



Young Anglers See the Light, Rack Up on Specks, Reds, Flatfish

GALVESTON – Usually, When an angler or a group of anglers catch more fish than anyone else, it can be said they turned their competition green with envy. On Saturday, when three area youngsters finished Their day on the upside, green was a topic of conversation, but envy was nowhere to be found.

These anglers simply saw the light, and so did the fish. Indeed, anglers Randy Raper, Brandon Marcantel and Sam Guarino did a number on speckled trout, red- fish, flounder and sand trout, and while the threesome are certainly quality fishermen, their performances were aided by some lights. Green lights. Thanks to an “underwater lighting system” known appropriately enough as “Aquatic At- tractors,” the youthful anglers caught limits and near limits of speckled trout and redfish along with a smattering of flounder and a mess of sand trout. Ten-year-old Randy Raper started the hit parade with a big catch from a set of Aquatic At- tractor lights at his parents’ Tiki Island home, including a nice size flounder and four sand trout, and that was followed up by two 14-year- old anglers who caught Limits of speckled trout, nice numbers of legal red- fish and some sand trout.

In all, Brandon Marcantel caught 10 specks, one keeper redfish and 17 sand trout, and his buddy, Sam Guarino, also decked 10 speckled trout along with two redfish and 17 sandies, and all with the help of the underwater aquatic lighting system. As for the system itself Aquatic Attractors are the brainchild by Lou Grandolfo and Aquatic Attractors Inc. of Galveston, (409) 933-4438, and are permanently installed underwater lights that bring fish “like nothing you’ve seen before.”

“You will not believe your eyes,” Grandolfo said Saturday afternoon. “But they do come with a warning.” And what a warning. Essentially, Grandolfo says his company will not be responsible for anyone who “loses sleep due to fish gazing, unfinished chores or crowding by relatives or friends.”

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In other area fishing news, another youngster who did nicely Friday night was Kyle Butler who caught and re- leased five redfish in West Bay behind Spanish Grant. No other details were offered on the haul. Yet another youth with a great catch did his thing at the Galveston Fishing

Pier. According to staffer Pat Albertson, 10-year-old Mark Phelps decked on bull redfish (released), a drum, two gafftops and 30 croakers. "He was a very happy little boy when he left here," Albertson noted.

Over at the Galveston jetties, Capt. Mike Horton of Brand X put the Ron Parker party of six on 25 bull redfish during an early Friday 4-hour trip. One of the redfish was tagged, and they all went for mullet. Elsewhere, an Angler Education Instructor Course will be held Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Galveston County Agriculture Extension Office at 5115 State Highway 3 in Dickinson. The workshop, provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is for adult educators and volunteers who would like to teach other individuals mainly children, how to fish.

This new hands-on program is geared for classroom teachers and youth group leaders who want to help others experience the fun, excitement and adventure of sport fishing and is free to all the participants will receive curriculum and resource materials upon arrival. Some of the workshop highlights included in this important event are fish identification, tackle and equipment, ethics and responsibility, angling rules and regulations, fish biology/behavior, aquatic ecology, angler safety, classroom activities, fishing techniques and conservation.

For registration or more information, call Chris Lena at (800) 792-1112+1 (then ask for Ext. 4755), or (512) 389-4755. Individuals who are planning to partake in this event are asked to arrive promptly at 8:15 a.m.