

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP OCTOBER 20, 2005

FISHING REPORT:

9 members were present. Bob Streck said that the king salmon are in the Grand River now. He caught 6 on spinners there today, but the steelhead have shut off for now, probably because of the low water and lack of cold temperatures. He noticed that the eggs were running from the salmon females, indicating a very delayed season this year. Bob fishes from a jet boat and does a lot of steelhead fishing. He took Howard Meyerson out October 10 and they caught 3 salmon and lost 2 steelhead. Howard wrote a nice story about the trip in the Outdoor page in the Grand Rapids Press (Friday, October 14). If you have discarded that paper, you can see the article on: mlive.com. Nice going, Bob! Roger Bouwkamp caught a 21 inch 5 pound largemouth bass from Morrison Lake recently (7 bass total). He emphasized bumping bottom and used a 100 Spoonplug on short line in 9 feet of water. Don Stephens fished Muskegon Lake with Mike Dordan last Monday. They lost a nice bass at the boat, landed a 10 pound catfish, and lost 2 other nice fish. Andy Koran, a close friend of Chases', caught a 32 ½ pound king salmon from Grand Traverse Bay this summer that was the second largest king recorded so far in Michigan. Congratulations, Andy! Charlie Meyers has been fishing Muskegon Lake a lot this year and has been quite successful. Last Tuesday he caught 3 good salmon (12, 16, + 17 pound) in a 45 minute period there. So today Charlie and Chase went to Muskegon Lake to try for more salmon. Charlie trolled flatfish on long lines and 3 way dropper rigs along the rivermouth breakline while Chase cast spoons over the shallows. They also worked a 30 foot deep breakline and the channel with 800s and wire. 3 pike were caught (2 at 28 inches) as well as a 17 inch bass. Chase was casting an "S-series" Spoonplug (Cleo like spoon) and hooked a fish he claimed was just a small fish and for Charlie to keep on trolling. When it was determined the fish was good sized, he was denied help landing it--because Charlie was fighting a similar sized fish on the other rod! This turned out to be a "double" of channel catfish, 15 and 13 pounds. In the excitement, they almost drifted into another boat, and the scene could have been described as an "ethnic fire-drill"! Picture is attached.

PROGRAM:

Markers are one of the most important and useful tools in a Spoonpluggers arsenal. How we use them to learn more about the structure in a lake was the program subject. Don Stephens brought a Dixon video showing on-the-water procedures used in mapping a bar. It explained that we must get a map of a structure first before we can accurately determine where the fish come up on it (interpretation). We need to ask and find answers to several questions before we can draw a map. Does it lead all the way to deep water? Where does it break? What is the final break (dropoff)? What is its' form? By following breaklines and throwing markers on major features of a structure, we can best picture its form and how it relates to the deepest water in the area (home of the fish). This information is obtained by taking a few minutes to look over a structure with a depth sounder and draw a simple map giving answers to these questions. It does not have to be exact, detailed, or artistic (it is only for your own use). Finding the longest, narrowest, sharpest, deepest break to the deepest water in the area is the key to the contact point of the structure. Your map will usually show that. With this information we can concentrate our fishing on areas of the structure that would be the most productive when the fish move. Recording this information saves much time on future trips and keeps us fishing "where we have the best chance to catch a fish".

Several types of markers were displayed. From mini "stealth" markers, vertical tubes, and homemade Styrofoam blocks to commercial piggybacking or dumbbell type, there are many options. They are simply a floating object with a weight on the end of a string that unwinds. They then stay in place on the lake to help us picture where the changes are present on the bottom. John Steponovitch asked about the picture on the back cover of Buck Perrys' book "Spoonplugging". It shows bars, humps, channels, breaklines, islands, breaks, and deep water in a lake with no water in it. This is the view we must picture in our minds of the lakes we fish so we can be fishing the best areas. Mapping, using markers, and drawing structures is the fastest yet most thorough way we can accomplish that.

Chase Klinesteker

