

“A SECRET BIG FISH LAKE” Spring 2003

How would you like to fish a lake where it is possible to catch 16 fish and 13 of them were over 5 pounds? Where the 5 largest were 8,9,11,12, and 14 pounds? Where the species caught were active and powerful fighters that left you drained at the end of the day from fighting fish?

The above describes a recent days' fishing I had on a lake in our area. The day started out with trolling the shallows of 2 large structures using the #500, #400, and #250 Spoonplugs. No fish were caught, so it was decided to anchor and cast known structures that had been previously mapped and proven productive. The first structure was a turn in the breakline. Both Spoonplugs and jump lures were fanned at the contact point and different speeds were checked, but no takers. A few fish marks could occasionally be seen on the depth sounder, so it was decided to wait for the fish to become active (and it was time to eat lunch!). There were no hits for about ½ hour. Then one tap on a jump lure near the boat sharpened my concentration. Shortly I was catching fish on almost every cast of the ½ ounce bladebait. A few casts with a #700 Spoonplug to check faster speeds indicated that a jump lure presentation was best at this time. Soon the action stopped. Either the school of fish had been spooked, the activity period was over, or the school had moved down the breakline. I quickly pulled up anchor and began trolling the 10-11 foot breakline that forms the structure. 2 more fish were caught on the troll, but I could not seem to pinpoint the school on the cast. Then other mapped structures were checked in the same manner. The first produced nothing. On the 2nd spot, fanning a wider area produced a hit, and the fun was on again! By being anchored, I could cast to the same spot repeatedly to catch more fish from the school. The day ended totally exhilarating---and exhausting, one of my best days ever on the water! “What was the fish species and secret lake?” you ask. It was Drum on Lake Macatawa. That doesn’t take away any of the thrill of the day for me. Anytime one can catch over 100 pounds of hard-fighting fish like that, it is a great day! Besides, I have been into a number of schools of Bass in the past, and they react and behave in exactly the same manner, as do other species of fish. The Spoonplugging knowledge given to us by Buck Perry allowed me to take advantage of the situation, and I experienced the joy and satisfaction from fishing that Mr. Perry always talked about!

Chase Klinesteker



27 inch Lake Macatawa Drum (Freshwater Sheepshead)