

## Pro Staff News

Volume 2 Issue 9 September

### Team Ocean Kayak wins Stars and Stripes in Rockport, Texas

Team Ocean Kayak got a little payback at the Stars and Stripes tournament in Rockport held on September 15. After placing 3rd in a recent tournament in the area, we were eager to redeem ourselves. Five of the top local kayak fishing guides participated in this tournament, which made for a satisfying win. Our game plan was for Filip to make a long three mile paddle to a back marsh lake and locate a big redfish while Vincent stayed near the launch and fished a deeper channel for trout and flounder. Filip located several nice redfish and strung a keeper redfish and keeper trout within the first two hours of the tournament. After two hours of dodging offshore boat wakes and catching few fish, Vincent picked up and made his way back into the marsh facing a stiff 15 mph headwind. Along the way, Vincent hooked up with a large redfish only to have two of the hook barbs straighten and loose the fish. Heartbroken and disappointed, Vincent continued his paddle to a spot that had yielded some very large redfish while fishing for the Texas Redfish Series only two weeks prior. Vincent passed many kayakers along the way, some were tournament anglers and some recreational anglers, it appeared most of them were heading in the direction of Vincent's favorite spot in the area. The race was on, and soon Vincent found himself ahead of the group and at his spot. This area is a shallow mangrove lake, fed by a deep channel to open water, that is filled with mud, sand and shell. The main structure in this lake is a long oyster reef that cuts the lake in half and is bordered by the deeper channel. On one side of the reef is a small grass island and several drains and bayous that connect to other marsh lakes. As the tide drops and it becomes difficult for the fish to travel over the top of the reef, the fish stack up along the grassy shoreline. With the winds nearing 15 mph, Vincent decided to jump from the kayak and wade rather than anchor or drift fish. Behind the small grass island and two cast later Vincent connects with a nice 28" redfish, this was our tournament fish. With two quality redfish and a nice trout, Filip and Vincent made their way out of the marsh to search for a flounder. We setup under a local bridge in an area known to hold flounder. Filip caught a barely legal flounder which was released and Vincent lost a nicer fish near the net.

At the weigh in Team Ocean Kayak's largest redfish weighed 9lbs 4oz and the trout weighed 1lb 8oz. The 10lb 12oz led all anglers for 1st place in the Slam Division. It was a great day on the water and Team Ocean Kayak caught the two largest redfish for the tournament.

#### Promotional Events

October 17-21, 2007 Bass Pro Shop Grand Opening Houston

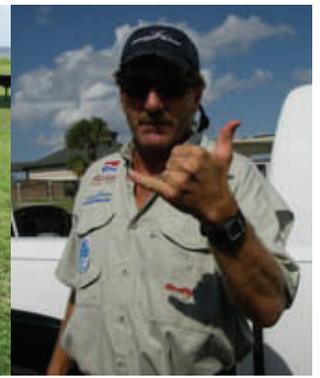
October 27-28, 2007 Everything Kayak Expo Port Aransas



The weigh in



Swapping fish stories



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### Team Ocean Kayak at Austin Canoe and Kayak Demo Days

The Austin canoe and kayak demo days had two days of perfect weather with light winds and clear skies, several hundred people showed up on Saturday and Sunday to try out many different Brands of kayaks as well as the new kayaks for 2008. Several of the folks that showed up for the demo day brought their dogs with them and they were looking for kayaks that they could take their family pet along.

[More Details](#)



Beautiful day for a demo



Whitewater course San Marcos



Patiently waiting for a paddle partner



Palm Trees and Blue skies

### Team Ocean Kayak at Spektacular Redfish Series Galveston, Texas

Team Ocean Kayak's Vincent Rinando fished in the final leg of the Spektacular redfish series in Galveston. This event matches 75 two man teams in a two live redfish event. Dominated by powerboats, only 3 kayak teams entered in this tournament. With other obligations keeping teammates busy, Vincent decided to fish this event solo. Prefishing for the tournament Vincent found some nice redfish and caught a trophy trout, captured on film. High winds and high tides made tournament day a tough day fishing and he was unable to locate any winning fish.



This redfish was too big



Trout caught on video and viewed over 3,000 times this week.

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### Team Ocean Kayak at TOBA Beach Benefit Tournament Boliver, Texas

On September 29, 2007 over 75 kayak anglers gathered on the beaches of High Island for a bull red-fish tournament to benefit the Texas Open Beaches Act. This is an organization that fights to keep the beaches accessible to the public. The winds picked up on Saturday, making kayaking beyond the breakers a bit tough, but anglers braved the surf and were rewarded with many large redfish. Jeff Herman was on hand to demo the new Ocean Kayak Trident and help out with angler registration.



Base Camp



Nice bull red from an Ocean Kayak



Jeff Herman helping with the signup

[More Details](#)

### Team Ocean Kayak in Print

Jeff Herman's fall article in Harold Well's Gulf Coast Fisherman magazine. This month's article focuses on the top two kayak fishing guides on the Gulf Coast Captain Filip Spencer and Captain Dean Thomas.

