

# GRAND RIVER FISHING REPORT 11/18/06



2 nice smallmouth bass from the Grand River

The **Grand River** is a **great fishery close to home** that goes largely **untapped**. Roger Bouwkamp and Chase Klinesteker decided to take advantage of the **cloudy, stable, and calm weather present**. Often one encounters snow, rain, wind, and bitter cold when fishing this time of year (**mid November**). Although temperatures were between 35 and 40 degrees, the **wind was only about 5 mph**, and by dressing warmly, **we were very comfortable**. **Roger had not fished the Grand River for steelhead before** and was eager to learn about this new fishing opportunity.

We **arrived** at the ramp about **7:00AM** and the first thing noticed was the **very high water and heavy current**. Water covered the dock and was estimated to be **5 feet over the normal summer levels**. Fishing for **steelhead** can be **spotty** because **groups of fish move** through an area **at different times** and water levels affect their position. **Trolling crankbaits** was **difficult** because of the **heavy current**, and after **3 hours of trolling** areas that had produced steelhead in the past, **no fish** were caught.

**Spoonpluggers** are fortunate because our **procedures** are designed for and **effective on all species of fish**. It was decided to **cast mapped structure areas** from an anchored position. **Slack water areas** were **concentrated on** as the fish would be trying to avoid the swift current. Little was caught on the first two structures but the third area, which had the most slack water, produced some good fish. **Jump lures** were used for casting, in this case  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  **ounce blade baits**. **Casts** were made **upstream, cross stream and downstream** using very **short hops** and letting the current move the lure. 17 to 20 pound visible line on baitcasting equipment was used for better control of the lure.

The **results** were gratifying and included a **variety of species**. All **disappointment** from not catching a steelhead **seemed to fade!** **5 smallmouth bass** with the 2 largest 17 and 19 inches, **4 flathead catfish** including 8, 12, and 18 pounders, a **27 inch pike**, and a **10 pound carp** all were caught. **By 1:00PM we were off the water** and headed home to enjoy (in this case, cry over) the Michigan-Ohio State football game!

Chase Klinesteker