



Northern Illinois Spoonpluggers

Next meeting will be held on June 12th 2012!

Meetings will be held at the VFW in McHenry (3002 w IL Rt 120) the 2nd Tuesday of every month 7:30pm - 9:00pm. April -November.

Remember: Your photos and stories fuel this newsletter! If any members know of any potential spoonpluggers that might be interested in joining, invite them to a meeting. Remember, the more new members the better the education!

Please send fish pictures and stories to william.spoonplugger.lorch@gmail.com



Mike Goessele and son, Hunter, were out on Lake Michigan one day in May during a pre-frontal weather condition and caught the king and coho salmon pictured above. They launched out of north point and were on the water, set-up by 5:30AM and trolling in 85 feet of water. Headed southeast on the troll, they picked up 2 kings before the 3rd rod was set. They had nasty storms approaching from the west along the state line. It was the most amazing lighting show they had ever seen. Lightning struck about a mile from the boat. Water actually exploded from the impact of the lightning hitting the water. A metal boat on water was probably not a good combination but it was a risk he was willing to take to get fish in the boat. The winds picked up to about 30 knots from the west and the waves were about 3 ft. after the worst of the storm passed them to the east. The winds shifted out of the east, and there were 4-5ft white caps. They picked up a triple, all were cohos. The winds shifted out of the south for about an hour and the lake calmed down. They decided to head out to deeper water and set-up in 160ft and trolled south west; good choice. As soon as the lines were set it was a Chinese fire drill and they finished the day with the 2 man limit. The day finished with 2 kings, and 8 cohos. They even had a little friend that stayed with them for most of the day, it was a bird called a palm warbler. It must have wanted to take a rest from migrating from the south. Mike was always told a bird on a boat is good luck and that day it was. Fish were caught on a mix of everything, planer boards, lead core line with Kevorkian spoons, a green dolphin on the other board, down riggers set between 30 and 60ft with Brad's gold and silver thin fish, an orange dodger with a green fly, an orange dodger with a coho killer fly, a green dodger with green fly, and a SWR with a white dodger and a silver fly. If you don't know what a SWR is, its called a "secret weapon rig". You use one color of lead core which is 10 yards then you tie a 30 inch leader to it and whatever lure you are going to use and set it on your deepest down rigger. The reason for this is that the lead core will make your lure run about 2-3 feet below your ball and you can tip the bottom with your lure without dragging your ball. **Thank you for the story and rigging tip, Mike!**

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WEATHER AND WATER

In our past study, we have stressed the importance of fish movement, and the importance of the areas in which they move. In all the study, words keep creeping in about the weather and water conditions, and the part they played in the movements of the fish. The fishing fact is, the weather and water conditions **will be the final judge just how well you and I do**. It will determine if fishing will be easy or hard. It will determine just how successful you will be on any given trip. There is very little you and I can do about the weather and the water conditions. But, if we understand the effect different weather and water conditions have upon the fish, then we are more able to cope with the situations as they arise. It is in this area that our knowledge of fish movements, structure, breaklines, breaks, etc., come into the picture so that we can offset as much as possible the ill effects of weather and water conditions. It is through this knowledge we are able to become better at the game, and have success when other fishermen fail.

The study of weather and water is very broad, but for our study, we will boil it down to as small a point as possible. We will continue to talk about our study fish, the bass, as his **Violent** reactions to weather and water conditions gives us a guide for the other species. **When called for**, we will note the slight differences that might occur in different species.

As stated before, fish adapt to their environment in many ways. They have highly developed senses such as hearing, feeling, sight, smell, taste, etc. All of these senses, body functions and instincts, were developed for his survival in his environment. AND, this environment is controlled by the weather and water conditions. If we know his reactions to weather and water conditions, then this should give us a pretty good idea of what he does, and how he does it, and where he does it. This in turn will give us the knowledge to go about our fishing in a sane intelligent manner to cope with all the changing weather and water conditions. The total reason for this study is for you and me to fish at the right place, at the right time, and in the right manner. Weather and water conditions will determine what these are.

You can become the best caster or troller, you can buy the most elaborate equipment and aids available, but in the final analysis, the weather and water conditions will determine just how well you do. If you do not consider the weather and water conditions as to **where** you fish, **when** you fish, or **how** you fish, your pickings are going to be slim the majority of the time.

Here again, I want to stress that you keep your mind on the subject matter at hand. This is especially true about presentation of lures. We will mention the subject, or I should say mention "fishing," but at this time we do not pursue the point. We will deal with **fishing facts**, not with some scientific fact about body functions, or the fish's degree of adaptation to changes in his environment, nor the rate at which it occurs. We will not deal, at this time, to what degree all his senses play a part. Suffice to say, **his adjustment to a changing environment is not too fast, and this has a lot to do with his reactions to a change in weather and water conditions.**

However, in the study of **water**, it becomes necessary to go into the "why" a little deeper than we would on most subjects. As fishermen we are concerned with **both** weather and water conditions, but there is little we can do about the weather, except pray it will be good. But by knowing the most we can about water and how it will affect the fish (and in turn affect our success), we can to a great degree offset the ill effects that may result from changing weather conditions.

Buck Perry Home Study Series

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