NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held April 17, 2006 at the Kendallville public Library with 17 members and guests present. We welcomed prospective new member Charles Odle of Boone Grove, Indiana who rode over with Phil & Bill all the way from the other side of Indiana. We also welcomed new member, Larry Zent of Fort Wayne who has attended meetings before with Mike Whirrett.

Randy Ireland found a nice surprise when he got out of the car at the Library parking lot. He looked around where a tree had just been cut down on the north boundary of the library and found about a dozen morel mushrooms!

President Denny Coulardot reported that the muskies have spawned in most lakes. D. J. Erdley has been helping the DNR with their annual survey and netting operation on Webster Lake. He says they have netted enough ripe females for this season to support their stocking program. Webster is a 775 acre lake with a mucky population of approximately 5000.

Denny said the northerns had also spawned and probably the white bass too since they spawn at about the same time. All of these species spawn with water temperatures well below the temperatures at which bass spawn. The warm temperatures we have been experiencing should be getting many lakes close too the correct temperature for the bass spawn.

Denny has been doing very well on largemouth. He recently had a day where he caught 22 bass from 16" to 19", 18 of them on one spot.

Even though the warm temperatures are beginning to warm the surface temperature of the waters, the deeper depths remain very cold. Keeping this factor in mind may help us in our selection of speed controls while trolling and casting. Mr. Perry tells us that most fishermen fish too slow, however, during the unstable weather periods that often occur in the spring, we must also be mindful to check ALL speeds.

Mr. Perry describes in detail how water warms and cools in Volume 4 "Weather and Water " in the 9 volume study guide that is worth reading again. Waters warm and cool at much different rates and understanding why can help us why the fish may react as they do. Therefore, I have reproduced that section of the study guide on the following page.

At next month's meeting we are planning to have a "Tackle Exchange". If you have GOOD tackle, such as rods, reels, odd colored Spoonplugs you've never liked or that you no longer use, bring the items to the meeting and exchange for cash or for an item you will use.

We have a winner in the moss/no-moss-on-the-hump wager. Denny wins the bet. Bobby Meredith admits that there definitely is moss on the hump!

NEXT MEETING: May 15, 2006 at the Kendallville Public Library. 6:30 P.M.

"TACKLE EXCHANGE NIGHT"

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

Water Temperature Changes

A cold-blooded animal, such as a fish, can adapt to changes in water temperature; and he would not be concerned about any particular temperature. But, if a fish did not adjust to the temperature of the water around him, he could be in trouble.

The fish can't adjust instantly to a temperature change. It takes a little time. If there is an abrupt temperature change, that is, if a fish was suddenly removed from one temperature and placed in another of greater or of less degree, he would be noticeably affected until adjustment was made. A sudden great change could kill him.

Let us observe the two words **"change"** and **"changing."**

As stated, fish would not necessarily be too concerned with a temperature **"change"** provided it's not too abrupt and if they have time to adjust. However, a **"changing"** situation is a different story. If, as fast as a fish tried to adjust, there was another change in temperature, and another, and another, and so on, this situation would definitely affect him. He would, through instinct, seek an escape—he would move.

Fortunately, fish do not have difficulties in adjusting to a temperature change in a body of water, as all of the water in the lake does not **"change"** rapidly, nor is all of the water in a constant **"changing"** conditions. **Fish can use lake conditions to temper changes.**

In layman's language, and for our observations and conclusions, we are concerned with changes in temperature of the top layers of water. If air temperature drops, it will cool off the top layers of water. If air temperature rises, then the top layers of water warm up.

The transfer of heat through a liquid, such as water, occurs in two ways—by conduction and convection.

By conduction, heat (energy) travels from one molecule of water to the one lying next to it. If you heated the top layer it would, through conduction, heat up the next layer, and that layer warming up the next, and so on. This process is rather slow, and allows the water temperature to "change" gradually.

Transfer of heat by convection in liquids is different. As a volume of liquid cools, it becomes heavier; and as it warms, becomes lighter. The motion of each molecule, and water density is affected by the temperature changes. So, if you cool the top layer of water, it becomes heavier (per volume) and sinks. Thus convection currents are set up as the water cools. As the water cools, it sinks; cools and sinks, on and on. In this situation the transfer of heat can be rather fast.

To clarify this a little better, if the air temperature is warmer that the water, the top layer of water will increase in temperature and will not sink. The layers of water below will have to get their energy from the layer above by conduction.

If air temperature is lower than that of the water, then as the top layer of water cools, it just doesn't sit there and get colder, it sinks and a new layer takes its place to be exposed to the cooling process. You can see, with this condition the water starts turning. This type of heat transfer (convection) through a body of water is much faster than by a movement from one molecule to another (conduction).

Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor

What makes a great Spoonplugger? The ability to interpret a body of water, be it a man-made or natural body of water, observe the weather conditions, the water conditions and come up with a fairly good idea of what we might catch on a particular fishing day. There should be very little doubt as to what we must do to put the fish in the boat on any fishing day. We must control our DEPTHS AND SPEEDS, both trolling and casting in, on, and around the features that the fish use in their movements and migrations. To do this consistently, we must have enough knowledge to interpret these features that the fish use in their movements and migrations. It is our interpretation that we can always improve upon. With each time on the water, we gain knowledge of weather and water and how it effects the movements of the fish. We see new structure situations and learn how to present lures on each of them. In all of the basic trolling and casting procedures, we are constantly reminded of how important DEPTH AND SPEED CONTROL is in making a catch. Not only should we think of SPEED as how fast the lure moves through the water, but in how many fish that we can put into the boat once they are located. The decisions that we make both before and after we locate the fish will depend on if we catch just a couple of fish or catch all of the fish! Each and every fishing situation is different. The structure situations are different. The anchoring positions will be different. The depths will differ. The bottom conditions will differ. The choice of lures that we make to catch the most fish out of a school will change. Every trolling pass that we make should be for a reason. It is to eliminate the unproductive waters and arrive at the fish in the shortest amount of time. It is the trolling that allows us to gain fishing knowledge. The transfer of knowledge from the Spoonplug walking on the bottom, up through the line and the rod, up to our hands, and then to our brains is what separates us from the others. This control that we now have is why the Spoonplug had to be invented. There simply was no other lure (tool) that would allow us to control our DEPTHS AND SPEEDS AT THE SAME TIME. There is no better tool that will enable us to gain fishing knowledge. As we gain more fishing knowledge, our interpretation of each fishing situation gets better. We soon have little doubt as to what it will take on an average fishing day to locate and catch the fish. Success will breed the "want to learn" even more. You are not afraid to tackle new lakes. In fact, you prefer to search out new waters and learn as much about them as you can. The knowledge learned can be taken to the next waters and the next. In time, you will begin to see that the learning never stops. Spoonplugging is a never ending learning experience! Thank you, Mr. Perry.

Good Spoonplugging,

John Bales

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

"The more I learn, the more I see there is to learn." ***E. L. "Buck" Perry***

BUCK SEZ:

You might ask; "How much TIME should I spend on a structure before leaving it?"

The question cannot be answered with a flat statement of so many minutes or hours. The situation that exists would determine just how much time should be spent. The nearest thing to a flat statement would be —"As long as necessary to be sure the structure is thoroughly worked at all depths and speeds. Then periodically return to the structure and work it again to see if any migration has occurred."

As you approach this question, you must bear in mind the very important fact—fish do not move constantly nor consistently.

In checking a structure by **trolling**, enough time must be spent to allow enough passes to cover all sections. The size of the structure will determine the time needed for the job. A small straight bar would certainly require less time than a long bar that might veer in another direction at the end. Other type structures such as humps, deltas, roadbeds, channels breaklines, etc., would require a different time period.

In casting, as stated before, a half dozen casts should cover the shallow water. When casting deep sections, five or six casts with a walking lure, then the same with a jump-type should cover the area for one boat position.

Another factor that would determine how long a particular structure is worked is the size of the body of water and just how many potentially productive structures, while others may have only one. If a number of structures exist, then each should be checked to determine which has the best potential. A more thorough check of the better ones, or one, should then be made. If only one is available then all efforts would be concentrated here.

If good, productive structure is being worked from a boat without a motor, then most likely you should spend your time here. Without a motor, it is difficult to move around fast enough to find another structure.

When weather conditions indicate there will be no mass movement of fish, it's a good idea to concentrate on a structure known to be productive. Under these conditions, movements are short and you has better be in position when it occurs. It could be over while you are between structures.

If fishing pressure is heavy, many structures would already be occupied. If you have a good one it might be a good idea to stay with it, or someone else would take it over while you're gone, and a lot of valuable fishing time will be lost in trying to find another.

Each situation and each structure will determine the amount of time to be spent. The main thing is to spend enough time to be confident you know it thoroughly and that no movement has occurred.

The things I have just said, concerning the time spent on a particular structure, and especially the part about **which structure to concentrate upon;** reads fairly easy. BUT, when you get on the water, you may find you don't have a ready answer. I have solved any doubt that might occur, by going back to the 'basic movement', and recall—"when the movement period occurs, **ALL** the fish move. Some may move to a greater degree than others, but they all move."

What this means to you, if the fish are not moving on the structure you're working, they are not likely to be moving on another. So—you pick out the best one, and stick with it.

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