

"WALLEYE POINTERS FOR SPOONPLUGGERS"



10.5 lb. walleye, Lake Macatawa, #200 Spoonplug (9-12 ft.)

1. **Walleye use structure** like all fish. Look for **large, deep, rather flat underwater bars and humps in the summertime. 30-50 foot depths may be indicated. Work breaklines, on top, and deeper water around these structures. Base breaklines can be especially productive.**
2. The walleye is **normally a slower fish**, especially during **early** season. They are often found **in deep, clear, coldwater lakes** where **live bait and slow speeds** are indicated. In the **warmer season** and **dingy waters**, crankbait **trolling speeds can be very fast.**
3. The walleye is **one of the first gamefish species to become active after a cold front** passes.
4. Walleye will **take a light ticking lure more readily than a hard walking lure.**
5. If **weeds go to 20 feet or more**, check the lake for **nighttime movements.**
6. Walleye, musky, and northern **can be caught on a trolled Spoonplug down to 60 feet**, whereas bass only to about 35 feet.
7. Walleye are **affected by light slightly more than other species** and their **movements usually are not as shallow.**
8. Walleyes have a **migrating nature. Seasonal migrations can be 90 miles or more.** They will not use the same structure all season but **will move around the lake/system using the structure in the area where they are.**
9. **When walleye are found, considerable time should be spent checking structure in the area thoroughly** with all depths and speeds.
10. **Heavy boat traffic can result in walleye nighttime movements.**
11. Seasonal movements in a natural lake are much more restricted than in a reservoir.

12. Walleye, northern, and muskie **often suspend off structure after migration** and **will take a free running lure** below 8-10 feet if presented correctly. Often they suspend **10-15 feet horizontally off the breakline at its depth**. Depth control is very important here. A **walking lure coming off the breakline has much more accurate depth than a free running lure onto it**.
13. When walleye action slows or stops, **always check deeper** on the structure as the commotion may have caused the **fish to drop down**.
14. **Sandy bars, breaklines, and humps can be productive for walleye in the summer**.

I would like to finish with **a quote from Buck Perrys' book: "Spoonplugging"**

"Spoonplugs have their place. They eliminate no lure in your tackle box. They just make all the others more valuable".

Chase Klinesteker