

## GRAND RIVER FISHING REPORT, THE KEY WAS CASTING



**18-inch Smallmouth Bass caught on ½ ounce bladebait**

Fished the Grand River on Friday, October 19, 2018 with Dave Lester. We started out trolling slow crankbaits for Steelhead. Prospects looked slim as there was only one other fishing boat seen all day. The weather was good, the air about 50 degrees, a light breeze, and partly cloudy. Water color was about 3 feet and the water had dropped to a more normal level out of the trees. With no takers, we began trolling #400 and #250 Spoonplugs for smallmouth on river breaklines. Still no fish caught. Remembering our Spoonplugging guidelines that to fish thoroughly, one must always present lures both trolling and casting whenever possible, we proceeded to a deeper hole area, anchored, and began to cast jump lures. Using a ½ ounce bladebait, it was found that a sharp but short hop was needed to trigger a strike. Within an hour, 3 fish were caught from that spot: a 21-inch walleye, an 18-inch smallmouth, and a 27-inch northern pike, all on the bladebait. Other lures were tried including crankbaits, chatterbaits, spinners, Spoonplugs, and jigs, but they did not have the same depth and speed control.

Casting tools used were a baitcasting reel, medium-heavy action rod, and 20-pound braided line. This allowed for a smooth drag, solid hookset, and good feel of a fish taking the lure. A light action rod, spinning reel, and monofilament line were also tried with an identical bladebait, but no results. Buck Perry had always emphasized how important proper tools are for control of our lure presentation.

When things slowed casting, we tried another slow presentation by using a 3-way rig to troll against the current with a minnow type lure, but no results. It was felt that it was a tough fishing day and that we were lucky to get just 3 fish. They were decent sized, but the smaller fish were not moving. The lesson learned was that every fishing day is different. We cannot assume what depth, speed, or location will produce fish, and therefore each and every day we must have a plan of action or sequence based on knowledge about fish and their behavior. Spoonplugging guidelines give us that knowledge and plan.

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