

On March 14, 2012, I caught an 8-pound trout, which I would certainly have released, had one of her gills not broken during the struggle between us. Since I knew she could not survive, I was forced to keep her. Immediately, I began thinking of a way to use the fish for some purpose nobler than the satisfaction of my hunger.

Eventually, I decided to use the trout to make a series of Gyotaku prints, sell them, and use a portion of the proceeds to promote the concept of the viability of catch and release. I did procrastinate on starting the project for a while, as I was unsure how I'd execute the prints without some help. I knew the process would be tedious and difficult.

Gyotaku printing involves cleaning and drying the fish, pinning it in place on a flat surface and applying ink all over its skin. Once the fish is covered with pigment, paper (usually rice paper) is laid onto the paint and pressed down to create an impression of the specimen. The sheet must then be carefully lifted off to prevent tearing.

Luckily, I met someone who was interested and willing to help me. Heather Nicholson is a thoughtful, thorough, artistic lady! She proved her worth when helping me plan and execute the artwork during several sessions.

We now offer the finished products for sale here on this website. Unframed original prints are priced at \$120, which covers cost+tax+shipping and handling.

We managed to create a series of 16 images, all of which have been enhanced after printing. We added eyes and spots, and "cleaned up" the edges of the impressions. Because we "touched them up" they are not done according to the purest Gyotaku methodology, but we think they capture the essence of the fish beautifully, and are well worthy of our signatures.

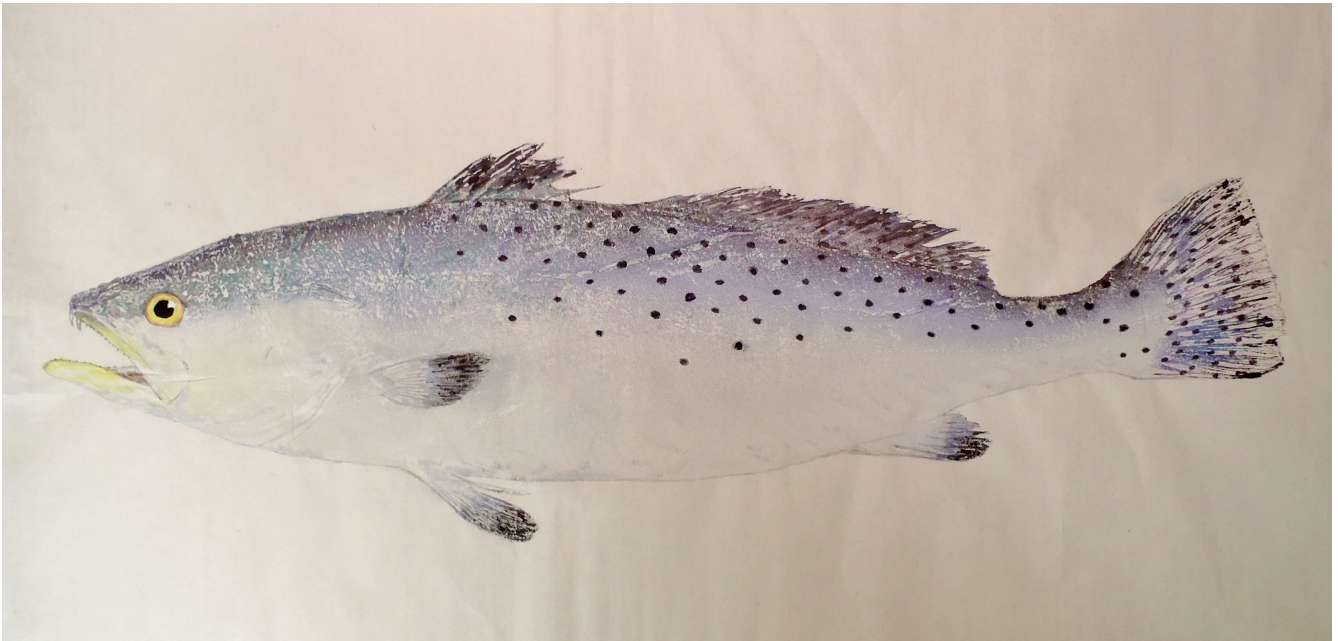
We've titled the series *The Holy Grail*, to acknowledge the significance of the dimensions of the fish. When measured soon after I caught it, using the standard technique of holding the nose of the fish against something and pinching and extending the tail, the fish was exactly 30 inches long. The images make it appear slightly shorter, since the tail is fanned open and curved slightly up.

