

Louisiana Red Fish Trip by Sam

November and December is an excellent time to find large male Red Fish in Louisiana. A friend of mine, Brandon Keck, ([Southernflyexpeditions](http://Southernflyexpeditions.com)) I was his first fly fishing guide a long time ago, is now guiding fly fishermen in Louisiana. He works out of New Orleans and concentrates on the marshes of the Mississippi delta. We took about an hour boat ride to get to where the fish were each day.

He has been inviting me down for a few days of fishing for the past couple of years. I finally caved in, he really had to twist hard, and started making my plans back in August.

This was my first fly fishing salt adventure so I didn't know what to expect. I didn't have a fly rod large enough for the fish we were after, but no worry Brandon would supply everything. The drive down took me about 11 hours, I think I can make it in 10 next time, since I know a lot more about the route and the places to stop for gas and a break.

The first day was the best day of the trip and the last day was the slowest. We decided to not fish the fourth day since the wind and tide were going to be all wrong. Yep the tide has more to do with fishing than I realized... so a lesson learned. Planning the exact dates too far in advance could mean the difference between fish and no fish. Just about the same thing happens with steelhead trips.... if you can get there when the fish are there you have a chance to haul some in, if not you just get to make a long road trip and see the sights.



I put 14 of these guys in the boat in three days. The largest was 32 pounds and a half dozen were in the mid 20s. The rest were about 8 to 17 pounds.

I had tied up some flies for the trip, but they proved to be too bulky and were very difficult to cast, even with a 10wt rod. Casting a bulky fly in the wind is no joy. So it was necessary to use the flies that Brandon had. I only used two flies for three days of casting. The one fly I lost was hung up on a misplaced crab trap that was buried halfway in the sand.

I used a streamer pattern that was about 6 inches long. No blind casting here, all the fish I cast to were sight fished. Blind casting a 10wt rod all day is not advised. You need to be ready to make your cast because most of the time you only get one or two casts to a fish, and it had to be accurate. The water was not clear so seeing them early enough to set up on was the key to success.

The following link is to a **YouTube** video that I made on the trip to give you an idea of what a day was like. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-G7xLM-elk&feature=youtu.be>