



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held January 20, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library with 14 members present.

Denny reported that several members as well as other ice fishermen had been catching lots of smaller bluegills but not many in the quality range. At first ice, everyone slaughtered the big bluegills so now there are few of the bigger ones to be had.

Denny also said that presently in Indiana there is no limit on the number of bluegills that can be taken and he and others have witnessed excessive amounts of bluegills taken by some fishermen. But those regulations may soon change that limit to 25. At least this is the proposal being considered.

As of the meeting date there was 10-12 inches of ice on area lakes. That certainly hasn't diminished with the colder than normal temperatures being experienced.

There was also a short discussion of weed spraying of area lakes and the detrimental effects on our fishing successes. So I need to get out my soapbox yet again:

OK, we're all sympathetic to the elimination and prevention of invasive species of weeds (as well as invasive fish species) however in the past few years, the applications of various aquatic herbicides and algicides have gone from a single application in the spring to several applications per lake throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Supposedly, the multiple applications better target certain weeds making the weed herbicides more effective.

As such, each time there is a treatment, we experience weeks of below normal catches.

Each application for the treatment of weeds and the use of such chemicals must be approved and permits issued by Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Permits require such things as an assessment of the treatment areas, names of chemicals to be used, risk assessments, maintenance of records, etc. All good things to have documented. However, in researching the permit procedures, I note that under the regulations (IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-9-10)

Section C (2) states the following:

"The proposed treatment will not result in any of the following:

(A) A hazard to humans, animals, or other non-target organisms." (among other things).

So how are we to be assured that this part of the permit process is being upheld? Here's how:

"This permit also requires permittees to monitor for, identify and report adverse incidents."

Hmmm...does anyone else see any problems with the fox being in charge of the henhouse?

My question is: Does the IDNR ever do follow up monitoring following treatment as a safeguard? I can find no studies indicating such. Rant over...for now.

Note the next meeting will be the **4TH MONDAY IN FEBRUARY (24TH)** due to President's day holiday closing of the library. Also, we will be in **Meeting Room 4** for the next few months.

NEXT MEETING: February 24, 2014 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

OUTINGS FOR 2014

Illinois Spoonpluggers 12th Annual Winter Seminar

Saturday March 29, 2014

@Cabela's

5225 Prairie Stone Parkway

Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

2nd Floor Seminar Room

Contact Brett Christianson (312) 952-2196

bchristianson@marquetteassociates.com

Leoni Spoonpluggers Jackson, MI

5441 E. Michigan Ave.

Jackson, MI. 49201

June 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2014

Contact John Zaborny (517) 414-3596

jszaborny@yahoo.com

Muskegon Outing Muskegon, Michigan

Fisherman's Landing Campground

July 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 2014

Contact: Chase Klinesteker (616) 949-8665

Ckspoon11@aol.com

Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers

"Buck Sez" Outing

Columbia City, Indiana

Forest Ridge Campground (NW of Columbia City)

5000 N. Elder Rd

Larwill, IN 46764

August 13, 14, 15, 16, 2014

Contact: John Bales (260) 854-3921

johnb@embarqmail.com

or

Denny Coulardot (260) 691-3118

Buck Perry Memorial Outing

Taylorsville, NC

October 11, 2014

Contact: Terry O'Malley (828) 855-0746

Jeri Perry (828) 632-8058

buckperry90@gmail.com

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



First of all, I am sick of Mother Nature and the beat down she is putting on us this winter. Congratulations to Jim Shell and his new fishing show that is being aired on Comcast Cable. Anyone who puts in the effort to keep Spoonplugging alive is a plus to our group. I am constantly reminded when watching fishing shows that the Spoonpluggers are the only group of fishermen in the world that has any kind of set-in-stone guidelines.

Even with all of Mr. Perry's knowledge that is available in his writings, without a considerable amount of effort on the fisherman's part, success can still be less than desired.

Jim Shell shared with me a "day on the water with Jerry Borst". Their goal was to fish Kinkaid Reservoir for the musky and get enough fish to do a show. Their timing was on purpose to get there before a major front was to pass through. They had two days to do this before nasty weather would not allow them to film. On the first day, they were on the water early and started making their trolling passes in the best areas. Not a single hit or fish by noon. Nothing all day long while making their trolling passes in wait for the fish to become active. They were constantly checking out their depths and speeds all day long while waiting for it to happen. At the end of the first day on the water during the last 45 minutes of daylight produced 5 nice musky. The second day on the water their thoughts were that since the musky got active the last part of the day on the first day that they would be moving twice a day and they might get a few early. That didn't happen. Not a single fish was taken for two days in a row for the first part of the day. Nothing by noon. Nothing by 4 pm. This was their last day to film. Again, the last 45 minutes of daylight produced the same amount of fish and the action was fast and furious. For two days in a row, trolling passes were made on many of the spots; over and over this was repeated, waiting for the fish to get active. Nine hours each day without a single hit working and working the same few spots over and over.

