

Pro Staff News

Volume 5 Issue 2 February

Team Ocean Kayak take 2nd Place at Coastline Marine Trophy Trout Tournament

Team Ocean Kayak's Vincent Rinando and Clint Barghi fished in Capt Brent Juarez's trophy trout tourney on February 6th . Conditions were horrible, a cold front blew in Friday night with NW winds around 15 mph that really tore the bay up in areas. Not to mention took about 3 foot of water with it. Hard to game plan when we had flood tides Friday and super low tides Saturday. We had to abandon our game plan and make a new one at 4am. We decided to fish the open bay as many of the coves were almost dry. That put us out in the fray with the powerboats, yaks, and waders. We lost some nice fish at the yak, a couple that would have definitely put us over the top. We weighed in 3 live 23" trout that weighed 12.80lbs. The 1st place stringer weighed in at 13.60lbs and we were nudged out of 1st place by less than a pound. A bit disappointed we couldn't fish the fish we've been on lately. We really wanted to weigh those fish in at a tourney. But the weather wouldn't cooperate. We got bumped from 1st place by less than a pound and took 2nd place. Not bad for our first powerboat pro trout tourney. **We were the only kayakers entered and the only kayakers that I know of that has placed in professional trout tournament from a kayak.** This was a live weigh in tournament with three trout, only one of which could be over 25 inches long. All three of our fish came to the weigh in alive, proving once again that kayakers can keep fish alive. This series is made up of mainly professional guides in the Galveston Bay complex and the competition is fierce.



The weigh in at the Turtle Club on NASA Parkway



Clint and Vincent with their 2nd place trout

We were a bit tired afterwards but this perked us

Upcoming Events

March 3-7 Holder Fishing Show George R Brown Convention Center Houston

March 5-7 Bass Pro Shop Classic Katy

March 5-7 Bass Pro Shop Classic Pearland

March 5-7 Bass Pro Shop Classic San Antonio

March 7-10 Houston Live-stock Show and Rodeo

March 21 XTreme Redfish Series Tournament Corpus

March 20-21 Austin Canoe and Kayak Paddle Demo Austin

March 27-28 Austin Canoe and Kayak Paddle Demo Houston

March 27-28 Austin Canoe and Kayak Paddle Demo San Marcos

March 27 Specktaclar Galveston Trout Tournament



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A Winter to Remember

Team Ocean Kayak spent a lot of time on the water this winter in search of trophy speckled trout. We developed a productive pattern early in December and it continued to produce quality trophy trout throughout the winter. During some of our outings Team Ocean Kayak set and then broke the Texas Parks and Wildlife Galveston Bay Catch and Release Body of Water record Speckled Trout, one of our main goals this winter. Team Ocean Kayak's Clint Barghi is currently in possession of this record at 28 inches.

We took several friends with us on some of our trophy hunts and were able to put them on their largest and personal best speckled trout of their life. It was enjoyable to see the smiles on their faces as they set this personal milestone in fishing. We spent many miserable days and nights in frigid, windy and sometimes rainy and foggy conditions. Many fruitless trips and many hours thawing out from the cold days on the water. Texas experienced one of its coldest winters on record, giving us three significant snow falls this year. Team Ocean Kayak took advantage during one of these episodes to practice their cold weather skills and further test some of their gear under extreme conditions. When we launched just after sunup it was 26 degrees on the coast with water temperatures near 40 degrees. Funny thing is we caught fish, not only fish but trophy fish, and Team Ocean Kayak's Vincent Rinando kept a trophy trout that will soon hang on his wall to remind him of this adventure. It was fun to chase trout for a change of pace. Many of our tournaments focus their attention on the shallow flats and the pursuit of redfish. It was fun to get out in the elements and the open bay for a change of pace.



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Team Ocean Kayak in Kayak Angler Magazine

Team Ocean Kayak's Jeff Herman had an article published in this year's annual Kayak Angler Magazine's Kayak Fishing edition. Jeff's article was entitled "Sneaking up on Specks" and two photographs taken by Team Ocean Kayak's Sam Rinando appeared within the magazine. Jeff has been working hard at building relationships with the various media outlets and publications and his reputation and contacts have opened many doors to the team.



SPECKLED TROUT TEXAS

SNEAKING UP ON SPECKS

Ocean Kayak staffer Jeff Herman is just getting warmed up as the talk turns from redfish to speckled trout, and which one is the tougher catch.

"Specks are much more spooky than redfish. You get within 20 feet of a red, if he's on the feed he won't care. One of the cool things about a kayak, if you spot a speck on a flat, you've got a much better opportunity than from a powerboat," the Texan says.

But he doesn't stop there. The ACA certified instructor (safety first!) and full-time fishing kayak fan (on saltwater anywhere), is convinced his ride helps him corral a frantic speckled trout once it's on the line.

"You get runs back and forth, to the left and right. They actively try to throw the hook. Keep the rod tip in front of the boat, get the fish to pull you around. From a private boat, it's harder to tell what a speck's next move will be," Herman says.

That shock absorber effect no doubt played a role in Herman's Texas State Gulf of Mexico record flyrod speck, at 6.75 pounds, not huge overall but a true achievement. "You can't throw out a big rope leader, a thick piece of braid with a lure on it. They aren't likely to hit it. A redfish, you can throw a jalapeno at it," Herman needles.



The Kayak Edge pg. 33

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We've told you why you need to get one; now read this to find out how. Our comprehensive buyer's guide has every fishing kayak and more right here—150 boats from the 35 top manufacturers. Plus, what's new for the next decade, from stand-up fishing boards to electric motors.

KAYAK ANGLER

THE KAYAK FISHING MAGAZINE
Volume 4 • Issue 1

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