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Vice Chairman of the Boards NICK DESHANO  
Editor MARK ROMANACK

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# The **OFF SHORE** RELEASE

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



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Chairman of the Boards, Bruce DeShano, fishing Lake of the Ozarks with Off Shore planer boards.

**Tips and Techniques brought to you by  
Your Leaders In Trolling Technology,  
Off Shore Tackle LLC and Riviera Trolling Systems**

**With Us, Your Possibilities Are Endless!**

# INTRODUCING THE SST PRO MAG

BY RUSSELL GAHAGAN

mounted on the tail of the board. This set up makes the SST Pro Mag Planer “super line friendly” and the board can also be fished using traditional monofilament lines.”



## LEAD CORE, COPPER AND MORE

The SST Pro Mag Planer handles set ups of lead core and copper line up to 600 feet with ease. The larger size of this board also allows anglers to get creative in the types of trolling gear that can be fished from a board.

“I commonly use the SST Pro Mag Planer to fish heavy snap weight set ups,” says Gahagan. “I use eight to 10 ounces of weight fished on an OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip placed on the line about 18 feet in front of my spoon and cut bait rigs. The SST Pro Mag Planer easily handles 12 to 16 ounce snap weight set ups when I need to fish deeper. This new board can also be fished with the Off Shore Tackle OR36 3 and OR36 Magnum Tadpole Divers.”

## RELEASING THOSE BOARDS

Another advantage of the SST Pro Mag Planer is the factory supplied OR18 Snapper Release is tension adjustable. This release can be tightened down to securely hold “super lines” or if you prefer the OR18 tension can be adjusted so the board can be rigged to trip when a fish strikes.

“I’m a big believer in rigging my boards to release when a fish is hooked, but also I need that board to stay on the line,” says Gahagan. “I recommend adjusting the tension on the OR18 Snapper Release so when a fish strikes the line can be tripped from this release, leaving the board connected to the fishing line via the OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip mounted on the tail of the board. The OR16 has a pin protruding through the center of the rubber pinch pads. When the line is placed behind the pin and the clip closed, the OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer will remain firmly attached to the fishing line.”

When a fish is hooked and the board released, the angler is in direct contact with the fish. “Releasing the board gives me full control over the fish,” explains Gahagan. “With the board tripped I can keep steady pressure on the fish and also steer hard pulling salmon away from other fishing lines if necessary.”

## SUMMING IT UP

Off Shore Tackle’s slogan is we’re the “Leader in Trolling Technology.” The OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer isn’t just a bigger in line board, it’s better at carrying heavy loads and gaining the maximum amount of outward coverage.

Thanks to the insights of professional anglers like Russell Gahagan, Off Shore Tackle is poised to take on the next chapter in open water board trolling.

## SIZE MATTERS

“Significantly larger in size than the industry standard OR12 Side Planer board, the SST Pro Mag is designed to pull lots of weight and also to run further to the side than competitor products,” says Russell Gahagan of Angler’s Avenue Pro Shop.

Russell is an Off Shore Tackle pro staffer and one of the key individuals involved in designing and prototyping the SST Pro Mag board. “Great Lakes trollers these days are faced with gin clear water and salmon that are tougher to catch than ever before,” explains Gahagan. “In order to catch fish consistently we’re forced to fish deeper, further behind the boat and further out to the side of the boat.”

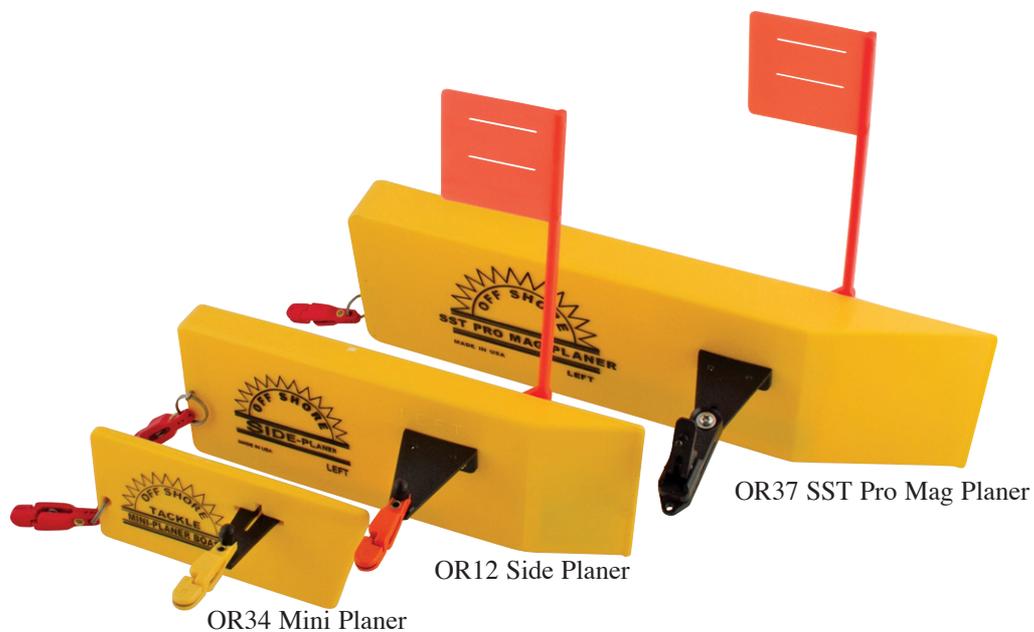
The OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer was designed to allow anglers to fish board lines far enough out to the side of the boat that several lines can be stacked on each side. Getting the board lines further out frees up space to fish diving planers and downrigger lines further away from the boat as well.

“One of the issues associated with fishing in line boards is not all of them are capable of towing heavy rigs out to the side of the boat,” says Gahagan. “If the board is sagging because of the resistance from heavy gear like copper line, a common problem occurs. When a fish is hooked on the diver line or even on the downrigger, as these hooked fish rise in the water column, they routinely get tangled in the board lines.”

Simply put, the OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer solves this common problem and allows anglers to pull more lines and also to fish with heavier and deeper diving gear.

## WATER READY IN THE PACKAGE

“One of the goals in producing the SST Pro Mag Planer was to create an in line board that is factory rigged for fishing right out of the package,” added Gahagan. “The SST Pro Mag Planer comes equipped with the tried and true OR18 Snapper Release mounted on the bracket and an equally dependable OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip



*Editor’s Note: Russell Gahagan is an Off Shore Tackle pro staffer and works at Angler’s Avenue Pro Shop, [www.anglersavenueproshop.com](http://www.anglersavenueproshop.com), helping others better understand popular trolling tactics and products designed for fishing the Great Lakes and beyond.*

## COMPANY MISSION STATEMENT

*Our company’s foundation is based on presenting products to the consumer that result in a more productive fishing experience by using the best materials available that are as eco friendly as possible. We have always set our standard’s high for our consumers to have the best results. Our products are “Often Imitated but Never Duplicated.” This is why Off Shore Tackle LLC remains, “Your Leader in Trolling Technology.”*

# PULLING PLANER BOARDS FOR SLAB CRAPPIE

BY DAN DANNENMUELLER  
AND GARRETT STEELE  
*Crappie Country Magazine*

During the summer of 2015, Garrett and I were taught by the best; Bruce and Nick DeShano along with Tommy Skarlis, on the technique of pulling the OR12 Side Planer boards for slab crappie. A couple days on Rend Lake in Illinois allowed us to learn how to use and set up our boat to effectively deploy them. Knowing when, where, how, and the correct boat setup is crucial to success.

## BEST TIME TO USE

Garrett and I have experienced tremendous success any time during the year when the crappie are suspended and chasing shad or bait. The time of the year is important but the fish activity is the key. If the crappie are feeding and not buried under docks, trees or brush piles, presenting the baits at the correct depth in open water can be the difference in success and meager catches.

Pressured fish, due to heavy fishing pressure, warrant a presentation at greater distances from the boat. These fish hear the trolling motor, electronics and other boat noises and immediately move away from the path of the boat. Planer boards offer a method for crappie anglers to cover wide areas of lake at various depths and with various bait presentations.

## STRUCTURES AND LAKE CONTOURS

The best answer is let the fish tell you the best areas. Use of good electronics with down view and side view capabilities can show how deep and where the fish are positioned. During the post spawn, many schools of fish will hold on flats to begin feeding and replenishing their bodies. During the summer and winter, many big fish hold on the creek and river ledges, especially those with stumps, logs or brush piles. Fall can also be especially good pulling the boards as the fish will be in big schools in open water or positioned over the tops of rock piles, stake beds, brush piles etc.

Garret and I find the most fertile water in the lake or river as it usually holds greater crappie populations and better quality crappie. Larger feeder creeks or the upper part of a lake usually also can be the most fertile. If these areas have large populations of shad or bait fish, this is where the larger numbers of crappie will be.

It is important to know that crappie can only feed at or above their position in the water. Their eyes can only focus on prey that are either straight out in front of them or above them in the water column. If the baits presented are below them, they will not see them.



## RIGGING

There are several options, but one set up has been the key to our success. One of our favorite methods is to use an OR12 Side Planer board equipped with an OR12TF Tattle Flag. Hooking even the smallest crappie will cause the Tattle Flag to tip down, making it possible to troll with a high degree of efficiency.

The use of Precision Trolling Data charts and apps will give you the proper amount of line to measure out between the board and the bait. Factors you must know to achieve the proper targeted depth are the lure type, brand, weight or size, and the proper boat speed. Normally, 1 to 1.2 mph will achieve the proper presentation.

Another method requires the use of a resettable diving trolling weight called the Off Shore Tackle OR36 Tadpole. We have found that the OR36 1 size Tadpole



works best when trolling for crappie with the OR12. It is the shape of this weight that makes it extremely effective. It has a flat surface on the upper part of the weight which is where the line from the rod and reel attaches to Tadpole. When trolled at targeted speeds, it consistently pulls and maintains the baits targeted depths. The shape of the Tadpole also allows it to bump off of fishable structures with less hang ups.

As with the first method, the Precision Trolling data will help determine the amount of line from the planer board to the Tadpole to achieve a desired lure running depth. When using the OR36 series Tadpole, the amount of line needed from the planer board to the bait will be considerably less. For example, to pull a crankbait at a consistent depth of 6 feet without a Tadpole will require 28 feet of line; however, with the Tadpole only 8 feet of line will be required.

On the opposite end of the Tadpole is a coast lock snap. We tie a leader to this coast lock snap which can be in various lengths. Keeping the length to three feet allows for better netting and control of fish when bringing them into the boat.

To help minimize lost fishing time on the water, Garrett and I pre tie leaders with coast lock snaps on both ends. We store them in storage boxes which allow us to replace lost baits or leader breaks swiftly.

## RODS AND REELS

Using the proper rods and reels is critical to successful planer board fishing. Garrett and I use 8 foot trolling rods.

It is important that the rods used have a fast taper for a good stiff backbone in the rod. Sensitive tips are not important as the planer boards tattle flag will be your bite indicator. The stiffer rods also provide the power to bring the board and crappie to the boat and lift both into the boat quickly and precisely.