The group went kayak fishing in the Light House Lakes kayak trail located in Port Aransas Texas, home waters to both guides. Good friends, these two anglers have butted heads many times during kayak fishing competition. The duel was deemed a tie, although I'm sure Jeff turned out to be the winner in this competition. Both guides are a wealth of information and heck of a lot of fun to be around. The group was joined by Jennifer Thomas, Dean's wife and an accomplished paddler and angler in her own right. Jennifer is also the organizer of the Everything Kayak Expo scheduled for next month and a constant environmental champion for the area.

Jeff is building quite a readership in this publication which is well read throughout the Gulf Coast. If you haven't had the chance to read one of Jeff's articles, do yourself a favor and pick up a copy of the magazine.

**Paddling Out**  
**DUELING GUIDES**  
*of the Coastal Bend*  
by Jeff Herman

**S**ometimes you have to look hard to find that small screwdriver to use your glasses. Sometimes, you have to look hard to find the remote on Saturday morning when the game is about to start. However, you don't have to look hard to find two of the best kayak fishing guides in Texas. Both are "seasonal benders," and both gentlemen are phenomenal guides.

Capt. Filip "Fliskman" Spencer of Corpus and Capt. Dean "Showerder" Thomas of Aransas Pass. If you talk to enough paddle fishing folks their names are eventually band to surface (like a redfish tail on grass flats). So, over BBQ and cold ones I figured it was time to pit these kayak fishing heavyweights in a battle royale, no holds barred, winner take all... fishing contest!

We planned a day trip on the neutral fishing grounds of Lighthouse Lakes, Lighthouse Lakes, home waters to both guides, is located off Highway 361 between Aransas Pass and Port Aransas. This tidal estuary is probably one of the prettiest and most fertile fishing habitats in the Lone Star state. Grass flats and clear water are luscious to be a matter of black mangroves and salt grass. Only Mangrove Fish before South Padre can rival the aesthetic beauty of Lighthouse.

Dean's wife, Jennifer, joined us on our paddle. Jennifer runs the day to day booking and business of Shorewater Guide and Rental Service. Dean likes to say, "She's the brain of the operation." He was glad to have her on the water with him for the morning, and she's a heck of a paddler and fisherman in her own right. I was glad to have her there to help

refine the contest. While the keep up with Dean, I planned to keep my eye on my business in Dean's kayak.

The tour of us set off from Conroe. Dean started and headed towards the old lighthouse. I'll admit the area recently, and even though heavy rain had soaked the entire coast, he was confident some good red could be found. Capt. Fil Spencer is a true waterman, a former water and a fisherman who has utilized kayaks since the 1980's. He seems to be able to locate fish like an ant on the scent of a picnic pie.

As we wended our way through a twisting channel and on to the open water of a black lake, both Dean and I'll spent nervous water and headed off to try and look up a fish. As Captain Spencer decrees we had 15 mph wind to compete with, both guides chose to keep waters as their line of choice. I set up a drift between the two and had a good blowup on my float or fourth cast. Apparently, the others were suffering the same dubious response from the fish.

Blowups and trail slips on a top water can be one of the most frustrating experiences of any fisherman. You know you have found the fish. You also know you have found a look and a reaction, but you hook fish in time to help of the finicky end or trout.

At about the time my boat Top Pug got another tail slap I saw Fil was finally hooked up.

Happened Capt. Spencer would take an early lead in this contest. However, as he worked the fish to his kayak he only had a small trout attached to his line. The trout looked barely legal and in his fish catch container he would score no points for Fil.

We continued our drift some an adjacent flat that was covered with more grass and less water. Again, we saw bull fish scattering and splashing across the surface. We all spread out and began working our top waters. Finally, Dean had a blowup combined with a concrete hook set and his drag began ripping and hissing as a quality redfish started its signature "stomping". Dean landed the red after a short fight and took a solid lead in our little derby.

Fil had moved on to another spot working the salt grass banks of the lake. He missed seeing Dean score the first good fish, but, that good fisherman, Dean called him on his off phone to razz him. Knowing Fil figured a little pressure would make him get his game face on.

We continued to fish at the intersection of a deeper channel and a grass flat, while watching Fil work over his spot on the bottom. I found another hole that was holding trout and planned myself on the drop-off casting spots every few casts for a good 10 minutes.

As the sun rose towards its zenith, and the bell was about to toll on our little fishing contest, Fil finally got past the cast and hooked up a good fish. When he brought it in we used my meticulously calibrated perspective and determined it was about the same size as Dean's red.

The battle royale ended in a draw. Both guides caught red fish and trout, but our guide was able to score a knockout. Still, in the end of the day, both of these guys are fishing heavyweights.

Capt. Filip Spencer  
Fisherman Guide Service  
[www.fishermanguide.com](http://www.fishermanguide.com)

The coastal bend is busy to have these two available for hire. When you come to a kayak and a fisherman in every time I fish with these guys I have something new. -Jeff

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