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OFF SHORE TACKLE LLC

SCAN FOR DIGITAL VERSION OF THE OFF SHORE RELEASE

Volume 33, 2026

Editor MARK ROMANACK

The OFF SHORE RELEASE

Your Leader In Trolling Technology www.offshoretackle.com

Printed by Pioneer Printing

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What better way to spend quality time together than a day on the water and experiencing your child's first walleye ever caught! Roy Miller and his son Luke did just that on Labor Day weekend on Saginaw Bay trolling with Off Shore Tackle products! Congratulations Luke!

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

A BOARD FOR ALL OCCASIONS

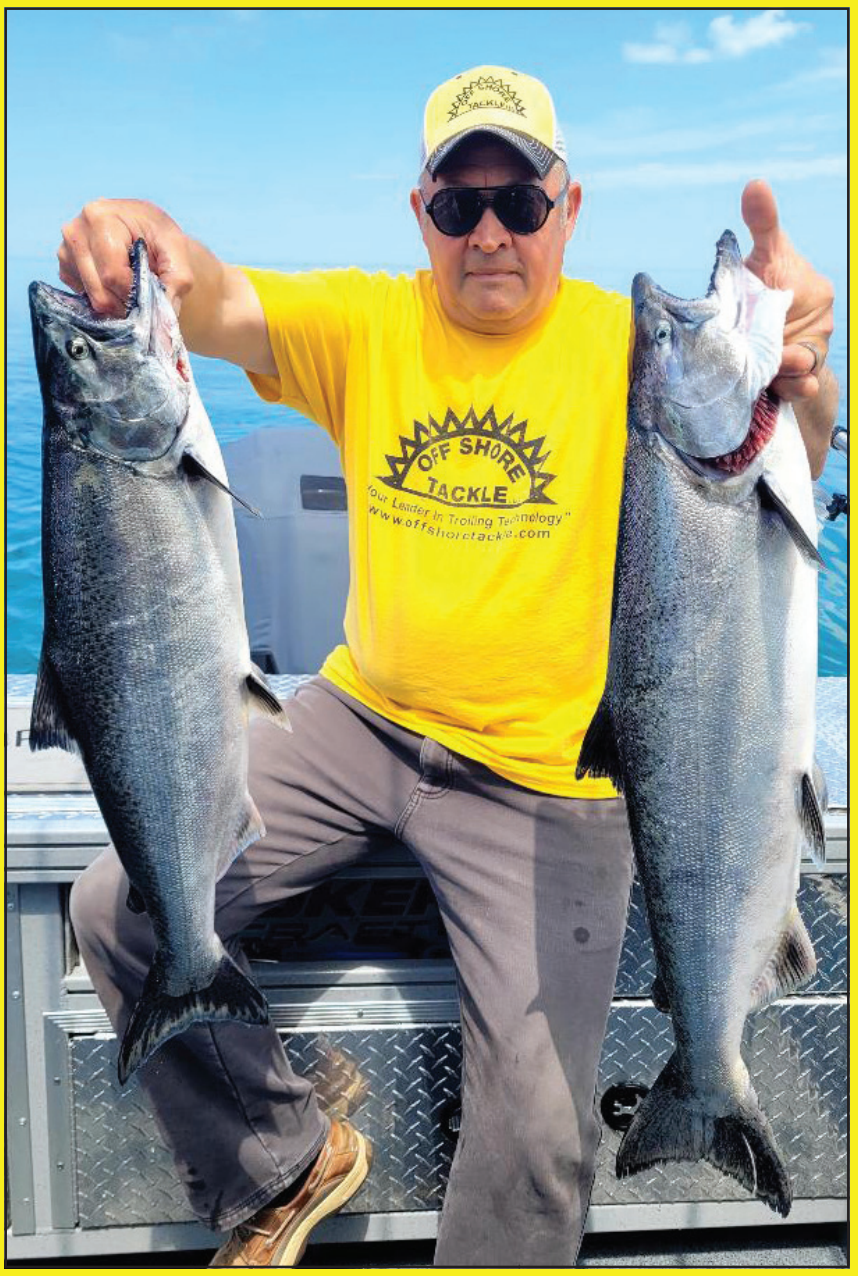
BY CAPTAIN DAVE BOON

It struck me this past season, more so than any other in recent history, the incredible versatility of the Off Shore Tackle's in-line planer boards.

In early spring, I use the OR12 Side Planer board to pull everything from flatlines and up to about 7 colors of lead core. As the water warms up and I start fishing deeper in the water column, I switch to Off Shore Tackle's OR37 Pro Mag boards where I pull 8, 9, 10 colors of lead core line as well as 300 and 400 feet of weighted steel line.

The beauty of either of these boards is your ability to "tweak" the combination of releases and clips to suit your preferences. To illustrate my point, I'll share how I rig both my OR12 boards and the OR37 Pro Mag boards. I really like the "standard" release combination on the OR12's that come with the OR19 (orange) release on the bracket, and, because I use mono backing on most of my lead core lines, I like the standard issue OR16 (red) Pro Clip on the tail of the board.

I do like to release the line from the OR19 front release while fighting a fish, but I like the option of doing it when I choose to. It's personal preference, but I don't pull the line from the front OR19 release until I lessen the angle between the board and my rod tip. I lose fewer fish using this technique.



Captain Dave Boon is the owner of Copper Blues Fishing and an Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer. Based in southern Ontario, Captain Dave spends many hours trolling Lake Huron for coho, chinook, steelhead, Atlantic salmon, and walleye.

This is where the versatility of the boards comes in. If you prefer not to "release" the board at all while fighting a fish, you can simply bury your line deeper in the front OR19 release. You would then bring the board within reach, undo both the OR19 release as well as the OR16 clip and continue the fight. If you want to easily release the front of the board at the start of the fight, you can utilize the "loop trick" to make it very easy to release the front of the board.

If you use braided line as your backing, the OR18 Snapper Release would replace the OR16 at the tail of your board. The OR18 Snapper is a cam operated release that will securely hold your braid in place. In this situation you may want to replace the OR19 on the bracket with the OR39 Sam's Pro Release to allow you to release the front of the board while fighting a fish. Again, this is versatility to accommodate your preferences and your line combinations.

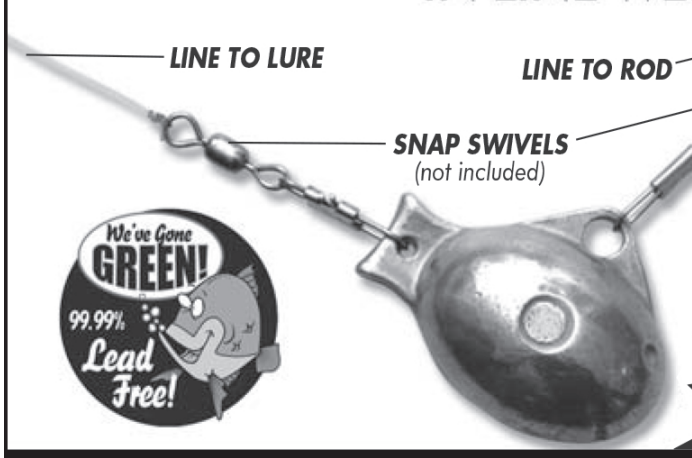
Moving on to the OR37 Pro Mag boards, I rig them with the OR39 release on the bracket and the OR16 on the tail. Since I'm utilizing mono as my backing, the OR16 works well for me at the tail of the board. It is imperative to ensure that the backer line is secured in the OR16 clip behind the pin in the center of the pad to keep the line from slipping out of the clip.

When using the Pro Mag boards, I set the tension on the OR39 so that I can release the front of the board when I choose to while fighting a fish. Again, if you are using braid as your backing, you will want the OR18 Snapper on the tail of the boards to secure your braid.

If you don't want the front of the boards to be released at all, you can use the OR18 on the bracket of the boards (either OR12's or OR37's) and the board will remain firmly attached to your line until you release them at the back of the boat.

In conclusion, the versatility of the Off Shore Tackle's in-line planer boards cannot be overstated. If you are not using them, give them a go, you will be glad you did!

