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Chairman of the Boards BRUCE DESHANO  
COO NICK DESHANO  
Editor MARK ROMANACK

Volume 30, 2023



# The OFFSHORE RELEASE

Your Leader In Trolling Technology [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)



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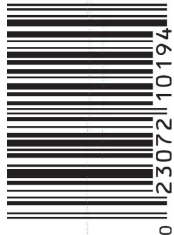


Mark Romanack, Editor of the Off Shore Release caught this beautiful black crappie trolling jigs in combination with the OR38 Awesome Crappie Board on the St. John's River system in central Florida.

**Tips and Techniques brought to you by  
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Off Shore Tackle LLC.**



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This father and son duo, Bruce and Nick DeShano, are the force behind Off Shore Tackle LLC. They cherish the days that they can fit in time to spend together on the water.

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# HOW THE TADPOLE DIVER REVOLUTIONIZED TROLLING

BY MARK ROMANACK

Off Shore Tackle’s OR36 series Tadpole Divers have in many ways revolutionized how anglers troll live bait rigs for walleye. Designed to achieve greater depths on shorter lead lengths than traditional in-line weights, the Tadpole features a simple, but functional design that works flawlessly every time.

The shape of the Tadpole creates a diving lip with a molded in tow arm at the front. A supplied coast lock snap attaches to the tow arm and also to the line coming from the fishing rod. At the back of the Tadpole a skinny tail provides a place to attach harnesses using a second provided snap.

It’s recommended to add a barrel swivel or a snap swivel at the tail to mitigate problems with line twist on harnesses. The ideal harness length for fishing with Tadpole Divers is 48 to 72 inches.

### SETTING THE TADPOLE DIVER

When setting a Tadpole Diver with a spinner rig, place the Tadpole in the water and lower the rod tip to provide a little slack line. The snap on the tow arm will slide into the elbow position, causing the Tadpole Diver to engage in the diving position. Next, simply play out the desired amount of trolling lead. The



Off Shore’s OR36 series Tadpole Divers work great for pulling small crankbaits, jigs and spinner rigs for open water crappie trolling. Dale Voice caught this slab on the St. John’s River in north central Florida.

Tadpole Diver can be fished as a flat line or married up to planer boards to cover more water.

### HOOKING UP

When a fish is hooked trolling the Tadpole Diver, the resistance of the fighting fish will cause the snap on the tow arm to slide to the forward position. In this position the Tadpole is converted from a diver to an in-line weight, making it easy to reel hooked fish without having to fight the resistance of the diver.

### TADPOLE SIZES

The OR36 Tadpole Diver comes in four sizes including a No. 1, 2, 3 and a Magnum size.

The No. 1 and No. 2 are popular choices for anglers who troll for suspended walleye at 10-25 foot depths. The No. 3 is handy for reaching deeper walleye using the 25-40 foot depth zones. The Magnum Tadpole comes into play when targeting fish using 40-55 feet of water.

The respective Dive Curves for all four sizes of the Tadpole Diver are available on the Precision Trolling Data trolling app, including popular lead lengths and trolling speeds.

### WHAT ELSE CAN THE TADPOLE DO?

The Tadpole is very popular with walleye anglers who troll



using crawler harnesses or spinner rigs. Tadpole Divers are also useful for trolling small to medium sized spoons for walleye, brown trout, coho and kokanee. For spoon trolling a fluorocarbon leader about 60-72 inches long is ideal.

The larger sizes of the Tadpole Divers can also be used to troll salmon gear such as rotators and meat rigs, rotators and trolling flies, cowbell rigs and also rotators and cut plugs. Literally all the common salmon trolling gear can be teamed up with the No. 3 and Magnum sizes of the Tadpole Diver.

### SUMMING IT UP

The Tadpole Diver is a great tool for targeting a wealth of species with lots of common trolling gear. Unlike other divers that force anglers to fight the diver when a fish is hooked, Off Shore Tackle’s OR36 Tadpole’s put the fun back into trolling at depth.

## OFF SHORE TACKLE, MADE IN THE USA



Off Shore Tackle has been proudly producing their products in the USA from the beginning. At OST, we believe there is no substitute for American engineering and labor. We are proud that our products help American families put bread on the table. New for 2023 many of Off Shore Tackle’s most popular line releases will be stamped with the Off Shore Tackle sunburst logo and also a Made in the USA insignia to help our customers confirm that they are purchasing genuine products produced by Off Shore Tackle. When shopping for trolling gear, insist on the best. Insist on American made Off Shore Tackle products.

## DON'T BE FOOLED

We are “Often Imitated,  
Never Duplicated”.  
Make sure that when you purchase your products that they are Original Off Shore Tackle products that have proven to be successful and dependable! We take pride in bringing you the BEST quality!





# FISHING IN-LINE PLANER BOARDS

## USING THE LOOP TRICK

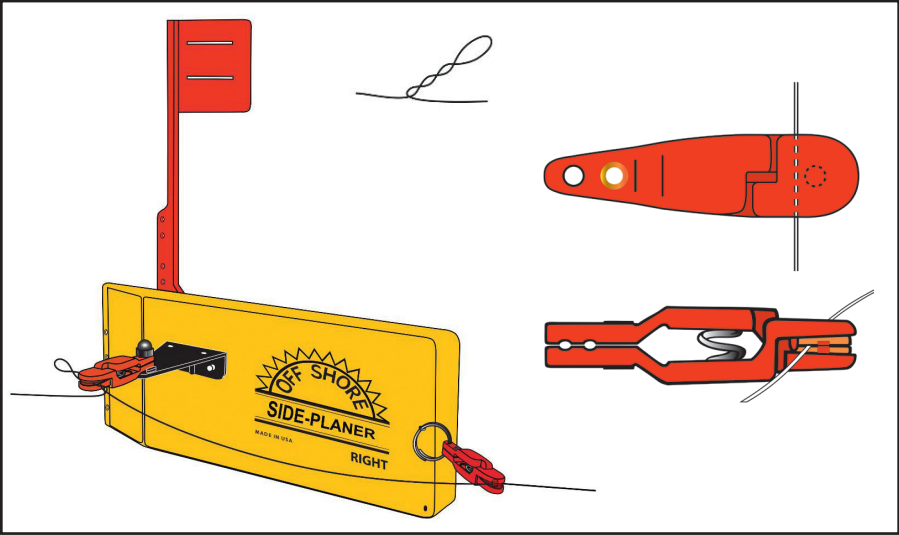
BY MARK ROMANACK

The OR12 Side Planer popularized the use of in-line planer boards when it was introduced more than two decades ago. More recently, an in-line board rigging method has changed the face of planer board fishing forever.

### THE LOOP TRICK

A simple rigging method known as the “loop trick” is helping anglers fish multiple planer boards on each side of the boat, while at the same time making it possible to fight hooked fish without having to clear other lines. This magic is made possible thanks to line release and a line clip that come standard on the OR12 Side Planer. **In other words, using the “loop trick” doesn’t require purchasing any after market line releases or clips.**

The “loop trick” starts by spooling up trolling reels with monofilament, fluorocarbon or co-polymer style lines. The “loop trick” does not work with super braids



The “Loop Trick” is designed to work with monofilament, co-polymer or fluorocarbon line types. This simple rigging method makes it easier to trip the planer board, making it possible to stack multiple board lines per side of the boat without having to clear lines to fight fish.

and modern fused fishing lines. These lines are too slippery to be used with the line release and line clip that come standard on the OR12. For those anglers who want to troll with super braids and fused lines, the OR18 Snapper or the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release are the best options.

Begin by choosing a lure of choice and setting it behind the boat the desired lead length.

Reach up to the rod tip and grab the fishing line. Wrap the fishing line around your index finger and by spinning your finger, create a loop of line with six to eight twists of line.

Open the OR19 (orange) line release on the bracket of the OR12 Side Planer and place the twisted line between the rubber pads. The twists of line provide a better purchase for the OR19, eliminating

any fear of false releases. A loop of line about one inch long should be protruding from the jaw of the OR19.

The next step is to place the line in the OR16 (red) Pro Clip, being sure the line is behind the plastic pin the protrudes up in the middle of the rubber release pads. If your boards are equipped with Off Shore’s Tattle Flags™, make sure there is a little slack line between the OR19 and the OR16 so that the flag linkage can function properly.

Now that the board is attached to the line, drop the board in the water, engage the reel’s bait clicker and let the board start working its way out to the side as the boat trolls forward. When the board is the desired distance from the boat, engage the reel bail and place this rod in the most forward rod holder on the boat. If you use rod holder trees, like Riviera’s SRT, this outside rod/line should be positioned in the top rod holder.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

## JERRY FOX JR. AND STEVE VANDEMARK CROWNED MWC WORLD CHAMPIONS

The long time tournament team of Jerry Fox Jr. and Steve Vandemark recently won the Masters Walleye Circuit World Walleye Championship.

The 2022 MWC Championship was held on Green Bay in the Wisconsin waters near Oconto, Wisconsin. “At Oconto everyone seemingly is into graphing and targeting individual fish on the many off shore reefs found on Green Bay,” says Jerry Fox Jr., “I’m simply not that guy who is comfortable targeting individual fish. Instead, I’m more comfortable putting out a trolling spread and hunting for fish with the maximum number of trolling lines in the water.”

Fishing conditions before and during the MWC Oconto Championship were extraordinarily tough. Several days of northeast winds had the fish in a funk and the anglers grumbling. “We got on a school of fish early in practice that were holding tight against a deep water break,”



Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer Jerry Fox Jr (right) and his fishing partner Steve Vandemark, won the 2022 MWC World Walleye Championship that was held in Oconto, Wisconsin. Congratulations to both of these exceptional anglers and true professionals!

commented Fox. “To catch these fish, we literally had to drive our crankbaits into the bank and dredge bottom. We used Bay Rat crankbaits with Off Shore Tackle OR20 series Snap Weights to get down with the shortest trolling

leads possible.” The Off Shore Tackle Tattle Flag™ upgrade on our OR12 Side Planers played an important role in this tournament win. “The Tattle Flags™ would let

us know when our cranks were starting to tick the bottom, helping us position the boat perfectly,” added Fox. “Without the added Tattle Flags™, I doubt we would have been able to put enough fish in the boat for the win.”

On day one Fox and Vandemark came to the scales with a five fish limit. Day two Fox and Vandemark duplicated that performance with five more walleye and on day three they could only muster four walleye. Collectively Fox and Vandemark put 59 pounds, 12 ounces on the scales, earning them the World Walleye Championship in 2022.

Fox and Vandemark walked away with \$30,000.00 in cash and prizes, a \$1,000.00 Lowrance bonus, two Okuma Championship Rings and the World Walleye Championship trophies. Congratulations again to both Jerry Fox Jr. and Steve Vandemark for consistently proving they can win at the highest level of competitive walleye fishing.





# OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB YOUTH TOURNAMENT

BY LEANNE SIX

The Ohio Crappie Club held its annual Youth Tournament at Hoover Lake, July 2, 2022. The kids fished from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and could fish from the shore or in a boat. They could weigh in up to seven crappie. There were also non-species entries as well. Our event more than doubled in size, having 17 youth anglers in 2021 to 44 in 2022.

Our Off Shore Team consisted of Mike Six, Ethan H., Owen H., Bobbi H., and Rick H. We used the OR38 Awesome Crappie Boards and slayed over 40 crappie. Our nephew Owen even scored a 36” gar landing him the non-target species trophy. Everyone can’t wait for the 2023 event! Come on out everyone! A lot of great prizes and food for all!