Matching a quality trolling reel to these rods is critical to our success with the planer boards. After weeks of research and testing, we decided on acquiring and using line counter reels that have big spool reels. They hold more line, have smooth, tough drags and have line counters so we can measure the line between the tip of the rod and the planer board as well as the line from the OR12 Side Planer and the Tadpole or the bait trolled. Measuring the amount of line accurately is critical to presenting the bait at the proper depth.

## LINE

With so many brands and types of line on the market today, it can be overwhelming when choosing the right brand and type to use in varying conditions. After our own comparisons and testing, we chose a line based on line breaking points, resistance to fraying and abrasion, and knot strength. As to the type and strength of the line, we rely on three types of line depending on the lake and structures we are fishing. These types include Hi Vis

Mono, small diameter braid and Fluorocarbon.

Garrett and I normally use 10 pound test Hi Vis Mono on our reels. Although it is rated at a 10 lb. breaking point, it actually will break normally at 17 lbs. of weight. Since it is mono, it will float on the surface which is great for control of the planer boards. When we are faced with stump infested lakes or rivers, low diameter braid can help reduce line breaks on the main line.

When using the Tadpoles, we normally use 8 lb. mono for the line between the Tadpole and the bait (the leader). The mono will stay neutral (not rise or fall) during the trolling action with the Tadpoles. We use a lighter test line so if we snag structure, the leader will break before the main line, which reduces less board retrievals and lost time doing so.

On rare occasions, we will use Fluorocarbon line which is known to sink. This can be important during slower trolling speeds.

## TERMINAL TACKLE

There are various baits that you may choose to pull with the planer boards. We like to use Johnson Shad Cranks and Thinfisher Blades, Bobby Garland Jigs and Plastics, and Roadrunners. Each has its time and place to catch consistent, big crappie.

Johnson Shad Cranks are new to the crappie fishing market. They were designed, developed and tested to match crappie anglers trolling crankbait needs. We can troll them from .6 to 2.6 mph without affecting the action or depth of the baits. The best speed we have found is 1 to 1.2 mph. When matched with the Tadpoles, they can be pulled with the planer boards at any depth. The depth achieved is determined by the length of the line between the planer board, the Tadpole and the speed.

A quiet achiever for crappie is the Thinfisher Blade. This bait has a vibration at the desired trolling speeds that drives the crappie into a feeding frenzy. It mimics all types of bait fish.

When jigs are the desirable bait to use, we believe in the Bobby Garland, Mo Glo heads. Many times, depending upon the bait size the fish are feeding on, color preferences and action, jigs will outperform hard baits such as crankbaits, etc. The Mo Glo heads allow the use of various types of Bobby Garland plastic choices. Our preferred style of plastics is the SwimR and StrollR. These plastics mimic shad and baitfish while emitting key vibrations from their tails, calling the fish to the bait. When using these plastics we like to add Bobby Garland Crappie Rattles and religiously use the brand's Crappie Jam.

Last but not least, we really like the Roadrunner heads with their small blades that create flash when pulling them at any depth. We again match the Bobby Garland plastics with the Roadrunners.

## BOAT SETUP

The style of boat is not necessarily the key to an effective planer board experience. Garrett and I use what is traditionally known as a bass boat. This allows us great

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# DOWNRIGGER RELEASE TECHNOLOGY

BY MARK ROMANACK

These days downriggers have evolved into highly sophisticated electronically mastered trolling aids that cost thousands of dollars. Ironically, I still routinely see anglers using a two cent rubber band as their downrigger line release!

*This is precisely why Off Shore Tackle, the nation's leading manufacturer of line releases, produces a host of products designed to meet the needs of all open water trolling situations.*

dard. Designed to function with 10 - 25 pound test monofilament line and trolling speeds from 1.5 to 4.0 mph, the OR1 is clearly the leading choice for anglers after king salmon, lake trout, steelhead and other larger fish species.



## THE OR4

The OR4 Light Tension Downrigger Release was introduced to fill the niche created by anglers who fish for smaller species like walleye, brown trout, pink salmon, spring coho, kokanee and in-land lake trout fishing applications. Designed to function flawlessly when used with 10 - 25 pound test monofilament, this release is ideal for slow to moderate trolling speeds.



## THE OR8

The OR8 Heavy Tension Downrigger Release boasts a tension setting heavy enough to troll with large attractors, rotators, flashers, cow bells, lead drop balls, lead core line and other heavy gear. The double spring on the OR8 makes this release very popular with deep water salmon anglers, muskie trollers and guys who troll in saltwater fishing applications.

The OR8 functions flawlessly with 20 - 60 pound test fishing line and at trolling speeds up to six knots!

## RUBBER BANDS

The next time you reach for a rubber band as a downrigger line release rethink that decision. Not only do rubber bands not have the stretch and strength characteristics needed to function as effective line releases, they rot away in the sunshine almost as quickly as they come on board!

If you have a lot of rubber bands already on board... no worries because they do have a practical function on a fishing boat. Use them to bind your two piece trolling rods together between fishing trips or if you prefer braid your hair into pony tails!

## THE OR1

The OR1 Medium Tension Downrigger Release was the first product introduced by Off Shore Tackle decades ago and this release continues to set the industry stan-



# TADPOLE LEADERS... TRY RUNNING THEM SHORT

BY CAPTAIN TERRY KUNNEN

Lots of anglers are using OR36 Tadpole Resettable Divers these days to target suspended walleye. Most anglers are using standard leader lengths (48 to 60 inches) from the Tadpole to the trailing lure. Shortening up the leader length often makes a difference in how fish react to the presentation. For example, when trolling with shallow diving stickbaits, I've found that a shorter leader gives the lure more action and often out produces more standard leader lengths. Also when fishing crawler harnesses shortening up the leader to about 12 inches has produced surprisingly well on my boat.

Shorter leads are not always better, but it's amazing how often a short leader will put more fish in the box.

*Editor's Note: Captain Terry Kunnen is the owner of TKO Charters and a member of the coveted Off Shore Tackle pro staff. When Terry is not on the water running charters you can find him working consumer sport shows on behalf of OST.*

# PULLING PLANER BOARDS FOR SLAB CRAPPIE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

versatility with its large, raised front and rear decks perfect for pushing and pulling planer boards. The key is the appropriate rod racks on each side of the boat and rod holder setup on the front of the boat. This setup allows us to run at least two planer boards, if desired, on the front of the boat and six or eight from the back of the boat. The latter setup allows two people to work the planer boards in the back of the boat quite conveniently.

The key to keeping the boards at varying distances from either the front or back of the boat is the rod rack and rod holder positioning. The front rods in each rack should be higher than the next rod next to it (highest toward the front of the boat to the lowest at the rear of the rack/boat. This setup along with the appropriate spacing between the boards achieves less tangles and more effective water coverage. We like to have a minimum of 10 to 20 feet between the boards. This distance is our personal preference to maintain board control. This spacing is controlled by the rod height and amount of line between the rod tip and the planer board.

To control the speed, direction and position of the boat, a good trolling motor with a remote is essential. With operating the trolling motor by remote at the back of the boat, we can control the trolling track, direction, and speed freeing us to catch fish and control the boards effectively.

Although all of this sounds very complex, it really becomes quite easy for families to fish this method for catching impressive crappie limits. Once the boat has been set up correctly and the process of clipping the boards on the line is quickly learned, anglers can fish their favorite bait with great control while watching for the boards Tattle Flags to tip or with the OR34 Mini Planer boards the boards that tip or disappear. Garrett and I learned the fishing method in two days. We believe anyone can learn this new crappie technique.

*Editor's Note: Dan Dannenmueller and Garrett Steele are Off Shore Tackle pro staffers and two of the nation's leading authorities on crappie fishing. The team of Dannenmueller and Steele are on the cutting edge of crappie fishing technology. The board trolling tips shared in this article are re-writing the book on open water crappie fishing and helping anglers to better understand suspended crappie fishing methods.*

## WANTED

Attention retailers that carry Off Shore Tackle products! We are looking to add you to our list of DEALERS on our website. Please email us at [otcproducts@yahoo.com](mailto:otcproducts@yahoo.com) with your company name along with your city, state and country and web address 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 product line!

# THE MAKING OF FISHING PRODUCTS

BY VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, NICK DESHANO



## MANUFACTURING STEPS

Manufacturing starts once a satisfactory prototype is created and field testing efforts confirm that the product is ready to advance to the next step. Unfortunately, the process of building the necessary manufacturing tools is both an expensive and time consuming process. This process involves sourcing American and Canadian companies that specialize in specific manufacturing technologies.

Once a decision has been made to manufacture with a particular company a small test run of finished products is ordered.

The first batch of finished products are dispersed to pro staffers and other industry insiders to test yet again before giving the green light to produce a production run of product.

Once everyone is satisfied that the finished product is ready for market, a production run of product is ordered and the focus turns from manufacturing to developing suitable packaging. In the fishing tackle industry packaging is a critical part of getting products into retailers and ultimately consumers' hands.

The cost of packaging isn't just measured in the cost per unit, but also the cost involved in designing packaging and printing package inserts. In many cases the packages are used to market Off Shore Tackle products and also double as tackle storage for the consumer. A good example of this are the OR20 Pro Weight System boxes which conveniently store Guppy Weights, OR16 clips and split rings.

## READY FOR THE PUBLIC

Off Shore Tackle products are made ready for the retail shelves only after all of the above steps are completed. It might seem like this is the end of the story, but designing, prototyping and manufacturing are only part of the process.

Once finished goods hit the store shelves, the real work of getting them into consumer hands begins. It's at this point the endless process of distribution, advertising and marketing begins. Products sold in the fishing industry are first sold to tackle distributors who in turn sell these goods to retailers who in turn sell them to consumers.

Off Shore Tackle encourages distributors and retailers into buying their products by producing quality products and also by advertising regularly in the print media, on outdoor television and through the internet. Off Shore Tackle also invests marketing dollars into consumer sport shows coast to coast and by recruiting noteworthy professional anglers who are the Johnny Appleseeds of the fishing industry.

Before a product ends up in the hands of the consumer it has literally been sold, shipped and handled several times. This whole process costs money and is a big part of why fishing tackle products command the prices they do.

## SUMMING IT UP

Collectively the process of designing, testing, manufacturing, packaging, advertising and marketing fishing tackle products adds up to a staggering amount of money and time spent. All of these dollars are spent up front before a single dollar of profit made.

Off Shore Tackle's market strategy is simple — we don't strive to create the least expensive products on the market. At OST the goal is to create the best possible trolling products. Off Shore Tackle continues to be the "Leader in Trolling Technology" because everyone in the organization understands the commitment it takes to innovate and lead rather than follow.

## IT ALL STARTS WITH A GOOD IDEA

New products don't just happen; they start with a good idea. At Off Shore Tackle new product ideas come from a variety of sources including employees of the company, pro staffers and the actual consumers who buy our products. Typically these product concepts are born by a desire to solve a fishing problem.

## DESIGN AND PROTOTYPING

Once a problem is identified, the next step is to create an on paper design and then a working prototype that can potentially solve the problem. For example, one of the draw backs to fishing with in line boards like the OR12 Side Planer is that it can be tough sometimes to tell when a small fish has been hooked. The OR12TF Tattle Flag spring loaded flag kits were designed especially to solve this problem. When a small fish is hooked on a board featuring the Tattle Flag, the flag folds down making it obvious when a bite occurs.

