

FISHING REPORT

Don Stephens fished Murry Lake with Charlie Myers and they hooked 2 muskies, one about 40 inches they lost at the boat, and the other 35 inches. They also caught 2 pike. All these fish were fat and healthy, a good sign. They were using wire line and #200 Spoonplugs, running 15 to 18 feet. Don has also been on the Grand River near the Rogue for steelhead but it is still fairly early for the run. Jim VanAsselt has been catching bluegills from Camp Lake and has fished the Lake Michigan surf for steelhead at 4 different locations with only one steelhead caught. Some colder weather and rain would probably help. Bob Strek fished a steelhead tournament last Saturday and caught 4 catfish. Only a few steelhead were caught in the tournament, which encompassed a wide fishing area. Charlie fished Murry Lake today (He was late for the meeting—does our president feel that fishing is more important than our meetings?!) and caught a 32 inch musky and 2 pike, 30 and 26 inches. He has fished Muskegon Lake for salmon and caught a few, but the run is pretty much over. He also fished Wabasis one day and caught several small pike. Roger Bouwkamp fished Murry Lake yesterday with no results, but last week in 2 trips he got 2 muskies and a 39 ½ inch pike, a real bruiser! His fish have been coming at 20 feet and he had 2 fish on at 28 feet using a #700 and wire.

PROGRAM

The program subject was mapping, or visualizing the bottom form, or structure, of a lake. This is key to locating where the fish are. Fish move on structure when they become active, and the better we know its' form, the faster we can determine migration routes and fish locations. Chase began by passing out and reviewing a "Basic Movements" handout. Understanding the behavior of fish helps us to know when, where, how, and why to study structure. Deep and dormant fish, inconsistent movements, weather and water effects, shallow behavior, seasonal differences, movement patterns, size differences, and species differences all relate to how and where we fish structure.

Next, a handout on "Structure" was passed out and reviewed. Structure is simply defined as the bottom of the lake that is different from the surrounding area. It is made up of breaks and breaklines. Fish move along breaklines and pause at breaks. We need to separate good looking structure from productive structure. You can have structure without fish, but not fish without structure. Productive structure must lead all the way from the shallows to the deep. Structure varies considerably. Buck Perry has identified 17 types of structures that fish use in their movements and migrations. Different lake types will have different types of structures and Mr Perry outlines the details in his book "Spoonplugging—Your Guide to Lunker Catches" and in his reference booklet (to be used on the water) "Structure Situations". These can be obtained from Bucks' website buckperry.com, or from Terry Velting at our meetings.

Bob Strek got up and described his experience in learning about structure. He projected several sequential drawings of a structure he and Chase fished on Hardy Pond. They represented side views of a bar as seen on a graph depth sounder when making straight line passes parallel to the shoreline. Then on the top view drawing of the bar, he traced the paths the boat had made. This helped him considerably in visualizing what was below the water and gave him information on where and how to present lures on it. Chase emphasized the importance of the "National Spoonplugger" newsletter in keeping us focused on the most important factors in fishing. The last issue (Sept.-Oct. '07) has 3 excellent articles on structure and mapping written by Terry O'Malley. Don't miss studying them. Terry was considered by Mr Perry to be the best mapper he had ever seen, and Terry had more experience working with Mr Perry than just about anybody. That should indicate where our emphasis should be placed in our fishing! A subscription to the "National Spoonplugger" can be obtained for \$29. from Jeri Perry, 255 Kerda St., Taylorsville, NC 28681 or call 828-632-8058.

To finish off, Don showed a short video on using spawn for steelhead in rivers, Jim showed how he rigs up for surf fishing steelhead using a 10 foot rod and sliding sinker, and Roger showed us some Murry Lake structures.

Chase Klinesteker