OR20
PRO WEIGHT SYSTEM
IN LINE WEIGHT RIGGING INSTRUCTIONS



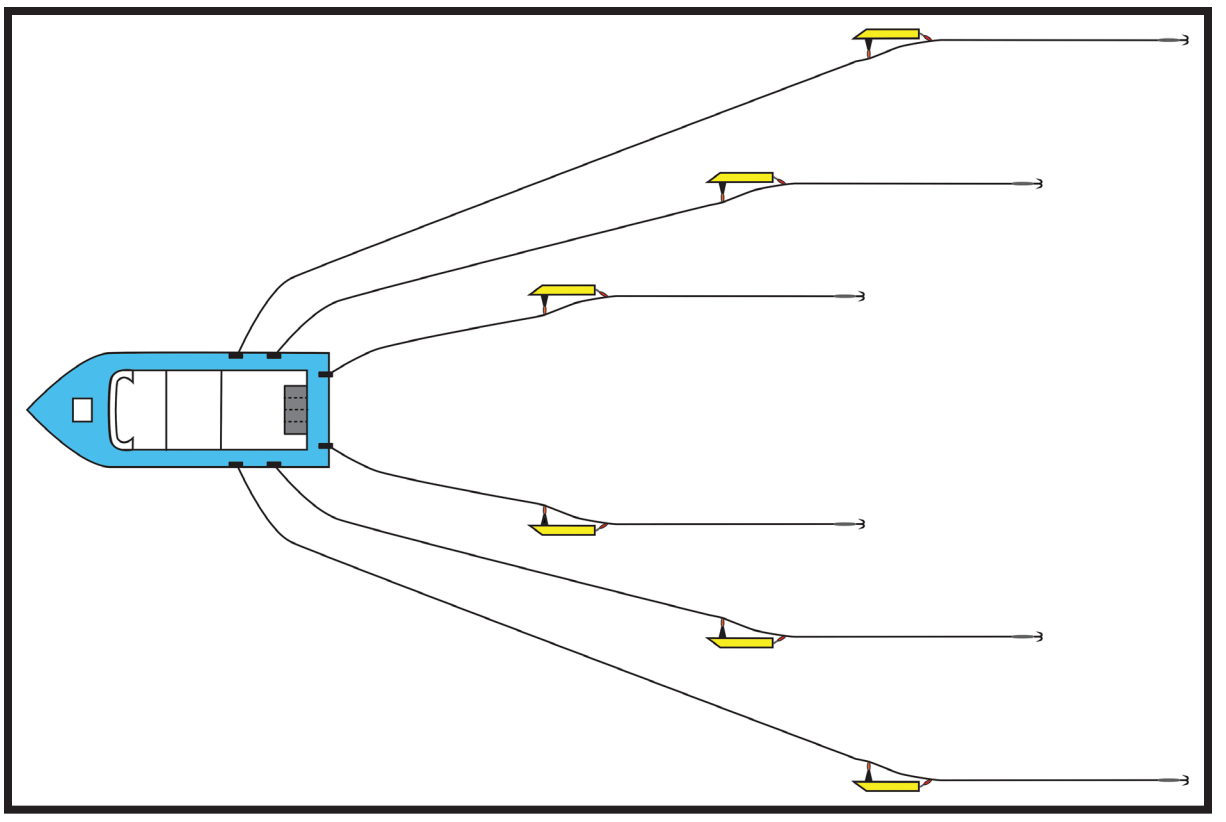
THE IN LINE METHOD
Attach the Guppy Weight as shown on the left.

Once you locate fish, use a Guppy Weight heavy enough to place your rig or bait about a foot or so above the fish you see on sonar. For multiple lines, let out a different distance or use a different weight to let the fish determine the proper combination. Planer boards work very well with in line weights when fish are shallow. When fish are near the surface, the line behind the planer board can be very short. Eight to ten feet is often enough. Once you find the right combination, use it on the rest of your lines.

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TROLLING FOR CRAPPIE: MASTERING THE ART OF OFF SHORE PLANER BOARD FISHING WITH CRANKBAITS



Crappie, those beloved panfish with their feisty fight and delectable white meat, are a favorite target for anglers across the country. While many prefer the traditional methods of jigging or using minnows under a slip bobber, a more advanced and highly effective technique has gained traction among serious crappie enthusiasts; trolling with Off Shore Tackle planer boards and crankbaits. This method allows you to cover vast amounts of water, locate scattered schools of fish, and present a bait in a way that often triggers a strike from even the most lethargic crappie.

WHY USE PLANER BOARDS AND CRANKBAITS FOR CRAPPIE?

The beauty of this technique lies in its ability to overcome common fishing challenges.

1. **Covering Water:** Crappie can be nomadic, especially in large reservoirs and lakes. Trolling with multiple lines and planer boards allows you to sweep a wide swath of water, significantly increasing your chances of intercepting a school of active fish.
2. **Spooking Fish:** Crappie are known to be boat-shy. By using planer boards, you can present your baits far to the side of your boats path, keeping your lines and lures in a "clean" zone where the crappie are less likely to be spooked by your boat's shadow or motor noise.
3. **Targeting Suspended Fish:** When crappie are suspended in the water column, neither on the bottom nor near the surface, traditional methods can be less effective. By adjusting the speed and line length, you can precisely control the depth of your crankbaits to hit the strike zone.
4. **Hands-Off Approach:** Once your lines are set, you can often put the rod in a rod holder and let the planer board do the work. This makes it an ideal method for anglers who want a more relaxed approach or those who are managing multiple lines.

ESSENTIAL GEAR

To get started with this technique, you'll need some specialized gear:

- **Planer Boards:** Off Shore planer boards are highly popular among those trolling for crappie. These boards clip onto your fishing line and pull your bait out and away from the boat as you troll. Both Off Shore Tackle's OR12 Side Planer and OR38 Reversible Mini Planer boards are great options.

The OR38 planer is suitable for most crappie fishing applications. It is lightweight, reversible, and floats up to an ounce of weight. It performs well with most crankbaits used for crappie fishing, from the smaller billed Flicker Shads to the Bigger lipped Bandit 300. You can even use a #1 OR36 Series Tadpole Resettable Diving Weight to get them even deeper. The OR38 Reversible Mini Planer is a great board to start with since you can use any rod/reel combination with it. With its light weight and low resistance in the water, you can easily tell if there's a fish on and there's less of a chance of spooking the fish in shallow water.

The OR12 planer board does a great job pulling heavier weights and when you need them to get long distances away from the boat. With the optional Tattle Flag® installed (OR12TFEK Tattle Flag® HD Economy Kit purchased separately) it can be adjusted to let you know when a fish is on the line. A 7-9 foot medium heavy rod with a good backbone along with a line-counter reel is the setup of choice.

- **Crappie-Sized Crankbaits:** Select small crankbaits designed for crappie or other panfish. Look for lures that run true at slow speeds and have a good wobble. Popular brands like Bandit Lures, Rapala, and Strike King offer excellent options. Experiment with different colors—classic crappie colors like chartreuse, pink, and white are often reliable, but don't hesitate to try natural baitfish patterns.
- **Rod Holders:** A good set of sturdy, adjustable rod holders is essential for managing multiple lines and ensuring your rods are secure while trolling.

THE TECHNIQUE: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. **Scout Your Location:** Use your boat's electronics (fish finder/sonar) to locate areas where crappie are likely to be. Look for submerged structure like ledges, creek channels, brush piles, or large bait balls with fish arches nearby.
2. **Set Your Spread:**
   - **a.** Start by letting out a controlled amount of line from your reel. The amount of line you let out will determine the depth of your crankbait.
   - **b.** Attach the planer board to your line. Both the OR12 and OR38 have a clip that attaches directly to the line on the front bracket and a clip at the back to keep it securely attached to the line.
   - **c.** Slowly begin to troll. The planer board will pull the line and lure away from the boat. Let out more line until the board is at your desired distance.
   - **d.** Repeat this process for each line you want to run. A common setup is to have lines at varying distances from the boat to cover a wider area.
3. **Trolling Speed:** Maintain a slow, consistent trolling speed. For most crappie crankbaits, a speed between 1.0 and 1.5 MPH is ideal. Use your boat's GPS or trolling motor to keep your speed steady.
4. **Reeling in a Fish:** When you get a strike, a couple of things can happen; the line may pop out of the release/clip on the planer board, or the board may just stop moving. In either case, grab the rod and begin to reel steadily. As you get the line back to the boat, you'll reach the planer board. Unclip the board from the line and continue to fight the fish. Make sure there is constant tension on the line and don't "bowstring" the line when you take the board off, as slack line can cause the fish to become unhooked.