# FISHING IN-LINE PLANER BOARDS USING THE LOOP TRICK

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Now repeat this process with a second, third, forth or even a fifth board for each side of the boat! (Always check your local DNR regulations for any limitations). When a fish is hooked or it’s time to switch out a lure that isn’t producing, grab the rod in question, reel up the slack line until the line is tight against the board and using a quick upwards snap of the rod tip, pop the line free from the OR19 release.

The further the board is away from the boat, the more aggressive the snap of the rod tip needs to be to pop the line free of the OR19. The loop of line protruding from the jaw of the OR19 makes it much easier to pop the line free than if the line was simply placed linear between the rubber release pads.

When the line pops free of the front release, the board will spin around backwards and remain on the line thanks to the OR16 Pro Clip on the tail of the board. This causes the board to stop planing to the side and allows the board to slip backwards out of the trolling pattern.

Once the line pops free from the front release, stay tight on the board, but don’t be in a big hurry to reel in any line. Staying tight on the board for a few seconds, gives the board time to slip back far enough that the board can be reeled in without coming in contact with any of the other lines

still trolling. Staying tight to the board also keeps pressure on the hooked fish.

**DOES THE LOOP TRICK ALLOW HOOKED FISH TO ESCAPE?**

A lot of anglers worry that the loop trick will put slack in the line and cause hooked fish to escape. Actually, the “loop trick” properly used does not create slack line or lead to fish escaping. The “loop trick” actually works better at landing hooked fish than if the planer board remains attached to the line and planing.

With the “loop trick” the weight of the hooked fish quickly drags the board backwards clearing other lines in the process. Because the board is no longer planing when the “loop trick” is used and the board is tripped, the fish isn’t pulling against a board that is still trying to plane to the side. Instead, the fish is pulling more directly on the fishing line and fishing rod, making it easy to keep pressure on the fish and allow the line, reel drag system and fishing rod to do the work of tiring the fish.

**HOW DO YOU RESET AFTER CATCHING A FISH?**

Once a fish is landed using the “loop trick” simply set the bait back the same distance that produced the bite, hook up the board again the same way as before placing the twists of line into the OR19 release on the bracket and

the line behind the pin on the OR16 Pro Clip at the tail of the board. (As the OR12 instructions indicate - be sure to always check to make sure the screw and nut are tight on the OR19 prior to setting the board out each time).

Now place the board in the water and let line out so the board slides directly out the back of the boat. When enough line has been let out to allow the board to clear inside lines, put the reel bail in gear and walk the board around the inside lines until it takes its place in the trolling spread.

It may be necessary to let out a little more line or reel in some line when resetting a board into a specific spot. Some anglers simply prefer to take a board line that has caught a fish and reset it as the inside line. In this case if the outside line catches a fish, the middle board line is moved up to the outside board line rod position and the outside board line is then reset as the inside board line.

**OR39 SAM’S PRO RELEASE**

For those anglers who like the idea of tripping their boards when a fish is hooked, but prefer super braids and fused trolling lines, the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release and the OR18 Snapper are the answer. Mount the Sam’s Pro Release to the bracket on the board and the OR18 Snapper Release to the tail of the board.

Set the bait back the desired

distance behind the boat, open the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release and wrap the line around the rubber plunger on the release three or four revolutions. Now close the rubber plunger into the jettison clip to secure the line. Next take the line and place it between the pads on the OR18 Snapper Release.

If the board is equipped with Off Shore Tackle’s aftermarket Tattle Flag™, make sure a little slack line is left between the OR39 and the OR18 to allow the Tattle Flag™ linkage to function properly.

When a fish is hooked, a quick snap of the rod tip will pop open the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release jettison mechanism, allowing the board to spin around, but remain pegged in place on the line thanks to the OR18 Snapper Release.

**OTHER BOARDS**

Most anglers use the “loop trick” with the OR12 Side Planer. Go ahead and pick your poison, because the “loop trick” can be used on all three sizes of planer boards produced by Off Shore Tackle. One of the features that makes Off Shore Tackle in-line planer boards so popular is they can be rigged a number of different ways for different lines and different trolling situations. In a word, versatility makes these boards “The Leaders in Trolling Technology”.



# FROM THE DESK OF NICK DESHANO



Off Shore Tackle’s COO, Nick DeShano, says the best day at the office are ones that look like this!

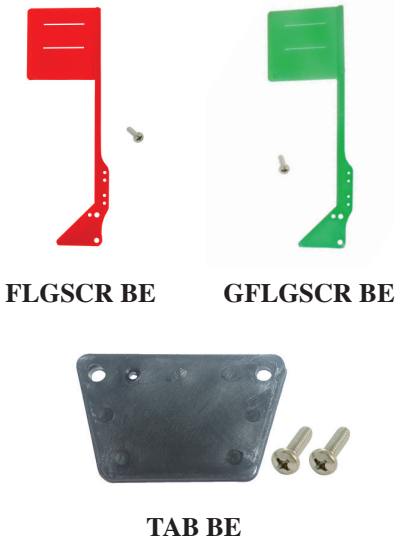
It’s hard to believe another year has come and gone already. Thankfully things are getting back to normal and the supply train is finally chugging along. First, I’d like to extend my appreciation to the hardworking staff we have that build our great products- right here in the USA!

The last couple years have been trying to say the least with supply shortages, work shut-downs, and a number of other challenges thrown our way. I’m very proud of our team here at Off Shore Tackle and looking forward to another great year in 2023!

This year I’d like to do something different for my part of the Off Shore Release. We get quite a few questions throughout the year and I thought I’d answer a couple of the most common ones here.

Here are a few most common questions; if you have any other

questions, you can email them to: [offshoretacklehelp@gmail.com](mailto:offshoretacklehelp@gmail.com).



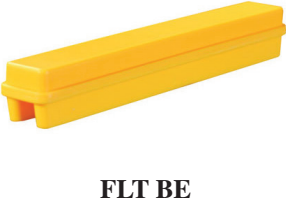
**Q: I HAVE AN OLDER VERSION OF THE OR12 SIDE PLANER, CAN I REPLACE THE ORIGINAL THIN TATTLE FLAG™ WITH THE HD WIRE?**

**A:** Yes, the HD wires are compatible with all Off Shore’s OR12

boards. They are longer than the original wire so for best results make sure you have our flag (FLGSCR BE or GFLGSCR BE) with the extra holes in its stem and the black tab (TAB BE) for the back of the board for the best results. The Tab has an extra hole in it to allow for a lower rear tow point for the Tattle Flag™. The extra hole in the tab should be next to the screw holding the Tab on. Use a small drill to make a pilot hole in the board itself to install the screw eye.

**Q: ARE OR16 PRO CLIPS REQUIRED WHEN USING THE OR12 WITH THE TATTLE FLAG™ SET UP?**

**A:** No, they are not required but it is recommended that the OR16 is used on the tail of the board to prevent it from coming off the line. For the front release, any of our releases are compatible, just make sure that there is a little slack between the two releases to let the flag go down.



**Q: I HAVE AN OR34 MINI BOARD WITHOUT THE FLOAT ON TOP, CAN I ADD THE NEW FLOAT TO IT?**

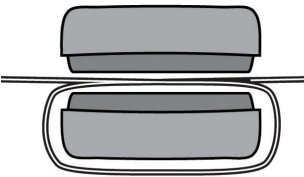
**A:** Yes. You can purchase the float only through our website (replacement part FLT BE). It is best to rough up the top of the board with coarse sandpaper before gluing. There is no need to do that to the float itself. A link is provided in the description on our

website for the best glue to use.

**Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ORANGE OR19 AND THE RED OR16?**

**A:** The OR19 and OR16 are both the same tension. However, the OR16 has the pin that protrudes through the center of the pad that you place your fishing line behind to keep it from releasing.

**Q: WHY DID THE PIN BREAK**



**SUPER BRAID LINE WRAP FROM END VIEW**

**ON MY OR16 PRO CLIP WHEN USING BRAIDED LINE**

**A:** What happened is that the line was slipping through the clip. Braided line and some of the newer monofilaments are thinner and more slippery. The braid is especially abrasive and can cut the pad and pin over time if the line is allowed to slip. To keep this from happening, it is important to wrap the line around one of the jaws.

These are just a few examples of commonly asked questions. You can find more on our website at [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com) under the QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS button. Another great resource of information is under the ARTICLES button, where you can find past editions of the Off Shore Release newspaper dating back to 1999.

## GUPPY WEIGHTS FOR VERSATILITY

BY ERICH CARLSON

Off Shore Tackle’s OR20 series Guppy Weights are already a staple in the arsenal of most serious walleye anglers. If you are not already using them, you should be! Here’s why. Originally designed for use with the OR16 Pro Clip, anglers have found the Guppy Weight to have other applications as well. By making a few minor modifications, the OR20 Guppy Weight

can double as both a Snap Weight and an in-line weight, enabling you to tweak or adjust presentations in a matter of seconds. While this has been done for years by some anglers, it is surprising how many others still haven’t tried it. The primary application of the OR20 Guppy Weight for most anglers is for Snap Weight trolling, and coupled with the

Precision Trolling Data app, this is an absolutely deadly combination for walleye, anywhere they swim, but there’s more to it. The Guppy Weight easily converts into the perfect in-line trolling weight by simply removing the split ring and OR16 clip on the top and replacing it with a quality crankbait snap and ball bearing swivel attached to the rear hole. Occasionally

with the two and three ounce Guppy Weights, I’ll use a tiny drill bit to open up the hole on the tail end making it easier to attach some styles of snaps. I have found these to perform flawlessly when rigged with quality components. The switch literally takes seconds.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



# GUPPY WEIGHTS FOR VERSATILITY

**CONTINUED FROM  
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**REAL ADVANTAGES**

The design of the Guppy Weight gives it several advantages when rigged as an in-line! First the rounded nose and wide profile are less prone to hanging up when pulling spinners on rocky structure. If you are

fishing effectively near shoals or rocky structure, you'll often be trolling your baits near bottom. I've found this design of the Guppy simply hangs up less. While a lot of anglers will opt for a bead chain style in-line, the higher pull point of the Guppy Weight seems to get less abrasion, as the point of

contact is elevated. This makes a big difference in snaggy, zebra mussel infested waters.

Another place where the Guppy Weights really shine as an in-line weight is in the weeds! Yes, the weeds! Often, when a bait pops free from submerged weed growth (primarily cabbage), it triggers a strike from a hungry walleye. After years of trying different methods from split-shot, bead chains, other fish shaped weights, to bottom bouncers, the Guppy Weights, especially the ½ oz, have truly earned the number one spot for pulling spinners through cabbage. The angle off the top pull point on the OR20 Guppy Weight goes into the wider, rounded nose. If you are trolling cabbage effectively, you will be making occasional contact, and your weight will encounter the cabbage before your spinner. The Guppy Weight's design allows it to hit the cabbage, momentarily getting caught up in it, yet sliding and popping

off a large percentage of the time. This triggers an amazing amount of strikes.

**ICE FISHING**

Everyone who uses tip ups in the winter knows the importance of having a depth finder for helping to place your bait in just the right place in the water column. The Off Shore Tackle Guppy Weight with the OR16 Pro Clip also doubles as a reliable depth finder. The pin in the OR16 ensures that you won't lose it once attached to the line. The lighter weights work great for setting slip-bobbers, while the heavier sized 1 oz., 2 oz. and 3 oz. work great for getting you set up quickly in deep water.

**SUMMING IT UP**

When the bite calls for trolling Snap Weights or in-lines, whether in the weeds, structure, the open basins, or even ice fishing the OR20 series Guppy Weights are your answer when it comes to versatility and success.



Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer Erich Carlson is a big fan of the OR20 Guppy in-line Weights for trolling spinner rigs over structure and also in emerging weeds.

# MONOFILAMENT OR BRAID, WHICH IS BETTER FOR TROLLING?

BY MARK ROMANACK

One of the most common trolling questions I get from anglers focusing on trolling lines. It seems everyone is curious which line types are the best option for trolling.

My answer often confuses folks for a few seconds. The truth is all the common line types on the market can be used effectively for trolling. Which choice an angler settles on largely boils down to personal preference, trolling strategy and situation as well as the products they are being used with.

## MONOFILAMENT

Plain old garden variety nylon monofilament is not only the most affordable trolling line option, it works as good today as it did decades ago when this line type was first introduced after World War II. Nylon monofilaments can be broken down into two categories including hard surfaced lines that are stiffer and

more abrasion resistant and soft surfaced or limp lines that are more user friendly for casting. Hard surfaced lines like Berkley XT provide excellent knot strength, manageable stretch, good abrasion resistance and value. Softer lines like Berkley XL can be used for trolling, but because of the softer nature of this line the chances of nicking the line and breaking off fish increases.

**CO-POLYMER LINES**

To the naked eye, co-polymer lines look just like nylon monofilament. The chemical makeup of these lines creates a line that is thinner, yet still provides the abrasion resistance required from a trolling line. A co-polymer line is like a nylon monofilament on steroids in that these lines perform exceptionally well in a host of fishing situations including trolling.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



Off Shore Pro Staffer Captain Don Ollie knows that both monofilament and super braid lines have a time and place in the trolling scene.



# WHY I USE THE TATTLE FLAG™ SYSTEM

BY ZAK JOBES

The use of Off Shore Tackle Tattle Flag™ can greatly improve your success rate when trolling for walleye. By utilizing the Tattle Flag™ on your OR12 Side Planer board you can adjust the sensitivity of the flag based on your trolling presentation. You can add a Tattle Flag™ to your OR12 by purchasing an OR12TFEK Tattle Flag™ HD Economy Kit that is available at many bait stores or on-line retailers.

On a recent trip to Green Bay, I found a very large school of shallow walleye that were relating to newly emergent weeds that seemed to be holding bait fish as well as warmer water. Whenever I am looking for fish, one of the first places I often look is in

the weeds. Weeds provide great cover for fish as well as baitfish and perch that provide easy meals for ambushing walleye. Weeds can hold walleye year-round but the best time to target fish in the weeds seems to be late spring and early to mid-summer.

I was targeting fish in six to ten feet of water and trolling at around 1.1 to 1.3 mph. My presentation was simple; a small .25-ounce split shot ahead of a worm harness with a number four Colorado or willow blade in a perch or goby color. By adjusting my Tattle Flag™ springs to the lowest setting (least tension), I was able to detect when my worm harness would pick up weeds,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**



Tournament pro and Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer Zak Jobes has mastered the use of the Tattle Flag™ system for trolling up walleye in the weeds and also in open water.

## MONOFILAMENT OR BRAID, WHICH IS BETTER FOR TROLLING?

**CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 5**

Berkley Big Game and P-Line CXX are two good examples of co-polymer lines that hold up great to the abuse of trolling. Co-polymer lines are a little more expensive than nylon monofilament, but the increased cost is modest.

**FLUOROCARBON LINES**

While many anglers think of fluorocarbon line as only a leader material, the truth is fluorocarbon also can be used as an effective main line for trolling applications. Because fluorocarbon absorbs water, it sinks slowly, but not enough to impact the diving depth of popular lures.

The advantage of fluorocarbon line is it is very tough, super abrasion resistant and it is nearly impossible for fish to see in the water. Anglers who are faced with trolling in gin clear waters will find that fluorocarbon is a good choice and they will also notice that fluorocarbon functions in most pinch pad style line releases about the same as monofilament and co-polymer lines.

**FUSED AND SUPER  
BRAID LINES**

Fused and super braid lines

are gaining in popularity among trollers every year. The near zero stretch, impressive abrasion resistance and longevity of these lines make them a bargain despite the fact a spool of super braid is likely to cost twice or three times as much as monofilament or co-polymer lines.

The down side to fused and super braids is they simply don't function on the majority of line releases which of course were designed to function on nylon monofilament and co-polymer lines. Thankfully, Off Shore Tackle produces two line clips that are designed to function with low stretch fused and super braids including the OR39 Sam's Pro Release and the OR18 Snapper Release.

The OR39 Sam's Pro Release is produced by Silver Horde and privately labeled through Off Shore Tackle. This release works beautifully with fused and super braids of all diameters and mounts to the bracket of all Off Shore Tackle in-line boards.

The OR18 Snapper Release is a cam style line release that holds fused and super braids securely. Besides the cam mechanism that provides a firm grip on the line, the Snapper features a screw type adjustment that makes it possible to use this line

clip with small, medium or large diameter lines.

Like all Off Shore Tackle line releases and clips, the Snapper will fit the bracket of all three in-line planer boards produced by OST.

**THE FINER POINTS**

While it's true that any type of fishing line can be used for trolling, there are situations that clearly favor one line type over another. For example, for general purpose trolling applications both monofilament and co-polymer lines work very well at normal lead lengths. If it becomes necessary to use extra long lead lengths (over 150 feet back) to maximize lure depth, a fused or super braid line is going to be a better choice.

Because fused and super braid lines are thinner in diameter, they all achieve greater depths while maintaining normal lead lengths. The down side of these low stretch lines is they put a lot of pressure on hooked fish. When using fused and super braid lines, it's a good idea to select a softer than normal action trolling rod and also to make sure the reel drag is set light enough that line can easily slip from the spool when a fish makes a run.

Fluorocarbon is a good choice for trolling when the water clarity is exceptionally clear. For those who like super braids and fused lines, adding a six foot leader of fluorocarbon line is a good way to provide an invisible connection between line and lure.

**SUMMING IT UP**


As trollers we all have to make a decision as to what line type best meets our style of trolling. Not long ago the majority of trollers were using monofilament or co-polymer lines. These days fused and super braids are just as common on the trolling scene.

Times change and thanks to a wider assortment of line releases the modern angler has a lot more options when it comes to choosing trolling lines. Thankfully, the informed troller has never been better equipped to hook and land fish, day in and day out.

**NOTE: Be sure to keep in mind that if you are using the standard OR16 (red) Pro Clip on your boards, always wrap the line to avoid cutting or damaging the pin that protrudes through the center of the pads on this clip.**




# WHY I USE THE TATTLE FLAG™ SYSTEM



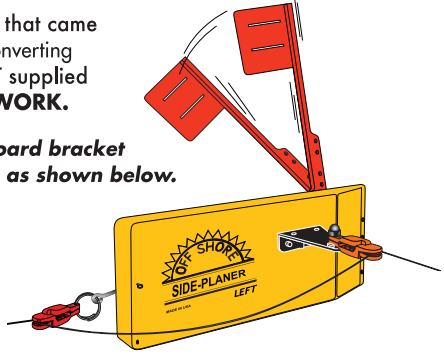
You must have an OR12 Side Planer and the release/clip that came with the OR12 in order to use this **Economy Kit** for converting your OR12 to a Tattle Flag™ HD Board as they are NOT supplied with this item. **Without these items, IT WILL NOT WORK.**

*There must be slack between the release/clip on the planer board bracket and the red OR16 attached by split ring to the Tattle Flag™ HD wire as shown below.*



Detailed assembly instructions available on our website at [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)

**Note:** Use the orange OR19 on the bracket if you want the OR12 to trip or you can use a red OR16 on the bracket if you want the OR12 to stay set.



(top adjustment on flag). This allows walleye anglers to be versatile as well as adjust the tension on the flag very quickly. If you purchase a new OR12, I highly recommend purchasing an OST OR12TFEK Tattle Flag™ HD Economy Kit. This kit includes the spring, wire and washer needed to add a Tattle Flag™ to your board (you already have the flag on your OR12). The Tattle Flag™ is very easy to install and there are many “how to” videos available online or at OST’s video library on their website at [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com).

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

small walleye, or perch. Being able to read your boards when trolling weeds can be extremely important as many anglers with-

out Tattle Flags™ may be dragging a small fish or weeds for a long period of time.

The great thing about the OST Tattle Flag™ is that it can easily be adjusted for bigger baits

or presentations. For instance, on Lake Erie, I can troll a deep diving stick bait with a two ounce (OR20 2) Guppy Weight and the Tattle Flag™ by adjusting the spring to the maximum tension



**FREE!** OFF SHORE TACKLE LLC

Volume 28, 2021

**The OFF SHORE RELEASE**

Your Leader In Trolling Technology [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)

Printed by Pioneer Printing

One of our proudest moments at Off Shore Tackle is when our founder and “Chairman of the Boards”, Bruce DeShano, was inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame along with OST Pro Staffer Tommy Skarlis in January of 2020.

**Tips and Techniques brought to you by Your Leader In Trolling Technology, Off Shore Tackle LLC.**


## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING

Maybe you missed some of our past editions of the “Off Shore Release”, or are in need of more information on our products and their usage. All of this information is always available 24/7 on our website, [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)!

## OR39 SAM’S PRO RELEASE TIDBIT

Silver Horde, the manufacturer of the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release, suggests that anglers who are using braided line, wrap the braided line around next to the barrel toward the end of the pin. The line fits into the little space on the hard plastic pin when the

clip is closed. This holds fine and eliminates the wear and tear on the vinyl barrel.



# RETRIEVING UNRELEASED BOARDS FROM THE OUTSIDE POSITION

**BY CAPTAIN JULS DAVIS**

I’ve been guiding on Lake Erie’s Western Basin for 11 years now but have been using Off Shore boards for the past 22 years. I often have customers on my charters, who want to learn how to properly use the boards, before they attempt



Walleye trolling is a ton of fun thanks to the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer. Learning how to get the most of in-line planer boards is all part of the fun and games!

it on their own, in their own boats. The learning curve goes way down, when one seeks help first.

The most common question I get is, “How do you get the outside board in, without tangling in the other lines?”

My reply is always the same, “I run my longest leads on the outside, so they can get by the shorter leads on the inside, for one. Two, I have a way, that helps keep that board, back, due to angle and pull...and, it’s very simple.” Then, I go on to explain what I want them to do when the outside board goes back, so they know what to expect.

Picture in your mind, that you are on a boat, and trolling from east to west. Your port side will be on the south side of the boat, and your starboard side will be to the north.

Now, picture a 4 board line up on each side of your boat. Marching in a line like little soldiers. The outside board pulls back, and

gets out of line, and everyone sees it pull back, then, there are excited shouts of, “Outside board!” And “Fish on!”

Now Picture....

Taking the rod out of the rod holder and pointing it to the absolute opposite side of the boat. So, for instance, if the port side, outside, board went back...the rod tip would point out the side, stern, of the starboard side, as you reel it in.

Reeling it in, with the rod bent in half, forces the board back further than it would, if you were to point the rod at the same side of the boat, as the fish, and reel it in.

If you turn the nose of the boat in the opposite direction of the side of the boat the fish was caught on, this will help separate the boards, also.

In our scenario, we would turn to starboard.

Once the board clears the inside lines, the angler can straighten up and reel the board up to the boat,



Captain Julia “Juls” Davis is an expert troller who charts daily on Lake Erie. Juls is also the Off Shore Tackle Pro Staff Director for Ohio; a position she has held for many years.

where it can be taken off, and the fish netted.

