

## LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2010

### “SWIMBAITS”



2 swimbaits. Note the hook rides up and is less prone to snag

**Jack Clark** gave the program “Swimbait, the New Rage”. As Spoonpluggers, we know **not** to always **blindly follow the latest rage** in lures, but Jack gave some good reasons why swimbaits can be an effective tool. He started out with a large display on the table of **different sizes** of swimbaits and jig heads **from ¼ to 3 ounces** in weight. Plastic swimbaits **have caught a lot of fish**, and one reason may be that **they can be fished within a wide range of depths and speeds**. They will work at a **fairly slow retrieve**, yet are **often trolled at 9 or 10 mph with heavy jig heads** for large saltwater predators. Different weight jig heads and retrieve speeds allow for control of depths also. Jack emphasized that **the best jigheads for swimbaits are designed for saltwater fishing** and are mostly **available online** in this area. Swimbaiting has been **around for 20 years** or so, but only **lately** have become **popular for freshwater use**. Jack displayed swimbaits from **4-6 inches in size** and talked mainly about catching **musky, pike, walleye, and bass** with them, but that they can be effective on all predatory species of fish, including grouper, tuna, and salmon. Some claim a 2 to 1 advantage of swimbaits over conventional salmon lures trolling in Lake Michigan. He **showed** us how to **thread the swimbait on the jighead** so that the hook comes out properly, and **how to “pin” the bait with a toothpick** or use **Crazyglue** to secure it better. A **single upright hook** allows this bait to be **quite weedless**, and placing the swimbait sideways on the jighead makes it even more weedless. For **musky and pike**, Jack likes to use a **thin Courtland wire leader** which is very flexible. **Large knots and hardware seem to decrease the action of this lure**. Swimbaiting can be **used on a spinnerbait frame also**, with or without a skirt.

After breaking, Larry Simonsen made and served popcorn with melted butter (nice touch, Larry!) so we could **watch the DVD that Jack brought**. It was **produced by In-Fisherman** and showed **Doug Strange catching fish on swimbaits**. They recommended a **steady retrieve** for 10-20 feet, a **slight pause**, then a **steady retrieve again**. Swimbaiting **drop around 1 foot per second**, and can be **counted down to a given depth** and then the retrieve started. Thanks much, Jack, for a great program. Thoroughness is your forte!

## **LUNKER HUNTER MEETING, AUGUST 7, 2014 ON SWIMBAITS**

Tom Moore talked about how he uses swimbaits. He has been quite successful using them recently. Shrink tubing on the hook shank and Superglue will help secure the plastic paddletail on the jig. They come in several jig sizes. He likes jigs up to ¼ ounce for crappies. A somewhat heavier weight is used for larger swimbaits to keep them near the bottom and continually swimming. He uses a ¾ ounce jighead a lot. A 30 pound Florocarbon leader helps prevent pike biteoffs. Use a steady retrieve for about 8-10 reel cranks, then stop to let it sink and insure it is near the bottom. Repeat. Tom feels that they are an effective lure because they have a single hook that rides up, are relatively inexpensive, and unhook easily from the fish. It is a slower and quieter presentation as apposed to a noisy crankbait or jump bait. Think depth and speed!