TROUBLESHOOTING AND TIPS

- **Tangle-Free Trolling:** Run your lines at varying distances to prevent tangles. Your outside boards should have the shortest leads, with the deepest lines on the inside.
- **Lure Action:** Check your lures periodically to ensure they are running cleanly and not fouled with debris.
- **Experimentation:** The most successful anglers are those who experiment. Don't be afraid to change your trolling speed, lure colors, or the depth of your baits until you find what the crappie want on any given day.

Trolling with Off Shore Tackle planer boards and crankbaits is a highly effective and exciting way to target crappie, especially on larger bodies of water. It's a method that rewards patience and a bit of a learning curve but can lead to some of the most memorable crappie fishing experiences. So next time you're on the water, consider trying this innovative and productive technique.

TALES OF THE TATTLE FLAG®

One of the most unique products in the Off Shore Tackle line up is sold as an after-market item called the OR12TFEK or the Tattle Flag® HD Economy Kit. This kit is designed to convert an OR12 Side Planer board into a Tattle Flag® board. The Tattle Flag® is an infinitely adjustable spring-loaded articulating flag system that enables the board's flag to tip down when a fish is hooked or even if the lure fouls on a piece of floating weed or debris.

Installing the Tattle Flag® to the OR12 takes about five minutes time and a Phillips screw driver. The kit includes a heavy duty linkage arm, stainless steel spring, nylon washer, split ring screw eye and a 6/32 screw. The flag that comes standard on the OR12 is incorporated into the build. Most Off Shore Tackle dealers also carry replacement flags should the flags need replacing.

BENEFITS OF THE TATTLE FLAG®

The benefits of using the Tattle Flag® are many. In addition to helping anglers detect bites from walleye and other light biting fish, Tattle Flags® tip off the angler when a smaller fish has been hooked or when the lure has become fouled. The Tattle Flag® kit is especially useful for fishing at slower speeds with live bait or fishing in rough water when reading planer boards becomes more challenging.

In short, using the Tattle Flag® ensures that anglers are more efficient and that their lures or live bait rigs are always running clean and ready for action.

ADJUSTING THE SPRING

The spring settings on the Tattle Flag® allow anglers to set a proper amount of tension suitable for all common trolling lures and hardware. The flag itself has several different holes pre-drilled for the spring and the front of the board also features several pre-drilled tension setting holes. For example, to get the heaviest tension from the spring hook the rounded end of the spring into the highest hole going up the shaft of the flag and hook the other end into the lowest hole in the board. This will allow you to pull heavier weights such as 150' of weighted copper/steel line, Off Shore Tackle's OR36 #3 Tadpoles, deep diving crankbaits, and many others.

Proper tension is achieved when it's just enough to keep the flag upright when pulling a bait yet allows the flag to go down during a wave surge or when a slight tug is given to the line. The flag should go down with added pull on the bait, whether it's a fish or something on the hook.



Rigging your OR12 Side Planers with the Tattle Flag® allows you to set so many spring tensions to adapt to every species, lure and water conditions.

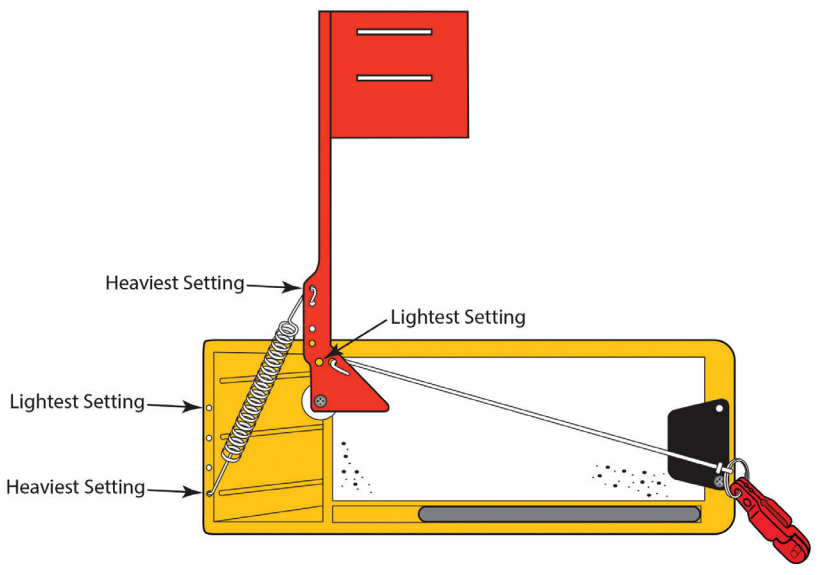
RIGGING OPTIONS

The Tattle Flag® can be rigged across the top of the OR12 or diagonally from the flag to the black plastic tab mounted at the bottom corner of the board. If your boards are an older model, they may not feature the Tattle Flag® rigging hole in the upper corner of the plastic tab. The TAB BE can be ordered directly from Off Shore Tackle if needed.

SUMMING IT UP

The Tattle Flag® is a game changer for anyone who spends a lot of time trolling with the OR12 Side Planer. Off Shore Tackle was the first to introduce an articulating flag system and continues to be your Leader in Trolling Technology.

YOU HAVE SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR ADJUSTING THE SPRING TENSION ON YOUR TATTLE FLAG® SETUP



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LEAD CORE VS THE 50+3T DATA

BY KEITH KAVAJECZ

Getting crankbaits to maximum depths has always been the bailiwick of lead core trolling line. Lead core is a sinking line that enhances the running depths of of all the popular crankbait brands, styles, and models.

The only catch is that getting these lures to maximum depths requires deploying excessive amounts of lead core line. Setting these especially long trolling leads takes lots of time and when a fish is hooked, it takes a substantial amount of time to fight that fish to net.

While there is no denying the effectiveness of using lead core, this tactic isn't the most efficient means of getting crankbaits to maximum diving depths. A new trolling tactic is knocking on the door in terms of being everything lead core is and isn't.

The Precision Trolling Data phone app released new crankbait data in 2025 called the 50+3T data which involves using an Off Shore Tackle OR36 #3 Resettable Diving Tadpole Weight (referred to as 3T in this article), rigged like a Snap Weight to place this diving weight on the line ahead of crankbaits. The Tadpole Diver is more efficient at achieving depth than Snap Weights and other in-line trolling sinkers. When teamed up with a deep diving crankbait, the maximum diving depths rival and even exceed that possible with lead core line.



Keith Kavajecz is one of the nation's most respected walleye tournament professionals. A long time Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer, member of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame and host of The Next Bite television series, Kavajecz trolls often using Off Shore Tackle products and the Precision Trolling Data phone app to guide his success on the water.

THE 50+3T DATA

Here's how this new trolling system works. Consult the Precision Trolling Data phone app and click on the "Lists" function. This section of the app provides a sub-set of data found in the app. Scroll down to the 50+3T Method and a list of lure brands and lure models that offer this trolling data will appear.

For example, click on the "Berkley" brand offerings and up will pop the six models of Berkley baits that currently offer the 50+3T Data. Click on the desired lure and then click on the "line type" option to select the 50+3T Data. The last step is to select the desired trolling speed from the "MPH" picker wheel.

This data is based on letting out the desired lure 50 feet, then attaching a #3 Tadpole Diver on the line using an Off Shore OR16 Pro Clip mounted to a split ring. The split ring is in turn attached to the tow arm on the Tadpole.

When the Tadpole is placed in the water and additional trolling lead is played off the reel, the Tadpole and crankbait will dive. The "Feet Down" picker wheel can then be used to select the desired target depth. Once that target depth has been selected on the picker wheel, the "Feet Back" picker wheel will spit out the total lead length (including the 50 foot initial lead) required to achieve that target depth.