Prototypes are almost always handmade items created out of wood, plastic or metal using either a modified existing product or in many cases these prototypes are created from scratch. The prototype process is generally enhanced by using technology like 3D printing. Using sophisticated software technology helps in developing prototypes, but this step involves incorporating the services of a software technician who of course needs to be compensated for their skills.

## TEST, TEST AND TEST AGAIN

Once a working prototype is created the testing stage begins. Creating products that function as designed is a painstakingly slow process. On average it takes three years for Off Shore Tackle (OST) to create a prototype and refine that prototype into a finished product.

The beginning stages of field testing prototypes is a process usually handled by Off Shore Tackle employees and others close to the organization. As more refined prototypes are introduced, these working samples are often shared with pro staffers to get their input.

Gradually prototypes are refined and changed to reflect performance goals set forth by the OST staff and pro staffers. Only after everyone agrees that the product performs as designed does the prototype process come to an end and the task of manufacturing a finished product begin.



# DALE HOLLOW MIXED BAG

BY DAVID CLARK

The famed Dale Hollow Lake located on the Tennessee/Kentucky border is one of those fisheries that anglers from all across the nation have heard of. On any given day, anglers can catch large mouth, small mouth and spotted bass, plus walleye, channel catfish, rainbow trout and even muskie. Truth is, all of these species are abundant on Dale Hollow and it's common to boat a mixed bag. Even better, Dale Hollow Lake is a year around open water fishing destination.

During the dead of winter anglers can head south and enjoy open water fishing for a wealth of species. Even though lots of anglers know about Dale Hollow's year around fishery; what anglers don't know about Dale Hollow is this body of water is a world class trolling fishery!

South of the Mason Dixon Line, trolling isn't a topic often heard on the lips of avid anglers. Most anglers in this part of the world prefer to cast for their fish, but the ultra clear waters and suspended forage base of Dale Hollow call for a different approach.

I catch most of my fish pulling crankbaits, spoons and spinner rigs with the help of Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer boards. My typical set up is to run the appropriate number of OR12's on each side of my boat to accommodate the legal number of lines allowed.

The board lines are used to target fish suspended higher in the water column. Typically these are small mouth bass, channel cats and at times walleye. I also rig my boat with four downriggers for fishing rainbow trout on the thermoclines in the summer and deep water walleye in the winter months. Often these fish are found suspended 50 to 80 feet down over 150 feet of water!

*Editor's Note: David Clark is a full time guide who trolls Dale Hollow Lake year around. His web page [www.trolldhl.com](http://www.trolldhl.com) features a blog that posts daily photos of the fish David catches on his charters. This unique service gives anglers a minute by minute update as to the size and types of fish his clients are catching.*



## THE CHANGING FACE OF THE DETROIT RIVER

BY JAKE BRANDT

There's no better place to be in April than the Detroit River. The ice has finally melted, the suns out and the fish are biting. Growing up in the mid to late 90's I was fortunate to watch the Pro Walleye Tour during its peak. I'll never forget watching those legends vertical jigging the Detroit River catching hog walleye in bitterly cold nasty conditions. To me, that's what walleye fishing is all about.

Every year the walleye of Lake Erie make their annual pilgrimage up the Detroit River and every year I make my annual trek to try and catch some of these fish. Although this migration is very predictable, little else about the Detroit River fishery falls into this category. Fish are continuously moving in and out of the river and the weather is always changing.

Among the ever changing variables the most important is water clarity. The Detroit River can be gin clear and a jig fishing paradise. However, I've personally only seen it this clear once in 15

years. This is because of the all powerful and ever watching Lake St. Clair which directly feeds the river. St. Clair is a large yet surprisingly shallow lake with a fairly organic substrate. Any significant wind or rain quickly turns the lake to mud and all of this mud shoots straight down the Detroit River. The muddier the river gets, the tougher the fishing gets. However, there are some tricks anglers can use to make the mud work for them.

There are many different ways to adapt to fishing in muddy water. Up first it's important to note that the American side of the river clears up faster than the Canadian side. The current on the American side is a little faster than the Canadian side. When the mud arrives, it's best to concentrate on the American side until the water eventually clears.

Moving shallow is another way to out wrangle the mud. Often some of the best fishing takes place not in the

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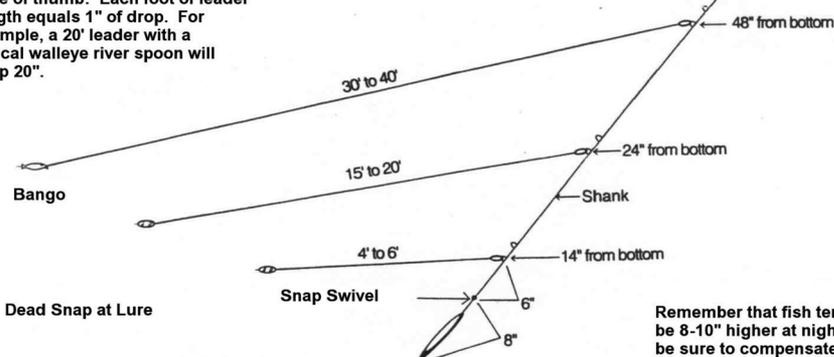
### HAND LINING

Although there are many methods and setups, shown below is a typical setup for hand line trolling.

Many anglers prefer to experiment with different combinations to see what works best for them.



Rule of thumb: Each foot of leader length equals 1" of drop. For example, a 20' leader with a typical walleye river spoon will drop 20".



1 1/2 mph or slower is a good starting speed.

# THE CHANGING FACE OF THE DETROIT RIVER — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

deep main river channel, but along the river edges in 5 to 15 feet of water. In muddy water walleye push to the banks of the river to avoid the strong current. Now that we know where to fish and what depths to target, it's time to discuss presentation adjustments.

There are many different ways to alter tactics to entice Detroit River walleye during muddy conditions. The first centers on bulking up jigging presentations. This can be done by simply switching to a larger jig or by adding a larger plastic bait or minnow to your jig. These simple steps give the bait a larger profile and make it easier for fish to spot the bait in dirty water.

Another presentation adjustment is color selection. Switching to brown or black jigs and dark colored plastics helps when the water gets muddy. Many people are surprised these dark colors work so well in stained water. Dark colors are

effective because these shades silhouette prominently in dirty water.

Another noteworthy fishing adaptation is to abandon jigging in favor of hand lining. This is an extremely effective method to put walleye in the boat, especially when the water clarity drops below 6 inches. Hand lining is a form of trolling that's extremely productive in muddy water. The biggest advantage of hand lining is the ability to fish multiple lures and keep them near bottom and in the strike zone 100% of the time.

Using the proper equipment is necessary when hand lining, starting with the best hand line reel. I use the Riviera Kachman Automatic Retrieval hand line reel. These reels come with 200 feet of 60 pound coated wire and a 1 ¼ pound hand line weight. The coated wire is very durable and the coating prevents your hands from getting torn up.

A wire shank with up to seven clevises



is added to the coated wire. The clevises are used to attach baits via long leaders. For my first bait I prefer a #9 floating Rapala behind an 8 to 10 foot leader of 30 pound line. I attach this leader to the 2nd clevis up from the bottom of the shank.

Above this set up I run a #11 floating Rapala behind a 15 to 20 foot leader attached to the fifth clevis up from bottom. I use 30 pound line for my leaders because its thick diameter prevents it from becom-

ing tangled while it's lying in the boat. The leader lengths that I mentioned are good starting points, but make adjustments while on the water. As the water clears up I'll increase my leader lengths and also move them up to higher clevises accordingly.

The final tackle item that you need is a weight. I attach a 1 ¼ to 2 pound hand line weight to the bottom of my shank. It's important to choose enough weight for the conditions. As current increases, heavier weights are required. The idea is to be fishing at about a 45 degree angle. This will keep your baits near bottom and help to eliminate snags.

Anglers of the Great Lakes region flock to the Detroit River for the spring walleye run. Fishing conditions in April are constantly changing and no two days on the river are seemingly the same. Clear water produces the best fishing, but sooner or later the river is going to flow the color of chocolate milk. Coming prepared to fish clean or dirty water is the best way to approach the Detroit River.

## RIVIERA'S SRT SWIVELING ROD TOWER



P O Box 507  
Port Austin, MI 48467-0507  
989-738-5700  
[www.rivieratrolling.com](http://www.rivieratrolling.com)

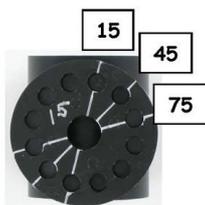
Riviera's SRT is available in 3, 4, 5 (shown) or 6 rod versions. The SRT's can be used in port or starboard applications.

Every rod holder is adjustable in 15 degree increments by alternating the 2 indexing discs.

The SRT tower swivels and will lock into position at every 90 degrees. The SRT is also removable from the base by simply pulling out the spring loaded pin and lifting, a 2 second job. The base is connected to the mounting plate by 4 - 5/16" thumb screws and can be easily removed if desired.

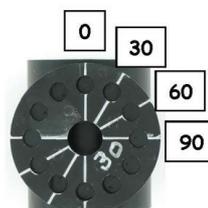
The mounting plate, base, tower tube and rod holders are all powder coated aluminum. The indexing brackets are made of high impact Lexan, the same material used in bulletproof glass. The rod holders and indexing brackets have been tested to 250# of pressure with NO effect to either so feel good about putting your rods in them.

A track adapter is also available for those utilizing tracks on their boats (SRT TA).



The 1<sup>st</sup> set of holes on the 15 disc is 15 degrees from vertical on the tower tube. The 2<sup>nd</sup> set of holes is 45 degrees from vertical on the tower tube. The 3<sup>rd</sup> set of holes is 75 degrees (seldom used) from vertical on the tower tube. These are the only 3 usable positions on the 15 indexing disc.

The holes on the 30 disc start at vertical on the tower tube or 0 degree, the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of holes is for a 30 degree angle, the 3<sup>rd</sup> set is for a 60 degree angle and the 4<sup>th</sup> set could be used for a 90 degree angle (seldom used).



By switching the indexing discs from side to side, it is possible to have any angle from 0 degrees (vertical) to 90 degrees (horizontal) in 15 degree increments making it possible to set the rods to any usable angle that is desired.

The normal set up from the factory will have the rod holder angles set at (starting from the top down) 15, 30, 45, and 60 degrees on the transom side of the tower. This allows for a good separation on the rod tips. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> rod holder would be set at 0 degrees (vertical) on the opposite side and can be adjusted to any desired angle. The number of rod holders supplied will depend on the model of the SRT purchased.

**Always be sure that the SRT is tightly secured to the vessel, that the tower is locked into the base, that all rod holders are tightly secured onto tower and that all rods are properly seated into each rod holder. The 75 and 90 degree angles are NOT recommended for normal use. You use this product at your own risk and Riviera will not be liable for improper use and/or loss of any equipment used in conjunction with this product.**

## DISCLAIMER

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

## BATTLE OF THE FLOATING WEEDS

BY CAPTAIN TERRY KUNNEN

Weeds floating on the surface can be a troller's worst nightmare. From June right into December, boat traffic chops up aquatic weeds that eventually end up floating on the surface and fouling fishing lines.

