoa. You just might hang that 28" slob on

cast number thirty five.

Tenacity comes into play in regards to your retrieve. When you think it is slow enough, slow it down even more, then slow it down again, (and yet your probably still cranking your reel too fast).

You will foolishly want to increase your speed in direct parallel to how many empty retrieves you have made. Tenacity, brother! Fight the urge to speed up and stick to the slow plodding retrieve. The tick of your rod tip is all the action you need to rattle your bait and wake up the slow moving trout.

The go-to bait the last few years for me and my kayak fishing brethren have been suspending twitch baits. Hard plastics that suspend anywhere from two to six inches below the surface if fishing over a reef, or if fishing deeper water adjacent, get something that will at least get down a few feet. Those trout favor that warm muddy bottom just like you favor that car heater back at the launch. They'll move up in the water column for a good meal, but they probably won't go too far. MirrOlure and Rapala both have some good options to consider for winter fishing.

I really like the Catch 2000 (20mr) and the MirrOdine (17mr for shallow, 18mr for depth) by MirrOlure.

Color choice is always dependent on the water clarity that you are fishing. But silver, white, chartreuse, and pink are probably the four most common varieties in my tackle box.

In addition to hard plastics, I will



sometimes throw big soft baits with ee tails. Bass Assassin's long eel tails bait have been productive for me recently as the tail of the bait provides good movement with just a light twitch of the rod tip. The only caveat to soft plastics though is catching up on the shell. The obvious work around is to use weedle hooks. Just remember they need a big hook set than you would normally use.

So, put on those waders, dry top, a PFD. Remember to layer underneath to bring a thermos of coffee to help keep you warm. More importantly, bring a s full of patience and pockets overstuff with tenacity. You may only have a or two fish day. But, an upper 20's tr maybe even a 30 is bragging material time of the year.

Vincent Rinando, a fellow paddling angler friend of the author, admires a "bragging" sized speck he caught on a trip in winter.

Photo by [unreadable]

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Team Ocean Kayak find some nice trophy trout

Team Ocean Kayak Vincent Rinando, Sam Rinando and Captain Filip Spencer were able to locate some quality trophy trout in the month of December. Vincent's picture of his trout was published in the Winter 2012 edition of the Gulf Coast Fisherman magazine that accompanied Jeff Herman's article on fishing for winter trout. Sam Rinando was able to locate his personal best trout to date at 29.5 inches and a whopping 8.5lbs, Sam's fish is at the taxidermist and will be prominently displayed on his wall. Not to be outdone Captain Filip Spencer located a trophy 30.5 inch speckled trout only a few days later. This is the time of year when Team Ocean Kayak can concentrate on trout instead of the usual tournament sized redfish, it's a great change of pace from slogging around in knee deep mud looking for redfish in inches of water in the heat of summer.



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