The 50+3T Data selection currently offers nine different popular brands and more than 20 popular crankbait models. As time goes on more lures will be added to this unique trolling system.

ADVANTAGES

The advantage of the 50+3T Data compared to trolling with lead core boils down to efficiency and convenience. The overall lead lengths required to get crankbaits to maximum diving depths using the 50+3T Data are much shorter compared to similar depths using lead core line. As a result, lines can be set more quickly and hooked fish come to the boat faster.

The 50+3T Data can be used with all common trolling lead lengths out to 200 feet total. To reach maximum diving depth with lead core line requires letting out as much as 300 feet of lead core line, plus a 50 foot leader!

This trolling setup can also be teamed up with in-line boards like the OR12 Side Planer to cover more water. Because this data is based on using 10 pound test (.014 diameter) fishing line, there is no need to use the extra-large trolling reels or the dedicated rod/reel combinations required when fishing lead core line.

Anglers can use any main line type they prefer (fluorocarbon, monofilament, co-polymers, and braided line) that matches the .014 diameter line used in the PTD app with identical results. In short, the new 50+3T Data gets crankbaits to depths never before possible using conventional line types. How deep? Some of the deeper diving crankbait models will achieve depths of up to and exceeding 70 feet when trolled in combination with the 50+3T Data! Simply amazing!

Editors Note: The folks at Precision Trolling Data work hard to provide anglers with critical depth diving data they need to maximize trolling success by always updating their app as new information becomes available. For more information, visit www.precisiontrollingdata.com



DISCLAIMER

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

THE "JUST RIGHT" DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

BY MARK ROMANACK

Everyone knows the story of Goldilocks. She was struggling to find things that were "just right" and it's the same struggle when it comes to picking downrigger line releases. The market is flooded with releases marketed as downrigger releases, but the truth is, very few of those releases provide that "just right" tension needed in downrigger fishing.

If a downrigger release has a tension that's "too light" false releases and poorly hooked fish are the results. If the downrigger release has a tension that's "too firm" it will be difficult to trip the release when a fish is hooked and almost impossible to trip the release to simply switch out lures!

Thankfully, Off Shore Tackle produces a host of downrigger releases that offer anglers that hard to find "just right" tension choice for all fresh and saltwater trolling chores.

OR1 MEDIUM TENSION DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR1 was the original Off Shore Tackle product and continues to be one of the best-selling releases of all time. Engineered to be the "go to" choice for anglers who target salmon, lake trout and steelhead, the large rubber pads on the OR1 allow anglers to customize the release tension based on where the line is placed in the release. To maximize the tension, bury the line deep into the release pads. For a lighter tension, place the line near the edge of the release pads.

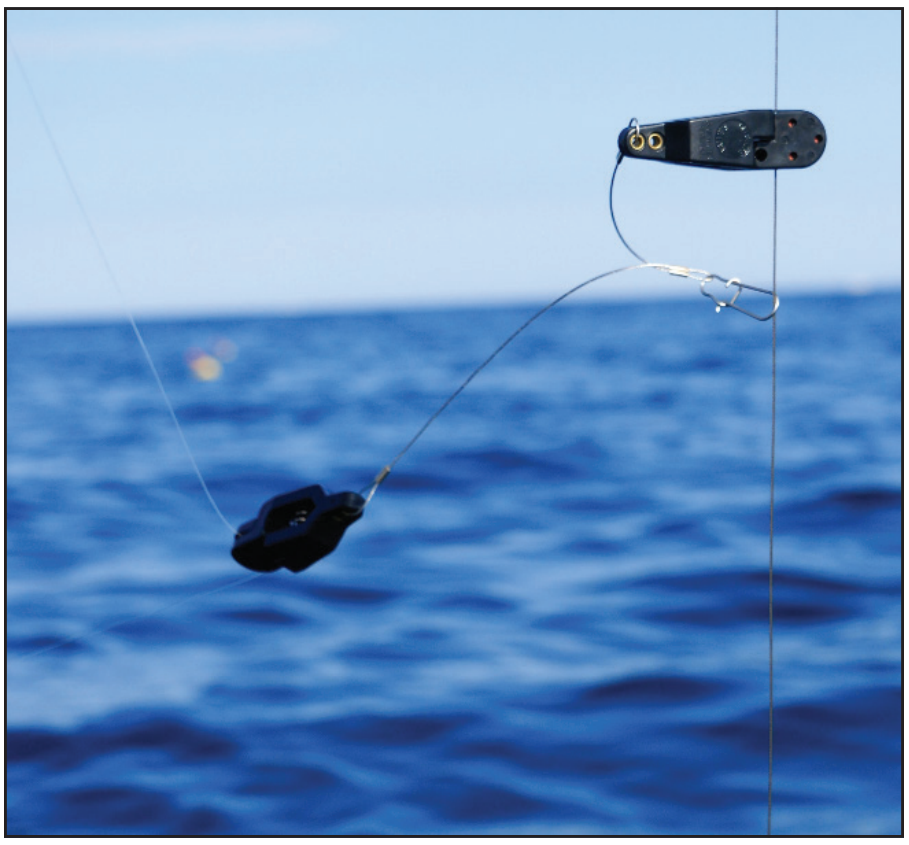
Ideal for anglers who are fishing monofilament, co-polymer, or fluorocarbon line types in the 15 to 30 pound test range, the OR1 is easily the best-selling downrigger release of all time.

OR4 LIGHT TENSION DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR4 features a lighter spring tension ideal for targeting smaller fish like spring coho, brown trout and walleye. Engineered to be used with monofilament and other nylon line types, anglers will find this downrigger release works flawlessly with 10 to 25 pound test lines.

OR8 HEAVY TENSION DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR8 features the heaviest spring tension in the Off Shore Tackle line up. Designed for saltwater trolling and for freshwater anglers who troll using large lures or heavy gear such as dodgers, rotators and lake trolls, the OR8 features a longer coated wire tether making it ideal for reading bites from smaller fish.



Stacker releases like this OR2 make it easy for anglers to rig two different lines to a single downrigger, doubling up the chances of catching fish.

OR2 STACKER MEDIUM TENSION STACKER RELEASE

Trout and salmon anglers routinely fish two rods from a single downrigger using a unique release called a stacker. The OR2 Stacker Release features a pair of Medium tension downrigger releases (the same that is used with the OR1) mounted to a coated wire tether that's terminated to a heavy duty snap. The snap is placed over the downrigger cable and the release on the short tether is also attached to the downrigger cable. The fishing line on the second rod is attached to the release on the longer tether. This setup is ideal for anglers who want to target trout, salmon and steelhead using two rods per rigger.

OR7 LIGHT TENSION STACKER RELEASE

The OR7 consists of two OR4 light tension releases creating a light tension stacker release for targeting smaller fish like coho, brown trout or walleye.

THE LOOP TRICK

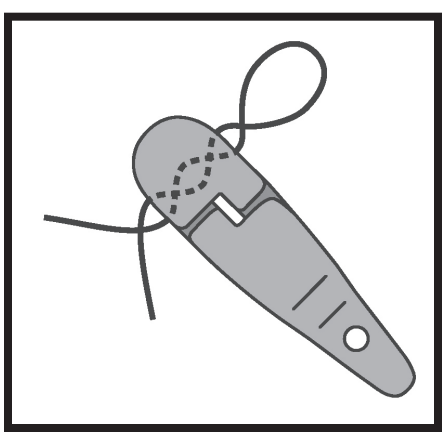
A tactic many anglers use when fishing with downrigger releases is known as the "loop trick". When setting a line, the lure is let out behind the boat to the desired distance. The angler then grasps the line near the rod tip, folds the line over an index finger and twirls the finger to create a few twists of line and a short loop. The twists of line are placed between the rubber release pads, with the loop of line protruding beyond the release jaw about an inch.

This unique means of hitching up a line to a downrigger release performs a few essential functions. First off twisting the line provides the release with more "purchase" or "grip" on the line helping to eliminate the possibility of false releases. Secondly, when a fish strikes, typically the line stays firmly in the release, helping to ensure a solid hook set is achieved. Thirdly, the angler can easily trip the line free to fight a hooked fish by simply giving the rod a sharp upwards snap.