This method has served me well, and there were less tangles than previous years, before I started doing this about 5 years ago. Give it a shot and see if it works for you too! Good luck and stay safe!



# DROPPER ROD TECHNIQUE

BY DOUG WYNN

Tom Lipe and I saw the rod dip toward the Grenada Lake surface at the same time. Tom grabbed the rod while I grabbed the net. With only 18 feet of line out, the huge white crappie surfaced instantly. It trailed my Off Shore Tackle OR36 3 Tadpole and white square bill crank. With one motion, Tom and I executed a perfect netting of this fish that appeared to weigh at least 3 pounds. The only problem was I had failed to tighten the extension net handle down and as fast as the monster hit the inside of the net, it was gone! Tom and I stood there in disbelief, looking at my crank hanging in the net where the crappie had just been. What just happened?

What happened was I had just allowed what would have been the big fish of the tournament we were fishing to escape. That cost us several hundreds of dollars. The tackle performed perfectly as designed. The net performed perfectly had I done my job and checked it before we put our baits in the water. I preach having your tackle and gear inspected and ready before the baits are dropped. That June morning, I didn't.

Being a guide and tournament crappie angler, I'm always looking for ways to add more baits in the water (where allowed) but keep things orderly. Off Shore Tackle's OR36 series Tadpole diving weights allow me to do both.

Years ago, I started using 5 ounce static weights on a rig I called "Dropper Rod". Behind the weight I run a 4 to 5 foot leader made of slightly lighter test than my main line, then a shallow running crankbait. My Dropper Rods are placed along the gunnel, forward of my rear rod rack for trolling. Five ounces of weight seems overkill, but I needed a way to keep my dropper baits under the boat and out of the way of my longline cranks or jigs. I started using heavy action 6 foot baitcasting rods but have moved



Captain Doug Wynn of Crappie, Gills, & More guide service and Ted (BillBob) Love with a slab crappie caught using an Off Shore Planer Board and a Tadpole Diver. Photo credit Ed Moes of Crappie.com

onto 10 foot rods that I made by taking 2 feet of tip off of 12 foot crappie trolling rods and adding a catfish rod tip. While the rig looks unconventional, it is extremely effective on big crappie since the dropper baits are the first bait the crappie is likely to see.

When I was invited to become part of the Off Shore Tackle Pro Staff, the static weights of yesterday were replaced by Tadpole Diving Weights. I use Tadpoles behind planer boards, on rods I want to keep away from other lines, and my most productive use, on the Dropper Rods. I fish out of an Excel Storm Cat 230 and can comfortably seat 4 clients while trolling. Having two clients on the bow means I must come up with a way to keep those 4 lines away from the 6 or more lines off the trolling rack. By using the Precision Trolling Data app and the Off Shore Tadpole dive charts, I know how deep my baits will run with a given length of 12 pound fluorocarbon line out. I can use much less line and still keep

my baits in the strike zone and not tangling other lines.

I really don't remember how I came up with the idea of the Dropper Rods. Having pulled crankbaits for all sorts of Kentucky and Barkley Lakes fish for a couple of generations, my equipment has changed but the effectiveness of the tactic has not. Heavy weight allows me to use very short line lengths and put my baits right in the fish's face. The Tadpole Diving Weights allow me to use much less weight with similar results. Once the strike occurs, the Tadpole trips and the felt weight being reeled up is much less.

I have installed extra bases on my deck for my single rod holders allowing me to be able to move the rod holders around according to how my boat is loaded. My wife prefers to have the rear chairs removed so she can put her rocking camp chair right in the middle which allows her to have equal distance to all the rods. I may be the Captain of my boat

but when she is aboard, she is the Admiral.

By watching my side scan and down image constantly while trolling, I can see exactly what depth the fish are suspending. Big crappie will suspend most of the time during their migration from deep wintertime areas toward the much shallower spawning grounds. Staying toward the warmer surface temperature water, the next generation of crappie develop faster, allowing them to take advantage of warming spawning areas. Once the spawning occurs, many of the big crappie will stay very shallow in the water column, soaking up the warming temperature water. That way I catch the crappie going both to and from the spawning grounds.

Last spring, I kept seeing scattered individual fish, suspended as shallow as 4 feet above as deep as 30 feet of water. Out of curiosity, I started using the Dropper Rods much earlier than I normally would have. Some days I would have less than 10 feet of line between the rod tip and the #3 sized Tadpole. The results were amazing. I probably had over 20 clients who caught their all-time personal best crappie while fishing with me. A large percentage fell to the Dropper Rod technique. That information was kept between me and my clients. I had many folks text or call me asking how I was catching such big crappie in the same areas they were fishing but catching few to none. Sometimes your cards have to stay near your vest.

By using the Dropper Rod technique, you will improve your crappie catch and take advantage of those suspended fish you never paid any attention to. While you won't feel the "thump" of a strike or get to fight the fish for a bit, you will improve your catch and, in the end, that's what it's all about.

Note: Captain Doug Wynn can be reached at [Crappie-gills-n-more.com](http://Crappie-gills-n-more.com).

## WANTED

Attention retailers that carry Off Shore Tackle products! We are looking to add you to our list of RETAILERS on our website. Please email us at [otcproducts@yahoo.com](mailto:otcproducts@yahoo.com) with your company name along with your location and web address (if you have one) for you to be added.

If you happen to be missing out on carrying our products, we would be more than happy to supply you with a list of distributors that would happily accommodate you in adding the Off Shore Tackle products!



# ADDING UP THE FISH WITH ADD-A-LINES

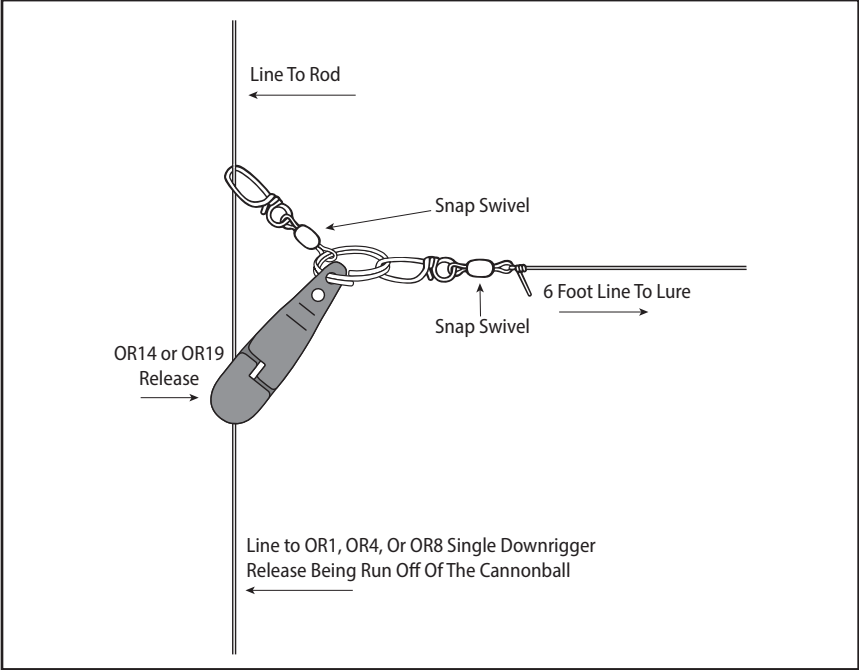
BY MARK ROMANACK

What’s the best way to catch more fish on downriggers? Double down fishing efforts by two lures instead of one on each line. Running two lures on one fishing line when using downriggers is a common rigging method, but most anglers take the easy approach and fish what is known as a “free slider” to accomplish this goal.

A free slider is a spoon or other lure rigged to a six foot long length of fluorocarbon line that features a snap that is clipped over the main line. Once the lure is placed in the water, it is free to slide up and down the main line.

Free sliders work in that fish strike the lure readily. The problem is that when a fish bites a lure deployed on the free slider, the angler has to reel in a ton of slack line before coming tight on the fish. Lots of the fish that bite the free slider rig end up escaping before the line can be pulled tight.

The solution to this common problem is to pin the second lure to a specific spot on the main line using a simple line release like the Off Shore Tackle OR14 Medium Tension Planer Board Release. Known as an



Add-A-Line rig, this rigging method puts two lures on one line and allows the angler to designate where in the water column both lures are running. Start by cutting about a six or seven foot long length of fluorocarbon line as leader material. For trout and salmon fishing a 20 to 25 pound test leader is best. For walleye fishing a 15 to 20 pound test leader works nicely.

On one end of the leader tie a snap swivel and add your favorite trolling spoon or plug. Next attach an OR14 release onto the line using a split ring through the hole on the end of the re-

lease. Finish the rig by adding a second heavy duty snap swivel onto the split ring. To rig up, let the lure on the main line back the desired distance and place the line into the downrigger release on the downrigger ball. Lower the ball about 10 feet and stop. Now toss the lure from the Add-A-Line rig into the water and clip the 2nd heavy duty snap swivel over the main line. Finish the rig by pinching open the OR14 line release and placing the release on the main line. This effectively pins the Add-A-Line in place so when the downrigger ball is lowered to fishing depth, the add-a-line

goes along for the ride. The typical way an Add-A-Line is set up positions this extra lure 10 to 20 feet above the main lure fishing at the ball. When a fish grabs the lure on the Add-A-Line the resistance of the OR14 provides an instant hook set and keeps tension on the fish so the angler can trip the line from the main downrigger release and come tight against the fish quickly. While fighting the fish the Add-A-Line rig is slowly pulled down to the main lure. An Add-A-Line can also be rigged for saltwater applications or targeting species like muskie that are often fished at faster trolling speeds. In this case simply substitute an OR19 Heavy Tension Planer Board Release for the OR14 Medium Tension Planer Board Release and use an appropriate diameter of leader material. This simple rig is deadly effective at not only controlling the depth of the second lure, but also providing enough resistance that when fish bite they are hooked solidly. It only takes a few extra seconds to rig and fish an Add-A-Line, but the benefits to the serious downrigger enthusiast are priceless.

# USING THE “FEEDBACK” METHOD FOR LIGHT BITING WALLEYE

BY BILL LIMAGE

For years many of us have spent countless hours watching our Off Shore Tackle planer boards from the back of the boat. Learning how to read these boards for detecting strikes has become an important and necessary fishing skill. The versatility of the OR12 Side Planer is what makes it an essential weapon in my day to day trolling arsenal. The time of year and water temperature will usually dictate whether I am pulling a crankbait or pulling a live bait and crawler harnesses. In my experience, when pulling crankbaits, the factory supplied stationary flag set up is adequate due to the fact that most crankbaits are trolled at steady speeds and a hooked walleye readily pulls the board

backwards in the water. In the summer months, a lot of anglers switch to a crawler harness presentation. At this point I always use the OR12 equipped with the upgrade OR12TFEK Tattle Flag™ HD Economy Kit. Off Shore Tackle has spent years perfecting the OR12TFEK so as to provide a host of spring tension settings for virtually every trolling situation, even slow trolling with crawler harnesses for light biting walleye. Many times while fishing crawler harnesses, I have noticed the spring loaded flag snapping down for a second then quickly returning to its normal upright position, indicating a fish nipped at the bait, but didn’t get hooked.



Bill Limage is a tournament angler on the Northern Ontario Walleye Trail and a member of Off Shore Tackle’s Pro Staff.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12





# OFF SHORE TACKLE

## Your Leader In

### Our products can used with any monofilament

#### Planer Boards

Model # OR38 Awesome Crappie Board



Each OR38 Awesome Crappie Board includes an OR10 release, OR16 Pro Clip, black bracket, split ring, lock nut, 6/32 x 1/2" screw, and instructions. One board... Dual Purpose....It's Reversible and runs directly off of your rod line! Ideal for several species of fish not just crappie. Don't let the size fool you.

