

LUNKER HUNTER SPOONPLUGGERS MEETING JULY 3, 2008

WHAT TO DO IF IT ISN'T WORKING



Charlie and a Muskegon Lake Channel Catfish

Charlie Myers titled his program “**What Do You Do---When What You Are Doing Isn’t Working?**”. Charlie has been **frustrated** with his **results** fishing Murry Lake for musky lately. I would offer that **he has learned very much—and continues to learn through his persistence**. He said that 2007 was his best fishing year ever, with salmon, muskie, and bass topping the list. This year he hopes to nail a “monster” muskie. **He made 3 points:**

- 1) First he recommends to not get discouraged. **Keep a positive mental attitude** and stay with it! The tough cases bring the most satisfaction when you succeed.
- 2) **Analyze what you are doing.** Are you in a rut using the same depth and speed you caught fish on before? Are you fishing memories? Did you check all speeds from dead zero to fast? Did you check all depths from right against the shoreline to the deepest water in the area? On good structure were depths checked for suspended fish?
- 3) When you're not succeeding, **humble yourself and ask for help!** Guys don't like to ask for help, but listen to others' advice with an open mind, no matter how they fish. **If they are catching fish and you are not, they're doing something right.** Their tools may be doing a better job checking depth and speed. **Find out what they are doing and adapt.**

Charlie gave **an example of a Canadian fishing trip** and how he **stuck to successful methods used a previous year but caught no fish using them this year.** The water was cooler, the lake level had changed, and most of the fish were caught by others at night on a very slow speed. Charlie didn't adapt or fish at night and **learned a good lesson on that trip.** He also mentioned about how he has **learned much from** being a member of the **Michigan Muskie Alliance.** By seeing their results at times when he wasn't catching fish and inquiring about how they presented lures, he learned much. Slow, shallow presentations and especially casting were approaches he noticed he wasn't using. Muskies can suspend, so checking higher in the water column makes sense. Staying away from the weedline and casting in is better for shallow fish, especially in the spring. **In conclusion,** Charlie said: **"If it ain't broke, don't fix it. If it is, ask for help and adapt!"** Thanks for a very informative program, Charlie. Next, we've got to work on your English!

Chase Klinesteker