This process ensures a good hook set and helps the angler come tight against the fish quickly. The "loop trick" also makes it easier to trip the release when simply switching out lures. The "loop trick" works with any monofilament line type and allows anglers to use a heavier spring tension release when fishing in deep water, trolling at faster speeds and when trolling in rough seas.

SUMMING IT UP

Off Shore Tackle offers a wide selection of downrigger line releases because one size simply doesn't fit all. To ensure the best results it's important to match up the downrigger release tension to the trolling chore at hand. No matter the species being targeted or whether an angler is fishing in freshwater or salt water, OST has everything an angler needs to be successful fishing with downriggers.





TROLLING FOR SANDUSKY BAY CATS

BY MARK ROMANACK WITH CAPTAIN SAM HORN

Sandusky Bay is an appendage of Lake Erie that's found between the towns of Port Clinton and Sandusky, Ohio. This often overlooked fishery has quietly become known as the channel catfish capital of North America. The shallow stained and very fertile waters of Sandusky Bay are perfect when it comes to channel catfish habitat.

Excellent habitat teamed up with an almost unlimited supply of forage options including crayfish, gizzard shad, bluegill, sunfish, and sheepshead, cats in Sandusky Bay not only grow quickly, they grow to exceptional sizes. Fish in the 10 pound range are routine with 15 to 20 pound specimens a common catch.

"Channel cats that tip the scales from 20 to 25 pounds turn up so regularly, locals hardly raise an eyebrow," says Captain Sam Horn who owns Angry Floater Fishing charter service. Captain Horn has a passion for channel catfish and targets these fish on Sandusky Bay in May, June, July and August.

"In May and June, Sandusky Bay harbors an amazing number of catfish," says Captain Horn. "Some of these fish are residents and others are transient fish from nearby Lake Erie. A lot of my charter clients are anglers who came to the region to fish for walleye but end up with their charter canceled due to wind and waves. Because Sandusky Bay is shallow and well protected, we can get out targeting cats even when nearby Lake Erie is too rough to fish."

In recent years a number of catfish tournaments have zeroed in on Sandusky Bay. While the majority of anglers are using traditional live bait and cut bait tactics, there is a little known trolling bite that offers an opportunity to not only catch lots of fish but bragging sized channel cats.

"Catfish aren't shy about striking nightcrawler harnesses, live bait rigs and cut bait rigs trolled slowly with the help of Off Shore Tackle OR20 Series Guppy Weights and OR12 Side Planer Boards," says Captain Horn. "The key is trolling slowly and keeping the rigs running near, but not on the bottom."

Teaming up boards and floating style divers such as the Tru-Trip, Jet Diver or TripZ Divers is another good option for targeting catfish suspended in the water column. The advantage of using a floating diver is when a big fish is hooked, the boat can be slowed down during the fight, without worry of the other lines sinking to bottom and snagging.

Anglers can fish up to three lines per person on Sandusky Bay, making trolling one of the more attractive tactics for covering water quickly. "A lot of the catfish hang in the deeper waters found around the bridges, but the open flats also hold fish and are tailor made for trolling tactics," explains Captain Horn.

At slow speeds the OR38 Reversible Mini Board is a fun way to target catfish with live bait rigs. "Because the OR38 is so light, when a catfish is hooked, the board typically pops right out of the water, dangling on the line between the rod tip and the fish," explains Captain Horn. "This unique situation means there is never an issue with lines getting crossed or tangles, making this a fool proof system for trolling live bait rigs."

When trolling at faster speeds or when using more weight to target deeper depths, the OR12 Side Planer is a work horse planer board. Both the OR38 and the OR12 have a time and place on Sandusky Bay.

It's also important to understand that Sandusky Bay experiences wind driven currents that regularly influence the activity level of the catfish. "When the wind is blowing from the southeast, east, northeast or north, water from Lake Erie pours into Sandusky Bay, triggering the catfish to feed aggressively. Eventually the Bay fills up with water and the current reverses, pushing back towards Lake Erie.

Much like catfish living in rivers, these fish tend to bite best when the water is rising and the bite slows down when the current disperses. Ironically, some of the best catfishing on Sandusky Bay takes place when nearby Lake Erie is too rough to fish!

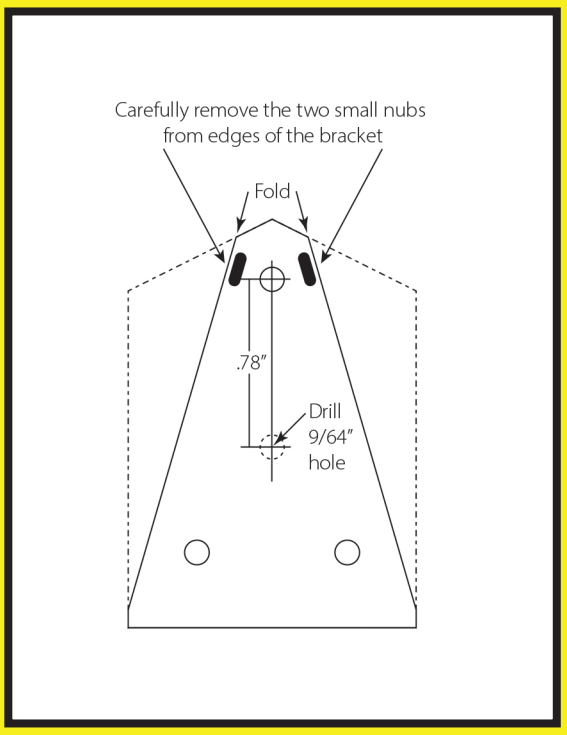
Captain Horn says that channel catfish are excellent eating, but on his charters, he encourages his clients to release all fish over 10 pounds to protect the breeding stock. "The smaller catfish are more abundant, and they are also better on the table," adds Captain Horn.

The number of channel catfish that live in Sandusky Bay is staggering. Anglers who enjoy catching big fish and lots of fish will want to check out Sandusky Bay. Late May and June are prime time, but great catfishing can be found throughout July and August.



Captain Sam Horn operates Angry Floater Fishing Charters. Captain Horn can be reached at angryfloater.com or on his Facebook messenger.

MORE OR12 BRACKET RIGGING OPTIONS



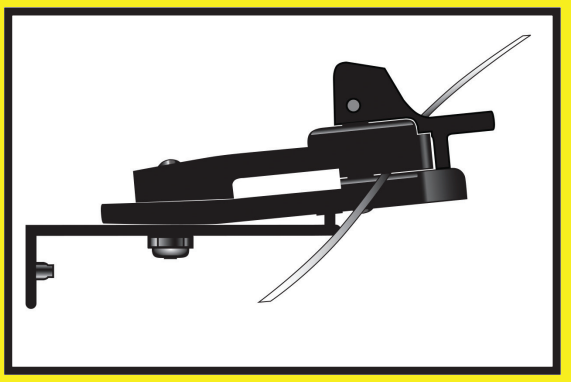
Over the years Off Shore Tackle in-line planer boards have evolved and improved. Back in the day, open cell foam was used as buoyancy in the boards. These days we use high density closed cell foam that is more buoyant and durable. The front brackets used to be made from stamped stainless steel. The brackets are now made from an indestructible nylon material that can take a beating and come back asking for more.

The flags on the OR12 have also changed to better perform with the Tattle Flag® system. And so it goes, Off Shore Tackle products are constantly evolving and improving.

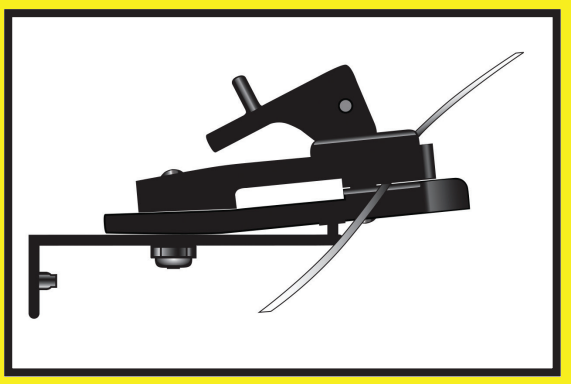
Some years ago, we added more holes to the bracket so anglers can mount both line releases to the bracket. This rigging option allows the board to be removed from the line easily with one hand, as well as making the board "tip" more when a fish is on making it easier to detect a bite without the Tattle Flag®.