Model # OR12L Side Planer Left  
Model # OR12R Side Planer Right



Each OR12 Side Planer includes a stationary flag, one OR19 release, one OR16 Pro Clip, instructions and is carefully ballasted to run flawlessly in rough water off of your rod line. Ideal for several species of fish.

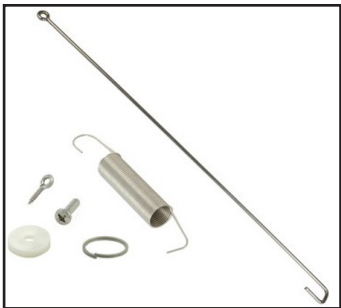
Model # OR37L SST Pro Mag Planer Left  
Model # OR37R SST Pro Mag Planer Right



The SST Pro Mag Planer includes a stationary flag, one OR18 release with lock nut, one OR16 Pro Clip, instructions and is designed to carry large, heavy baits further to the side than any other in line planer! Perfect for long copper and lead core lines. The OR16 Pro Clip on the tail of the board ensures that your board will stay on your fishing line.

#### Tattle Flag™ HD Upgrade Kit

Model# OR12TFEK  
Tattle Flag™ HD Economy Kit



This kit works by using your OR12 Side Planer and the release/clip that came on your OR12. This kit just contains ONLY the hardware which consists of a HD wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and limited instructions.

#### Planer Board Releases

Our three full size planer board releases come with a quick clip for use on dual planer boards. Also available without quick clips. Their large diameter pinch pad design holds monofilament lines securely. Tensions can be adjusted further by how deeply the line is placed in the pads.

Model # OR3  
Light Tension Planer Board Release - White



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR17BWW  
Medium Tension Planer Board Release - Black



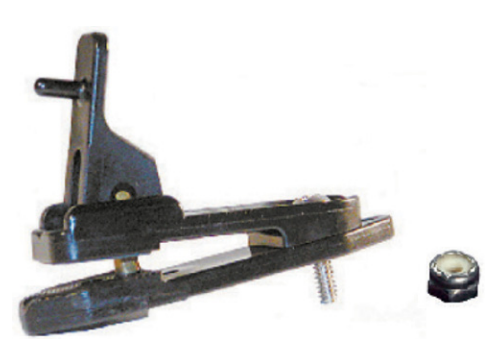
This release is ideal for deep water good size fish. It can also be used to pull lead core, snap weights and deep diving crankbaits.

Model # OR30BWW  
Heavy Tension Planer Board Release – Red



This release is ideal for large lures and high speed trolling.

Model # OR18 Snapper Adjustable Tension  
In Line Planer Board Release—Black



The OR18 is designed with an adjustable cam action locking arm that can be set to release at a range of tension settings or tightened down to hold even super braid lines and lead core securely. This release comes standard on our OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer and is made to attach to the bracket of our OR12 Side Planer as well.

Model # OR39  
Sam's Pro Release-Black



Manufactured by Silver Horde, the OR39 Sam's Pro Release incorporates a jettison design that allows low stretch super lines to be wrapped around a rubber plunger that in turn fits into a pressure fit housing. This release is good for all species that the super lines are ideal for.

Our three half size adjustable tension planer board releases come with quick clips for use on dual planer boards and split rings for use on in-line planer boards. They are also available without quick clips and split rings. Tension can be further adjusted by simply sliding the spring toward the pads to increase tension or away from the pads to decrease tension.

Model # OR10  
Adjustable Light Tension  
Planer Board Release—Yellow



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR14  
Adjustable Medium Tension  
Planer Board Release—Black



This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish as well as most commonly used for rigging add-a-lines or fixed slider lines among downrigger anglers.

Model # OR19  
Adjustable Heavy Tension  
Planer Board Release—Orange



This release comes as standard equipment on the OR12 Side Planer and is ideal for large lures, high speed trolling

The red OR16 Pro Clip is found under the Pro Weight section on page 11.



# PRODUCT SHOWCASE

## Trolling Technology

line, for best results we suggest a minimum of 10 lb. test.



### Pro Weights



Model # OR20  
Pro Weight System



Each system includes instructions, four OR16 Pro Clips, four split rings, two of each of the following guppy weights: 1/2 oz., 3/4 oz., 1 oz., 1 1/2 oz., 2 oz., and 3 oz. all contained in a plastic tackle box. Use as Snap Weights or In Line Weights - you decide. This system is used off of flat lines, dual planer boards and side planer boards.

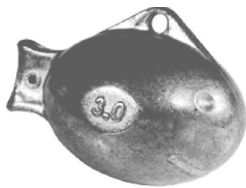
*The OR16's and guppy weights are available to purchase separately so you can create your own custom Pro Weight System!*

Model # OR16  
Pro Clip—Red



This half size clip has an extra heavy spring tension and includes a split ring. You simply position your fishing line behind the pin that protrudes through the center of the pads to hold your snap weight securely on the line.

The OR16 comes as standard equipment on the tail of the OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer, OR12 Side Planer, OR38 Awesome Crappie Board and in our OR20 Pro Weight System. It is ideal for use with snap weight fishing, super braid lines and with our OR12TFEK Tattle Flag™ HD Upgrade Kit system.



Replacement Pro Guppy Weights

Model # OR20 1/2  
1/2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3/4  
3/4 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 1  
1 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 1 1/2  
1 1/2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 2  
2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3  
3 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

These items, replacement parts, and promotional items (including apparel) are all available through our website.



PLEASE VISIT US AT ...

**www.offshoretackle.com**

★ SHOP ANYTIME ON-LINE ... CONVENIENT & SECURE ★

### Resettable Diving Weights



Model # OR36 1  
Tadpole Size 1

Model # OR36 2  
Tadpole Size 2

Model # OR36 3  
Tadpole Size 3

Model # OR36 MAGNUM  
Tadpole MAGNUM Size

### Downrigger Releases

Our downrigger releases are all full size and therefore have the large diameter pinch pad design that holds monofilament lines securely. Tension can be adjusted further by how deeply the line is placed into the pads.

Model # OR4  
Light Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, White



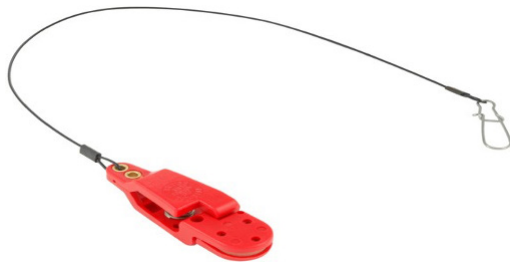
This release is ideal for light biting fish.

Model # OR1  
Medium Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish.

Model # OR8  
Heavy Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, Red



This release is ideal for large lures and high speed trolling.

Model # OR7  
Light Tension Stacker  
Downrigger Release, White



This release is ideal for small light biting fish and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

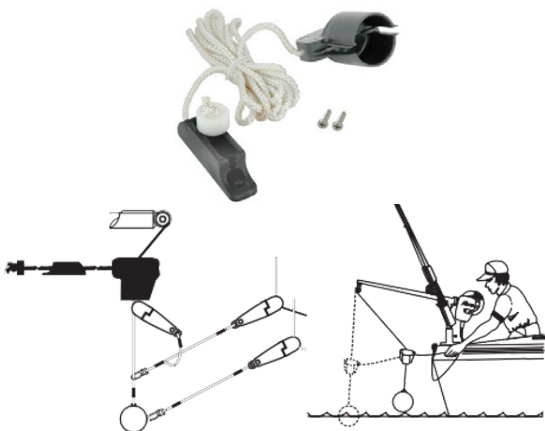
Model # OR2  
Medium Tension Stacker  
Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

### Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever

Model # OR6  
Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever



Stacking two lures on a downrigger is quicker and easier with the OR6 Stacker Stripper.

As the weight is raised, the Stripper will automatically strip the stacker release from the cable so you won't have to stop the cannonball. The automatic stripping eliminates the grooves worn into stacker pads from sliding on the cable.

The OR6 doubles as a Weight Retriever to bring the weight into the boat for resetting lines. Using the retriever cord will reduce damaging cannonball sway.

### Replacement Pads



Model # ORRP8  
Replacement pads for OR1, OR2, OR3, OR4, OR7, OR8, OR17, and OR30 releases.



Model # ORRP8SN  
Replacement pads for OR18 releases.



Model # ORRP16  
Replacement pads for OR10, OR14, and OR19 releases.



Model # ORRP16HL  
Replacement pads for OR16 clips.

### EZ Crankbait Tuner

Model # OR40  
EZ Crankbait Tuner



These unique tuning pliers feature a long and short jaw design that includes an adjustable spring tension setting making it possible to tune any crankbait.



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, BRUCE DESHANO

This is the 30th year of the Off Shore Release and it has been fun being part of this paper for all these years! Hopefully this will be the best one ever and just as a reminder, our website [offshoretackle.com](http://offshoretackle.com) has many years of the past papers available for your reading and learning enjoyment; just click on the Articles button located on the left hand side of the home page.

Looks like the pandemic has passed and we can begin to get back to normal. I want to thank all of our employees for going above and beyond during these trying times. They did their very best to put product out whenever we managed to get materials to build with.

To our Pro Staff and our loyal tournament anglers, you once again rose to the top with many appearances at sport shows and on the weigh in stages keeping Off Shore Tackle The Leaders in Trolling Technology. It was good to see shows going again and great attendance from the con-

sumers. We can get everything back to the way it was or even better in the future! Keeping Off Shore in the public eye is important and letting them know that Off Shore is an American company; built in America is important with all the copies from foreign sources out there. While knock off's may look like our products, remember that they don't work the same as the saying goes "Often Imitated, Never Duplicated".

Anglers are starting to understand how important the OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuning Tool is to catching more fish and bass anglers are beginning to use it for casting crankbaits. We will work on more videos this year to explain it even more.

Had a little fun fishing the Detroit River this spring with Captain Mike Martin along with lifetime friends Mike and Ken Zelkowski. We caught a lot of fish and even more laughs. I went bass fishing with rubber frogs and had a blast doing that, but I need to learn to wait a bit before



setting the hook, I had to duck a few times with a frog flying past my head! Skipped over to WI and fished with our Minnesota and Wisconsin team Director Ken Doepker and his wife for some bluegills and even got Ken to clean them for me since I couldn't do it right (Wink)! Thanks for the great time, Ken.

I hope you enjoy reading this 30th edition of the Off Shore Release and go to our website for other issues of it and many videos on using Off Shore Product.

Thank all of you for our support and we are looking forward to many more years of printing this paper.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR, MARK ROMANACK

Long time Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer, Mark Romanack, acts as editor for the Off Shore Release newspaper. Pro Staffers, charter captains, guides and Off Shore Tackle customers who would like to contribute to this annual publication are welcome to reach out directly to Mark's e-mail at [Mark@Fishing411.net](mailto:Mark@Fishing411.net) with story con-

cepts, fishing tips, short articles and photographs. Content is appreciated and can be provided anytime. Gear up with your favorite Off Shore Tackle products and see yourself in the pages of the next issue of the "Release".

