

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING, THURSDAY JUNE 7, 2007

FISHING REPORTS

Don Stephens has been catching good walleye, bass, and other species trolling darkwater lakes with the 500, 400, and 250 Spoonplugs with his son and grandsons recently. Jim VanAsselt, Mike Dordan, and Charlie Myers have gotten similar results with the same presentation of lures. Don Stephens and Jack Clark fished Murry lake and got a 10 pound, 36 inch pike. They did quite a lot of mapping and learned much about the lake. It is difficult to walk the bottom with lures there, making depth control much more important. Jim VanAsselt fished Lake Michigan and caught 3 fish, a 14 pound Skamania and 2 Coho in 220 feet of water. Chase reported on the Manistee Outing (dental section) where he, John Bouws, and John Stepanovitch fished up north. Lower Herring, Manistee, and Portage Lakes were fished, resulting in 6 pike to 26 inches and several smallmouth bass to 18 ½ inches. At one point, Chase was even caught sight-fishing in clear water off the top of a dam! John Smith was fly fishing the Rogue River and caught a nice Brown Trout. Bob Strek limited out on salmon out of Grand Haven in 200 feet of water, 40 to 60 feet down. There is not much report on the perch yet, as the weather has not cooperated.

MEETING

Jim VanAsselt and Don Stephens will coordinate the Youth Outing again this year. It will be on Mona Lake and a tentative date of August 4 was set up. A reminder that subscriptions for the “National Spoonplugger” newsletter are due. Send in your slip from the last newsletter or go online to: buckperry.com. All are reminded to participate at least some in the Muskegon Outing July 18-22, at least come to the great meal on Saturday night at 6PM. At our next meeting on July 5 we will be making final plans, so bring your ideas.

PROGRAM #1

Charlie Myers reported on his May 16-18 fishing trip to Big Manistique Lake in the UP. He passed out copies of the lake map and discussed which structures were productive and how he fished them. It is a 10,000 acre clear water lake that is about 9 by 4 miles and fairly shallow, with 17 feet being the deepest he found. A local guide had said to follow the 6 foot level on the east end to catch fish. Charlie did that but only caught a couple small fish. He then started applying his Spoonplugging knowledge about structure and located a 7-9 foot breakline further out in that area, and began fishing it. This proved to be a wise move, as he started catching several nice walleye to 24 inches. Charlie emphasized that it is very important to pay attention to structure (“where the bottom is different from the surrounding area”—Buck Perry). It was a post cold front day and windy. Charlie made nice catches under some very tough conditions.

PROGRAM #2

This program was a discussion on the article by Terry O'Malley in the Jan-Feb issue of “National Spoonplugger” covering pre-post spawn walleye. Terry reminds us that walleye are migratory fish and we should be aware that they migrate to the headwaters for the spring spawn. In this cold shallower water, lighter jump lures may be more effective. Single hook jigs on a spinning rod may be most effective for casting. For trolling, the 500-400-250 Spoonplugs may be all that is needed on the shallower breaklines. Speed control may be at a minimum. This is early spring fishing and may not be allowed for walleye in some states (as in Michigan), but these presentation guidelines hold true for any coldwater fishery. Terry told a story about fishing for early walleye where the weather conditions forced him to move to another area, where he caught many fish. His lesson learned was to not give up and go home due to bad weather, but to adapt.

Update on Jim VanAsselt: He was still in the hospital (June 19) being observed for an intestinal obstruction, but hopes to get home soon. Keep him in your thoughts.

Chase Klinesteker