

“GRAND RIVER FISHING REPORT” 11/18/06



18 pound Flathead Catfish from Grand River

The **Grand River** is a **great fishery close to home** that goes **largely untapped**. Roger Bouwkamp and Chase Klinesteker decided to take advantage of the **cloudy, stable, and calm weather** present. Often one encounters snow, rain, wind, and bitter cold when fishing this time of year. Although **temperatures** were between **35 and 40 degrees**, the wind was only about 5 mph, and by dressing warmly, we were **very comfortable**. Roger had not fished the Grand River for **steelhead** before and was eager to learn about this **new fishing opportunity**.

We arrived at the ramp about **7:00AM** and the first thing noticed was the **very high water and heavy current**. Water covered the dock and was estimated to be **5 feet over the normal** summer levels. Fishing for **steelhead can be spotty** because groups of **fish**

move through an area at different times and **water levels affect their position**. **Trolling crankbaits was difficult** because of the heavy current, and **after 3 hours of trolling** areas that had produced fish in the past, **no fish** were caught.

Spoonpluggers are fortunate because our **procedures** are designed **for** and effective on **all species of fish**. It was **decided to cast mapped structure areas from an anchored position**. **Slack water areas were concentrated on** as the fish would be trying to avoid the swift current. Little was caught on the first two structures but **the third area**, which had the most slack water, **produced some good fish**. **Jump lures** were used for **casting**, in this case **½ and ¾ ounce blade baits**. Casts were made **upstream, cross stream and downstream** using very **short hops** and letting the current move the lure. 17 to 20 pound visible line on **baitcasting equipment** was used **for better control** of the lure.

The **results** were **gratifying** and included a **variety of species**. **5 smallmouth** bass with the 2 largest 17 and 19 inches, **4 flathead catfish** including 8, 12, and 18 pounders, a **27 inch pike**, and a **10 pound carp** all were caught. Again, **Spoonplugging** knowledge **allowed** us to have a **great day**, despite not catching the species targeted. By **1:00PM** we were **off the water** and headed home to enjoy (in this case, cry over) the Michigan-Ohio State football game!

Chase Klinesteker



2 nice Smallmouth from the Grand River, 17 and 19 inches