Trolling in floating weeds can be very frustrating. Since not going fishing is not an option, let me suggest a simple cure for this common problem. Take an Off Shore Tackle OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip and place it on the line about 10 to 20 feet ahead of your lure. When weeds catch on the fishing line they slide down to the OR16 and hang up. The trailing lures stay weed free and fishing success skyrockets.

When a fish is hooked, reel in the OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip and remove it from the line. Then finish fighting the fish to net. This simple trick saves me countless hours of clearing lines, keeps my blood pressure in check and makes trolling fun even when faced with floating weeds!

*Editor's Note: Captain Terry Kunnen of TKO Charters is based out of Muskegon Michigan and is a member of the elite Off Shore Tackle pro staff.*



## FROSTBITING FOR LANDLOCKED SALMON

BY RON WINTER

On Lake Champlain nestled between the Vermont and New York border resides a hardy group of anglers known as the Frostbite Fleet. Starting in late October these enthusiasts extend their fishing season by trolling for landlocked Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon are unique in that they live much longer than Pacific salmon species and very few bodies of water in North America offer catchable numbers of these fish.

About the time many anglers are putting their boats to sleep for the winter, the Frostbite Fleet is just hitting their stride. Most years the fishing peaks in early November and lasts right up until ice forces an end to the fun in January.

The typical frostbite boat is a trailerable 17-20 foot open bow aluminum boat. Most anglers equip their rigs with a full canvas enclosure to keep the elements outside. Inside the enclosure a propane heater keeps the cabin at a comfortable 60 degrees.

When the surface water temperature reaches 50 degrees in early November the trolling action starts heating up. At this time of year the surface water temperature is often the

same as much as 90 feet down. This creates a multi-presentation trolling opportunity for the savvy angler!

Most boats use downriggers to cover the 60 to 90 foot depths and incorporate Slide-Divers for fishing the water between 40 to 60 feet deep. Off Shore Tackle OR36 series Resettable Tadpole Divers are ideal for covering the top 30 feet. Tadpoles perform best when fished behind OR12 Side Planer in line boards.

The average landlocked salmon is only 2 to 3 pounds, with a few fish tipping the scales at 5 to 6 pounds. Tadpoles can be fished with light to medium trolling gear and are ideal for targeting these smaller fish.

On Lake Champlain it's common to be fishing in heavy boat traffic, so keeping trolling leads to 75 feet or less makes it easier to maneuver and stay on the fish. At the terminal end, small 2.5 to 3 inch trolling spoons that imitate smelt produce the most action. Most boats fish six lines including two board lines, two divers and a pair of downrigger lines.

The Frostbite Fleet is made up of a special breed of anglers. About the time normal anglers are calling it quits for another year, the Frostbite Fleet is just getting warmed up.

## DON'T BE FOOLED BY IMITATIONS!

We are "Often Imitated, Never Duplicated". Make sure that when you purchase your products that they are the Original Off Shore and Riviera equipment that has proven successful and dependable! We take pride in bringing you the best!

# LET'S GET SUSPENDED

BY JAKE BRANDT

As walleye anglers, we are blessed to chase a fish that thrives in natural lakes, impoundments, rivers and even the Great Lakes. One of my favorite places to target walleye are the many oligotrophic lakes dotted across the upper Midwest and Canada. Oligotrophic lakes are characterized as being cold water fisheries with a high level of dissolved oxygen. The water clarity in oligotrophic lakes tends to be very clear and aquatic plant growth is minimal. In short, these lakes are sterile and more difficult to fish compared to other bodies of water, but that doesn't mean they don't contain fish.

The summer months are dubbed as being the worst time of the year to fish oligotrophic lakes. As the water on the surface warms, pleasure boats and jet skis buzz the near shore waters into a froth. All this commotion drives fish away from traditional shoreline structure and points, forcing walleye, pike and other species to set up housekeeping literally in the middle of the lake!

Fortunately, boat traffic in the middle of the lake is minimal and adult walleye thrive in these areas by feeding on suspended forage minnows. Lakes that support a rich forage base of ciscoes or lake herring, emerald shiners and young-of-the-year white fish are almost certain to produce noteworthy open water walleye fishing. Even better the fish that frequent open water are typically the biggest in the system.

Finding walleye among the huge expanses of open water is a little bit like finding a needle in a haystack. It takes time, determination and a boat equipped with high quality sonar. Generally these fish turn up on deep water flats featuring 20 to 50 feet of water. At times walleye will suspend over much deeper water.

To maximize time on the water I use my electronics to help me eliminate water long before setting the first lines. I'll go from spot to spot cruising at 10 to 15 mph looking for suspended fish on my graph. Open water fish mark readily on a sonar unit because they're deep enough to be detected by your sonar cone, but far enough away from bottom that they don't blend into it.

Another nice thing about fishing in oligotrophic lakes is that if suspended fish are located on the graph, it's very likely those fish are either walleye or northern pike. Rough fish like catfish and drum favor shallow mesotrophic lakes that are more organic in makeup.

Once I find a school of suspended fish, it's time to target those specific marks to determine if these fish are walleye or another species. Crankbaits are the ideal "prospect" lures when targeting suspended fish. Crankbaits can be fished faster than live bait presentations, increasing the

amount of water that can be covered. Also, crankbaits can be dialed in to specific depths better than most live bait presentations.

Open water walleye often suspend below the surface deeper than popular crankbaits will dive. I solve this problem by using the Off Shore Tackle OR20 Pro Weight System to add weight 20 to 30 feet in front of my crankbaits. The OR20 Pro Weight System features a selection of guppy weights from 1/2 to three ounces in size, four OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clips and split rings.

The desired guppy weight is attached to the OR16 using the provided split ring; making what is known as a Snap Weight. The OR16 is a pinch pad style clip, with a pin that protrudes through the center of the rubber pads. When the fishing line is placed behind this pin, the OR16 stays put on the line. This set up allows weight to be quickly added to increase the diving depth of crankbaits, and then removed as quickly when reeling in a hooked fish.

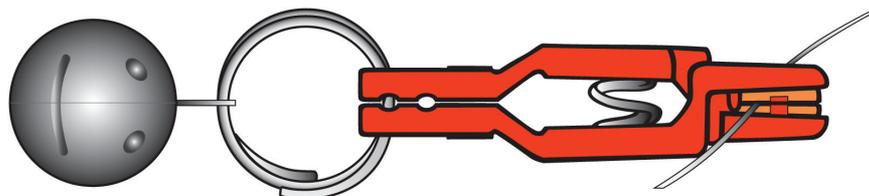
A one ounce Snap Weight added 20 feet in front of a diving crankbait increases the diving depth of that lure by a factor of one-third. In other words, if a lure is running 15 feet down and one ounce of weight is added, that lure's diving depth will increase to 20 feet.

When fishing Snap Weights in combination with crankbaits it helps to use the same size weight on all trolling lines. To vary the depths these lures are running, simply zero out the line counter reel when placing the Snap Weight on the line and vary the amount of line played out from the Snap Weight to the rod tip.

When trolling crankbaits I start out with a different bait and a different color on every rod. This allows me to present the fish with a buffet of options. Once I start catching fish I can see what body types and colors are working best and slowly dial in a productive pattern.

Snap Weights are a great way to spread out crankbaits vertically in the water column, but open water trolling with crankbaits is a three dimensional game. In line boards like the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer are ideal for spreading out lines horizontally to cover more water. Boards are also stealthy, enabling anglers to present lures to fish that have not been spooked by the presence of the boat.

The oligotrophic lakes of the Midwest and Canada are some of the most beautiful waters that I've ever fished. In the summer time these lakes can provide untapped open water fishing opportunities. Finding these fish is about having the courage to leave other anglers and shoreline structure behind. Use sonar to pinpoint the locations and depths these fish are using and embrace crankbaits, Snap Weights and the OR12 Side Planer board when it's time to put fish in the boat.



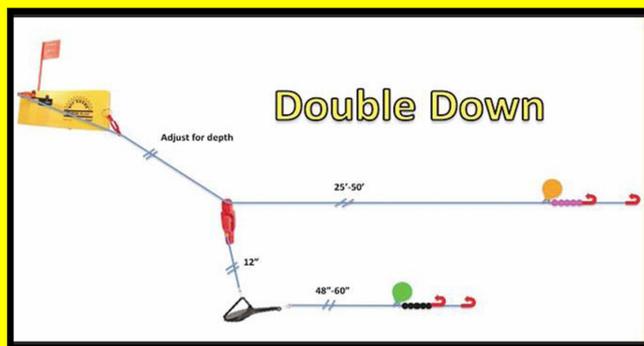
# THE DOUBLE DOWN

By Jeff Anderson with Mark Romanack

The Off Shore Tackle OR36 series Resettable Tadpole Divers have taken walleye fisheries like Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay, Little Bay de Noc, Green Bay and others simply by storm.

Tadpoles are commonly fished with spinner rigs. Even better these unique trolling divers can also be fished in tandem similar to the way downrigger anglers use adda-lines to get more lures in the water.

Known as The Double Down set up, this rig starts by letting a spinner, spoon or shallow diving stick bait behind the boat 30 feet. Next a Tadpole is rigged with a short 6-12 inch long crawler harness attached directly to the back of the diver using a small snap swivel. The Tadpole is then rigged with a six to eight inch dropper line fashioned from 20 pound test fluorocarbon line



that consists of an Off Shore Tackle OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip on one end of the dropper and a snap swivel on the other end. The OR16 is placed over the main line being sure to put the line behind the center pin in the clip, then the snap swivel is placed on the arm of the OR36 Tadpole.

The Tadpole hangs on the dropper and is placed in the water. At this point the line counter is zeroed out and another 15 to 30 feet of line is played out. It's important to let out this rig slowly so the Tadpole doesn't tangle with the main line. This unique way of rigging two lures on the same Tadpole set up is legal in most states and counts as only one fishing line.

Before using The Double Down set up, **BE SURE TO CHECK WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS TO INSURE MULTIPLE LURES CAN BE FISHED ON ONE LINE.** In states that only allow one trolling

line, this set up is worth its weight in gold. The same holds true of places like the interior waters of Ontario where anglers can only troll one line.

Even on Great Lakes waters that allow multiple lines per angler, The Double Down set up puts more bait in the water increasing the catch rate significantly.

The Double Down set up routinely produces double headers. Net the first fish on the Tadpole and once the fish is safely in the net, pinch the OR16 off the main line then continue to reel in and net the second fish. The extra heavy spring tension and center pin design of the OR16 insures that The Double Down rig stays put on the fishing line. A simple and effective way to double up on the amount of lures in the water, it's hard to argue with the logic that more lures in the water adds up to catching more fish.

*Editor's Note: Jeff Anderson operates Anderson Boyz Charters, fishing the north shore of Lake Erie and is an Off Shore Tackle pro staffer.*

## TROLLING WEIGHT SYSTEMS THE PRECISION TROLLING WAY

BY KEITH KAVAJECZ  
AND GARY PARSONS

The Off Shore Tackle OR20 Pro Weight System and OR36 series Resettable Tadpole Divers see a lot of use on our boats. In the spring and summer these trolling systems are especially deadly when paired up with spinner rigs and used to target open water walleye.

Thankfully, both of these popular trolling weights and many others have been tested and the diving depths published by Precision Trolling Data, LLC (PTD). This critical fishing information allows trollers to precisely target known depths and also the fish they mark on their sonar units.

