NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held June 18, 2007 at the NEW Kendallville Public Library with 19 members present.

President Denny announced that the annual dues of $29.00 to the
National Spoonplugger, LLC
255 Kerda Street
Taylorsville, NC 28681
are DUE! If you haven't paid them, please make arrangements to get them paid prior to the next meeting. It is a requirement that all members of the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers also be a member of the National organization. The Nationa provides a very informative newsletter and give support to our local clubs.

Denny also reported on the Leoni Outing, stating that there were 50-70 Spoonpluggers in attendance and that host John and T.J. Zaborney did a fabulous job in accommodating so many. The food was awesome and although the fishing could have been better, the time spent with old friends more than made up for it.

Denny also repeated that those not attending the Network Outings are missing out on a tremendous learning tool, most especially for those just learning the ropes.

The next Network Outing will be hosted by the Michigan based Lunker Hunters and will be headquartered at Fisherman's Landing Campground on Muskegon Lake, July 18-22, 2007. Contact: Chase Klinesteker (616) 949-8665 Ckspoonpl1@aol.com. This is always a well-run outing with many Spoonpluggers from several states in attendance.

John Bales gave a brief discussion on his technique used in mapping Union Lake near Union City, Michigan. Although he used this method on that particular lake, it is a method we have used in a number of other circumstances, especially on river systems to discover the "fishing water" in the shortest amount of time.

It was agreed that summertime is definitely upon us. These last few weeks should clear any remaining ice from the lakes!!!

Waters are beginning to warm to the deeper depths with a surface temp of 8o plus degrees and plenty of hot weather in the forecast. The northern pike are just beginning to move and should be in full swing shortly. Denny & friends have caught 127 northerns in the past 7 days. The bass are also cooperating although he wasn't keeping a count. 30 muskies to date.

The next meeting will involve going over plans and preparations for the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" annual outing. If you can't make the meeting but require additional information, contact Denny Coulardot (260) 691-3118.

We will hold a free raffle on Saturday night of the outing. If you have anything you'd care to donate for the raffle, please get it to Ted Walter prior to Saturday night. Thanks in advance.

NEXT MEETING: The <u>NEW</u> Kendallville Public Library. Monday July 16, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

Charlie Krause with an early season musky

Mike Price with an one of the first northerns of the season

David Gould with a hefty early northern

Jeff Parham with a Detroit River musky

Mike price showing just how it's done!

Mike Price with 46.5 inch Webster Lake musky, taken on a 700 series

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"

Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor

What is the correct size lure and line length for the depth being checked at any particular time? If a trolled Spoonplug is not in position, you better figure that it will catch no fish. So how many variables do we need to check to make sure that we have checked out a spot or an area? First of all, we know how deep each lure will run. Each of them is made to run a certain depth with a certain amount of line let out. The more line that is let out (up to a point), the deeper the lure will run. The less line that is let out, the shallower the lures will run. That means that we have all of the variables between our longest lines and our shorter lines for each lure to work with. The green book says that in the early part of the season, we should use the longer lines. As we move into the hotter part of the season, the shorter lines become more important.

The passing of a boat and motor over the top of the fish is an aid for the fisherman. This gets the attention of the fish for a short moment and he is looking around for what is going on. The sooner that we can put a lure in front of that fish while we have his attention, the more of a chance that we have in catching him. In a warm water situation such as this, the shorter lines with larger Spoonplugs placed in the wash of the prop are in order.

In the colder water the fish are still attracted to the passing of the boat and motor overhead but due to the colder water and the fishes slower metabolism, it takes the fish a bit more time to find the boat. This is where the longer lines and smaller lures are in order.

The activity of the fish on a daily or a seasonal basis will be the deciding factor on a correct line length and lure size for the particular time that we are on the water. If you want to see this for yourself, try running two or more rods at once; one with a bigger lure and a short line and one with a longer line and a smaller lure. Each lure and line length will be adjusted so that both lures are just ticking the bottom. When the fish are not very active, the lure that is the farthest away from the boat will produce the most action. When the fish become active, the lure that is near the boat will be more productive. Adjustments can be made during the day to take care of the activity of the fish.

We have read articles by Mr. Perry where he starts out trolling the shallows and begins by running a 500 with 10 yards of line. He runs that line length for a distance and then lets out 20 yards. He runs that length of line for a distance and then lets out 30 yards. He is checking his different line lengths and making the adjustments necessary for the controls of depth and speed that are needed for that particular time that he is on the water.

The make up of the bottom of a lake will be the deciding factor if we can walk our lures directly on the bottom all the time. Some are clean and hard. Some have a lot of snags in all shapes and sizes. Some have weed growth with some short and some tall weeds. Some have moss which may grow as deep as 40+ feet in some lakes. These conditions will be a controlling factor in how close we can run our lures to the bottom. The best condition would be hard and clean. When we can walk our lures, we have the highest percentage of being able to make that fish take our lures. The less that we can walk our lures, the percentage of being able to make that fish take will be less.

