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Instructor: 25 yrs. exp. Driver Ed. Teacher

*Learn to Drive*

**Only Reply**  
While resting in bed late one morning, the harried husband was greeted with the familiar call: "Stew, hurry, I heard a mouse squeak." Well, answered Stew, "what do you want me to do, get up and oil it?"

**Remove Mold**  
If mold appears on Cheddar cheese you are storing, you can safely scrape off the mold and enjoy the rest of the cheese.

## The Outdoors

by Jim Losurdo



More about the walleye, lure experiments, and the Oswego River.

Thanks to the low water level this past week, we were able to complete the final stages of our lure experiments.

The top lures were, the 1/3 oz. silver cleo spoon 1/4 oz. red and white spoon and the 1/4 oz. Johnson Sprite. A total of six walleyes were caught, the average weight was 3 1/2 pounds. Several small bass were taken that same day using the same lures.

After many days on the river and several lure changes, I have come to the final conclusion that there is only one true way to river fish, that is drifting. I would like to give you a summary, and some facts that helped me come to that decision.

Let's take one species of fish at a time: First the walleye. No matter what bait was used, the technique had to remain the same. The bait must be at all times, (during daylight hours) kept down on bottom, and it had to be moved naturally along the rocks and bottom structure. In order to give the bait or lure the right movement, the current must be flowing slow, or at a medium pace. During night time feeding activities a surface lure, such as the floating Rapula, weighted with a medium size split shot sinker can be effectively used to take walleyes. The Rapula lure is fished about 1 to 2 feet below the surface and reeled at a slow pace. To my knowledge, night time is the only time RIVER walleyes can be caught on or just below the surface. So, know matter what your personal choice is for walleye bait, if you fish moving water during daylight hours, the bait must be kept on bottom.

Another interesting observation, the larger walleyes were more readily caught just before or after dark. One thing that still puzzles this author is the fact that most of the walleyes were caught in less than 4 feet of water, as a matter of fact most of them were taken at the 3 foot level, both day and night!! The deepest water fished during the entire experiment was 10 feet. Too sum it all up, if you want to catch RIVER walleyes, go to the bottom, go fairly slow, drift, and go, go, go!!!

RIVER smallmouth and largemouth bass were a completely different animal. During their spawning run, which by the way was considerably later than the bass below the lower dam, seemed more than willing to hit jigs. Yellow and brown were tops, but the purple worm took its share of larger bass.

As the days progressed nothing could top the 1/3 oz. silver cleo spoon. At the present time they are feeding mostly on worms. An excessive amount of bait fish were present throughout the entire experiment, making it difficult to pin point one or two consistent bass takers. At first the bass were more apt to be bottom feeding, but after the water warmed they suspended just off bottom. The boat was anchored in one spot and a casting and reeling system worked best. Drifting, only produced a few small bass, casting from a stationary position just outside the weedline, was at the top of the list for consistency, for taking larger bass.

Weedlines are excellent cover for bass mostly largemouth, but for a reason I will explain, smallmouths very often use these same areas. If you can remember back a couple of weeks ago in this column, I mentioned that while cruising the river we spotted a school of minnows jumping out of the water. Well, smallmouth bass love minnows as do their cousins, the largemouth.

Some fish lay their eggs in the weeds and weedlines, some make a nest, others just spawn at random. After these eggs hatch the fry's begin a struggle for survival. Game fish of all kinds are attracted to these areas, and they have only one thing on their minds, a fish fry. That is one reason the smallies were present in the weeds. Many times bass and other game fish will seek the weed beds as a means of survival. When water temperature hits a high, the oxygen depletes, therefore in order to breath, fish will seek a spot containing more oxygen. Weeds contain chlorophyll which gives off oxygen. River bass can be found in the weeds throughout most of the summer, also in pools and eddys. A large variety of baits will catch bass, as opposed to walleyes.

con't.

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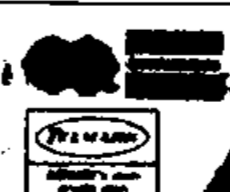
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