Currently the PTD data is available to the consumer several ways including Android and also iPhone apps sold respectively at the Google Play and Apple stores. Anglers have the option of purchasing individual data, complete versions or the Lifetime package that allows anglers to receive future data releases at no additional cost. Also these apps can be loaded onto multiple devices using the same phone platform at no additional cost. For example, anglers can load the data to their iPhone and also an iPad.

For those "old school" anglers most of the Precision Trolling Data is also available in a printed version sold at [www.precisiontrollingdata.com](http://www.precisiontrollingdata.com). The PTD "Stickers" are just \$1.99 each and are made of waterproof vinyl suitable for adhering to the utility boxes most anglers use to store their lures and trolling gear.

To get the most from the PTD data it's important that anglers understand a few basics about how this landmark trolling data is collected and displayed.

### MEASURING FEET BACK

The data in the PTD apps and "Stickers"

are based on several variables including line type/diameter, lead length or "feet back" and also trolling speeds. It's important to match these variables by setting up your trolling reels with the same type and diameter of line used in the PTD testing. In the case of Pro Weight Systems, Tadpoles and other sinking devices like keel sinkers, we recommend fishing these devices on 10 pound test or .013 diameter monofilament line.

The "feet back" measurement is the precise amount of line played out from the fishing lure to the rod tip. A line counter reel loaded to capacity is the most convenient and accurate means of measuring and duplicating the amount of trolling lead or "feet back".

Precision Trolling Data monitors trolling speeds using GPS speed-over-ground reference numbers. For slow speed trolling situations such as spinner trolling, an auto-pilot electric motor or gasoline kicker motor is required.

### TRANSDUCER DEPTH

The PTD data is measured from the surface of the water to the maximum depth a lure or device achieves. On most fishing boats the transducer is going to be mounted 18 to 24 inches below the surface. For example, if your graph is marking fish at 12 feet down, those fish are actually 14 feet down and it's important to take this variable into consideration when selecting trolling leads.

### THE RELATIONSHIP OF ROD TIP TO THE WATER SURFACE

Another variable anglers often overlook is the position of the rod tip relative to the water surface. The PTD data is collected with the rod tip touching the surface. In many trolling situations the rod tip is positioned above the water, effectively

causing the lure or device to run somewhat shallower than the data indicates.

Say for example you're fishing an OR20 series Pro Weight in a Snap Weight format as a flat line and the rod tip is positioned in the rod holder about a foot above the water. Estimate the amount of line from the rod tip to the point where the line enters the water and add this amount of line out to your total "feet back". This simple compensation insures that your lures will be running at the precise depths indicated on the PTD apps and stickers.

### BOARD TROLLING

When using in line boards like the famous Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer, note that the board holds the fishing line at the water surface. This replicates the PTD data perfectly and no compensation in "feet back" is required when fishing with in line boards.

### SPEED DEPENDENT

Weighted trolling devices like the OR20 Pro Weight System, OR36 series Tadpoles, lead core line and keel sinkers are highly speed dependent. In other words, the depths these devices achieve is driven as much by trolling speed as by the trolling lead or "feet back". Most anglers are amazed when they look closely at the PTD data and realize how even minor fluctuations in trolling speed make significant differences in how deep these devices fish.

Say for example an OR36 2 Tadpole is fished on 10# XT monofilament and the angler is letting out 30 feet of line. At 1.0 mph the Tadpole is running 23 feet down, but by simply speeding up to 1.5 mph the same set up is now only running 15 feet down!

Trolling speed plays a huge role in fishing sinking devices, not only in terms

of how deep these devices fish, but also in triggering strikes. The best approach to trolling speeds are to monitor them closely, experiment with minor changes in trolling speed and let the fish communicate which speeds they prefer.

### DEPTH MATCHING

One of the other advantages of using the PTD data is this information allows anglers to target known depths that are producing fish using a variety of trolling set ups and hardware. For the sake of discussion let's say an OR36 2 Tadpole is being fished at 1.5 mph with 45 feet of line out. This particular set up is fishing 20 feet down and taking fish.

The same depth can be achieved by fishing an OR36 1 Tadpole with 62 feet of line out, a two ounce keel sinker fished 58 feet back or a 2 ounce Pro Guppy Weight used as a Snap Weight fished on the 50/50 set up. The depth control options that PTD provides are amazing. With the help of PTD anglers can zero in on fish regardless of the depth or trolling speeds.

### SUMMING IT UP

Trolling weight systems in combination with spinner rigs rank as one of the most productive ways to catch walleye during the spring and summer months. With the help of the Precision Trolling Data apps and "Stickers" it's possible to target these fish at specific depths and to replicate those depths with a host of fishing gear. In the world of open water walleye trolling, it doesn't get any better than that.

*Editor's Note: Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz are tournament professionals and the hosts of the popular TV series The Next Bite broadcast nationally on NBC Sports and also Destination America on the Discovery Channel.*

# TADPOLES AND WORM BURNERS IN THE WEEDS

BY CARL HATALA WITH MARK ROMANACK

“When fishing walleye tournaments it pays to have a plan “B” in your back pocket,” says Carl Hatala. “Fishing the walleye tour has taught me that even the most dependable and mainstream trolling presentations can and do falter as fast as the weather. When faced with tough fishing conditions I’ve found that targeting walleye in the weeds is the best way to string together a few bites. The fish you catch in the weeds may not win the tournament, but they are usually good enough to keep a guy in the hunt.”

## WEED TROLLING TRICKS

OR36 series Tadpoles work wonders when trolling over the top of emerging weed beds. The Tadpole dives to get the bait down to depth and also acts to catch weed debris, preventing the trailing lure from getting fouled.

“My favorite set up is to rig a worm burner three feet behind an OR36 1 Tadpole,” says Hatala. “A worm burned” consists of a flutter spoon rigged a few inches in

front of a two hook harness baited with a live night crawler. This rig has fish attracting flash, yet pulls through weed cover with less fouling than traditional spinner rigs featuring Colorado or Indiana style blades.”

## BOARDS ARE BETTER

The Tadpole and worm burner rig is the most productive when fished in combination with the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer board. Using boards it’s possible to cover sprawling weed flats with multiple lines and also to fish a couple of bonus flat lines straight out the back of the boat.

## TATTLE FLAGS PLEASE

The biggest drawback to fishing in the weeds is the issue of the hooks routinely fouling on weed debris. Obviously when the lures get fouled in the weeds they are not going to catch fish.

The best way to manage this situation is to rig the OR12 Side Planer with an Off Shore Tackle OR12TF Tattle

Flag Kit. These spring loaded flag kits are so sensitive they indicate not only when a fish is hooked, but also if the bait gets fouled in the weeds.

Tattle Flags are worth their weight in gold when fishing in the salad (knowing when your bait is fouled with weeds) or when fishing with any live bait presentation. Even a small chunk of weed on the hooks causes the flag to fold down noticeably, clearly indicating the need to reel in that rig, clear off the weeds and reset.

## WEED FISH ARE HOME BODIES

Walleye that take up housekeeping in the weeds are far more likely to be found in the same place day in and day out. While weed walleye may not be as big or as numerous as their open water counterparts, when the open water bite takes a down turn, chances are the weed bite is just heating up.

*Editor’s Note: Carl Hatala is a highly successful tournament walleye angler.*

# STACKING BOARD LINES

BY MARK ROMANACK

The only thing more deadly than fishing in line boards, is to stack multiple boards on each side of the boat. Traditional in line board rigging methods requires clearing inside lines when fish are hooked on the outside boards. This methodology helps to prevent lines from crossing and getting tangled, but it also makes for more work setting and clearing lines.

Off Shore Tackle has solved that common problem by factory rigging the OR12 Side Planer and OR34 Mini Planer with line releases and clips designed to allow anglers to trip their boards and reel in fish without having to clear any lines.

## OR12 RIGGING

It’s easy to stack two, three, four or even five of these in line boards per side without having to clear any lines when a fish is hooked. The OR12 comes equipped with an OR19 (orange) line release on the bracket of the board and an OR16 (red) Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip mounted on the tail the board.

The OR19 is a pinch pad style release with an adjustable tension. When the spring is slid forward (toward the pads), the tension is in the heavy setting and when the spring is slid back (away from the pads), the tension is lighter. For normal trolling conditions the light tension setting is ideal. When trolling in rough water, targeting large fish or when trolling at faster than normal speeds, the heavy spring tension is recommended.

After setting the lure the desired distance behind the boat, open the OR19 release and place the line about midway between the rubber pinch pads. Next take

the line and place it all the way to the back of the OR16 (this clip features a pin that protrudes through the middle of the rubber pads), making sure the line is behind this pin.

Rigged in this manner, when a fish bites, the line will trip from the OR19 mounted on the bracket of the board. Meanwhile the OR16 insures that the board remains firmly attached (with line placed properly) to the fishing line. Once tripped, the board will fall back out of the trolling pattern.

Keep a tight line on the tripped board and give it a few seconds to clear any other lines, then simply reel in the board and fish straight up the back of the boat.

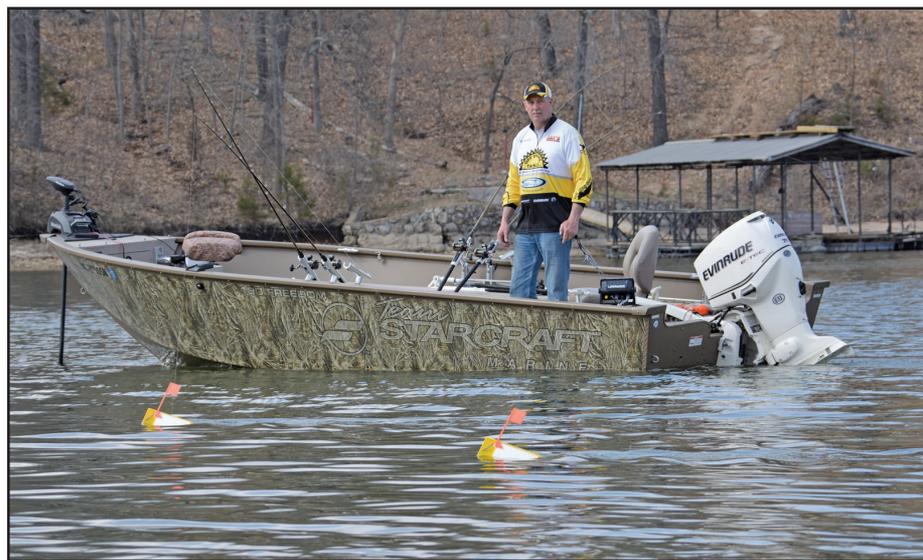
Once the fish is landed, this board line can be re-rigged and slipped right into the same trolling slot. Start by resetting the lure back to the same lead length that produced the bite. Attach the board as described above and then free-spool the lure and board straight out the back of the boat.

When the board is far enough behind the boat to clear inside board lines, engage the reel and let the board swim back into formation. Another option is to reset the board line that just caught a fish as the inside board line and then reposition the other board lines so they are staggered evenly.

## OR34 MINI PLANER

The OR34 Mini Planer can be rigged and fished exactly the same way as the OR12. The Mini Planer comes factory equipped with a lighter tension OR10 (yellow) planer board line release to be attached on the bracket and an OR16 (red) Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip to be mounted to the tail of the board by way of a split ring.

