

"GRAND RIVER MAPPING OUTING REPORT"



Grand River, Saturday June 14, 2003

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Only **2 boats showed up** so we combined and went **out in one boat**. **10 smallmouth** to 16 inches, **1 walleye**, and **1 pike** were caught. The "mapping" title may have scared off some potential participants. What **many don't realize** is that **Spoonpluggers fish at the same time they map**. Mapping means to **be observant of the structure** and terrain you are fishing. **Less than 5 minutes** total time was **spent actually drawing** diagrams, while the **total time** we were on the water was spent **becoming more familiar with the structure** being worked.

We picked an approximately **1000 foot long slot** that went **to 10** feet in some areas. **Beginning with the 500 Spoonplug** (2-4 feet), we **trolled both sides of this river section**. Within one minute of starting to troll, we had our first fish, a 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch walleye. **5 fish were caught before we got to the end of the run**. More fish were caught on the **400** (4-6 feet) and the **250** (6-9 feet). If one remains observant, **contour trolling these 3 sizes can give an excellent picture of the structure that is there**. We **stopped twice for a minute or 2 to jot down on paper** breakline forms, depths, and shoreline landmarks. We **anchored and cast** most of the time **when a fish was caught** but only one fish was caught casting, and that was on a 200

Spoonplug. **Jump lures** were cast also with **no results**, indicating a **faster speed was needed** at that time. The best trolling **speed** was about **2-4mph**. The **fish activity** period lasted **from 8:30 to about 10:00 AM**, with only one fish caught after that.

The weather was **sunny** with some **haze** and in a **warming trend** with light wind. **Water color** was **2½ feet**. The Grand River is fishable now, with no excessively high or low water levels. Some **lessons** were **relearned**:

- 1)** When stopping to cast, **make only 5 or 6 casts** and then return to trolling as is stated in Buck Perrys' lure presentation procedures. Because of some past successes casting, I spent too much time casting an area with different lures. This time we **limited our casts** to 5 or 6. We definitely **caught more fish because of this**.
- 2) Don't ignore the #500 Spoonplug.** Many of us fail to use the 500 because we are afraid to go that shallow or we don't have confidence in it. **It is part of the package** of total fishing called Spoonplugging. Each day presents us with a different fishing condition, and we are most effective under all conditions by following Spoonplugging procedures. **Don't use the 500, and that may be the day that the only fish activity is in 2-4 feet!**

The Grand River and other mid-sized rivers are underfished resources that Spoonpluggers should take note of.