

# “IMPROVING MY FISHING RESULTS”

by Chase Klinesteker

## “AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST”

Ben Franklin

### HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR FISHING SUCCESS?

By **gaining a working knowledge about our quarry**, the gamefish, and what **procedures and tools are most effective** in catching him. The correct knowledge to become a successful fisherman is available. Although there are many different approaches to fishing, for best results **look for the most logical, efficient, and productive way of fishing.**

### FROM WHOM DO WE LEARN?

It is confusing for the average fisherman who is **exposed to conflicting “facts” about fish from many sources.** The solution is simple. **Consider the source and track record of those writing various “facts” about fish behavior.** Do they **have training** or ability in the area of **scientific method and research?** **Have they researched fish behavior over many years** by observing them from underwater in their natural environment? **Have they had consistent fishing success for all species of fish throughout the United States and other countries without the help of local guides?** **Is their writing independent of** (their income not dependent on) **the sale of fishing tackle?** Do they have vast **fishing experience on all types of waters** (natural lakes, rivers, reservoirs, saltwater, etc.)? Over the last 50 years, **one person stands out** who satisfies all of the above criteria, and that is **Buck Perry, the “Father” of modern day Structure Fishing.**

### MY STORY

**Each person learns differently.** Hopefully, what I experienced can help others develop their own approach to learning Spoonplugging.

For over 20 years, **I thought I knew Buck Perrys’ Spoonplugging material quite well.** I was catching a few decent fish mainly trolling weedlines (“straggler fishing”). In reality, I only knew the material superficially and **did not have a working knowledge** of it. **I was on a “plateau” where my fishing did not improve.** I kept **thinking that the experienced** (and successful) **Spoonpluggers had some special “secret” that was so complex and difficult that I would never learn enough to improve my results.** It wasn’t until the 1994 Jamboree in Chattanooga, TN that **I got in the boat with Terry O’Malley to observe his fishing procedures.** Could it **possibly be THAT simple?** It was **right out of the “Green Book”!!** I had tried **doing procedures as described** in the material several times, but **after catching only a few small fish, I would soon give up** and return to my straggler fishing. Terry really woke me up! **I began studying the “Green Book” and “Home Study Series” more thoroughly and applying what I learned on the water.**

In **November of 1996 John Bales came up to Grand Rapids to fish my favorite lake with me.** I had caught a number of decent sized fish from this lake and **thought I knew the structure on it well.** Within 2 hours after trolling and mapping procedures, John selected a bar where **we anchored and cast.** **We were into a school of big bass! 12 bass from 15 to 19 inches were caught in a short period of time.** **What a thrill** to be into a school of fish on the cast! This was **on a bar that I had not caught fish on in the past.** This really **opened my eyes to the importance of proper mapping in fishing success.** I did not understand what details were most important for productive structure. Right then **I made a commitment to draw maps with the proper information.**

### THE TURNING POINT

The **summer of 1998** was the **real turning point for my growth in fishing.** On my own, I located a school of smallmouth bass and caught several from an anchored casting position on Spoonplugs. **What a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction!!** **My study, mapping, and following procedures on the water had finally paid off!** I now had the **confidence and knowledge that I could repeat this again and again.** **If I had been shown** this casting position by another Spoonplugger, **I would not have been helped much.** It was similar to a math instructor teaching students how to solve problems but not giving them the answer so that they will be forced to **develop the skills to solve them on their own.** **Mapping and interpretation is the “answer” to the problem(find the fish).** I had been familiar with the procedures for years, but **did not motivate myself enough to develop the knowledge, persistence, and skill to execute them.**

### SUGGESTIONS TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS

- 1. **Study the written and video material** in small amounts **on a daily basis.**
- 2. **Draw maps of every structure you fish.** This **helps improve visualization skills** needed to find fish.

---3. **Before you go fishing, go over the maps and refer to the written material relating to the structure, weather, and water conditions that will be encountered.**

---4. After **getting off the water, review and add to maps.** Also review the written material relating to **what was actually encountered.** The goal in reviewing the material is for the fisherman to **get to the point where** he/she does not have to think about what to do next on the water, **it comes automatically.** This **is true working knowledge.**

---5. At first, spend a **fair amount of time fishing alone on easy to fish lakes** (good water color). Your goal is to get experience on the water improving your procedures and skills. Usually when you fish with others the only goal is to catch fish.

### **THE BASICS**

To me, the most important lesson learned was the **simplicity and powerful effect of sticking to the “basics”**, the simple procedures of lure presentation and basic mapping of structure. Without these firmly planted in all my fishing, the **other details** about fishing just **confused me.** Once I **learned and practiced these “basics”**, fishing **success became more frequent.**