# USING THE "FEEDBACK" METHOD FOR LIGHT BITING WALLEYE

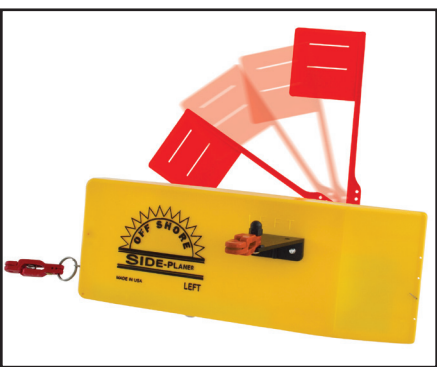
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

What anglers have to understand is that more often than not, this is not a lost opportunity. A less than aggressive walleye will often swim behind your bait, and simply take a small bite of your crawler, removing a couple of inches or less. This is where your Tattle Flag™, and a trick I call the "feedback", can help you put more fish in the boat.

As soon as I see the spring loaded flag pop down and then

back up, I remove the rod from its rod holder, open the reel bail and play line off the reel creating slack in the line. Stalling the board and the trailing harness for a few seconds provides walleye a second opportunity to strike at the bait.

Walleye are curious and will often follow your bait, even after striking at it and coming up short. I will usually feed a board back anywhere from 3 to 5 feet, pause for a couple of seconds and then



gently sweep the rod forward to see if the fish is hooked. There have been many instances in which I have had to do this two

or three times to finally be successful in getting the fish hooked. It's amazing how often the "feedback" method helps me hook and land more fish. Using the "feedback" certainly adds a new level of excitement and satisfaction to anyone's day on the water.

Editor's Note: Bill Limage fishes the Northern Ontario Walleye Trail and often uses Off Shore Tackle products to help him catch more fish.

## PLEASE NOTE

Before using any fishing/rigging method, make sure to consult your local Department of Natural Resources fishing directory to confirm local fishing regulations.



Purchase your Off Shore Tackle Company LLC products at your local dealer or send in your order today!

Prices in effect January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Prices and packaging subject to change without notice.



Order Blank

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SIDE PLANER BOARD PRODUCTS					
OR38	Awesome Crappie Board With Float	Pkg. of 1		\$25.77	
OR12L	Side Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$42.01	
OR12R	Side Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$42.01	
OR12P2	Pigtail and Split Ring For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 2		\$4.26	
OR12TFEK	Tattle Flag™ HD ECONOMY KIT (No Release/Clip or Flag Included)	Pkg. of 1		\$10.91	
ORS2	Tattle Flag™ Replacement Spring	Pkg. of 2		\$8.69	
OR37L	SST Pro Mag Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$64.62	
OR37R	SST Pro Mag Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$64.62	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PLANER BOARD RELEASES					
OR3	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$20.37	
OR17BWW	Medium Tension, Black With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$221.87	
OR30BWW	Heavy Tension, Red With Quick Clip (Note: This is NOT the smaller-sized OR16)	Pkg. of 6		\$62.29	
OR18	Snapper Adjustable Tension, Black With Lock Nut	Pkg. of 1		\$16.61	
OR10	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$25.83	
OR14	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$25.83	
OR19	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$13.72	
OR39	Sam's Pro Release, Black With Split Ring and Lock Nut	Pkg. of 1		\$14.54	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PRO SNAP WEIGHT PRODUCTS					
OR20	Pro Snap Weight System	Pkg. of 1		\$70.55	
OR16	Heavy Tension Pro Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 2		\$13.68	
OR20 1/2	1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$6.54	
OR20 3/4	3/4 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$7.30	
OR20 1	1 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$8.71	
OR20 1 1/2	1 1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$6.43	
OR20 2	2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$7.93	
OR20 3	3 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 1		\$5.55	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC RESETTABLE DIVING WEIGHTS					
OR36 1	Tadpole Size 1 – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$8.35	
OR36 2	Tadpole Size 2 – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$8.59	
OR36 3	Tadpole Size 3 – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$16.67	
OR36 MAGNUM	Tadpole MAGNUM Size – Includes Two Coast Lock Snaps	Pkg. of 1		\$17.05	

Continued on reverse



These items, replacement parts, and promotional items are available through our website:  
[www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)



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ORDER BLANK CONTINUED FROM PRIOR PAGE

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASES					
OR4	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$11.40	
OR1	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$11.40	
OR8	Heavy Tension, Red	Pkg. of 1		\$14.25	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC STACKER DOWNRIGGER RELEASES					
OR7	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$20.20	
OR2	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$20.20	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC STACKER STRIPPER/WEIGHT RETRIEVER COMBINATION					
OR6	Strips The Stacker Release Off OfThe Downrigger Cable AsThe Weight Is Raised. Also Doubles As A Weight Retriever By Pull Cord. Line Loc Included.	Pkg. of 1		\$16.14	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC REPLACEMENT PADS					
ORRP8	Pads For OR1's, OR2's, OR3's, OR4's, OR7's, OR8's, OR17's, and OR30's	Pkg. of 8		\$4.09	
ORRP8SN	Pads For OR18's	Pkg. of 8		\$10.15	
ORRP16	Pads For OR10's, OR14's, and OR19's	Pkg. of 16		\$6.81	
ORRP16HL	Pads For OR16's	Pkg. of 16		\$6.81	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC OTHER ACCESSORIES					
OR40	EZ Tuning Tool, Black With Lanyard	Pkg. of 1		\$23.07	



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Subtotal  
(Product Total Plus Shipping Charges)

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Total (Subtotal Plus Sales Tax)  
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Send THIS completed order form, along with your U.S.P.S. money order or COMPLETE credit card information to:

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Be sure to fill in BOTH mailing and shipping address as we ship via several different ways • Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

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E-Mail Address:

SHIP ORDER TO

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c/o:

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How did you hear about us?

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Your mailing address MUST match the address that your credit card bill is mailed to – no exceptions.

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# A NICHE FOR THE SST PRO MAG BOARD

BY MARK ROMANACK

Sometimes large is not large enough. Anglers who routinely target Great Lakes trout, salmon, muskie, saltwater species and even trophy catfish often find themselves trolling with baits and gear that are simply too heavy for the typical in-line planer board. In this case, it’s time to super size your in-line planer board.

### TROUT AND SALMON

A few examples of common trout and salmon gear include rotators and meat rigs, rotators and cut plugs, rotator/fly combinations, cowbells, weighted stainless wire, stranded copper wire and lead core line.

Each of these popular fishing presentations have something in common. All this gear is heavy and creates a lot of resistance in the water when trolling. The typical in-line planer board simply isn’t big enough to pull this kind of gear out to the side of the boat effectively.

Thankfully the OR37 SST Pro Mag was designed especially for these kinds of “heavy duty” trolling chores. This longer, wider and more buoyant in-line board is ideal for pulling heavy salmon and trout fishing baits and gear.

### MUSKIE FISHING

Muskie are big fish and anglers who target these toothy giants

routinely gear up with jumbo baits. The typical muskie bait is about the size of a house cat and on top of that muskie anglers troll at the speed of light!

The SST Pro Mag is the ideal board for trolling double cowgirl style spinners, super sized plugs and even the largest sucker minnows. Anything the muskie angler wants to troll and at any speed is fair game for the SST Pro Mag in-line planer board.

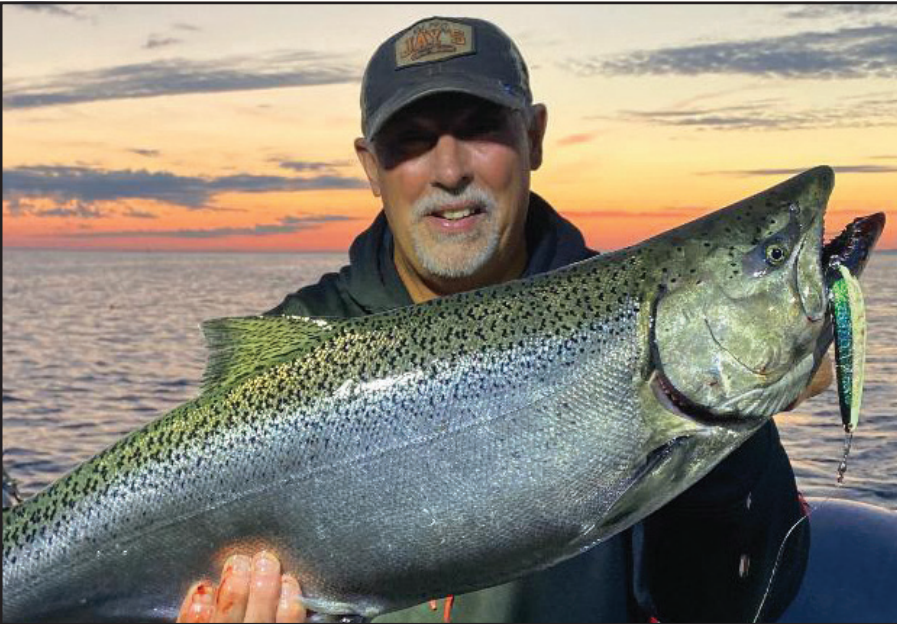
### SALTWATER SPECIES

Saltwater anglers are routinely targeting the biggest game fish on Earth. From king mackerel, to tuna, amberjack and even shark saltwater trollers are pulling big baits and trolling at speeds that would make a muskie angler weak in the knees. The only in-line planer board that can handle this kind of abuse is the SST Pro Mag.

Factory supplied with releases that can handle all line types and sizes. The SST Pro Mag is the ideal board for all saltwater trolling applications.

### TROPHY CATFISH

Anglers who target trophy catfish are often trolling with giant live baits and cut bait. It takes a lot of weight to pull these big baits down to depth in strong river current. Enter the SST Pro



The editor, Mark Romanack, caught this excellent chinook salmon, pulling long lengths of weighted stainless steel wire on Lake Michigan with the help of an OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer Board to spread out lines and cover more water. When it comes to the “heavy lifting” in trolling the OR37 SST Pro Mag has no equal.

Mag board stage left. This unique planer board is ideally suited for slow trolling upstream, making it possible to spread out gear while covering a huge amount of water.

### SST PRO MAG

The SST Pro Mag is the largest in-line planer board in the Off Shore Tackle family of products. This board comes factory equipped with the OR18 Snapper Release on the bracket and the OR16 Pro Clip at the tail of the board. Set up this way, the SST Pro Mag can be fished with heavy monofilament lines, fluorocarbon line, fused lines and super braids without issue.

After market releases such as the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release can

easily be mounted to the bracket of the SST Pro Mag, further adding to the versatility of this big boy in the world of in-line planer boards. Anglers who fish segmented lead core, copper line or weighted stainless steel routinely use super braids as the backing line. The OR39 Sam’s Pro Release and the OR18 Snapper Release were both designed with low stretch braided lines in mind.

### SUMMING IT UP

If you troll with heavy gear or at high speeds, the SST Pro Mag is the board of choice. A board designed for big boys and their big toys, nothing fishes better than the OR37 SST Pro Mag when it’s time to “go big” or go home!

# MINI BOARDS YIELD SLAB CRAPPIE

BY JAKE ROMANACK

Not long ago I teamed up with Off Shore Tackle pro staffer Mike Six to target crappie on Ohio’s Hoover Reservoir. The goal was to showcase this unique fishery on an episode of Fishing 411 TV while catching some slab crappie using crankbaits, jigs as well as the OR38 Awesome Crappie Board.

Hoover Reservoir is unique in that there is a 9.9 horsepower limit on this body of water. We opted to use the Smoker Craft Phantom X2-20 OS that is equipped with a 9.9 HP kicker motor. The only time we used the 250 HP main engine was during launching and loading!

