

## GRAND RIVER FISHING REPORT NOVEMBER 11, 2004

### "BOTH CASTING AND TROLLING"



2 nice Smallmouth Bass from the Grand River

The **weather forecast** for Thursday was **bad** with **clear skies and 25 mph winds predicted**. Don Stephens had reported catching 3 steelhead only 2 days before in the Grand River, so I decided to go there and **try for some steelhead**. The **water color** was about **4 feet** and the **water temperature 41 degrees**. This section of the Grand has **7 structures** (holes) that **we have mapped** and are familiar with. The **plan** was to **troll these structures with slower speed crankbaits at different depths**, which has been successful in the past. Throughout the day, **all 7 structures were checked** in this manner with **only 2 undersize smallmouth bass caught trolling**. The **steelhead were not active** (or possibly even present in this section of river) at this time. **Other boats had no reports of fish either**. **This would have been the entire report for the day had different speeds and depths not been checked by casting jump lures**.

**Spoonpluggers**, however, are aware that **both casting and trolling are necessary** to thoroughly fish an area. **Each structure was further studied** during the trolling process and **specific spots were selected for casting**. **Spoonplugs were cast first**

but it was soon determined that the **speed was too fast** for the season and cold temperatures. Each anchoring position was **then fancast** with **½ ounce** jump lures (**bladebaits**) to more thoroughly **check slower speeds** and different depths. This proved to be **the lure presentation that was needed**. Because of the cold temperatures, a very slow speed (**short hop**) was used. A **number of fish were caught**, with **all but one structure producing fish** on the cast. **2 flathead catfish** (21 inches), **5 pike to 27 inches**, **2 walleye** (17 and 18 inches) and **18 smallmouth bass up to 18 inches** were caught. **5 consecutive casts produced 5 fish at one spot**, with 6 of 7 structures producing multiple fish.

The **knowledge gained about each structure** will be **used to improve catches on future trips** to this section of river. The **weather did not turn out as predicted**. Maximum **winds** were about **12 mph** and the “clear sunny skies” were actually **high cirrus clouds along with big wide jet contrails** in the sky, **a good light condition** for fishing. It is wise to not place too much emphasis on weather predictions unless severe or dangerous conditions are certain!

Chase Klinesteker