The smaller size of the OR34 makes it ideal for trolling with smaller lures, lighter line and lighter action rods. Popular with anglers who troll for suspended crappie, the OR34 can



also be used to target other species including trout, walleye, bass, pike, kokanee and much more.

## TRIP AND GO

On occasion a fish will be hooked, but the line won’t release from the bracket release automatically. In this case the board will pull backwards indicating a fish has been hooked. This commonly happens when light biting fish like walleye or small fish like pan fish are hooked. The angler can trip the board manually by simply giving the rod tip a little snap.

## RETRO FITTING OLDER BOARDS

The OR12 and OR34 boards now come from the factory rigged with releases designed to allow the board to be tripped. If you have older boards, any Off Shore Tackle board can easily be retro fitted to accomplish the same goal by purchasing the appropriate line release and installing them. For fishing the OR12 the orange OR19 release works

best on the bracket. The OR34 Mini Planer can be rigged with the yellow OR10 or black OR14 release on the bracket. In both cases the red OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip must be mounted on the tail of the board.

## SUMMING IT UP

Rigging in line boards to release, but stay on the line is the slickest way yet to fish boards and avoid having to clear lines to fight fish. Because the OR12 and OR34 boards accept a multitude of Off Shore Tackle line releases, it’s easy to customize boards to the fish for any species or trolling chores at hand. This trolling set up works great for fish big and small and can be applied to walleye, trout, salmon, muskie, pike, striper and even crappie trolling applications.

Once again Off Shore Tackle proves why they are the “Leaders in Trolling Technology”.

## 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)!



## Side Planer Boards

### Model # OR34 Mini Planer Board



Each OR34 Mini Planer includes an OR10 release, OR16 clip, black bracket, split ring, snap swivel, nylon 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 light tackle fishing.

### Model # OR12L Side Planer Left

### Model # OR12R Side Planer Right



Each OR12 Side Planer includes a stationary flag, one OR19 (orange) release, one OR16 (red) 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 (black) release with lock nut, one OR16 (red) 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 as well as oversized baits used for Striper, Salmon, Trout, Muskie and Walleye. The SST Pro Mag Planer was designed to be correctly balanced for pulling heavy weights, no modifications or additions are needed! The OR16 (red) clip on the tail of the board ensures that your board will stay on your fishing line.

## Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit

### Model # OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit



Each kit includes flag, 2 OR16 clips, wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and instructions. One kit will upgrade one OR12 Side Planer.

### Model # OR12TFEK Tattle Flag Upgrade Economy Kit



This kit will only work by using an OR12 Side Planer and two OR16 (red) clips that you previously purchased as this kit just contains ONLY the hardware which consists of a 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 as shown on order blank. Their large diameter pinch pad design holds monofilament lines securely. Tension can be adjusted further by how deeply the line is placed into the pads.

### Model # OR3, OR3BWW, or OR3BWOW Light Tension Planer Board Release —White



This release is ideal for Walleye fishing in choppy water or Brown Trout using 10-25 pound test monofilament line.

### Model # OR17BWW or OR17BWOW Medium Tension Planer Board Release —Black



This release is ideal for Salmon, Steelhead, Trout and Muskie using 10-25 pound test monofilament line. It can also be used to pull lead core, Snap Weights and deep diving crankbaits.

### Model # OR30BWW or OR30BWOW Heavy Tension Planer Board Release —Red



This release is ideal for Muskie, trophy Pike and salt water fish using over 20 pound test monofilament line.

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



The OR18 is a full size release 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. With the wide range of tension settings, this release is ideal for Walleye, Striper, Salmon, Steelhead, Trout, and Muskie.

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 as shown on the order blank. 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, OR10BWW or OR10BWOW Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Release—Yellow



This release is ideal for light biting fish such as Walleye or smaller fish using 10-25 pound test monofilament line. Our three half size adjustable tension planer board releases come with a quick clip for use on dual planer boards and split ring for use on in line planer boards.

### Model # OR14, OR14BWW or OR14BWOW Adjustable Medium Tension Planer Board Release—Black



This release is ideal for dual planer board trolling for Walleye and Salmon using 10-25 pound test monofilament line. This is the release most commonly used for rigging add-a-lines or fixed slider lines among downrigger anglers.

### Model # OR19, OR19BWW or OR19BWOW Adjustable Heavy Tension Planer Board Release—Orange



This release comes as standard equipment on the OR12 Side Planer and is ideal for Striper, Salmon, Trout, and Muskie using 10-25 pound test monofilament and lead core.

**DON'T BE  
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IMITATIONS!**

We are "Often Imitated, Never Duplicated". Make sure that when you purchase your products that they are the Original Off Shore and Riviera equipment that has proven successful and dependable! We take pride in bringing you the best!

# PRODUCT SHOWCASE

## ...Trolling Technology



### 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.

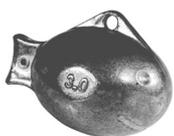
Model # OR16, OR16BWW or OR16BWOW  
Pro Weight Clip—Red



This half size clip has an extra heavy spring tension and includes a split ring. They are also available without split rings as shown on the order blank. 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, as well as OR12 Side Planer and in our OR20 Pro Weight System. It is ideal for use with snap weight fishing, super braid lines and with our tattle flag 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

### 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 Walleye, spring Coho, or other small to medium size fish using 10-25 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR1  
Medium Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for Salmon, Steelhead, Striper and Trout using 10-25 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR8  
Heavy Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, Red



This release is ideal for Muskie, Salmon, trophy Pike, and salt water fish using over 20 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR7  
Light Tension Stacker  
Downrigger Release, White



This release is ideal for Walleye, spring Coho, or other small to medium size fish using 10-25 pound test monofilament line 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 Salmon, Steelhead, Striper and Trout using 10-25 pound test monofilament line and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

### 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, OR19 releases along with OR16 clips WITHOUT the pin protruding through the center of the pads.



Model # ORRP16HL

Replacement pads for OR16 clips WITH pin that protrudes through the center of the pads.



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# GUPPY WEIGHTS, SNAP WEIGHTS AND TADPOLE DIVERS

BY MARK ROMANACK

Off Shore Tackle offers a host of trolling weights. The OR20 Pro Weight System includes environmentally friendly Guppy Weights designed to be fished like keel sinkers (in line) or rigged on an OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip and fished as Snap Weights. Off Shore Tackle also produces four sizes of the OR36 series Tadpole Resettable Divers suitable for targeting fish in shallow or deep water.

The question becomes when is it best to fish the Pro Weight System and when is it more appropriate to fish the Tadpole divers? The short answer is that all of these weight systems can be fished interchangeably and used to target a wide variety of species.

## SHALLOW WATER

Rigged as an in line keel sinker or as a Snap Weight the Guppy Weights are typically fished in combination with a spinner rig, shallow diving crankbait or spoon. Because these weighted systems are very speed dependent, the Guppy and Snap Weight set ups are a good option for fishing at modest trolling speeds and for fish that are commonly found in the upper water column. Post spawn walleye, spring browns and steelhead or salmon that are

setting up on scum lines are good examples of trolling situations where Guppy Weights are deadly.

The Pro Weight System comes with an assortment of weights ranging from 1/2 ounce to three ounces in size. At normal trolling speeds these weights work well at targeting fish found in the top 30 feet of the water column.

Snap Weights also have the advantage of being stealthy. By positioning the Snap Weight 20 to 50 feet ahead of the lure, anglers can fish target depths and consistently fool finicky fish. For this reason, many anglers favor Snap Weights when trolling in clear waters.

## A LITTLE DEEPER PLEASE

Guppy and Snap Weights achieve their depth based on the amount of weight involved and the trolling speed involved. Tadpole Divers are different because they feature a diving lip similar to a crankbait. The diving lip allows Tadpoles to achieve more diving depth than similar sized Guppy or Snap Weights. Also, Tadpoles are also less speed dependent than other trolling weight systems.

The fact that Tadpoles are less speed dependent means these diving weights are ideally suited for trolling at the higher speeds commonly used to present crankbaits and spoons. Tadpoles are unique in that they can be fished shallow by running them on a short lead length or they

can be fished deep by extending the trolling lead. Fast or slow, shallow or deep, Tadpoles are the most versatile trolling diver on the market.

## WHY BOTH?

Anglers often ask why do I need both the Pro Weight System and Tadpole Divers? Interestingly enough on a day to day basis fish often favor one weight system/presentation over the other.

For example, in calm conditions a Snap Weight and Guppy Weight set up holds a pretty steady depth so long as the boat speed is held constant. In rough water, these same trolling weights rise and fall rapidly in the water column as the boat gets tossed around in the waves. This situation creates a trailing lure that's constantly "hunting" up and down through the water column.

Tadpoles by comparison tend to hold their depth better in calm and rough seas, allowing anglers to better dial in a specific depth that fish are feeding at.

## SUMMING IT UP

Off Shore Tackle produces a variety of trolling weight systems. No matter what species is being targeted, what trolling speed or what depth, Off Shore Tackle has a trolling weight ideal for the job.

# TADPOLES AND WILLOWSPoons

BY TONY PUCCIO WITH MARK ROMANACK

The Off Shore Tackle OR36 series Tadpole Resettable Divers are seeing a lot of action among open water walleye trollers. Most of the guys using these divers are matching them up with traditional Colorado blade worm harnesses and beating up the open water walleye.

Another great terminal tackle option for the Tadpole Diver are small spoons like the Bait Rigs Walleye Willowspoon. This spoon comes in two sizes and is factory rigged with a single hook. Tie up a six foot leader of 12-15 pound test fluorocarbon

line and tip the hook with half of a nightcrawler. The Willowspoon fishes great behind a Tadpole Diver and gives walleye anglers another presentation to explore.

Willowspoons are so thin and lightweight they have great action at trolling speeds ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 mph. Available in seven different colors, the No. 3 size in gold is my favorite for walleye.