### THREE-WAY SWIVEL RIGS

One of the most popular ways



Jake Romanack (left) of Fishing 411 TV teamed up with Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer Mike Six to catch a pile of Hoover Reservoir crappie. This little known Ohio fishery contains both black and white crappie in huge numbers. Trolling crankbaits in combination with the Off Shore Tackle OR38 Awesome Crappie Board proved the ticket for a live well full of slabs like this one.

of catching crappie on Hoover Reservoir involves using a three-way swivel rig that incor-

porates a diving crankbait on the bottom lead and an action style jig on the top lead. The crank-

bait dives and tends to catch the more active fish. Meanwhile, the jig goes along for the ride and produces bonus fish that aren’t interested in the crankbait. This one-two punch is amazingly effective on crappie all summer long.

The crappie crankbait of choice on Hoover has long been the 300 series Bandit. On this particular trip the 300 Bandit proved its worth, but the Yaki-ma Bait 3.0 Mag Lip also came through big on slab crappie.

Mike Six recommends a Crappie Magnet 1/16 ounce jig known as the Fin Spin. This jig features a darter style head and a small willow leaf attractor blade. The body of the jig features hand tied skirts that do

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**



# MINI BOARDS YIELD SLAB CRAPPIE

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

an excellent job of imitating a minnow.

## BLACK AND WHITE CRAPPIE

Hoover Reservoir harbors an excellent population of both black and white crappie ranging in size from 10 to 15 inches. The day we filmed, our crew boated about 40 slabs before lunch, a typical day for Hoover Reservoir.

## OR38 AWESOME CRAPPIE BOARD

The OR38 Awesome Crappie Board played a major role in spreading out our gear and covering the maximum amount of water. We fished this in-line board just the way it comes out of the package with the OR10 (yellow) line release on the bracket and the OR16 (red) Pro Clip on the tail of the board.

When a fish was hooked, the OR38 would drag backwards in the water from the weight of the struggling fish. Tripping the line (10 pound test monofilament) from the bracket release was

easy and only required a light snap of the rod tip. Meanwhile, the OR16 Pro Clip kept the board pegged in place on the line.

This rigging method makes it easy to stack multiple lines per side of the boat. Because the OR38 is very light, when fish are hooked the board lifts out of the water, making it very easy to fight fish without worrying about clearing lines.

## TIMING MATTERS

The crankbait bite on Hoover gets started in June and lasts all summer long. In the fall and

early spring when the water is cold, jigs long lined behind boards produce the majority of the fish.

## ABOUT THE SHOW

The episode filmed on Hoover Reservoir will appear on national TV via Sportsman Channel, World Fishing Network and Sportsman Canada beginning in January 2023. This episode will also be available on the Fishing 411 TV YouTube channel and on MyOutdoorTV.com.

# DOWNRIGGER AND STACKER RELEASES

BY MARK ROMANACK

Believe it or not, the most technically unique line releases in the industry are used for downrigger fishing. Many anglers simply don't understand how much engineering is required to create downrigger line releases and stacker line releases that function flawlessly.

These releases are unique because if they have too little tension the angler is constantly dealing with false releases or poorly hooked fish. If the downrigger release has too much tension, it's difficult to trip the release even when a fish is hooked.

To function properly a downrigger release must have the "Goldie Locks Effect" or the "Just Right" spring tension every time. Obviously, no single downrigger or stacker release could fit that bill so Off Shore Tackle makes several models to cover all the popular rigger fishing situations.

## OR1 MEDIUM TENSION SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR1 (black) was the first Off Shore Tackle product and continues to be one of the best selling. Hands down the favorite line release of charter captains and professional anglers, the OR1 is perfectly suited to fishing 10 to 25 pound test

monofilament and fluorocarbon lines. The large pad diameter of the OR1 allows anglers to bury the line when they need more tension and to set the line near the edge of the pads when less tension is required.

The OR1 is popular among Great Lakes salmon, steelhead and trout anglers who find themselves using downriggers most of the time in less than 100 feet of water.

## OR4 LIGHT TENSION SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR4 (white) features the same larger release pads as the iconic OR1, but with less spring tension. The lighter tension is ideal when targeting smaller fish species such as coho and wall-eye or when trolling at slower speeds. Like other Off Shore Tackle downrigger releases the

OR4 functions flawlessly with 10 to 25 pound test monofilament and fluorocarbon lines.

## OR8 HEAVY TENSION SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR8 (red) downrigger release features an extra heavy spring tension ideal for anglers who are trolling at high speeds, using large baits or gear with lots of resistance in the water like rotators and paddles commonly used for trolling meat rigs and flies.

The OR8 is also popular among saltwater trollers who are routinely trolling at the blistering speeds of five, six or seven knots!

## STACKER RELEASES

Anglers who fish with downriggers can employ stacker releases that allow two fishing

lines to be rigged and fished with just one downrigger. Stacker releases feature two releases rigged on a short and long wire leader. The release on the short wire is attached to the downrigger cable and the fishing line from the second rod is attached to the release on the long wire.

Rigged in this fashion, two rods can be fished on one downrigger and the depths staggered so as to cover more of the water column. Off Shore Tackle produces two stacker releases including the OR2 Medium Tension Stacker Release and the OR7 Light Tension Stacker Release.

The OR2 Stacker Release is ideal for anglers targeting salmon, trout, steelhead, striper and brown trout. The OR7 Stacker Release is perfect for the angler targeting walleye, coho, pink salmon and other smaller species.

## SUMMING IT UP

Downriggers continue to be the ultimate tool for depth control fishing. In the Great Lakes and beyond, downriggers are a critical tool for anglers who are tasked with catching fish that often turn up deep below the surface. At Off Shore Tackle, manufacturing downrigger releases is how we got our start and to this day we produce the finest downrigger releases money can buy.



# DISCLAIMER

Product features, opinions, and/or individual's contact information may have changed since these articles were originally composed.



# TIPS FOR OFF SHORE TACKLE PLANER BOARD FISHING FOR CRAPPIE

BY DAN DANNENMUELLER

After pulling the Off Shore Tackle boards for several years now, I have found that it's the little things that matter when using them to catch crappie. I thought I would share some tips to improve your experience using them.

First and foremost is the equipment I have selected to pull the boards for crappie. I have been changing the boat setup, rod and reels, line and terminal tackle to fine-tune my presentations and improve my catch rates.

## OFF SHORE TACKLE PLANER BOARDS AND TADPOLES

We like to pull four planer boards on each side of the boat. The spacing between boards is truly a personal preference but, I have found that 25 feet is a good distance for turning purposes. For open water, I will go up to 100 feet for the furthest board out from the boat and then 25 foot intervals towards the boat.

I use the OR12 Side Planers equipped with Tattle Flag's™ for my furthest boards and the Off Shore Tackle OR38 Awesome Crappie Boards for the closer boards. When attaching them to my line, I attach the OR16 (red) clip first and place the line behind the pin inside of the clip. This will keep the board from releasing from my line when catching a crappie. When attaching the front (OR10 yellow or OR19 orange) release that is attached to the bracket of the boards, I clip it on the line towards the rod tip. Leave the line a little loose between the release and clip. When I attach the bracket release onto the fishing line, I make sure to place the line near the tip of the release so the line will release easier when reeling in a fish. Here are some tips from my lessons learned:

- Tip 1** – If you use your boards alot, the gritty material inside the clip will wear and allow the line to slip out of the clip inadvertently. It's a good idea to have replacement pads on hand for the clips and replace them when needed.
- Tip 2** – When using the OR12 equipped with Tattle Flag™, check on the ease of pull on the flag by pulling on the red OR16 clip. Make sure the wire slides freely through the screw eye. The



Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer Dan Dannenmeuller is an expert at targeting crappie using Off Shore Tackle products.

- wire can become bent after heavy use and can be straightened out if needed. Extra wires and springs can be bought from Off Shore Tackle's website. I always keep a bag of extra components on the boat and in the truck.
- Tip 3** – Some small crappie when caught on the boards are not strong enough to pull the flag down or even move the board back from its normal running position on the water. I recommend checking the boards often by reeling them in to ensure one is not on there and taking a ride. It happens to me alot.
- Tip 4** – I recommend not using braided line. I like to use 10 lb. Gamma Hi Vis. It is extremely strong and will not hurt your clips.
- Tip 5** – Use the Off Shore Tackle OR36 series size 1 Tadpoles when fishing over 1 to 2 feet down. If under 1 to 2 feet down, like I do in Florida shallow lakes, I fish jigs on the main line without Tadpoles.
- Tip 6** – When using Tadpoles, I will either use one bait per board or two. If one bait, I like to use a 3 to 4 foot leader off the end of the Tadpole and tie 00 or 01 Thundermist clips on each end for ease of leader or bait replacement. When using two baits, I use a two-foot leader with clips from the Tadpole to a Thundermist 30 lb. three-way. From the upper T of this three-way, I use a two-foot leader with clips for one bait and a 3 to 4 foot leader with clips from the back of the three-way. This creates bait separation which will catch crappie from two different depths.

## ROD HOLDERS

I use side mounted trolling

- racks with double tier rod holders. These are mounted on the front deck sides of my bass boat. The style I use have 12 inch risers so we can sit and reach each rod and reel easily and quickly. Having them off the front deck makes it very ergonomic as we can see our electronics, trolling motor and control all easily.
- Tip 7** - It is important to vary the rod angles to create a rod angle variance with the highest angle in back and the lowest in front of a set of four rods on one side. This allows the lines going to the boards to clear each other in between the rod tip and the boards. It also allows, when catching a fish, to keep the lines and boards from running over one another.

- ## RODS AND REELS
- Starting in late 2021 and into 2022, I transitioned into the use of the Okuma Cold Water Line Counter Reels teamed up with the BnM Sam's Super Salt 75C rods. The reels are smooth, light and quick on retrievals and the rods are light, yet strong, and are perfectly balanced with the reels.
- Tip 8** - Use X Wrap Heat Shrink Wrap for the rod handles. It helps to protect the rods in the rod holders.
- Tip 9** - Use pocket wraps for crankbaits while stored on the rods as this will minimize entanglements, inadvertent interlocking hook ups as well as protection for hands and feet.

- ## WHEN AND HOW
- Having the equipment to target slab crappie is only part of the process. Knowing when and how to use it is extremely important. Below are a few tips to get you

- started on pulling Off Shore Tackle planer boards for crappie:
- ## TRICKS FOR GETTING INACTIVE OR UNSUSPENDED CRAPPIE
- Tip 10** - Run the baits just above the bottom. During the summertime and wintertime crappie will sit on the bottom but will come up on a bait just above them.
- ## BAIT CHOICE
- Tip 11** - Run varying baits and colors on separate rods and reels. It then becomes an elimination process of what works and what does not.
- Tip 12** - Always try to match the hatch which means matching bait sizes to the crappie's prey in that waterway and time of year.
- Tip 13** - Vary bait types even within a category of bait. For example, crankbaits come in various actions, sounds and sizes. Figure 8 and other action baits include brands I believe in to include Pico, Bandit, Pure Fishing, etc. Then there are minnow crankbaits that run without a wobble such as Flicker Shads. I catch more white crappie on Figure 8's and black crappie on minnow crankbaits.
- Tip 14** - Pulling jigs and plastics can also be very effective. My go to baits are Roadrunners matched to Bobby Garland Crappie Baits, specifically strollers.
- ## USING THE PTD APP FOR CRAPPIE BAITS
- Tip 15** - Always use this app after determining the crappie's depths in the water column. Run your baits 1-2 feet above the fish.
- Tip 16** - If using an Off Shore Tadpole, I always use a size 1 and in the PTD use its recommended settings. The app will tell you the amount of line between the tadpole and the board for a specified depth as well as the speed.
- Tip 17** - New updates will better defined settings when using a tadpole.
- ## SPEED VARIANCE
- Tip 18** - Speed up in turns and make them wide to keep boards from overrunning each other.