All of the images are unique. I've numbered them in the pictures below. When placing an order, use the PayPal button(s) for **Holy Grail Gyotaku** found on the **Captain Kev's Products** page, and enter the number of your chosen print in the comments section and/or send me an email specifying the number of your choice to [kevxlr8@mygrande.net](mailto:kevxlr8@mygrande.net).

We hereby pledge to donate 20% of each painting's sale price to promote and support the health of Texas' speckled trout fishery, as a way of giving back, and looking forward.

\*\*\*\*\*As of March 24, 2013, Kev and Heather are offering a series of enhanced Gyotaku paintings made from a 30-inch redfish, called the *Heartbreaker* series. To view all pieces in the series, see the blog from 3/24 which includes the *Heartbreaker* title. To order a painting in the series, go to the Captain Kev's Products page.\*\*\*\*\*

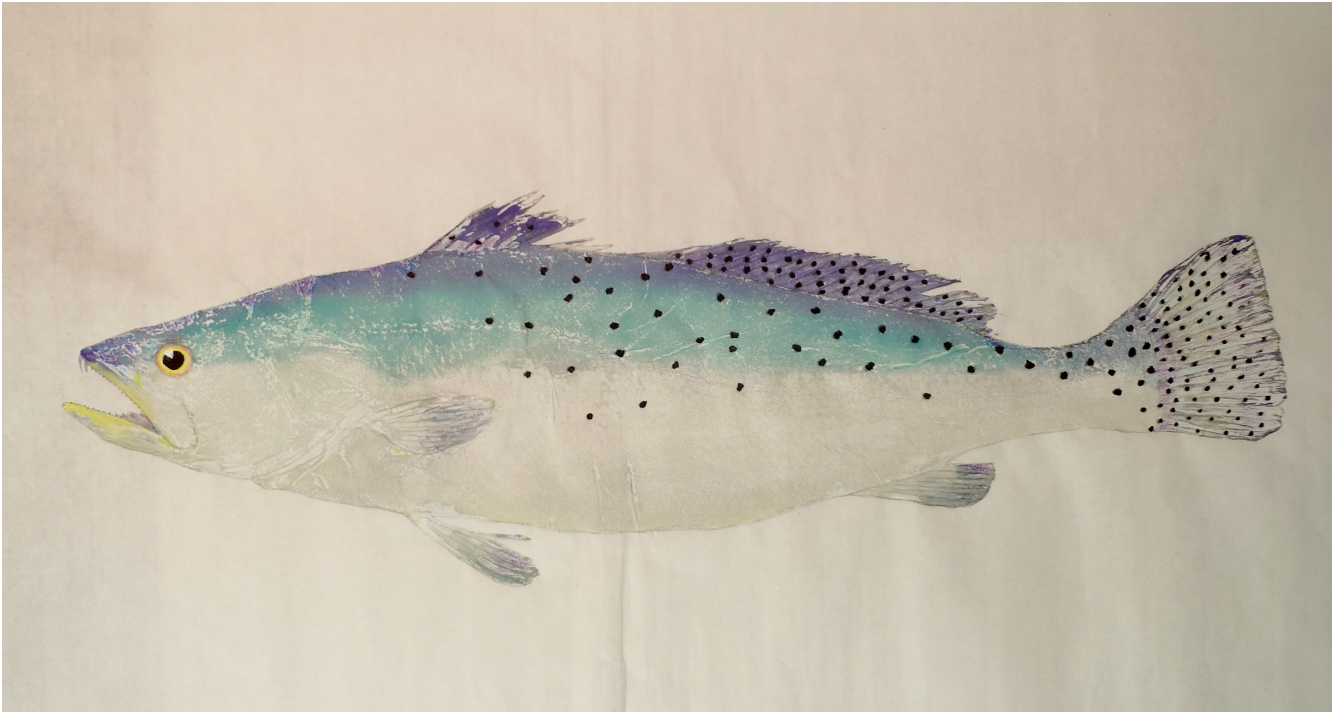
Numbers appear below the pictures. The word **Sold!** next to the number indicates it is no longer available as an original.



