

12.3.16

Whenever December rolls around I start thinking about the 3rd species of trout

There are 3 species of trout here in Texas. Everyone knows the Speckled trout or "specs" which are highly sought after. The sand trout are smaller-sized and a common shorebound angler catch. The gulf trout (sp) is less known. To me gulf trout are more prized due to rarity, size, and their high quality as table fare.

I started this trip with a stop at Billings for a pint of live shrimp. From there it was straight to the Port A jetty. I set up shop on the channel side right about even with the tide line in the surf.



I rigged with a 1oz bank sinker and a 1 ough hook. I put on a live shrimp and made a short cast on bottom right next to the rocks. My first cast got clobbered on the drop. After a short fight I put a keeper sheepshead up on the rocks! Not the target species, but a surprising and welcome catch!

The next cast back to the same spot got hit quickly. When I set the hook I was hung up in the rocks! I broke off, re-rigged and dropped back to the same spot. This time after a brief soak my line tightened slightly and moved the left. I raised the rod tip and felt

weight. Before I could set the hook my rod dipped and the fish took drag. I leaned on it and quickly swung a 14" gulf trout up on the rocks!

The next half hour was kind of a blur. I caught gulf trout or lost a shrimp on every cast. The gulf trout were all big! The smallest ended up being 13" and the biggest 17". I broke off and re-rigged a couple times during my run. I quit when I ran out of shrimp. I ended up with 9 gulfies total! At some point I apparently caught a mangrove snapper that's in the pictures but didn't remember catching ... LOL!





Nice December box of Gulf Trout from the Port A south jetty!