

Despite brutal conditions, with water temperatures in the high 40s and air temperatures hovering around 40, we caught about 15 trout yesterday (2/24). Most of the fish bit dark soft plastics dragged slowly along the bottom and short hopped. And most were "regular sized", from about 18 to 22 inches, but one of the fish was a 29.5 inch 9 pounder. It bit a Catch 5, which I deployed using vigorous sets of twitches to activate the rattle in the plug, then pausing for two or three full seconds to let it sink. Depth of water at the spot was about four feet, the bottom covered with rocks. I felt this allowed the fish a better chance to home in on the flashy plug in the tainted water, without moving it too fast overall. For a full description of the technique I used to catch yesterday's fish, and a more thorough discussion of the way I like to deploy all sinking twitch baits, check out my feature article in the May issue of *Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine*.