- ## SUMMING IT UP
- Try the above tips the next time you go to pulling Off Shore Tackle planer boards for crappie. I think your catch rate will go up!



# THE MAKING OF THE PERFECT PLANER BOARD RELEASE

BY MARK ROMANACK

The weakest link in any planer board set up is the line release. If the line release doesn't function flawlessly, the board trolling presentation suffers. That's why Off Shore Tackle doesn't manufacture just one line release for board trolling applications, but nine uniquely different line releases and line clips.

## OUR HALF SIZE ADJUSTABLE TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASES AND CLIP

### OR10

The OR10 (yellow) is the lightest tension line release in the Off Shore Tackle line up. This release comes as standard equipment on the OR38 Awesome Crappie Board and is also popular with walleye anglers who troll using a planer board mast system.

Thanks to a sliding spring tension setting, the OR10 can be adjusted to provide two different tension settings. Using a simple flat bladed screw driver, the spring can be slid into the forward position to increase the release tension or slid to the back position for lighter trolling applications.

The OR10 fits the bracket on the Awesome Crappie Board perfectly or you can add a shower curtain hook for fishing this release with a planer board mast system. Replacement rubber pads are sold separately, making this line release both functional and economical.

### OR14

The OR14 (black) features a slightly heavier spring tension than its cousin the OR10. Most commonly used as a line release for anglers who troll using a planer board mast system, the OR14 has the perfect spring tension for trolling spoons, spinners and crankbaits for walleye, brown trout, coho salmon and kokanee.

Like the OR10, the OR14 features two spring tension settings that can easily be adjusted using a flat bladed screw driver.

### OR16

The OR16 Pro Clip (red) was designed around the OR20 Pro Weight System. This unique line clip features a heavy tension spring and a plastic pin that protrudes through the center of the rubber pads. When the line is placed behind this pin, trolling weights such as the OR20 series Guppy Weight can be placed on the fishing line anywhere between the lure and rod tip.

The pin in the OR16 ensures that trolling sinkers stay on the line yet are easy to remove when fighting a fish. The OR16 also comes as standard equipment on the OR12 Side Planer, the OR38 Awesome Crappie Board and the OR37 SST Pro Mag planer boards.

### OR19

The OR19 (orange) is a heavy tension line release designed for use on the OR12 Side Planer Board. The extra tension of this line release makes it possible to fish the OR12 Side Planer at

high speeds and in rough water without worrying about false releases.

The OR19 also doubles as a heavy tension line release for anglers who target larger species such as muskie, northern pike, striper, salmon, steelhead and trout using a planer board mast system.

## OUR FULL SIZE PLANER BOARD RELEASES

### OR18

The OR18 Snapper Release is a cam operated line release designed to hold thin and slippery fused and super braid lines. This line release is commonly used as an upgrade on the OR12 Side Planer and comes as standard equipment on the OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer board.

### OR39

The OR39 Pro Sam's Release is produced by the Silver Horde and private labeled to Off Shore Tackle. This unique line release is designed to function with super lines, providing anglers the unique opportunity to rig up their boards to release when a fish strikes.

The OR39 can be mounted rigid to the bracket of all Off Shore Tackle planer boards using a supplied bolt and lock nut or attached loose using the supplied split ring.

### OR3

The OR3 (white) features larger rubber pads designed for trolling in rough water or at faster speeds. Commonly used

for walleye, coho, brown trout and kokanee trolling applications, the OR3 is a favorite of charter captains coast to coast.

### OR17BWW

The OR17BWW (black) features the famous OR1 down-rigger release. This is the line release that started it all. Designed for planer board mast trolling situations that involve using heavy gear such as lead core line, stranded copper line, weighted stainless steel wire, rotators, dodger, cowbells, etc., the extra tension is perfect for targeting trout, salmon, muskie and a host of small to medium sized saltwater species.

### OR30BWW

The OR30BWW (red) is the heaviest full size line release in the Off Shore Tackle line up. Designed with dual springs, the OR30BWW is commonly used by muskie anglers who troll fast and with large lures such as magnum plugs and bucktail spinners. The OR30BWW is also popular with big game saltwater trollers who commonly troll at 6 to 8 knots!

**SUMMING IT UP**  
Because no single line release can function flawlessly at every trolling application, Off Shore Tackle makes nine different line releases and clips for the avid board trolling enthusiast. No other manufacturer produces this many line releases, providing yet another reason that Off Shore Tackle is "Your Leader in Trolling Technology".

## THE OFF SHORE TACKLE MISSION STATEMENT

Our company's foundation is based on presenting products to the consumer that result in a more productive fishing experience. We strive to use the best available materials that are as eco friendly as possible. Our products are "Often Imitated but Never Duplicated". You can buy

cheaper products, but you can't buy better designed, built, longer lasting or more functional trolling products than those produced by Off Shore Tackle. That's why Off Shore Tackle LLC remains your "Leader in Trolling Technology."





# CREATIVE LEAD CORE TROLLING



Bryan Darland of Jay’s Sporting Goods in Michigan caught this excellent Lake Huron atlantic salmon while trolling segmented lead core line rigged up with a trolling spoon and an OR12 Side Planer board. Using boards, anglers can run multiple lead core set ups off each side of the boat, covering more water both horizontally and vertically in the process.

BY MARK ROMANACK

Sometimes old school is the best school. Lead core fishing line is a weighted line that first become popular after World War II ended and countless GI’s came home, went to work and started spending their spare time trolling for a host of species.

Lead core is amazingly effective at targeting trout, salmon, walleye, striper and just about any other species with fins. The down side to lead core line is the rigging methods required force anglers to designate certain reels to a select amount of lead core line.

Known as “segmented lead core” the most common way anglers fish this sinking line is to first spool on a reel some backing line, then a desired amount of sinking lead core line, then finally adding a leader of fluorocarbon line. Because the more lead core that is used, the deeper the lure fishes, anglers often equip themselves with several rod and reel combinations outfitted with pre-determined amounts of lead core line.

Here in the Great Lakes region where trout, salmon and walleye can be found anywhere from the surface down to 100 feet or more, it’s common for anglers to rig up lead core as 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 10 color set ups aimed at targeting a wealth of depths. Each “color” of lead core is approximately 30 feet long.

Obviously to get the most from lead core requires the angler to invest in a lot of rods, reels

and lead core set ups. Because segmented lead core is most often fished in combination with in-line boards like the famous Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer, most anglers rig up their lead core rigs in matching pairs. The beauty of this set up is multiple lines can be fished on both sides of the boat, without having to clear lines to fight hooked fish.

This piece of rigging magic is accomplished by letting all the lead core out and rigging the board to the backing line. By running the shorter and higher running lead core lines on the outside boards and progressively longer and deeper running lines on the middle and inside board lines fish can be hooked and landed without having to clear lines.

When a fish is hooked on an outside line, because that fish is higher in the water column than the other lines, one line slides over the top of the others without so much as a hiccup. This rigging method popular with lead core line can also be duplicated with other sinking lines such as stranded copper line or the new weighted stainless wire featured by Torpedo Divers.

**GETTING MORE FROM LEAD CORE**

To get the most from lead core line, anglers need to know approximately how deep each color of lead core is fishing at various trolling speeds and also with different lures. When lead core is used with trolling spoons that do not have a dive profile of their own, the spoon is effectively running at the same depth as the lead core line. The same is true of night crawler harnesses commonly trolled for open water walleye.

Diving crankbaits however, are a different animal all together. Because the crankbait is diving and achieving depth and the lead core is adding to this depth, matching up a lead core rig with a diving crankbait requires some extra insight in regard to how deep these set ups are fishing.

The Precision Trolling Data phone apps feature Dive Curve data for lead core line in combination with select crankbaits. This data appears in the app under the “line choice” option. If the lure you are interested in does not feature a lead core option in the line choice, that lure has not been tested with lead core at the moment.

Precision Trolling uses cus-

tomer feedback to determine what lures and trolling devices they test and the Dive Curves they publish. Anglers can reach the staff of Precision Trolling by visiting the web page [www.precisiontrolling-data.com](http://www.precisiontrolling-data.com) and sending messages.

**USING MORE BACKING**

Most anglers who troll with lead core select a size of lead core, a pound test and they rig that line with a leader and backing material. When fishing the lure and leader is played off the reel along with all the lead core line on the reel. When the backing line is exposed, an in-line board is added and the lead core set up presented off to the side of the boat.

What many anglers don’t realize is that to get lead core deeper, you simply have to increase the amount of backing line played off the reel. Precision Trolling Data has recently studied this idea and published data that involves fishing lead core with 50, 100 and 150 feet of backing line deployed. This critical data allows anglers to fish much deeper without having to carry on board all the different segmented lead core rigs.

**UNIVERSAL LEAD CORE SET UP**

Lead core line comes in a host of sizes including 12, 15, 18, 27, 36 and 45 pound test. The most commonly used size is 27 pound test. Savvy trollers have learned that they can catch all the common species using 27 pound test lead core. A typical set up includes loading a reel with 200 yards of 20 pound test monofilament, the desired amount of 27 pound test lead core line and terminating with a 25 to 50 foot leader of 20 pound test fluorocarbon line. The double uni knot is used to knot backing line and leader line to the lead core. To make for a small knot that easily passes through rod and reel guides, remove about six inches of the soft lead wire found inside lead core before knotting backing or leader to the lead core.

**REEL SIZES**

Because lead core is fairly large in diameter it takes a larger trolling reel to fish this sinking line. Most anglers use line counter reels like the Daiwa Sealine series. The SG27LC reel is large enough to hold 200 yards of 20# test backing and up to three colors of 27 pound test lead core

line. The larger SG47LC reel is the perfect size for rigging 200 yards of backing and four or five colors of lead core line. The still larger SG57LC reel is perfect for loading seven, eight, nine or 10 colors of lead core along with adequate amounts of backing line.

The beauty of the line counter reel is they make it easy to monitor how much backing line is being deployed.

**BOARDS AND LEAD CORE**

Segmented lead core is routinely fished with in-line boards like the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer. This popular board does the heavy lifting and can be fished in combination with all lead core rigs up to and including 10 colors. For anglers who wish to fish more than 10 colors of lead core, the Off Shore Tackle OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer is the answer to pulling heavier set ups.

**BRAID BACKING**

Some anglers prefer to rig their lead core set ups with braided line instead of monofilament line for backing. The advantage is that braid is thinner in diameter and more backing line can be loaded onto smaller reels.

When using braided line with segmented lead core rigs, the in-line boards used must be equipped with braid user friendly releases. For those who wish the board to be fixed to the line, the Off Shore Tackle OR18 Snapper Release is ideal. This cam operated release was designed to hold firm on slippery super braid lines.

Anglers who wish to use braided line and rig their boards to release will want to check out Off Shore Tackle’s OR39 Sam’s Pro Release manufactured by Silver Horde. This unique line release was designed with super braids in mind and is now privately labeled exclusively to Off Shore Tackle. The Sam’s Pro Release can be rigged on either the OR12 Side Planer or the OR37 SST Pro Mag Planers.

**SUMMING IT UP**

Lead core has been around a long time and has over and over again proven that it can catch fish in a host of trolling situations. By learning more about lead core rigging options, anglers can get the most benefit from this sinking line. Fishing lead core with Off Shore Tackle boards and releases is a match made in heaven.