

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP NOVEMBER 17, 2005

“WHY FISH TAKE A LURE”



Spoonplugs: #500
2-4 ft.

#400
4-6 ft.

#250
6-9 ft.

#200
9-12 ft.

#100
12-15 ft.

A discussion ensued about what were the criteria that made fish “take” a lure. It was noted that color can occasionally make a difference but that it was not a major factor. In fact, there is still some debate among scientists as to whether fish can see different colors or if they see just in shades. The **visibility of a lure in a given environment** is likely more important--in other words, can a fish see the lure against the existing background, light intensity, and water color, which changes. Fish can use their lateral line “hearing” to find lures even in dark water, but they **must see the lure to strike it**. That is why **muddy water** (less than 6 inches visibility) **can be very poor fishing**. But color or visibility alone is not what makes fish strike. It is **the movement of the lure** (speed) **and presenting lures in front of the fish** (depth) that triggers strikes. The depth of the fish changes as they move and the speed needed for a reflex strike changes with the weather and water conditions, so **all depths and speeds must be checked**. What about size and action? They can be “aids”, but by themselves (without proper depth and speed) will not cause fish to strike. **Fish may not be as discerning and selective as we may think**. Just ask any person who keeps tropical fish. Fish will often take other fishes’ waste moving through the water into their mouth to test it, then spit it out! This is all we can hope for with any artificial lure. This is why Buck Perry emphasized depth and speed as our two most important lure controls. In fact, he has stated: “We must **answer all our fishing successes and all our fishing failures in terms of depth and speed**”. It can’t get more basic than that!

Chase Klinesteker