

"REEDS LAKE FISHING REPORT-DECEMBER 2003"



20 and 21 inch bass, Late Fall, Reeds Lake

Two recent trips to Reeds Lake within the city limits of East Grand Rapids produced a few nice fish but generally slow fishing. Thin ice has been forming in the back bays so it is nearing the end of the open water season. On the **first trip, December 4**, the weather was **cloudy with a 10 mph wind**, with the temperature starting at **25 degrees** and a high about 35 degrees. **Water color** was about **6 feet**. **Ice on the rod guides** was somewhat of a problem and the fish didn't show any activity until **after noon** when the temperature got above freezing. The 2 most **productive structures in the past did not produce**, so **secondary structures were fished** also (5 total). **4 fish were caught casting jump spoons, 2 largemouth bass, 20 and 21 inches, and 2 pike with the largest at 29 inches**. A larger pike was lost from a biteoff of the line (no wire leader!). **Numerous fish were seen on the graph at the 30 to 35 foot depth**. Vertical jigging these areas was **not productive**. All the fish caught came from **20-28 foot depths on structure migration routes**. **No fish were taken shallower** although those depths were checked thoroughly.

The **second trip was 2 days later on December 6th** with **Roger Bouwkamp**. **Clear bright cloudless skies** prevailed most of the day, a **classic cold front**. The **temperature ranged from 29-35 degrees** with about a 12 mph wind. It was decided to **cover a good number of structures casting** plus to learn more about each one by placing markers and following breaklines. By **placing a marker on the most prominent part of a structure and following the deeper breaklines off of it, one could visualize the outline form** and likely migration route. "Known" structures were learned even better. These areas were then cast. **Only one fish was caught all day, a 25 inch, 5.5 pound walleye**. It was caught in about **30 feet of water casting a jump spoon on a structure that was not often fished**. The speed was a **short quick hop** of only a few inches. It remains to be seen, but we may

have been able to pick up more fish if we had fished more thoroughly and included some trolling, despite the 39 degree water and cold front conditions.

After these trips, information on weather and water conditions, structures fished, depth, speed, results, and lessons learned **were recorded in a Spoonpluggers Fishing Log.** These logs are **reviewed in the wintertime** to solidify what was learned and **improve ones' fishing in the future.** Some **lessons learned** from the above 2 trips **include:**

- 1)---**The **differences in results for the 2 days** fishing shows how **important weather conditions are.** Yet **with concentrated effort** and knowledge of structure, **a nice fish or two can be caught on even a tough day.**
- 2)---**It seems better to **cover a variety of structures in the course of a days' fishing.** Subtle differences may allow fish to be caught on one and not another.
- 3)---****Following deeper breaklines with a marker on the shallower structure** allows better **visualization** of where the **migration pathway** will be.
- 4)---**Even if one **"knows" a lakes' structure, further mapping** of each structure **will increase the accuracy of lure presentation** to the most productive areas.
- 5)---**In a lake **with** a good **pike** population, it is best to use a **wire leader**, especially when casting jump lures.

Although **I am already aware of these "lessons"** from studying Spoonplugging, **they have not been ingrained** so that I incorporate them **automatically without thinking. That is what real knowledge is.** Buck Perrys' **Spoonplugging Guidelines** should be approached **with this in mind.** Late fall fishing can often produce some good sized fish. **Persistence, along with knowledge of Spoonplugging Guidelines and familiarity with lake structures assures for better than average results.**

Chase Klinesteker



Roger with 5 ½ pound walleye From Reeds