



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held May 21, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library with 15 members and guests present. We welcomed new prospective member, Jeff Gill of Churbusco.

Everyone agreed that the lakes are “gin” clear. Any algae bloom that had begun to develop was hammered with the cold weather in May. Algae blooms should begin to develop in short order due to the rapid increase in temperature.

(Warning-rant ahead) Denny reported that many lakes are being sprayed for weeds which is also a negative factor for our fishing. If not applied under optimum conditions (optimum for fish survival..not the weeds) wind and wave action can force the herbicide, usually floridone (Sonar) or diquat (Reward) into deeper water where it can have devastating effects on fish populations. It is thought that the decomposing weeds rapidly decreases the oxygen levels and the fish literally suffocate. But, whatever the cause, numerous Spoonpluggers have witnessed fish kills over the years following such chemical weed control efforts. And, even if no kill occurs, it will definitely put the fish “off their feed”. When the fish kill happens in deeper waters, often the fish air bladders are deflated and so the fish don’t float to the top leading everyone to believe there is no problem.

Permits to control aquatic vegetation are issued by Indiana DNR and there are rules and regulations to follow including using licensed operators. However, my understanding is that those operators are free to hire anyone they desire to do the actual spraying (supervised, of course...*wink* *wink*) and I seriously doubt that any attention is paid to weather and

water conditions on the scheduled date of application. I also doubt any serious follow up inspections are done by the DNR following the application....unless someone reports a problem. And what if there is a problem? I’ve never heard of an operator getting their license suspended following a fish kill. I suspect it would be difficult to determine the actual cause of the kill let alone prove that certain operators were directly responsible.

Fortunately serious fish kills are relatively rare (I think!) OK, rant over.

Denny reported 29 muskies so far this year. But the weather conditions have had many him and many members fishing for bluegills during the past month. Denny also reported that June is THE month for northerns. The bass are off the beds and many are still in the weeds near their spawning areas. All depths and speeds need to be checked, but don’t pass up the holes in the weeds at this time of year. They will soon be mostly abandoned as the water warms to deeper depths. Once water conditions are better in the deeper water, fish MAY move to those deeper breaklines.

Denny and John gave a brief rundown on breaklines, how to detect them and why they are the key to finding fish. If you are having trouble finding breaklines....and many can be quite subtle, you can use the approach of going down the dropoff a few feet at a time. The fish will tell you when you’ve reached to correct depth!

NEXT MEETING: June 18, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”

I haven't put this in a newsletter in a while so this is a re-run of a piece from an old newsletter. This is a 10 minute project to have made up (and probably improved upon) that could save you a lot of time, pain, and emergency room bill:

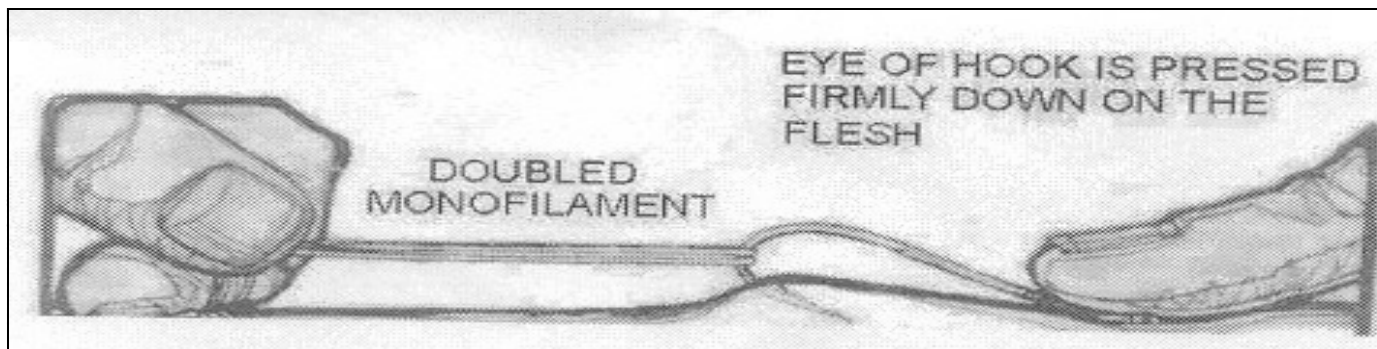
Sooner or later nearly every fisherman becomes a victim of his own or a fishing partner's hook. A fishing trip can be ruined by a wild cast and most methods I've heard concerning hook removal don't sound that feasible. Like poking the hook on through and cutting off the barb, etc. Might want to carry a bullet to bite on if you try that one.

But, according to several sources within our own club, this is a method that works in a lot of cases. It is nearly painless and has actually been taught in a lot of emergency rooms around the country.

All you need is a piece of strong cord (No-Bo will work fine). Loop the line or cord around the embedded hook. Then press down the eye-end of the hook (for treble hooks it's best to cut off the exposed hooks to make that end as long and easy to press on as possible...and to prevent yet another injury when the hook comes out.) Pressing downward on the eye-end should make the embedded hook arch upward. If you're working with a buddy, that part would be a good job for him. This leaves you with both hands to do the next step which is to give the line or cord a good, sharp, crisp YANK. The hook pops out painlessly because the barb is prevented from grabbing meat as it exits. It's actually rolling out at an angle that keeps the barb from grabbing onto anything! I've used this method once on Duane Grate and it worked splendidly as it has for several others in our club recently.

It should be noted that while this method works in many instances, it won't work in each and every case. A hook embedded in the face, for instance, may require a professional touch. As your mother used to say: "You could put an eye out!".

