

“BIG WATER, BIG DEAL?” Chase Klinesteker, CSI



29 inch Detroit River walleye

Over the years I have noticed that the **largest fish** of many species seem to **come from big waters**. Big **salmon** need **room to roam and food to grow**. Big **Muskies** from **Lake Saint Clair**, big **Walleye** from **Lake Erie**, or big **Smallmouth** from the **Detroit River** are some other examples. Often large fish will **migrate seasonally** from large waters and be available **in rivers or drowned rivermouth lakes**. This all boils down to the fact that **big water grows big numbers of big fish!** Even in smaller **inland lakes**, Mr. Perry tells us that **the biggest and most fish will be in the deepest and largest hole in that lake**, and structure related to that hole is where we should be **concentrating our fishing efforts**.

I fish from a **14 foot boat** with a 25 horsepower motor, **hardly a safe rig for big water**, so when I received an invitation from Jerry Borst to fish the Detroit River with him, I jumped at the chance. On June 22, 2014, I **joined Jerry in his boat on the Detroit River**, along with Jim Shell who was doing some filming for his TV series “Structure Fishing”. Big waters are a **bigger challenge to fish**. Some **structures** are a **mile or 2 long** and **depth control** may go to **30 or 40 feet---with current!** I was impressed with **Jerrys’ knowledge** of the many and vast **structures** in the area of the Wyandott ramp. Jerry does a lot of **trolling with wire line, big lures**, (800 Spoonplugs, Ernies, and JB-2 lures) **and 3-way rigs**. **Heavy duty equipment** is the rule when he fishes big water and **targets muskies**. We also **drifted long breaklines** vertical jigging **1 ounce blade baits**. On one breakline at 28-32 feet we caught **3 nice walleye to 29 inches**. The wind and current on it were just right for keeping the boat over the breakline with little adjustment. When **trolling** for musky **upstream**, he usually **works** the shallower or **top of the breakline** and when **trolling downstream**, the **base breakline**. Ground speed was around 2 mph going upstream and 4mph going downstream. **More care** must be taken **trolling downstream**, as there is a greater chance of **hanging up**. **4 muskies to 40 inches** were caught and released, as well as several white bass and drum. Many **thanks to Jerry Borst and Jim Shell** for including me on this trip. I had a great time and we spent much time reminiscing over Spoonplugging history. **“Big water” is a “big deal”,** it just **takes big knowledge and experience** to execute!