*Editor's Note: Tony Puccio is a professional walleye angler, co-owner of Bait Rigs Tackle and a long time Off Shore Tackle pro staffer.*

**Be prepared when you hit the water – purchase your Off Shore Tackle Company LLC products at your local dealer or send in your order today!**

Prices in effect January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016



# Order Blank

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SIDE PLANER BOARD PRODUCTS</b>					
OR34	Mini Planer Board; One Board...Dual Purpose...I'm Reversible	Pkg. of 1		\$17.15	
OR12L	Side Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$39.25	
OR12R	Side Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$39.25	
OR12P2	Pigtail and Split Ring For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 2		\$3.85	
OR12TF	Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit	Pkg. of 1		\$27.10	
OR12TFEK	Tattle Flag ECONOMY KIT (No OR16's or Flag Included)	Pkg. of 1		\$9.99	
ORS2	Tattle Flag Replacement Spring	Pkg. of 2		\$7.75	
OR37L	SST Pro Mag Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$56.15	
OR37R	SST Pro Mag Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$56.15	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PLANER BOARD AND SIDE PLANER BOARD RELEASES</b>					
OR3	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$16.00	
OR3BWW	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 50		\$380.60	
OR3BWOW	Light Tension, White Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 50		\$377.60	
OR17BWW	Medium Tension, Black With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$182.50	
OR17BWOW	Medium Tension, Black Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$181.06	
OR30BWW	Heavy Tension, Red With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 6		\$54.85	
OR30BWOW	Heavy Tension, Red Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 6		\$54.49	
OR18	Snapper Adjustable Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$15.60	
OR10	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$22.50	
OR10BWW	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR10BWOW	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
OR14	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$22.50	
OR14BWW	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR14BWOW	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
OR19	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$11.60	
OR19BWW	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR19BWOW	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PRO SNAP WEIGHT PRODUCTS</b>					
OR20	Pro Snap Weight System	Pkg. of 1		\$47.70	
OR16	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 2		\$13.45	
OR16BWW	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 100		\$596.00	
OR16BWOW	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red Without Split Ring	Pkg. of 100		\$593.00	
OR20 1/2	1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$4.10	
OR20 3/4	3/4 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$4.50	
OR20 1	1 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$5.00	
OR20 1 1/2	1 1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$4.70	
OR20 2	2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$5.20	
OR20 3	3 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 1		\$3.90	

Continued on reverse

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**Prices in effect January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016**



ORDER BLANK CONTINUED FROM PRIOR PAGE

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC RESETTABLE DIVING WEIGHTS</b>					
OR36 1	Tadpole Size 1	Pkg. of 1		\$7.30	
OR36 2	Tadpole Size 2	Pkg. of 1		\$7.55	
OR36 3	Tadpole Size 3	Pkg. of 1		\$12.87	
OR36 MAGNUM	Tadpole MAGNUM Size	Pkg. of 1		\$12.99	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASES</b>					
OR4	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$9.95	
OR1	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$9.95	
OR8	Heavy Tension, Red	Pkg. of 1		\$14.00	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC STACKER DOWNRIGGER RELEASES</b>					
OR7	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$16.20	
OR2	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$16.20	
<b>OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC REPLACEMENT PADS</b>					
ORRP8	Pads For OR1's, OR2's, OR3's, OR4's, OR7's, OR8's, OR17's, and OR30's	Pkg. of 8		\$3.60	
ORRP8SN	Pads For OR18's	Pkg. of 8		\$8.50	
ORRP16	Pads For OR10's, OR14's, and OR19's, Along With OR16's WITHOUT Pin Protruding Through The Center Of The Pad	Pkg. of 16		\$4.60	
ORRP16HL	Pads For OR16's WITH Pin Protruding Through The Center Of The Pad	Pkg. of 16		\$6.20	

Prices and packaging subject to change without notice.

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 Total (Subtotal Plus Sales Tax) U. S. Funds Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**ONLY ACCEPTING ORDERS BEING SHIPPED TO AN ADDRESS WITHIN THE U.S.A.**

Send THIS completed order form, along with your U.S.P.S. money order or COMPLETE credit card information to:

**Off Shore Tackle Company LLC, P.O. Box 88, Port Austin, MI 48467-0088**

*Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.*

MAILING ADDRESS (Check here \_\_\_\_\_ if this is an address change):

SHIP ORDER TO (Must have street address for UPS/FedEx delivery):

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Please check:  Residence  Work  Other

c/o: \_\_\_\_\_

c/o: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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\_\_\_\_ Visa **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

*(ID Number is usually located on the backside of your MasterCard or Visa after your credit card number [3 Digit Code]).*

# Riviera Product Showcase



## Dual Planer Board Masts

**Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels With Collapsible Aluminum Mast, Base, Deck Plate and Four Hold Down Knobs (Shown right)**

Unit Includes:

- Aluminum Pulley Brackets
- 7' Collapsible Aluminum Black Powder Coated Mast
- Nylon Mounting Bracket
- Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line On Each Reel Multidirectional Pulleys
- Stainless Steel Guid Bushings
- Two OR10 Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Releases



This Unit Is Available in Different Base Options

**Model # DPMKA Has The Regular Base**

**Model # DPMKSA Has the Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMKSLA Has The Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMKSUA Has The Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMKSZA Has The Attwood Swivl-Eze 2 3/8" Seat Mount**

**Aluminum Manual Retrieval Posi-Stop Reels, Collapsible Mast, Base, Deck Plate and Four Hold Down Knobs (Shown right)**

Unit Includes:

- Aluminum Pulley brackets
- 7' Collapsible Aluminum Black Powder Coated Mast
- Nylon Mounting Bracket
- Aluminum Manual Posi-Stop Retrieval Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line On Each Reel
- Multidirectional Pulleys
- Stainless Steel Guide Bushings
- Two OR10 Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Releases



This Unit Is Available in Different Base Options

**Model # DPMPA Has The Regular Base**

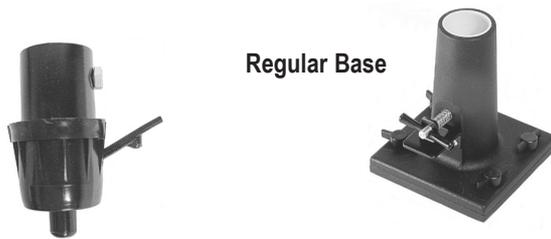
**Model # DPMPSA Has The Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMPSLA Has The Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMPSUA Has The Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount**

**Model # DPMPsza Has The Attwood Swivl-Eze 2 3/8" Seat Mount**

## Base Options



Regular Base

Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount



Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount

Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount



Attwood Swivl-Eze 2 3/8" Seat Mount

## Swiveling Rod Tower

This unit incorporates our swiveling base that allows the tower to swivel and lock up every 90 degrees with easy removal of the tower by simply pulling out a spring loaded pin and lifting. Unit is made of black powder coated aluminum for durability with all rod holders being adjustable in 15 degree increments. Tower can be used on both port and starboard sides!

**Model # SRT3 Has 3 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRT4 Has 4 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRT5 (Shown) Has 5 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRT6 Has 6 Adjustable Rod Holders**

**Model # SRTRH Extra Rod Holder With Indexing Bracket**

**Model # SRTTA Track Adapter For SRT That Fits Most Tracks**



## Track Mount For RCPK And RCWIRE

**Model # TM Track Mount**

This 6" track permanently mounts to your, gunwale, hard top, fly bridge or radar arch of your boat. The RCPK or RCWIRE is mounted to the track's adapter and is easily put into use or removed.



## Planer Board Rail Clamp Mounts

**Model #RCPK Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels With Rail Clamp Mount**

Unit Includes:

- Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line
- Aluminum Clamp Bracket That Fits 3/4" to 1 1/4" Rails



**Model #RCPA Aluminum Manual Retrieval Posi-Stop Reels**

Unit Includes:

- Aluminum Manual Retrieval Posi-Stop Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line
- Aluminum Clamp Bracket That Fits 7/8" to 1" Rails



## Dual and Triple Planer Boards

**Model # DPB Dual Planer Board—Collapsible For Easy Storage**



**Model # TPB Triple Planer Board—Collapsible For Easy Storage**



The DPB's and TPB's are used in conjunction with a mast system. They are ballasted so the nose is slightly raised to cut through the waves easier and have a 3 position tow point to allow you to adapt to different water conditions instantly. To store, simply fold the outside board forward. Each board can be used on either port or starboard. A sample OR10 Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Release comes with each DPB; a sample OR30 Heavy Tension Planer Board Release comes with each TPB.

## Hand/Wire Line Reels



**Model # RCWIRE Kachman Automatic Retrieval Hand Line Reel Kit**

Unit Includes:

- Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reel
- 200' Coated 60# Wire With Snap Swivel Termination
- 5' Pro Shank
- Aluminum Clamp Bracket That Fits 3/4"-1 1/4" Rails
- Tempress Rod Holder Adapter Replacement Parts Available

**Model # WGHT 1 1/4 Pound Weight**

**Model # SHNK 5' Pro Shank**

# LET'S TALK LINE RELEASES

BY MARK ROMANACK

Anglers like the “one stop” shopping experience as much as the next person. Off Shore Tackle produces planer board line releases for virtually every conceivable planer board trolling situation.

To function properly, a line release must enjoy the perfect balance of spring tension for a specific line diameter, line type and also trolling speed. Think of it this way, the line types used for walleye fishing are vastly different than those used for salmon or steelhead fishing. This is precisely why Off Shore Tackle manufacturers line releases designed for all the common planer board trolling applications.

Each and every line release produced by Off Shore Tackle (OST) is built to deliver flawless performance. When the proper line release is matched up to the fishing situation at hand, the releases function as designed and the angler is treated to more and bigger fish in the boat.

## SELECTION MATTERS

No other manufacturer produces as many line releases as OST and this is precisely why the Off Shore brand continues to dominate both the fresh and saltwater trolling scenes. From light tension releases ideal for “eater sized” walleye to extra heavy tension clips designed for muskie trolling and saltwater applications, Off Shore Tackle produces the ideal planer board release for every trolling situation.

### OR10 ADJUSTABLE LIGHT TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE

The popular OR10 (yellow) release is hands down the bestselling line release among walleye anglers coast to coast. Designed with open water walleye trolling in mind, the OR10 functions flawlessly when targeting eating sized walleye and similar sized fish. Designed to function with 10 to 20 pound test monofilament, the OR10 also features a sliding spring tension setting that enables the tension to be increased or decreased by simply using the blade of a screw driver to slide the spring forward toward the pads (increasing tension) or backward

away from the pads (decreasing tension) in the plastic housing.

This release is wildly popular among Lake Erie's army of charter captains who routinely troll using a planer board mast system such as manufactured by Riviera Trolling Systems Incorporated. The OR10 handles crankbaits, Jet Divers, Tadpole Divers and other walleye hardware making it among the most versatile line release on the market.

The OR10 is not only the most popular line release on the market, it also comes as standard equipment on the OR34 Mini Planer. The Mini Planer and the OR10 are a perfect marriage and the ideal choice for fishing light line, small lures and protected inland waters.

### OR14 ADJUSTABLE MEDIUM TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE

The OR14 (black) is the “stronger” brother to the OR10. This release has slightly stronger spring tension and is popular among walleye anglers who routinely target trophy sized fish. The OR14 is also a great choice for targeting spring coho, brown trout and other smaller trout species. Like the OR10 the OR14 is adjustable and features two spring tension settings.

The OR14 can also be fitted to the OR34 Mini Planer and functions well with lines from 10-25 pound test.

### OR19 ADJUSTABLE HEAVY TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE

The OR19 (orange) has a heavy spring tension and comes as standard equipment on the bracket of the OR12 Side Planer board. This release is also popular among big board trollers who need the extra tension when trolling large or deep diving baits, weighted lines and heavy in line weights. Many muskie trollers swear by the OR19 for trolling bucktails and body baits.

The OR19 functions well with 20 to 40 pound test monofilament lines.

### OR3 LIGHT TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE

The OR3 (white) is a Light Tension Planer Board Release with a strong following among charter captains and seri-

*Each and every line release produced by Off Shore Tackle (OST) is built to deliver flawless performance. When the proper line release is matched up to the fishing situation at hand, the releases function as designed and the angler is treated to more and bigger fish in the boat.*

ous amateur anglers who feel the larger pad diameter of the OR3 provides added resistance for trolling at higher speeds. When a walleye or similar sized fish is hooked on the OR3 typically the line doesn't pop free. The angler rather detects the strike by noting the additional rod bend and then opts to trip the release by snapping the rod tip.

This set up enables the angler to trip the release instead of having several lines all tripping and coming to the back of the boat at the same time. On places like Lake Erie where it's common to have two or three fish on at once, the OR3 saves a lot of tangles at the back of the boat.

