

“IS THE MOVEMENT OVER?”



Limit of bass caught in a short time and quickly released

The thrill of getting into a **school of adult fish casting Spoonplugs** and catching several in a short period of time is one of the **most exciting experiences in all of fishing**. This is the **ultimate goal of a Spoonplugger**. It may take only a few years or many years to attain that goal. Some attain it in only 3 or 4 years of intensive study and practice. For others, it **may take many years**. In my case it was 25 years of Spoonplugging before I found and caught bass on consecutive casts from a school on my own. **How many years it took to achieve the goal is not that important**, since all **along the way you are catching more fish than you ever have before**. If you **acquire this skill, it is important to conserve the resource**. The picture above shows a limit of bass caught in a short period of time from one spot. They were **kept in the livewell with running water, then placed on a stringer for a quick picture and released**.

Once you have gotten into a school, most have an **insatiable desire to improve on it** and increase the frequency. **Small details** learned along the way improve the results and efficiency of each fishing experience. **How much line on the spool**, how to **better control the speed**, how to **improve boat positioning**, and **more efficient anchoring** are only a few of the details

that **can help**. **One factor** can be the **wise use of your time after the action stops**. In the past I have always referred to this as the **movement being over**. I would spend much time **casting** both Spoonplugs and **jump lures, repositioning the boat, and retrolling** the entire structure in an effort to catch a fish or 2 more. In **most instances**, I was **not successful**.

What **I didn't consider** was that **this school of fish was likely spooked** and would probably not soon return, especially if some were released or got off the hook. Yet **other structures in the lake may still have schools of fish that are active**. A **quick check with 5 or 6 fan casts** using **jump lures is in order** after the action stops. If the structure has been previously mapped, **repositioning the boat is usually not necessary**. A **quick trolling pass** or 2 may be done **on the breakline** if the structure is larger and the **fish may have moved down it**. **If other contact points are known** in the lake, **proceed directly to another nearby and check it for active fish**. A trolling pass or 2 and casting the contact point should suffice. You may even want to **return to the original** structure and check it with a few casts **after it has settled down**. **Repeat** doing this **on other structures until you are satisfied that the movement period for the entire lake is over**. This approach will increase your odds of catching more fish during that fish activity period.

If you are **fishing a new lake**, you would want to **spend more time mapping the structure where you caught fish, then proceed to the next one and map and fish it thoroughly**. This is why **mapping is so important**. The more structures you know in detail, the better chance you have of making a great catch.

These suggestions can be found in **Buck Perrys' written material and Guidelines** for fishing success. **On the water experience** turns these Guidelines into your own **practical working knowledge**. You just **keep getting better and better**. As Buck would say: **"Fishing is a lifetime learning experience"**, and **"Knowledge is the key to fishing success"**.

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