

WEEDLINE WISDOM

By Chase Klinesteker



Matt Witkowski with 19 inch bass from White Lake

In his educational material, **Buck Perry** talks about “**stacking lures**” on a **weedline** to check different depths. Normally, different sized Spoonplugs are used to **check all depths** along a weedline wall **while checking different speeds** at the same time. **Often**, in our rush to fish deeper, **we skim over or eliminate that part** of his recommended presentation. Yet we should consider checking all depths and all speeds for the most thorough lure presentation. This point was brought to my attention **after the 2015 Muskegon Outing** when I **fished the White Lake east basin area for pike with Matt Witkowski** on 7/17/15. Results from this basin at the 2015 outing were limited, with only one boat getting a decent number of pike one day. **This section** of the lake **has a tall weedline to 12 feet** with the **deepest water** in the area only **around 20 feet**, indicating that the sanctuary for the fish might be in the weeds. **Water color was about 6 feet**. It was **cool for July** with a late spring, where one day at the Muskegon Outing had set a record low temperature.

We **began trolling the weedline** around 8:30AM. It was **dark, foggy, and breezy** starting out, and our plan of action was to **stack lures** on the weedline until we found the productive depth. We started with the #400 Spoonplug (4-6 feet), #250 Spoonplug (6-9 feet), and #200 Spoonplug (9-12 feet). With **no results**, we proceeded to using a #100 Spoonplug to **check the 12-15 foot depths beyond the weedline**. A nice **36 inch pike and a 19 inch bass** were landed from about **14 feet**. Under these **dark conditions** (6 foot water color and foggy), fish did not seem active on the weedline. **Later** in the morning as the fog lifted and the **sun came out**,

we did more **trolling on the weedline** and began **catching more fish** there with a **#250 Spoonplug** producing some fish **and a spinnerbait** or chatterbait trolled slowly **over the weed tops** producing also. These fish were somewhat smaller but we did end up with 7 pike (including a 27 incher) and 2 bass. After the sun came out, we **did check the deeper water with no results**. There likely was not enough depth under bright conditions, and their **sanctuary then was in the weeds**.

Some lessons learned include that there are **never 2 days that have the same weather**---ever! Never assume where the fish will be. Be ready to **check depths on the weedline and out deeper**, and **keep checking them** throughout the day. Also, if **fish are in the weeds**, **go to them**, don't wait for them to come out!



Matt with 36 inch pike from White Lake