

"2ND PLACE WALLEYE"



Lake Macatawa, Walleye Tournament

Don Stephens and myself were fortunate enough to **pick up 2 walleye** that took 2nd place in the **September 20th, 2003 West Michigan Walleye Club Tournament** on **Lake Macatawa**. **38 boats** participated but the **weather** conditions were very **tough**. **Clear sunny skies** and a **15 degree drop in temperature** can really cause fish to become inactive. We would like to compliment the winners who had a beautiful 7.5 pound walleye. Their persistence and tenacity on a good structure really paid off. **Only 3 walleye were caught during the entire tournament.**

About **1:00PM** Don hooked and landed a **12 pound 33 inch salmon** on a **nightcrawler** and spinner 3-way rig **while** we were **trolling** slowly with crankbaits(9-12 ft. **Spoonplugs**). Further down the breakline was an **inside turn** or slot structure which **broke at about 12 feet**. A rifle sighting had been established pre-fishing 2 days before where a 4 pound walleye was taken trolling crankbaits about 5 mph at the same depth. It was decided to **vertical jig the area** to check the slower speeds more thoroughly. Using the light wind to help, we moved off and on the structure **from 12 to 18 feet while vertically jiggling a 3\4 ounce blade bait** similar to a "Silver Buddie". A vigorous **3-4 foot jump** was used on a stiff baitcasting rod with 10 pound visible mono. A small piece of white cloth was put on each treble to help the fish find the hooks. That does not relate to any secret or scientific study, only that I have confidence in using it. **2 walleye**

were hooked and landed in a short period of time. After that a 16 pound carp and a small drum were landed. **Then the movement period was over.** From the **time the salmon was hooked until the last fish caught was probably less than ¾ of an hour.** Except for a 20 pound foul hooked carp about 11:00AM, **we caught no other fish all day,** and we had covered a lot of water both casting and trolling. We were **lucky to be "at the right place, at the right time, fishing in the right manner"**. Interestingly, **the winning fish was caught around the same time of day** as were our fish. Buck Perry has stated that **"when fish become active and move, ALL the fish move, some more than others"**.

Buck Perrys' Spoonplugging Guidelines for structure fishing **were key in helping us to pinpoint the fish** and understand their behavior. Anyone interested in his concepts can check out his website at: **buckperry.com.**

Lake Macatawa offers a real challenge to walleye fishermen, yet at times some very nice catches can be made. It is close by and often fished by many WMWC members. One can't control the weather, but **we can continue to learn more about Lake Macs' bottom structure each time we fish it.**

Chase Klinesteker