So as a good insurance policy, rig up a cord or line with finger loops for ease of use, a little antiseptic, a couple of band aids, put it all in a zip-lock to tuck in a prominent place in your tackle box (not buried) and you'll be all set for when (not if) you need it.



**Come and have fun at the 21st Annual
MUSKEGON OUTING
For SPOONPLUGGERS (and others interested)
JULY 11-15, 2012
AT FISHERMANS' LANDING CAMPGROUND
ON MUSKEGON LAKE
SOME CAMPSITES STILL AVAILABLE, SO CALL DEB SOON AT
231-726-6100 FOR RESERVATIONS**

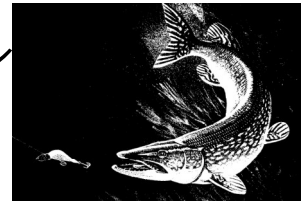
- Nightly fishing reports and chalkboard structure study
 - Hospitality tent with coffee, lake maps, orange drink, etc.
 - Delicious Saturday night meal at 6PM coordinated by the famous "Dordan Duo" of Mike and Nyann
 - Terry Velting and his "Rolling Store" of Spoonplugging equip.
 - Great fishing on many local lakes, rivers, and Lake Michigan
 - Friday night seminar on "Spoonplugging For Perch" by Chase
- If any questions, call 616-949-8665 or E-Mail ckspoonpl1@aol.com

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



We are approaching the early summer fishing and some of the best fishing of the year can be had. Right now we are a little early for the absolute best. The algae bloom is just starting to happen but just as soon as the lakes begin to turn green, it is hammer time for the biggest northern of the season. Musky too. The bass are on the outside weedlines now. It took several weeks for them to show up but they are being caught along with the northern. Remember this..... The better the water color, the easier the fishing, the shallower the fish will come and the longer they will stay. Seems like we may have mentioned something about water color on the last newsletter. Maybe it's important enough to mention all the time. This way, we will not put it too far out of our minds. By now, you should know how important water color is to our success. Last weekend, I went to Hamilton Lake and was reminded just how much fun it is to catch a bunch of northerns on the troll. I was also reminded how many speed boaters that are out there and that some of them are completely unaware of the word "respect." We did have a gun with us at the time, but felt that it would be a waste of a good bullet and it may not be legal to take the law in our own hands. Sure wanted to express myself to a few but remained silent.

Keep in mind that in the lakes that have been sprayed with poisons to kill the weeds, may have weedlines that are very different in different sections of the lake. From tall and deep to totally gone. So don't make any conclusions until you have fished all around the lake.

Get your Spoonplugs out and get to work because the fish have been very easy to catch and it is time to make hay!!!!!!!!!!

Good Spoonplugging
John Bales

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



“The more I learn, the more I see there is to learn.” E. L. “Buck” Perry

BUCK SEZ:

“Will different species of fish use the different type structures, breaks, breaklines, etc., found in a lake? Or is the bass the only fish that will use all these different types?”

As I have said before, ALL species of fish will react to the bottom features (structure, breaks, breaklines, deep water, etc.) found in bodies of water. In some bodies of water, certain type structure will be more predominant than others. In some bodies of water the different species may use a particular type structure over another type. In some bodies of water all the species could use all the type structure, breaks, and breaklines present.

In some bodies of water the different species may be “using” a different type structure at a particular time. By this, I mean at a particular time the best bass structure may be a “bar” with a tall weedline, while at the same time a deep underwater bar (or hump) may be the best place to find walleye. While at the same time, a deep breakline is the best place for big northern or muskie. In other bodies of water all the species could be using the same type structure, breaks, or breaklines, at the same time.

When we consider migrating fish such as the walleye, white bass, stripers, etc., they will react to the same features of the bottom—in the area where they might be.

* * * * *

“Why do you say fish pause or stop at “breaks” in the structure?”

Here again, I make this statement through observation, experience, and logic. I have no definite scientific proof why this is so (neither do I need it). But, if I were approaching a “danger zone” (shallower water) or an area that might mean unpleasantness, I’d want to “case the joint” a little, and I’d move from “break” to break.” I would pick out a vantage point ahead, and I’d go until I reached that point. Then I’d pause again until I spotted another vantage point, and move on to that. If things seemed to be getting too bad for me at the next point, then I wouldn’t get any closer.

You still may have grounds for another “why”—even though you would do the same thing. We know fish can adapt to changes in his environment. We also know that this is not instantaneous; it takes a little time. If a big change comes too fast, the shock could kill him. This indicates to us the **pauses** give time for adjustments to be made. As he moves shallower, there is a pressure change, temperature change, light change, oxygen change, etc. He might even have to pause or stop for “resting” from exertions that might have occurred during the migration.

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“You indicated that a ‘sharper break’ would be one of the best ‘contact points.’ If I had a structure such as a big wide bar, or a big long hump, should I concentrate my efforts primarily on any ‘sharper break’ that I find?”

I said at some place in our studies, I was going to repeat important subjects until I sounded like a broken record. The “sharper break” is such a subject.

To make a “sharper break” important to a structure, it must have two very important things. First, **it must break into deeper water**, preferably the “deepest.” The next ingredient is the **depth with which it starts to break** (breakline) into deep water. If it breaks as shallow as 8 or 9 feet (or shallower), it may not be as good as **other spots on the structure**. If this **shallow sharper break** is the only “break” around, then you shouldn’t expect many **good** migrations up on the structure very often.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”