

Trout Tracker Guide Service

Captain Kevin Cochran

Thanks for booking a trip with me. I've created this welcoming letter to go over some of the basics related to the fishing charters I run. Most likely, we discussed most or all of this on the phone, but we might not have gotten to all these topics. Please read and understand all the information below, as I need you to agree to all of it in principle.

We will be wadefishing, using artificial lures only, and targeting a large trout, unless you have made some other specific arrangements with me. I take a maximum of four anglers at a time. Please make everyone in your group aware of my boat rules, and the type of fishing we'll be doing. I do not take children fishing. My priorities are not suited to doing so.

We will release all trout between about 22 and 28 inches. If you want to keep a big one for skin-mounting purposes, it must be over 8 pounds. I will be there to take pictures of you with your fish, and make measurements of the fish, if you want to release it, as I prefer you do.

I do not leave the dock from the same location every day, nor at the same time. I live on North Padre Island and fish Baffin Bay, the Upper Laguna Madre and Corpus Christi Bay. My choice of where to fish and when to leave the dock depends on the weather conditions, season and patterns I've been working. I pick my customers up on North Padre, at either Bird Island Basin or at the corner of Whitecap and Park Road 22. I might not know the exact location and time until the afternoon before our scheduled date.

If you are traveling to Corpus to fish with me from some distance, which requires an overnight stay, please contact me and confirm that I think the weather will allow us to run our charter before driving over here. Below is a more detailed discussion on this:

Weather: I ask that you allow me to make the call on the weather, meaning if we should go fishing or not. I always make my decision based on what I see in the forecast (ideally, the last possible one we can look at) and what the forecasted weather is doing to impact the fishing. If I can say to myself "I can see a decent chance for getting the job done", meaning we'll have a legitimate opportunity to catch a big trout, I will say we need to go, and will expect you to be ready to do so. If I tell you it's not worth going, you need to accept that too. I do not like to run charters if "I can't see a decent chance for getting the job done". Rain will not prevent us from fishing. Lightning will. Wind is normally the issue. And again, I know where I want to fish and what the wind is doing to the water, so I make the call, not the customer. If weather prevents us from fishing, I will allow you to reschedule your date (using the same deposit on file, obviously) or refund the deposit.

Deposit(s): I take a \$100 deposit to hold one-day, \$200 per day to hold multiple days in a row. I take deposits to insure both you and I are as committed as we can be to the date or dates. Please DO NOT SCHEDULE a trip in advance with me unless you are able to commit to the dates fully. If your job does not allow it, don't do it. If you have to cancel because "something came up at work", I will attempt to reschedule. If I can, I will allow you to use your deposit to reschedule, or will refund it. If not, I will claim the deposit. If you do this to me

more than once, I will likely decline to schedule a trip with you again. If you have to cancel for some other reason—death, illness, accident, I am much more forgiving. But, I still need notice as soon as you learn you can't come, so I have the best opportunity to reschedule. If you book multiple days in a row, I need your commitment to all of them. If only one of three turns out to be fishable, I need your commitment to the one. If you decide not to come to Corpus because two of the three look marginal, I will claim your \$600 deposit if one turns out to be fishable, and I can't rebook it.

What I provide and don't provide: I provide advice, instruction and answer questions. I don't provide drinks, snacks, sunscreen or wading gear. I have a cooler on board for your drinks and snacks, and prefer putting them in it, rather than you bringing a cooler of your own, which I then have to find a place for and secure on deck. I do not prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages during a charter, but I don't really see how our game plan allows for drinking, for the most part.

I can also provide rods and reels and lures, but I don't really find doing so to be the best operating plan. Each angler should bring two rods and reels, so they have a back up in case something goes wrong with one. You should also bring your favorite lures, in all three "families", meaning topwaters, twitch baits and soft plastics. If you don't have "favorites", use the list below as a starting point, and gather up most or all of the lures on the list, and you'll likely have what you need when we fish. If something not on the list appears to be of great importance when we are fishing, I'll loan you what you need.

Basic lure list: *Soft plastics*—a couple bags of each should cover it: a bright color (like Texas Chicken or pearl/chartreuse), a dark color with contrasting tail (like purple/chartreuse or red/white) and a natural color (like molting or opening night). You should also have both sixteenth and eighth ounce jigheads. Ideally, your natural soft plastics would be "rat tails" and your others paddletails.

Twitch baits: *Sinking FatBoy* in a bright color (pink, pearl/chartreuse, pearl/pink), natural color (emerald green/silver, copper top) and dark color (black/chartreuse, red/white, strawberry/black), *Sinking Original Corky* in either strawberry/white or black/chartreuse, *MirrOlure Catch 5 or Catch 2000* in chartreuse/gold or Texas Chicken, *Floating Corky or FatBoy* in a natural color. ***note: Academy labels Corkys as Paul Brown Lures

Topwaters: Full-sized *Super Spook* (bone), full-sized *Skitterwalk* (pink) and *Super Spook Junior*, white with pink head.

To repeat, this list is intended for someone who doesn't have "favorite lures". If you have favorites within the three families, just bring them, and you'll be set.

We will run an 8-hour outing. If we leave the dock at 5, we will be done at 1 or so. If you keep fish, I will clean and bag them for you, allowing time for doing so. If you release all the fish we catch (or if we don't catch any "eaters") I will give you a \$50 catch and release discount. Please be prepared to pay me either in cash or by check when we are done. I do not like to take payments for charter balances by credit card.

Thanks, and I look forward to fishing with you. Kev--361 688 3714