**Holy Grail #1 Sold**



**Holy Grail #2 Sold**



**Holy Grail #3 Sold**



**Holy Grail #4 Sold**



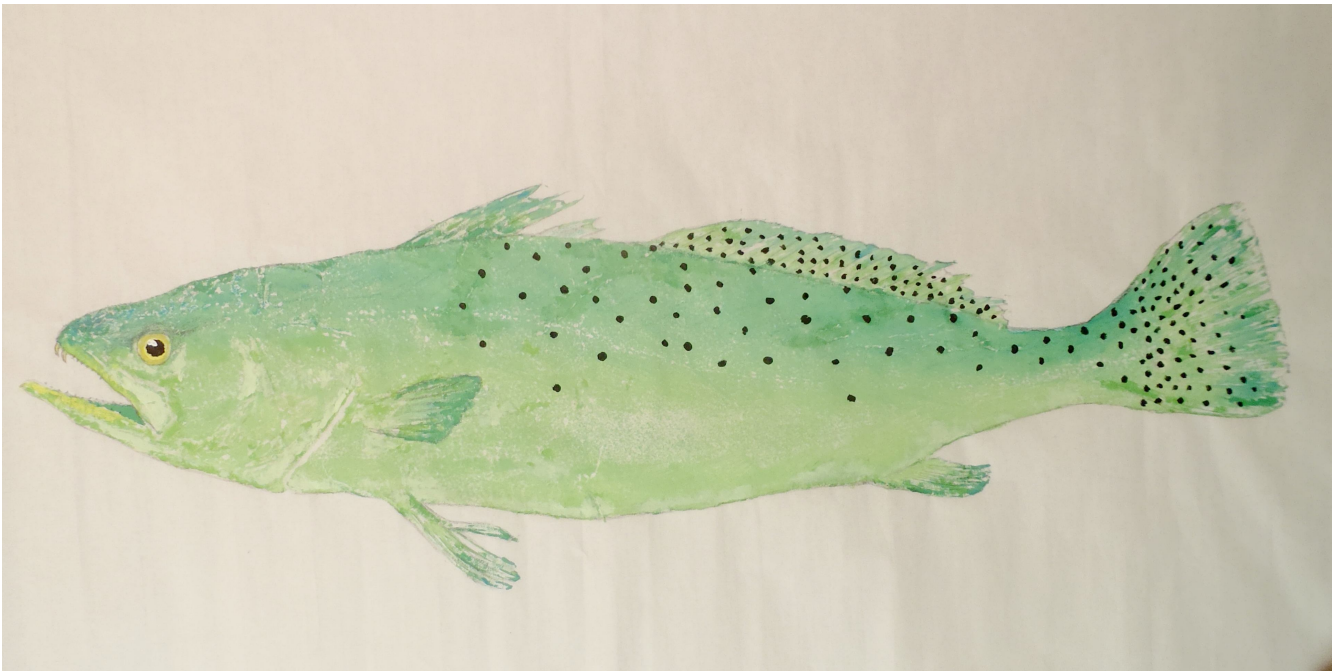