The latest improvement to the OR12 Side Planer involves adding an extra hole in the middle of the bracket for mounting the OR18 Snapper Release. While this popular line release/clip can be mounted using the existing holes, the Snapper is longer and heavier than the stock OR19 that comes on the OR12. By moving the mounting hole back on the bracket, the Snapper Release can now be mounted without having the release extending so far off the end of the bracket.

This simple adjustment reduces drag in the water and allows the OR12 to plane even better. Anglers who commonly troll using fused or super lines will appreciate this small, but important improvement to the OR12.



This shows the OR18 with its lever in the forward position so the line does NOT release.



With the OR18 lever in the back position, it will allow the line to release.

OFF SHORE TACKLE LLC
www.offshoretackle.com

WANTED

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

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

MADE IN THE USA

YOUR LEADER IN
TROLLING TECHNOLOGY

PLANER BOARDS
OR37
OR12
OR38

ECONOMY TATTLE FLAG® KIT
We've Gone GREEN! 99.99% Lead Free!
OR12TFEK

EZ CRANKBAIT TUNER
OR40
offshoretackle.com
Adjustable tension knob prevents over-tuning

RELEASES AND CLIPS
OR1
OR18
OR2
OR16
OR8
OR10
OR19

TADPOLE DIVING WEIGHTS
OR36 Series

GUPPY WEIGHTS
OR20 Series

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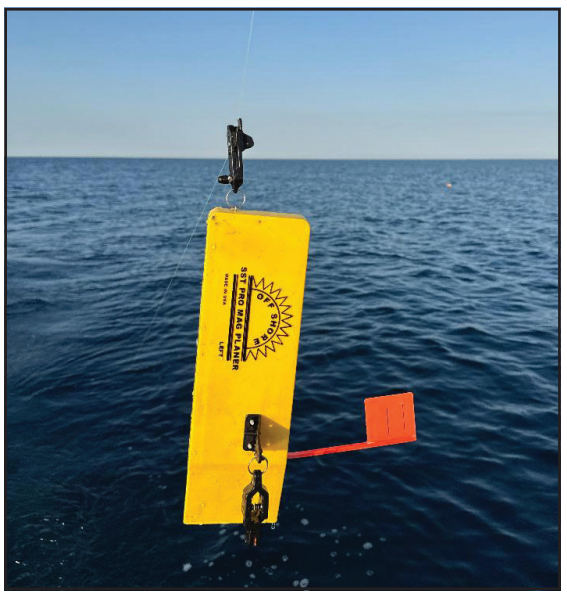
Scan to view the Off Shore Release digital newspaper

THE OFF SHORE TACKLE MISSION STATEMENT

Our company's foundation is based on presenting products to the consumer that result in a more productive fishing experience. We strive to use the best available materials that are as eco friendly as possible. Our products are "Often Imitated but Never Duplicated". You can buy cheaper products, but you can't buy better designed, built, longer lasting or more functional trolling products than those produced by Off Shore Tackle. That's why Off Shore Tackle LLC remains your "Leader in Trolling Technology."

RIGGING OPTIONS FOR THE OR37 SST PRO MAG

BY MARK ROMANACK



The "big brother" of the OR12 Side Planer, this OR37 SST Pro Mag board is designed to do the heavy lifting when it comes to trout, salmon, muskie and saltwater trolling applications. Like its smaller brother the OR12, the SST Pro Mag can be rigged a number of different ways for different trolling applications.

The OR37 SST Pro Mag is the largest in-line planer board in the Off Shore Tackle line up. Like all the OST planer boards, the SST Pro Mag is versatile enough to accept a wide range of line clips and releases, suitable for a host of different trolling applications.

FACTORY RIGGED

The factory supplied line releases and clips provided with the SST Pro Mag include the OR18 Snapper Release mounted on the bracket and the OR16 Pro Clip mounted to the tail of the board. This setup can be used when fishing with monofilament, fluorocarbon, co-polymer and super braid lines.

The tension adjustment setting on the OR18 is found on the bottom of the release. By tightening or loosening the set screw, the release tension can be set to hold the line firmly or to allow the line to release as desired. By closing the OR18 cam lever forward, a pin built into the cam lever converts the OR18 from a line release to a line clip. This feature is designed to hold all line types securely. Closing the cam lever backwards, converts the OR18 into a line release that can be used to release the board if desired.

Meanwhile, the OR16 features a pin of its own located between the rubber pads. When the line is placed behind this pin, the line is held firmly, and the board is securely positioned on the line. This allows the board to be tripped yet still remain pegged in place on the line. This in turn makes it easier to reel in the board and a hooked fish, or to simply reel in the board to switch out lures.

The OR16 is designed to work with monofilament, fluorocarbon, and co-polymer line types. If braid is used, wrap the line around the OR16 jaw two times to prevent the slippery braided line from sliding and damaging the rubber release pads.

RIGGED FOR SUPER LINES

The OR37 is commonly used when trolling sinking lines including lead core, weighted stainless steel and stranded copper line. Most anglers who use these sinking lines choose to use super lines as the backing line. The smooth and slick surface of super lines can cause damage to the rubber pads on traditional line releases.

A better solution is to rig the SST Pro Mag with an OR39 Sam's Pro Release on the bracket of the board and the OR18 Snapper at the tail of the board. The Sam's Pro Release is designed to function with super braid lines and allows the line to be tripped free when a fish is hooked or when switching out lures.

The OR18 Snapper at the tail of the board will hold super braids firmly when the cam arm is locked into the forward position, ensuring the board can't pop off from the line while trolling at high speeds and in rough water.

RIGGED FOR MONOFILAMENT BACKING

A number of anglers prefer the controlled stretch that monofilament line provides as a backing line. In this case, the OR37 SST Pro Mag can be rigged with an OR17 (black) or OR30 (red) line release on the bracket. These larger releases feature a greater surface area on the rubber pads, making them ideal for trolling in rough water and at higher speeds.

The "loop trick" is commonly employed to make it easier to trip these releases when a fish is hooked or when switching out lures. This involves wrapping the backing line over an index finger and putting a few wraps into the line, creating a small loop in the process. The wrapped line is placed between the rubber pads, and the loop is allowed to protrude about an inch beyond the release jaws.

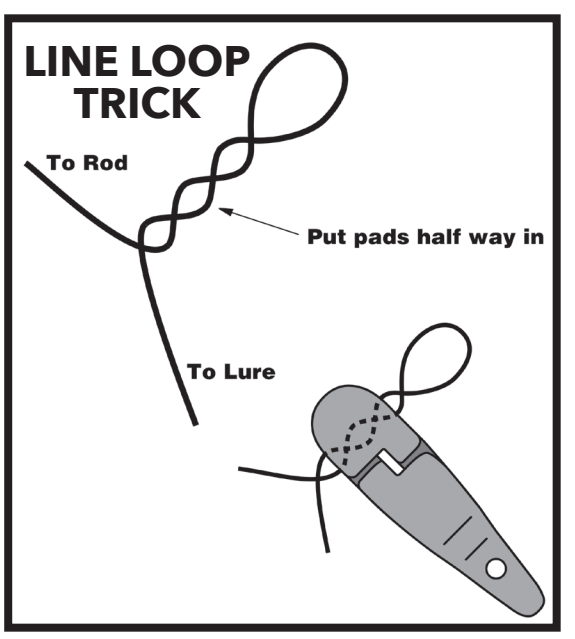
At the rear of the board, the OR16 is the ideal clip for anglers who are using monofilament or co-polymer lines as their backing line.

FIXED OR SPLIT RING RIGGED

The line clip or release used on the bracket of the SST Pro Mag can be fixed in place using the provided stainless screw and nylon nut or a split ring can be used to connect the release to the bracket. It's generally accepted that the fixed method makes it easier to trip the board, while the split ring method helps the board run better when trolling into heavy seas.

