

## “SMALLMOUTH ON LAKE MACATAWA, 10/12/2000”



18 and 20 inch smallmouth bass, Lake “Mac”

Fished “Lake Mac” today and got into a **school of big smallmouth** bass but only landed 2, one 18 inches and one 20 inches. The school was **located by trolling** a 4-6 (400) Spoonplug. A big fish was hooked and got off and a **marker was thrown**. On the reverse pass, another fish was hooked and got off (and marker thrown). There was no question about where the school was. Due to a 15-20 mph wind blowing on the structure, the boat was anchored in 7 feet to cast with the wind. In retrospect, it should have been anchored to the side and cast along the breakline, even though the wind made it more difficult. The lure came off the bottom a few feet from the boat. A **#200 Spoonplug** (9-12 ft.) was selected **for casting**. **6 fish were hooked and lost** and 2 were landed in a short period of time. Also, 5 fish were seen following the lure to the surface and turned away. **All these fish were in the 18-20 inch class**. When the action slowed, a jump bait was used to fancast the area with a slower speed. A few hits produced no fish except an 18 inch drum farther out on the structure. All the action took place from 1:30 TO 2:30 PM, although most of the day was spent fishing. The few other boats on the lake reported no fish.

**Weather conditions were marginal**. It was the second day after a cold front with **bright sunny skies**. The water temperature was 56 degrees and the air got up to 65. **Trolling speed was slow to moderate**(1.5 to 3.0 mph). It is possible that not enough speed could be attained on the cast and that retrolling the structure quickly could have resulted in more fish. **Water color was the key**. There was **2 foot visibility** at Dutton Park and 4 foot visibility in Big bay (the DNR launch at Big Bay is closed for construction). Depths from 2-15 feet were fished but the **only action was at the 6 foot breakline**, indicating the importance of **checking different depths**.

Chase Klinesteker