The extra tension of the OR3 is also popular among anglers targeting browns, steelhead and other trout species. The OR3 works best with 10 to 25 pound test monofilament lines.

### OR17 MEDIUM TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE

The OR17 (black) is designed for trout and salmon fishing applications and has a strong following among anglers who troll at higher speeds and with weighted lines and in line weights. Designed to function with 10 to 25 pound test monofilament line, the OR17 features the same release made popular by the OR1 downrigger line release.

In addition to salmon anglers the OR17 has a strong following among muskie trollers who fish bucktails and body baits at higher trolling speeds.

### OR30 HEAVY TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE

The OR30 (red) is Off Shore Tackle's heaviest tension planer board release and it fills the niche of the Great Lakes

muskie trollers and also a wide range of saltwater trolling applications. This release is the ideal choice for anglers trolling at extreme speeds and with large lures. The OR30 functions perfectly with 20 to 40 pound test monofilament lines.

### OR18 SNAPPER RELEASE

The OR18 Snapper (black) is the most unique release in the Off Shore Tackle line up. This cam lock style release is designed to hold fused and braided lines securely. The most common use of the OR18 is in combination with the OR12 Side Planer board. Anglers mount the OR18 on the bracket because this release functions flawlessly with monofilament, fused and hard to hold braided lines. The OR18 comes standard on the New OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer!

The OR18 is widely popular among professional walleye tournament anglers and most trout and salmon charter captains also favor the OR18 when pulling sinking copper or lead core lines rigged with braided line as backing. The Snapper mounted to the bracket of the OR12 Side Planer or the OR37 SST Pro Mag Planer in line boards is a standard among anglers who fish the big ponds.

The OR10, OR14, OR19 releases come packaged with quick clips and split rings. The OR3, OR17 and OR30 releases come packaged with quick clips and the OR18 Snapper Release is packaged one to a card, but the other models are available in a variety of packaging options including bulk packs for serious trollers.

Off Shore Tackle takes the science of developing planer board line releases seriously. To get the most from every trolling situation requires matching up a suitable line release, line diameter and trolling speed. With that in mind, OST produces not one, but seven different line releases aimed at catching just about everything that swims.

# THE APRIL BROWN TROUT BITE

BY JAKE ROMANACK

April in the Great Lakes region is a busy time for avid anglers. Immediately following ice out, a lot of fishing opportunities unfold, but none as traditional as planer board trolling the shallows for brown trout. Lots of ports have noteworthy brown trout fishing, but for my money two stand out as exceptional and rank as places every angler who covets brown trout should visit.

## THE MOUTH OF THE NIAGARA RIVER

Lake Ontario has one of the most aggressive brown trout stocking efforts in all of the Great Lakes. From Niagara to Olcott, to Rochester, Fair Haven, Oswego and beyond most every major port along the U.S. side of Lake Ontario has brown trout to offer in April.

The mouth of the mighty Niagara River east to Olcott ranks as some of the most overlooked waters in this brown trout mix. Along this short stretch of Lake Ontario shoreline a number of small creeks pour into the lake setting up

world class brown trout trolling opportunities.

The water pouring in from the creeks tends to be dirty and the waters of Lake Ontario are very clear. In the magical places these waters mix, stained water and nearly ideal trolling conditions occurs. The plum of stained water tends to range from right on shore out to about the 20 foot depth contour. Board trolling with crankbaits is hands down the best way to cover water and put browns in the boat.

Most anglers are fishing traditional stickbaits for these browns and have caught countless browns in these waters. When fished 50 to 100 feet behind the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer board these baits will produce limit catches of browns, day in and day out.

On a recent visit the Fishing 411 crew field tested a new crankbait known as the Mag Lip. These high action crankbaits look a little like the classic Flatfish, but the action is much wider and these baits can be fished effectively at a much wider range of trolling speeds. The “skip beat” action this bait is becoming known for does an amazing job of triggering strikes from spring browns.

The size 3.0 and 3.5 models fished 25 to 50 feet behind the OR12 Side Planer board literally lit those browns up. Bonus coho salmon also hang out in the same places, making for a mixed bag on most days.

The browns of Lake Ontario are fat and healthy. Fish over 10 pounds are common, but the average fish is five to six pounds. The spring coho tend to run small, coming in about 16 to 20 inches.

## MILWAUKEE/RACINE WISCONSIN

On Lake Michigan the area from Racine Wisconsin north to Oak Creek and Milwaukee Harbor consistently produce brown trout fishing worth traveling across the country to experience. Power plants at Racine and Oak Creek hold fish in these areas throughout the month of April. Warm water run off at Milwaukee Harbor also concentrates fish both inside the harbor and along the outside edge of a massive sea wall that stretches for several miles.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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DPMP SUA	Fits With Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$319.00	
DPMP SZA	Fits With Attwood Swivl-Eze 2-3/8" Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$319.00	
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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, BRUCE DESHANO

Here we go again! Great year as always with the pro staff representing us well at many walleye, salmon and even crappie tournaments. Their support and time spent teaching others how to use Off Shore products has made the company what it is today.

Some of you know us as the planer board people and I was given the nickname "Chairman of the Boards" from In-Fisherman many years ago. That is a product we built after we had already been in business for quite a few years. We actually began as a down rigger release company in 1980 during the heyday of the salmon and lake trout era. Initially we used an electrical clamp and glued rubber pads on them for our first products.

As the walleye became more popular we looked at that market and built the mini release in yellow (OR10). Over the years we added stronger tension in black (OR14), stronger yet in orange (OR19) and the red clip (OR16) with the pin in the middle of the pads for the Snap Weight system, now known as the Pro Weight System with non-lead Guppy weights instead of inconsistent scrap lead.

The crappie and panfish OR34 Mini Planer is catching on everywhere. Nick and I have fished the Crappie Masters Tournament the last couple of years and are learning at each event. We have met some great anglers and spreading the word about planer boards and crappie. They are a lot of fun and great to eat. Tadpoles (OR36's) and jigs are becoming a hot item as well as pulling crankbaits for the tasty fish.

While we did not invent the planer board (first patent on planer board was in the early 1900's) we have had fun developing them to the high level of use they are today. Ever evolving, it has been fun to watch the changes over the years. We built the OR12, then the OR34 (mini) and for 2016 the large OR37 (SST Pro Mag) to pull the 500+ feet of copper wire Great Lakes anglers are using today.



Nick has been working for about 3 years to get it finished and it is a great product if you pull heavy weights or umbrella rigs for stripers.

We are a family business, using as many Michigan suppliers and **Made in USA** parts as possible.

Bringing you the finest quality with unmatched consumer report is our goal!

Thank you for choosing Off Shore Tackle products and we are looking forward to a fun 2016!

## TROPHY WALLEYE MAKE ME SMILE

BY CAPTAIN JERRY COX



Catching trophy size walleye puts a smile on my face. I have a motto that I share with everyone I fish with -- The happiest captain is the one who catches the biggest fish!

Luck plays a role in catching fish, but the truth is the anglers who own and use the right equipment seem to be lucky more often.

I learned a long time ago, that if you want to catch more walleye, the secret is to cover water and nothing helps an angler accomplish that goal better than trolling with in line planer boards. I've been a fan of the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer for more than two decades. The OR12 helps me spread out my trolling lines and catch countless trophy walleye on Lake Erie.

The second piece of equipment every open water walleye angler needs is a high quality sonar unit. Catching open water fish boils down to finding them and without dependable sonar, anglers are literally fishing blind.

Once you've found fish with the help of sonar, the next step is consulting the Precision Trolling Data, LLC (PTD) app to determine the diving depths of

popular lures and divers. With this invaluable app, it's easy to determine the precise amount of line out or "feet back" required to reach these fish.

When using the PTD data it's important to take into consideration the transducer on most boats is located 18 to 24 inches below the water surface. The PTD data is based on measurements taken from the water surface to the running depth. For example, if the sonar says you're marking fish at 30 feet down, those fish are actually 32 feet down.

The PTD app provides diving data for popular crankbaits and also sinking devices like the Off Shore Tackle OR36 series Resettable Tadpole Divers and OR20 Pro Weight System. My goal when using this depth data is to position my lures or live bait rigs a few feet above the marks on my graph. Walleye feed upwards in the water column. How far these fish will move upwards to take a bait depends on the water clarity.

This simple plan of attack focuses on finding the fish first, using the PTD data to determine the proper trolling leads and then using boards to spread out lines and cover as much water as possible. Armed with this proven open water fishing strategy, catching Lake Erie walleye is a given. When fishing Off Shore products smiles are contagious.

# THE APRIL BROWN TROUT BITE

## — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16



It's no surprise that board trolling the shallows and sea walls with crankbaits leads the charge in terms of catching browns along the Lake Michigan coast. When the Fishing 411 crew visited this area they encountered 25 to 35 mph winds. This area of Lake Michigan is surprisingly protected from south, southwest and westerly winds.

Despite the howling winds, the crew averaged 20 fish days with most of the fish being browns, a few coho and the occasional lake trout and king salmon. The Mag Lip crankbaits pounded all of

these fish when trolled on leads ranging from 40 to 100 feet back.

Of course these lures were fished in combination with Off Shore Tackle OR12's. Our set up consisted of stacking three Side Planer boards per side and we also ran a pair of three way rigs using two ounce Pro Guppy Weights to fish the 3.0 Mag Lip baits on bottom. The three way rigs were run as flat lines letting out just enough line to make contact with bottom.

All the board lines were set up with the OR19 (orange) on the bracket and the OR16 Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip

(red) mounted to the tail of the board. Set up like this it's easy to trip the boards when a fish was hooked, allowing the fish to be reeled in without having to clear any of the board lines.

The OR12 Side Planer now comes factory rigged this way, making it easy for everyone who fishes these boards to enjoy this hassle free rigging method.

### IF YOU GO

Both the mouth of the Niagara River and the Milwaukee region of Lake Michigan produce world class brown trout fishing.

The action gets started in late March, peaks in early to mid April and depending on the weather typically produces good catches of fish into early May.

Both fisheries have lots of good charters and guides to pick from or if you prefer bring your own boat and freelance. Good boat launches and affordable lodging can be found nearby as well.

In April it's hard to decide where to fish and what species to target. For those who love to troll it's hard not to focus on the spring browns of Lake Ontario and also Lake Michigan.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

Mark Romanack is the host of the popular fishing show, Fishing 411. Broadcast on the World Fishing Network anglers are treated to new and exciting fishing techniques, destinations and guests each week. For those who may not get Fishing 411 as part of their TV provider package, each episode can also be viewed for free on-line by visiting [www.fishing411.net](http://www.fishing411.net) and clicking on the TV tab.

In addition to hosting Fishing 411 TV, Mark stays busy writing his weekly fishing blog and also magazine features for a host of local and national magazines.

To contact Mark directly with fishing questions or comments e-mail is best at [Mark@Fishing411.net](mailto:Mark@Fishing411.net).



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Vice Chairman of the Boards NICK DESHANO  
Editor MARK ROMANACK

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**"Crappie" Dan Dannenmueller and Garrett Steele**

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- **Off Shore Planer Boards and Tadpoles**
- **Catching Southern Reservoirs Species**
- **Targeting Slab Crappie**