SUMMING IT UP

Depending on the line types being used, the trolling tactics employed and the wave conditions, there's a rigging method for the SST Pro Mag that is ideal for every angler. This work horse planer board is designed to do the heavy lifting when it comes to trolling for trout, salmon, striper, muskie and saltwater species.



AT THE HELM, NICK DESHANO

I'd like to start out by acknowledging the passing of our long time Team member Greg Horoky. He was much more than a team member; Greg has been with us from the beginning and is a true member of our family. His influences reach deep into the fishing industry, especially in Canada, his home country. If you knew Greg, you'd know how dedicated he was to the fishing industry and especially to Off Shore Tackle. He was our Canadian Pro Staff Director for many years and his name was synonymous with Off Shore. Please join us in giving our condolences and gratitude to his family and all those who were impacted by Greg, he will be sorely missed.

It has been an interesting year with many challenges, but we at Off Shore Tackle are committed to bringing the highest quality and best performing products to help you catch more fish. The sport has changed dramatically in the last few years with the introduction of Forward Facing Sonar (FFS). It allows anglers to target specific fish, even in open water bites usually associated with trolling. It remains primarily a tournament tactic with the majority being won with FFS. As a trolling oriented company, this is having a profound effect on the industry as a whole. It is becoming more difficult to justify sponsoring tournament series that are dominated by FFS techniques.

When it comes to the everyday anglers, from guides to friends and family fishing together, trolling remains a staple technique that everyone can enjoy. Fishing with FFS takes a social aspect out of fishing. There is so much concentration involved with boat control, watching the screen, and casting to the correct spot in front of the fish that there is little time for visiting and storytelling. Trolling remains the most effective way to get everyone in the boat involved, whether there are only 2 or a boat full of people. It is a great way to introduce new anglers to the sport without having to spend thousands on electronics.



Nick DeShano has officially taken over the helm at Off Shore Tackle LLC and looks forward to an ever promising future for the organization.

While FFS is gaining in popularity, I believe there will always be a place for trolling, a technique that has been a great way to catch fish, especially in open water for generations. You can be assured that Off Shore Tackle will remain at the forefront of the industry and continue to bring you the highest quality products you all know and love.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND CHOOSING OFF SHORE TACKLE!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Outdoor writer and TV host Mark Romanack has been editing the annual Off Shore Tackle Release newspaper since the beginning. Mark and OST welcome contributions from other avid anglers who fish often with Off Shore Tackle products.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING


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

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

Maybe you missed some of our past editions of the "Off Shore Release", or are 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!

OFF SHORE TACKLE Your Leader In

Planer Boards

Model # OR38 Reversible Mini Board



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

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



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

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



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

Tattle Flag® HD Upgrade Kit

Model# OR12TFEK
Tattle Flag® HD Economy Kit

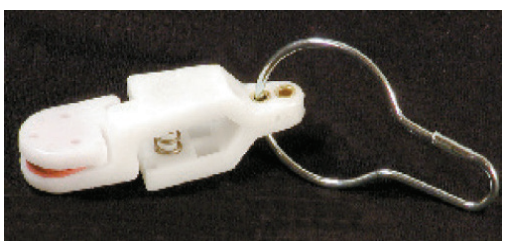


This kit works by using your OR12 Side Planer with the flag and release/clip that came on your OR12. This kit just contains ONLY the hardware which consists of a HD wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and limited instructions.

Planer Board Releases

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

Model # OR3
Light Tension Planer Board Release - White



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR17BWW
Medium Tension Planer Board Release - Black



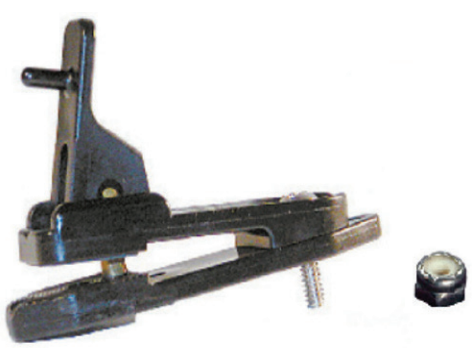
This release is ideal for deep water good size fish. It can also be used to pull lead core, snap weights and deep diving crankbaits.

Model # OR30BWW
Heavy Tension Planer Board Release – Red



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

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



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

Model # OR39
Sam's Pro Release-Black



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

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

Model # OR10
Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Release—Yellow



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR14
Adjustable Medium Tension Planer Board Release—Black



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

Model # OR19
Adjustable Heavy Tension Planer Board Release—Orange



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

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

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.

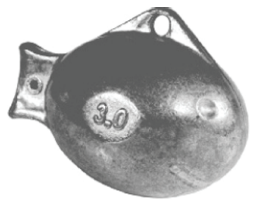
The OR16's and guppy weights are available to purchase separately so you can create your own custom Pro Weight System!

Model # OR16
Pro Clip—Red



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

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



Replacement Pro Guppy Weights

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

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

Model # OR20 1
1 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

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

Model # OR20 2
2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3
3 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

These items, replacement parts, and promotional items (including apparel) are all available through our website.
PLEASE VISIT US AT . . .
www.offshoretackle.com
★ SHOP ANYTIME ON-LINE . . . CONVENIENT & SECURE ★

Resettable Diving Weights



Model # OR36 1
Tadpole Size 1

Model # OR36 2
Tadpole Size 2

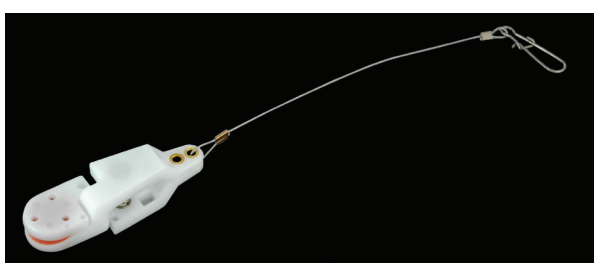
Model # OR36 3
Tadpole Size 3

Model # OR36 MAGNUM
Tadpole MAGNUM Size

Downrigger Releases

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

Model # OR4
Light Tension Single
Downrigger Release, White



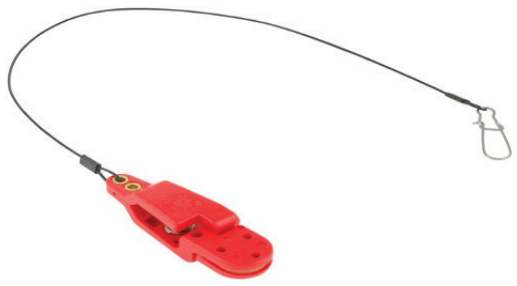
This release is ideal for light biting fish.

Model # OR1
Medium Tension Single
Downrigger Release, Black



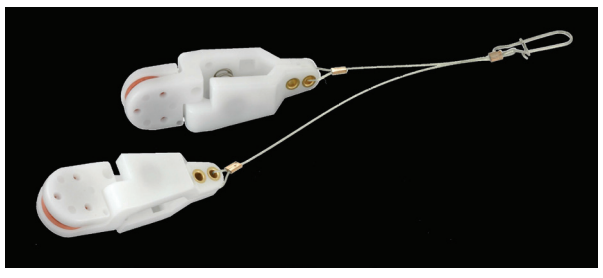
This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish.

Model # OR8
Heavy Tension Single
Downrigger Release, Red



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

Model # OR7
Light Tension Stacker
Downrigger Release, White



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

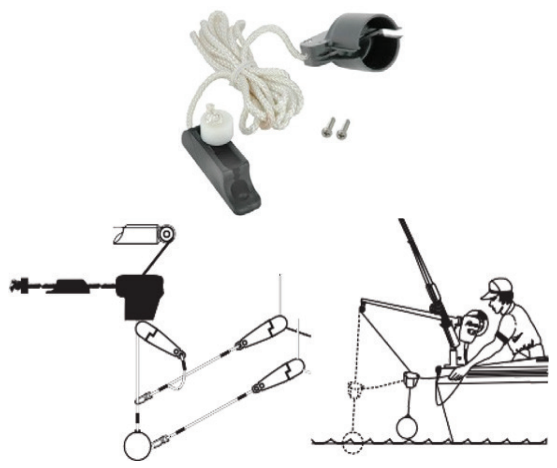
Model # OR2
Medium Tension Stacker
Downrigger Release, Black



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

Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever

Model # OR6
Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever



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

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

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

Replacement Pads



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



Model # ORRP8SN
Replacement pads for OR18 releases.



