

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP, APRIL 20, 2006

“3 FISHING HABITS”



John Bales with smallmouth from Lake Saint Claire

John Bales wrote an excellent article which appeared in the April, 2006 issue of the “Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers” newsletter. It explained how over 30 years ago he and a friend who were beginning Spoonplugging learned 3 habits that they use to this day on every trip. The first was to **count down lures on every cast**. Knowing that a lure sinks at the rate of about one foot per second will tell us how deep of water each cast was made to. By fancasting an area

from an anchored position, **one can map the depths and determine from where the fish will approach that structure** (deep water is the home of the fish). Also, **bottom hardness can be determined** if one uses a lure of sufficient weight (about 1/2 ounce or more). Along with trolling information, this is very useful in **finding the contact point and migration route the fish use**. The *second* habit learned was to **use line (rifle) sights constantly**, both while trolling and to record a spot you will want to return to. Knowing where you are at all times **helps you put the lure in the proper spot to catch fish**. This skill **takes some time to develop**, but its' effectiveness at **helping produce fish** is shown by the results of top Spoonpluggers. The *third* habit John learned and still uses is to **quickly map a new lake by following a breakline** (e.g. 15 foot) using the depth meter, **so that the better structures can be found and concentrated on**. As Buck Perry would say “we **need to spend our time where we have the best chance to catch a fish**”. When **these habits** are used by top Spoonpluggers like John Bales and Denny Coulardot on a daily basis, **I take note, and I recommend that others do also!**

Chase Klinesteker