

I'm currently working on an art project making Gyotaku prints off a 30-inch trout I caught back in March. When I got the fish up to me, I could see one of her gills was broken, so I had no choice but to put her on the stringer. I began wondering how I could use the fish to do something cool, to put something back in some way, and came up with the plan for a series of Gyotaku prints.

Gyotaku print making is an Asian technique where ink or paint is applied to the surface of a fish, then paper is laid onto the paint, making an impression. I solicited the help of a young, artistic friend, Heather Nicholson, and we began looking into the printing process and thinking about exactly how we want to execute our images. She correctly pointed out we needed to practice on a smaller fish before attempting to use the big one.

We did so, and came up with some decent impressions, a couple of which I've pasted below. Soon, we'll be working with the 30 incher, hoping to create a series of at least 10 numbered impressions. We'll be offering those for sale, and each time one is sold, we'll donate 20% of the proceeds to some facet of TP&W which does research on speckled trout. For advice on exactly how to make the donation, I'll be consulting with my friend Scott Walker PH.D., a biologist who works for the state. Stay tuned for more details on this project and for the placement of the ordering buttons! I hope to have them up within a month or so.