**Holy Grail #5 Sold**



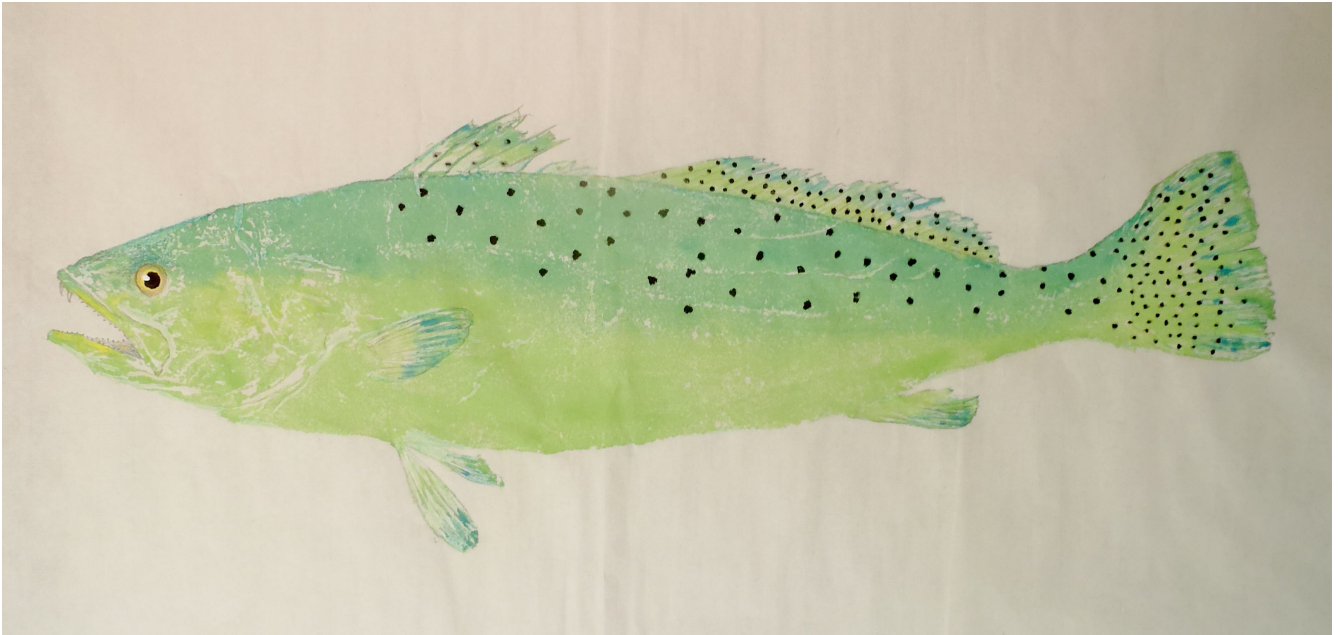
**Holy Grail #6 Sold**



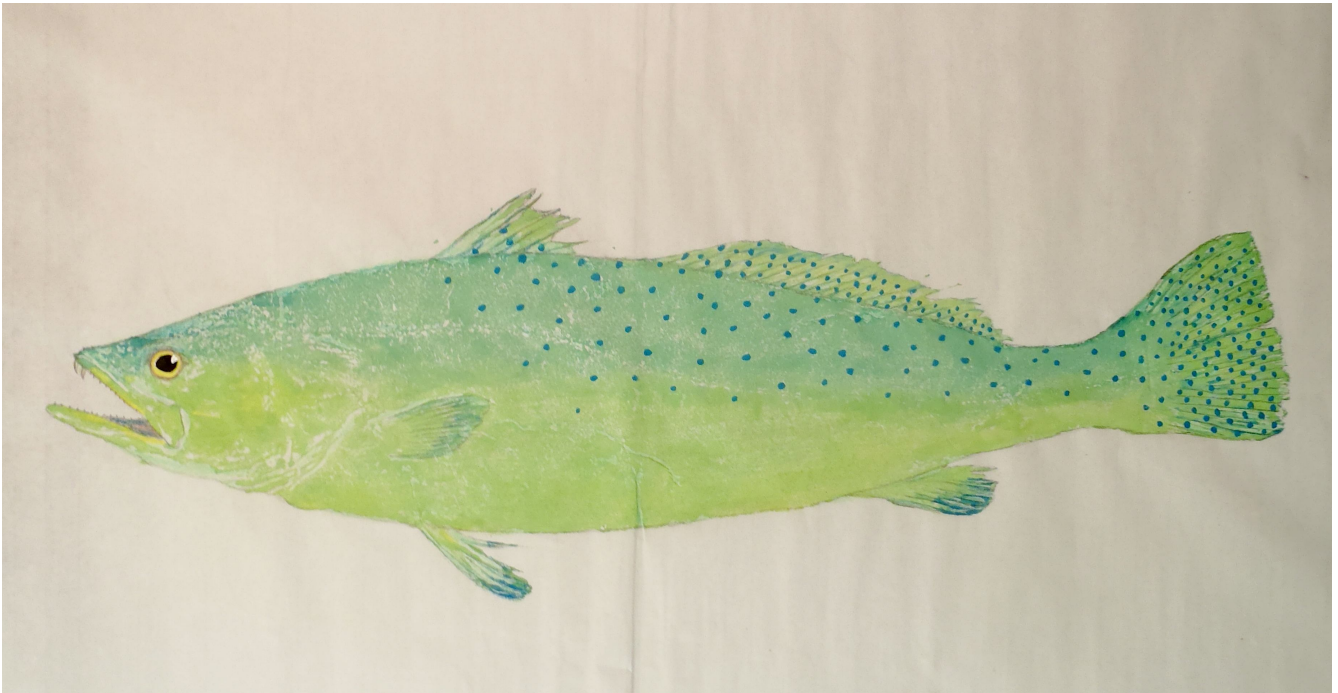
**Holy Grail #7 Sold**



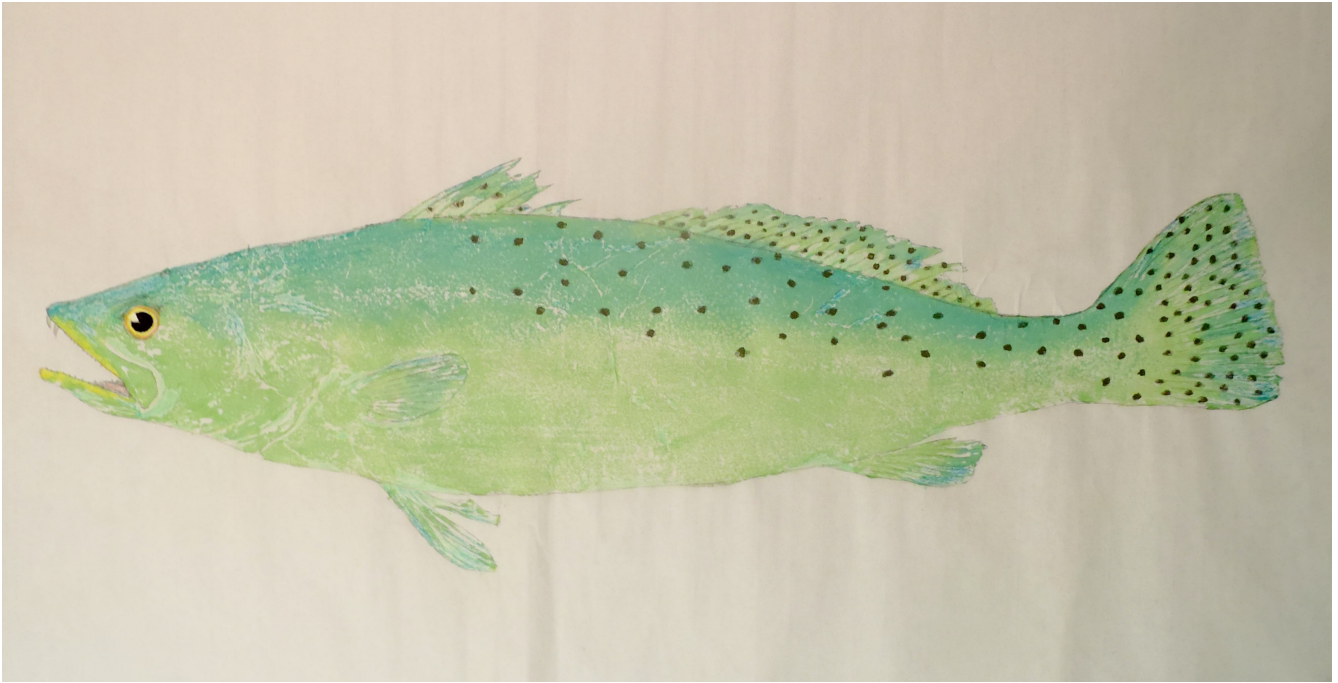
