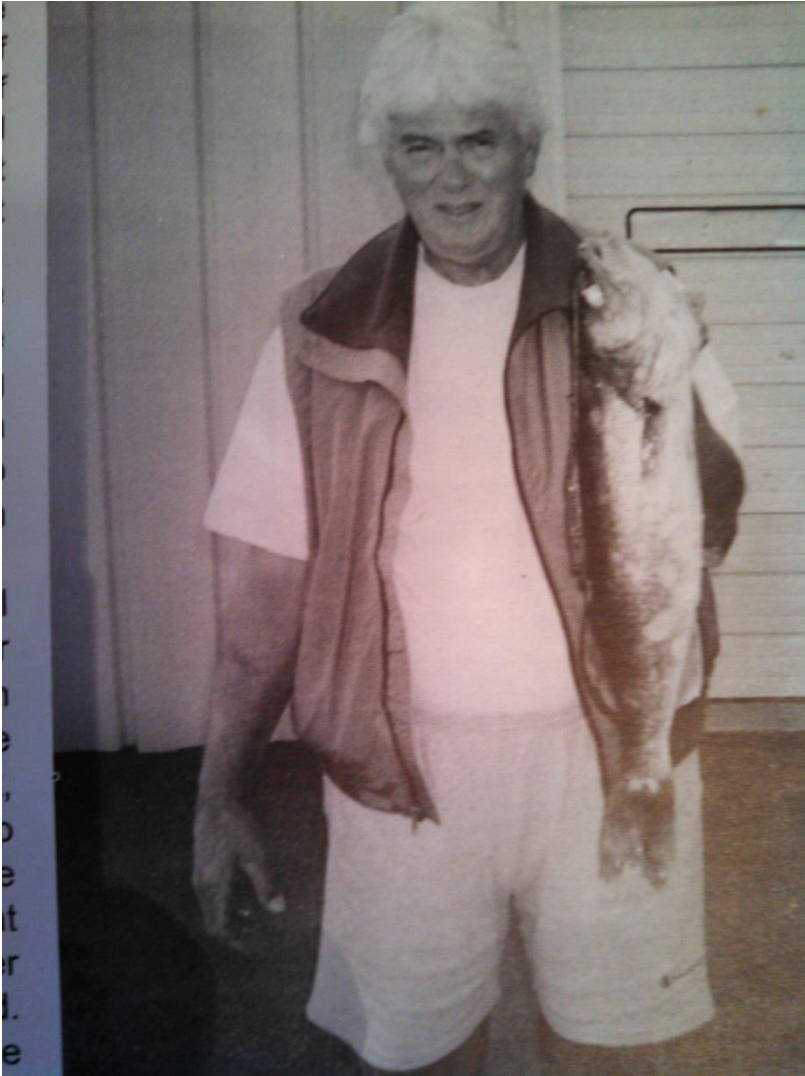


SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2003

“WALLEYE PROGRAM”



We **reviewed an article titled “Walleyes”** in “The National Spoonplugger” Nov.-Dec. 2003, **by Training Center director Terry O’Malley**. He emphasized that Spoonplugging will catch walleyes when we present our lures in a precise and orderly manner. Suspended fish are taken care of by following lure presentation guidelines and procedures. The walleye is noted as a **“slower” fish by nature** but the **speed** required to make a **larger walleye** strike a lure is **usually faster** than most fishermen anticipate. **Cold front weather and clear water usually indicate slower speeds** are needed, both casting and trolling, but **in dingy water and warm temperatures**, walleye are often caught on **very fast speeds**. Terry recommends **jump lures** that **“cast like a bullet and sink like a rock”** to give better depth and speed control. Jigs and jump spoons of **½ to ¾ ounce** are recommended as minimal to get good feel of

the bottom. Trailers on these can be pork or plastic. If live bait is used(very slow speed), it is recommended to put it on a hook with enough weight to get it down to where the fish are.

The **video clip** was **of John Zaborny speaking** at the 2000 Muskegon Spoonpluggers Network outing **about catching walleye**. John drew maps of islands and humps and indicated how he would present lures to find the fish. He **strongly emphasized the use of markers** to help in your trolling passes. He said to **work a structure thoroughly "by the book"---troll it all and if no fish, then fan cast it**. If still no fish, he isn't there! John catches numbers of good walleye in the Detroit River and uses a marker with a 2-3 pounds of weight to keep it in place in the heavy current. He feels that **bumping bottom with the lure is important to excite the fish into striking**. If his lure **loses action** while trolling, he **sets the hook right away!** Often walleye will hit a lure from behind and keep on swimming forward.

More material is available on walleye in Buck Perrys' book "Spoonplugging" and his 9 volume Study Guide. Knowledge about slight differences in behavior of walleye help us to fine tune the depths and speeds lures are presented as well as types of structures they use.

Chase Klinesteker