I have one question! Would you and I have stayed for that last 45 minutes of daylight and be there with the same effort that was put in for the rest of the day? Or would the boat be on the trailer headed for home?

I'll give Jerry Borst the credit for not only sticking it out so that Jim Shell could get enough fish for a show but Jerry fishes with this kind of effort all of the time. It is this kind of effort that really separates the men from the boys. This is why he can show great pictures of his big musky and other species that he is noted for catching. This is why Jerry is a great Spoonplugger, period!!!!

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:

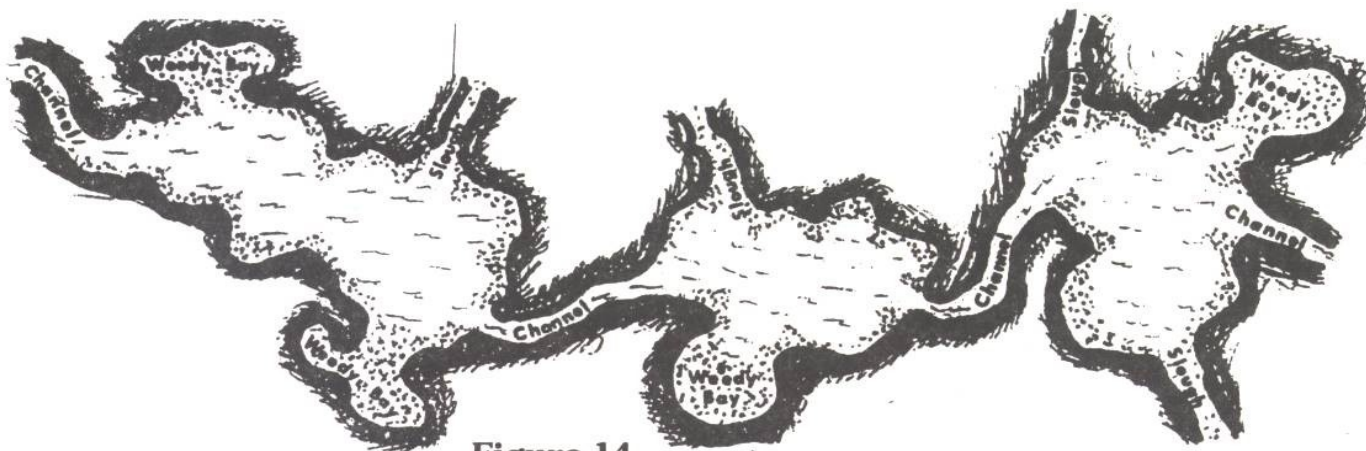


Figure 14

When viewing northern pike from a seasonal standpoint, there are things worthy of note. The pre-spawning or spawning period will find northern in the weedy bays and sloughs. Figure 14 shows a “chain” or series of lakes. The weedy bays and sloughs are noted. The northern will spawn earlier than most fish in the lake. **After spawning, the main structures and breaklines in the lake would be worked as with any other species.**

Another thought concerning northern in a series of lakes such as this is their apparent mass movement from one lake to another during the warmer part of the season. Large concentrations of big northern may show up in a lake during a certain period and fishing can be terrific for a week or more. Then the action slows in this particular lake, and the fish start showing up in the lake above, and later on in the lake above that one, and so on. When in a given area, these fish will use the structures present. Apparently, they make the return journey—as the next season, the movements starts all over again in the same lake at approximately the same period.

Fishermen who fish primarily for this species, and who fish water of this nature (Lake chain) would be wise to study this yearly migration fully. A definite pattern of date periods may not be possible, as the migration would be controlled by the weather and water conditions that exist, and very few years would be the same. But a good enough pattern could be secured to keep the fisherman in the most likely spots.

Many fishermen consider the northern pike a cold water fish. This is true, to a certain extent, as he is active in colder water, often being the target of the “ice fisherman.” But, it would be well to note, the best action occurs during the hottest periods of the year. Casting for northern can be effective, especially when they are in the shallows. But, to consistently catch BIG northern in numbers, trolling the deeper weedlines, breaklines, and drop-offs with appropriate lures is the way to go for most of the season.

When thinking of muskie, we change our view very little from that of the northern. Except in certain reservoirs, the shallower headwater sections will be prime spawning areas. After the water warms, they move back to the deeper sections. In the case of muskie, his deepwater sanctuary may be much deeper—and as he gets larger, he becomes more reluctant to move to shallow waters. His migration will be shorter and for less time. Where bass may have their “shallow” deepwater sanctuary, in 30-35 feet of water, muskie at the same time may have his at 45-55 feet if available. Big muskie are very reluctant to move shallow except during spawning period. After spawning, big muskie in the shallows become few and far between. If a particular lake had several deep holes with different depths, the muskie fisherman should concentrate his efforts around the deepest one for most of the season. Here again, lures trolled at deep breaklines will shoot to pieces the myth that muskies are difficult to catch.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”