**Holy Grail #8 Sold**



**Holy Grail #9 Sold**



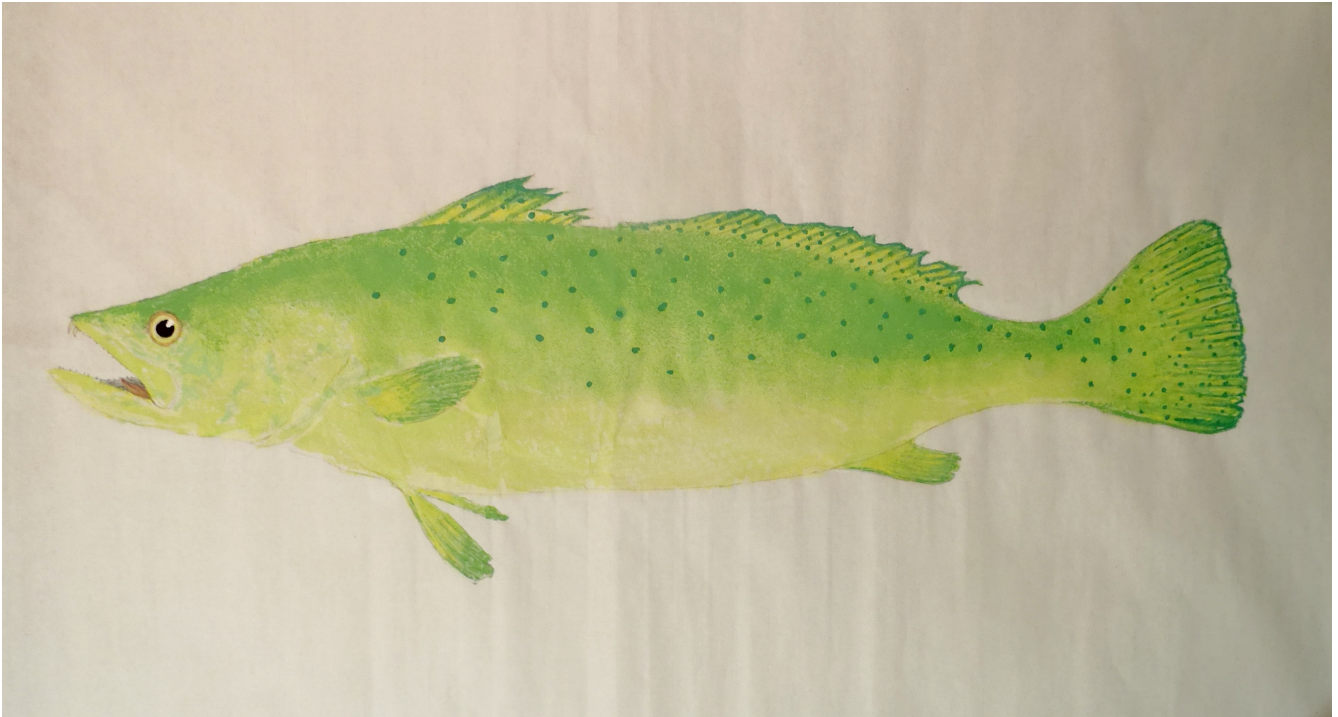
**Holy Grail #10 Sold**



**Holy Grail #11 