

2ND PLACE WALLEYE



2nd Place in Walleye Tournament of 38 boats

Don Stephens and myself were fortunate enough to pick up **2 walleye that took 2nd place in the September 20th, 2003 West Michigan Walleye Club Tournament on Lake Macatawa.** 38 boats participated but the weather **conditions were very tough. Clear sunny skies and a 15 degree drop in temperature** can really cause **fish** to become **inactive.** We would like to compliment the **winners** who **had a beautiful 7.5 pound walleye.** Their persistence and tenacity on a good structure really paid off. **Only 3 walleye were caught during the entire tournament.**

About 1:00PM Don hooked and landed a **12 pound 33 inch salmon** on a **nightcrawler and spinner 3-way rig** while we were **trolling** slowly with crankbaits (9-12 ft. **Spoonplugs**). **Further down** the breakline was an **inside turn or slot structure** which **broke at about 12 feet.** A **rifle sighting** had been **established** pre-fishing **2 days before** where a 4 pound walleye was taken trolling crankbaits about 5 mph at the same depth. It was **decided to vertical jig the area to check the slower speeds** more thoroughly. Using the light wind to help, we **moved off and on the structure from 12 to 18 feet** while **vertically jiggling a 3\4 ounce blade bait** similar to a "Silver Buddie". A **vigorous 3-4 foot jump** was used on a **stiff baitcasting rod** with 10 pound visible mono. A **small piece of white cloth** was put **on each treble** to help the fish find the hooks. That does not relate to any secret or scientific study, only that **I have confidence in** using it. **2 walleye were hooked and landed in a short**

period of time. After that a 16 pound carp and a small drum were landed. **Then the movement period was over.** From the time the salmon was hooked until the last fish caught was **probably less than ¾ of an hour.** Except for a 20 pound foul hooked carp about 11:00AM, we **caught no other fish all day,** and **we had covered a lot of water both casting and trolling. We were lucky to be "at the right place, at the right time, fishing in the right manner"**. Interestingly, the **winning fish** was **caught** around the **same time of day** as were our fish. Buck Perry has stated that "when fish become active and move, **ALL the fish move,** some more than others".

Buck Perrys' **Spoonpluigging Guidelines** for structure fishing **were key** in helping us to pinpoint the fish and understand their behavior. Anyone interested in his concepts can check out his website at: buckperry.com.

Lake Macatawa offers a real challenge to walleye fishermen, yet at times some very nice catches can be made. It is close by and often fished by many WMWC members. One **can't control the weather, but we can continue to learn** more about Lake Macs' bottom structure each time we fish it.

Chase Klinesteker