

## FISHING REPORT RIDDLE



A Grand River Smallmouth Bass

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On 7/23/19, 2 Lunker Hunter Spoonpluggers fished the Grand River. 11 smallmouth bass to 15 inches were landed, plus 10 more fish were hooked but not landed. Both fishermen trolled same-sized and similar-colored Spoonplugs. All of the fish and hits were from trolling Spoonplugs, despite 3 times where thorough casting with a variety of lures from an anchored position was tried. One fisherman landed all of the fish and had most of the hits. Fisherman A was using a 4 1/2 foot stiff trolling rod with No-Bo line, and Fisherman B was using a stiff 7 1/2 foot trolling rod with braided line. Which fisherman caught all the fish? Since "all fishing successes and failures can be answered in terms of depth and speed control", what was most important? How? Could rod length, or line diameter have been a factor? What about lure action being affected by a more limber rod? Most fish were caught trolling downstream. How active were the fish? Why were no fish caught on the cast? Come to the meeting and help us solve this riddle! (Names withheld to protect the innocent!)

### THE ANSWER IS:

Fisherman A caught all the fish using a Buck Perry Spoonplug trolling rod. Depth was the most important factor because the trolling path was following a river breakline and, with current, depth control is a greater challenge. Fisherman B with a 3 foot longer rod

was more out of position as the boat followed the breakline. Fisherman B was using braided line, which gives feel, but is thinner than 17 pound NoBo monofilament that Fisherman A was using. It was noted that Fisherman B was continually trying to adjust his line length, indicating that depth control was not consistent. The thicker diameter of NoBo line is part of the system built into our Spoonplugging tools. Change water resistance of the line, and depth control is changed.

Speed control was the same for both fisherman, but it was noted that most fish were caught trolling downstream, which was approximately twice the ground speed of trolling upstream. Also, it was noted that the smallmouth bass, when brought into the boat, were extremely active, shaking, vibrating, and jumping all over the bottom of the boat. This indicated that speed control needed to be fast. That is likely why casting lures (a slower speed) did not produce. Although not as important as depth and speed, lure action may have been slightly different for Fisherman B. The 7 1/2 foot trolling rod loaded evenly along its' length and seemed to muffle the sharp action which was seen at the tip of the Spoonplug trolling rod.

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