Sold**



**Holy Grail #12 Sold**



**Holy Grail #13 Sold**



**Holy Grail #14 Sold**

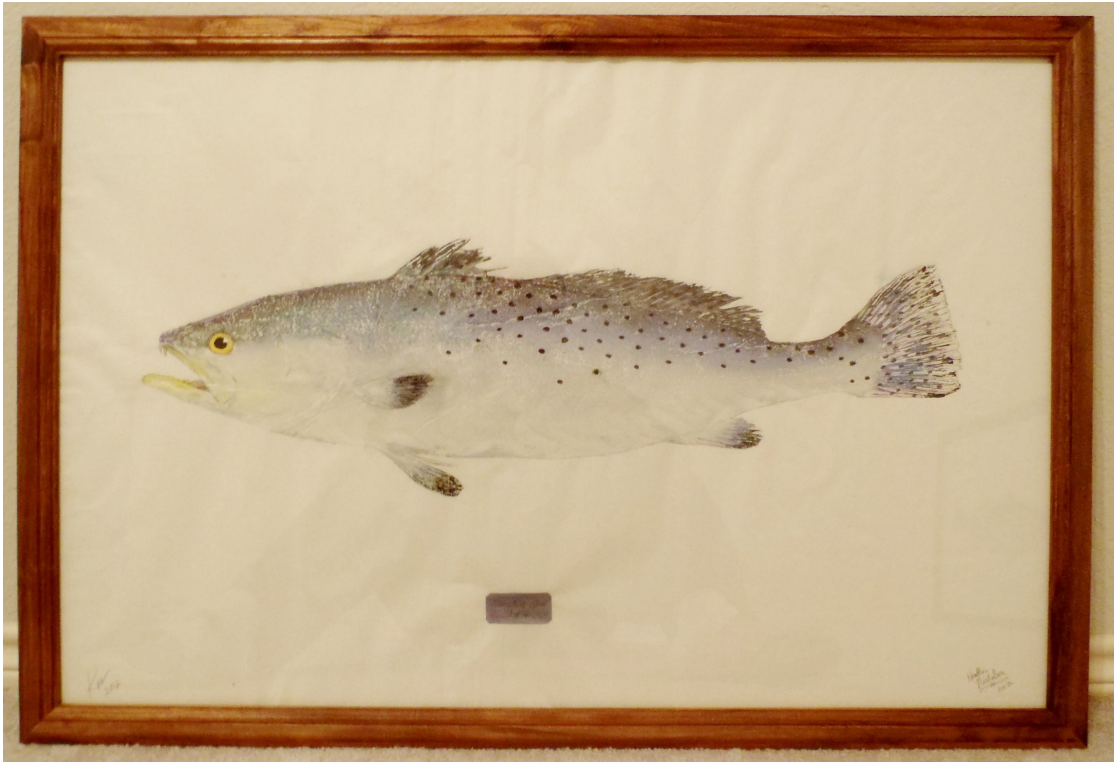




**Holy Grail #15 Sold**



**Holy Grail Ghost #16 Sold**



**Framed piece: #1 in light wood frame**



**Framed piece: #15 in metal frame**



**Framed piece: #11 in black metal clip-on frame**