Some of our Spoonpluggers wonder why we don't have a chart where exact line lengths produce an exact depth that each particular lure runs. There are too many variables where your line length will have to be adjusted for the condition that you are fishing. A line length will have to be adjusted for a different bottom condition. A snaggy condition will call for a lure just barely ticking the tops of the snags. The same for a weedy or mossy condition. We want our lures just above the moss or weeds with an occasional bumping to let us know that we are close enough. The conditions that we fish may determine which pound test no-bo line that we chose to use. We may want to use 20 lb test No-Bo in snag infested waters or when fishing for the larger species of fish. If the waters that we fish are more easily worked, we may want to settle for the 12 lb test. The 20 lb test will call for more layers let out to attain the same depth as the 12 lb test with the same size lure. The diameter of the spool and how full a fisherman keeps it will effect how many layers it will take to get the lure walking. The gear ratio of the reel will also affect how many times the level wind verses the amount of line that is let out for each time across. The amount of line that is let out per layer will be different from a wide spool reel than a narrow spool reel. Are you beginning to see why we cannot say that ten layers of line let out with a 200 with 12 lb No-Bo will get you exactly 11 feet?

I heard a fisherman ask Mr. Perry a question at one of the outings that he attended. He asked how many layers of wire would it take to get a 100 to run at a depth of 30 feet? Mr. Perry hesitated for a moment. I would guess that in his mind he was wondering why this fellow had not checked this out for himself or why he would not know this already. His answer was used as my guideline for my future line lengths and lure sizes. Mr. Perry said that he goes by feel. A starting line length is let out and then adjustments are made until the exact line length is acquired. Taking note of what line length was let out to begin with and adding to it to make it a correct line length and then remembering that line length for the next pass is all it took. He added to this that if you are not bumping, let out more line. If you are plowing, reel in a layer or two. If you travel a distance and you have not touched, let out 1/2 of a layer at a time until you get it exact. It really is that simple.

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:

"Will different species of fish use the different type structures, breaks, breaklines, etc., found in a lake? Or is the bass the only fish that will use all these different types?"

As I have said before, ALL species of fish will react to the bottom features (structure, breaks, breaklines, deep water, etc.) found in bodies of water. In some bodies of water, certain type structure will be more predominant than others. In some bodies of water the different species may use a particular type structure over another type. In some bodies of water all the species could use all the type structure, breaks, and breaklines present.

In some bodies of water the different species may be "using" a different type structure at a particular time. By this, I mean at a particular time the best bass structure may be a "bar" with a tall weedline, while at the same time a deep under-water bar (or hump) may be the best place to find walleye. While at the same time, a deep breakline is the best place for big northern or muskie. In other bodies of water all the species could be using the same type structure, breaks, or breaklines, at the same time.

When we consider migrating fish such as the walleye, white bass, stripers, etc., they will react to the same features of the bottom—**in the area where they might be.**

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"Why do you say fish pause or stop at "breaks" in the structure?"

Here again, I make this statement through observation, experience, and logic. I have no definite scientific proof why this is so (neither do I need it). But, if I were approaching a "danger zone" (shallower water) or an area that might mean un-pleasantness, I'd want to "case the joint" a little, and I'd move from "break" to break." I would pick out a vantage point ahead, and I'd go until I reached that point. Then I'd pause again until I spotted another vantage point, and move on to that. If things seemed to be getting too bad for me at the next point, then I wouldn't get any closer.

You still may have grounds for another "why"—even though you would do the same thing. We know fish can adapt to changes in his environment. We also know that this is not instantaneous; it takes a little time. If a big change comes too fast, the shock could kill him. This indicates to us the **pauses** give time for adjustments to be made. As he moves shal-lower, there is a pressure change, temperature change, light change, oxygen change, etc. He might even have to pause or stop for "resting" from exertions that might have occurred during the migration.

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"You indicated that a 'sharper break' would be one of the best 'contact points.' If I had a structure such as a big wide bar, or a big long hump, should I concentrate my efforts primarily on any 'sharper break' that I find?"

I said at some place in our studies, I was going to repeat important subjects until I sounded like a broken record. The "sharper break" is such a subject.

To make a "sharper break" important to a structure, it must have two very important things. First, **it must break into deeper water,** preferably the "deepest." The next ingredient is the **depth with which it starts to break** (breakline) into deep water. If it breaks as shallow as 8 or 9 feet (or shallower), it may not be as good **as other spots on the structure.** If this **shallow sharper break** is the only "break" around, then you shouldn't expect many **good** migrations up on the struc-ture very often.