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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Trophy Striper Caught by Bob Popovics

Re: Trophy Striper Caught by Bob Popovics

Author: : YoughRiverGuide

Date: : 2011/2/14 10:50:55

URL:

Quote:

Fishidiot wrote:

Hey, we're talking fly rod fish *from the beach*

Nevertheless....a "trophy" is obviously relative. I'm happy with any striper I can catch from the beach regardless of tackle but would consider a fly rod 30lber a fish of a lifetime and doubt I'll ever get one that large. I've caught hundreds of fly rod stripers from the surf and none were even close to #30.

Boat fishing? Whole different story. It's really not that hard, with a good guide, under the right conditions....to catch a 30lb bass at a place like the CBBT or Outer Banks on a fly and even easier still using eels or live lining bunker.

A 30lber from terra firma with the long rod....Pretty extraordinary in my opinion.  
(bowing down with outstretched hands). 😊

Fishidiot: You ever read any Frank Dagnault? He has a line in one of his books, I can't recall if he was quoting one of his buddies or if they were his words, but he says, "I'd rather have a sister in a whore house than a brother in a boat." Pretty harsh, but the guys who showed me how to fish stripers from the beach were of the same mind. They were hard-core, old-school night fisherman. I can't say that I hate boat guys like those guys seemed to, but I really don't fish them from a boat unless it's a sight fishing on the flats. I'm a beach guy.

Those fish I mentioned were beach fish. My best fly-rod fish from the beach was 37 lbs. and my best fish on spinning gear was 44 lbs.--both were nighttime fish. In 15 years of fishing stripers in the surf I've caught six over 30 on the fly--all of them at night and four of them coming from the same night time blitz.

Do you fish in the daytime primarily? I ask because, where I fish, I can honestly say that I've never seen a striper over 25 lbs. caught in the day time (excluding dawn). But I can't tell you how many over 25 I've seen caught and caught myself, many of them on the fly, at night. I think that is the primary reason most fly fisherman don't get bigger stripers--they are fishing for them at the wrong time.

As for 30 lb. fly-rod fish last year, I know of two others, and I'm sure there were more. Nighttime striper guys are as tightlipped a group of fisherman as you'll ever run across, mean too. I once saw a fist fight break out when a

guy took a picture of a nice fish he had just landed. A guy just down the beach from him started it because he figured the camera flash would tell others down the beach that there were fish on the point we were fishing. The two 30s I mentioned were caught by my nephew, a shore guide on Martha's Vineyard, and a guy he was fishing with. Both were caught from the beach during a nighttime blitz.

I never made a cast in the New England surf last year, but the year before I ran into another night blitz with the same nephew and a brother of mine. We were fishing a jetty and I landed a 28 on the fly, my nephew landed a bona-fide 30 (one of three for him that year but he fishes almost every night and uses nothing but the fly rod) and my brother, who was fishing plugs, landed one 30 and one that likely went 42-44 lbs. We had a 30 lb. boga with us so we couldn't get an accurate read but it taped out at 46".

So that's my take. In my experience, if you want big fish from the beach, fish at night and better yet, at night during the spring migration. And they can be had on the fly pole. They are surf-zone fish after all, especially at night.

Don't get me wrong, I totally agree that a fish over 30 is an accomplishment (increasingly so where I fish over the past 5 years, whether on fly or gear), but in my experience they aren't as rare as you make them out to be, and a lot more of them get caught than you hear about. 40s on the other hand, I don't think I've ever hooked one on a fly rod and don't know many people who have from the beach.

On another note, I was talking with Popovics and a couple of guys from Shore Catch recently and they were telling me that the night fishing in Jersey has really fallen off over the past few years. They were saying they thought there was just so much big bait off shore that the fish have little need to go hunting the beach at night. They also admitted that they don't go out at night as often as they used to.

Sorry for the long post. I love talking about stripers, especially since I don't get to fish for them too often any more.