

GRAND RIVER FISHING REPORT: A WHAMMY!



4 pound Steelhead caught on a #250 Spoonplug

Fall fishing on the Grand River near Grand Rapids, Michigan often is spotty, but occasionally can be very good. Many species inhabit the river in this area, including steelhead, smallmouth bass, pike, and walleye. A top day of fishing is defined by yours truly as a “Grand River Whammy”, which consists of catching 5 different species of fish in one day. On Tuesday, November 14, 2017 this goal was attained with great excitement. It was a reasonably pleasant day with a light breeze, partly cloudy skies, and temperatures reaching 50 degrees in the afternoon. Lynn Francis and I began trolling about 9:45AM. We were using a Tadpolly on one rod and a white 6-9 Spoonplug (#250) on the other. The water temperature was 42 degrees, and normally we stop using Spoonplugs this time of year due to the cold temperatures and slower fish, but I wanted to see if a bottom-walking lure would trigger any strikes. The answer was yes, as a 22 inch 4 pound steelhead hit the Spoonplug

and put up a good fight. The current was running about 1.5mph and we were trolling upstream at about 1mph ground speed, which was plenty fast to keep action on the Spoonplug. As we trolled, Lynn was casting various baits to the side to cover more water.

After about 2 ½ hours of trolling and no more fish, we decided to anchor and cast specific structures that were previously mapped. The first spot yielded a nice 18 inch 3 pound smallmouth bass that Lynn fought for quite a while. Next came a 25 inch pike and a 20 inch Redhorse sucker. That last species was a bit more elusive, but Chase finally hooked and landed a 22 inch, 4 ½ pound walleye on a bladebait. Then Lynn hit another pike which was 30 inches and 8 ½ pounds on a jointed minnowbait. There you have it, 5 species of fish caught in 5 hours of one day----a Grand River Whammy! Spoonplugging knowledge works for all species. Thank you, Buck Perry!

Chase Klinesteker CSI