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



Model # ORRP16HL
Replacement pads for OR16 clips.

EZ Crankbait Tuner

Model # OR40
EZ Crankbait Tuner



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

PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS

BY CAPTAIN ERIC HIRZEL

I've had a few customers recently ask me what I thought was my biggest key to consistently putting fish in the boat. Location of fish is key because you can't catch fish that aren't there. Fishing every day, sonar, networking, and GPS have made that into a relatively simple process. But the key to consistently putting fish in the boat is paying attention to detail.

Whether you're running a charter, fishing a tournament, or just "mom and pop" fun fishing, many components play into success or failure. Routinely or inadvertently taking short cuts, ignoring or taking things for granted all result in negative outcomes.

BOAT SETUP

Whether casting, jigging, vertically dropping live bait, or trolling, having the boat setup properly is critical. Running a charter business on Lake Erie means my boat must be rigged for all those techniques to accommodate my customers.

In a trolling situation there are many components that give us the best chance of success. Taking a few extra steps to tweak and refine those things puts you in a position to keep the bites coming. How closely you pay attention to detail will separate you from the average angler.

ELECTRONICS AND TROLLING

We know color and style of baits are important but relative speed and depth are also critical for trolling success in the Great Lakes. This is due to the currents that are ever present. We refer to putting those components together as our "program." To keep fish coming to the net, we need to identify the factors that make the program effective and keep it consistent. Electronics like auto pilot, GPS/plotter, auto speed control, sonar, and speed/temperature probes are essential to maintaining correct speed and heading.

Those electronics work in concert to provide data to put it together but that only works if care is taken to make sure transducers and probes are calibrated and properly installed and deployed.

TROLLING HARDWARE

On bigger boats, drift bags are essential to stabilize the force against the thrust of the engines. We pull a pair of large drift bags off the port and starboard mid-ship cleats to slow the boat down and to minimize surge from waves. This also enables us to troll at a higher RPM which helps keep the heading true in windy conditions. Every boat has an optimum combination of pull point and length of drop back off the cleats to allow the auto pilot to steer efficiently. Care must be taken to ensure correct positioning of the bags.

Other trolling hardware includes rods and reels, downriggers, planer boards, big boards, releases, and divers. It is critical to keep line counter reels and downriggers well maintained and calibrated. Knowing those counters are accurate will give you confidence and ensure your program can be replicated.

Directional and straight pull divers are tools that when pulled behind a properly calibrated reel will put your baits precisely where you want them. Detail must be given to ensure the directional settings and release tension are properly set every time they go into the water. Never assume they are adjusted to the settings you started with.



Captain Eric Hirzel runs Erie Gold Sport Fishing out of Port Clinton, Ohio. A longtime fan of Off Shore Tackle products, Captain Eric, fishes Lake Erie daily from April to December.

ROD HOLDERS

Trolling with big boards or in-line planers requires an effective array of rod holders evenly spaced down the gunnels of the boat. With in-line boards like the Off Shore OR12's, it is functionally better if those rod holders can be adjusted to incrementally tip away from the gunnel as they move toward the transom. Bites are read when boards get pulled back out of formation.

Conversely, big board programs require less or zero tilt so rods all have the same angle and pull load. The bites can be read in a change in the rod tip load compared to adjacent rods.

IN-LINE BOARDS

When using Off Shore Tackle planer boards, don't forget to inspect and maintain all the components. In my charter business I run OR12 boards when pulling large cranks spring and fall as well as worm harnesses in early summer. Wear and tear come with heavy use so keeping them maintained and the pad releases replaced as needed will save frustrating false releases or lost boards.

I run up to 6 boards per side rigged with the twist method, aka "Loop Trick" to allow a hooked fish to drop back out of the spread and be reeled up the middle to the boat. As the season progresses, I watch for signs of wear on all release pads and replace them before they fail. I keep extra left and right boards on the boat to quickly replace a board that may be experiencing worn releases. Back at the dock I can replace the worn pads and get those boards quickly back into service.

BE PRECISE

The Precision Trolling app is another tool that is essential to putting baits in the fish zone. The data in this app is extremely accurate if the crankbait is properly tuned. The most common oversight by trollers is not paying attention to how straight crankbaits are tracking. If they swim left or right of the pull point, they are no longer achieving the target depth. I believe the most important tip I can give trollers is to make sure your baits are tracking straight every single time you put them in the water. The OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuning Tool by Off Shore Tackle is a great tool to keep your baits tuned correctly.

REELS AND LINE

I mentioned keeping line counter reels properly calibrated. Improperly spooled reels are another common oversight. Making sure you spool the correct amount of line on your line counter reels so they measure and read exactly 100 feet is critical. Too little line on the spool results in a shorter lead length and vice versa. You can't be precise if your reels are not properly spooled.

Pay close attention to the condition of your line at the terminal end and where you are commonly attaching the board or big board release. These are where the heaviest wear occurs. As a matter of routine, I replace the last 300 feet of monofilament every couple of weeks to keep the spools full of undamaged line.

THE WEIGHT EFFECT

The use of OR20 Pro Weights or in-line sinkers for aiding crankbaits and worm harnesses to deeper depths is another source

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

of oversight with average angler. Weights rise or fall drastically with even subtle changes in speed. This is why I pay closer attention to speed when weight is involved.

Getting a bite on a turn is common and it can tell us a lot. Aside from the speed difference on turns, the weighted baits rise on the outside of a turn and sink drastically on the inside lines. The latter can also cause problems with snags or picking up debris off the bottom.

INTANGIBLES

Aside from scrutinizing electronic data as well as tackle in your trolling setup, there are some important intangibles that can make the difference between a slow bite and steady action. These are things that become habit as you gain experience.

RECOGNIZING CHANGES IN DRAG

A trolling spread can have up to 20 plus rods. Those not properly set are only slightly more productive than if they were still in the storage racks. Lines with fouled crankbaits, hooked up to small fish, or fouled with debris or weeds are all useless. An entire spread running the same program should be pulling uniformly behind the boards or tow lines.

Being able to recognize and correct those problems keeps your entire spread productive. A tripped diver or fouled crankbait pulling higher in the water column with less drag is a clear sign. Recognizing the high line angle or board that is tracking in front of the rest of the spread telegraphs those issues.

In contrast, small fish, weeds, or debris add extra drag and pull a board or Tattle Flag® back out of formation. Subtle signs like these help you keep your entire spread more efficient.

If I am running more than one presentation, I always divide the boat in half to keep individual sides the same. Port and starboard can be separately monitored for uniformity or signs of trouble.

CHANGES IN CONDITIONS

Another intangible detail to pay attention to is weather conditions and changes. Light levels, weather fronts, time of day, wind direction changes, proximity to structure, water clarity, and changes in the speed and direction of currents can all cause fish to move up and down in the water column.

Look for those signs and make the changes necessary to get the fish going. It can be as simple as a speed change or adjusting lead lengths.

Keep an eye on the water clarity, your sonar, and down speed/temperature to stay in the right depth zone and location. We typically drop a waypoint when we get great action but don't die on the vine after the bites slow up. The "sweet spots" are not consistent because wind and current are constantly moving water around. You need to change with them to keep the bites coming.

Every part of a trolling program can contribute in a negative or positive way. Making sure you pay attention to every detail will put more fish in your boat.

RIGGING DIVING PLANERS AS IN-LINES



Popular diving planers like the Luhr Jensen Dipsy Divers have accounted for countless fish over the years. These divers are designed to have the main line attached to the tow arm on the diver and a leader to the lure attached at the back of the diver. The leader is approximately the length of the rod being used. This makes it easier to land a struggling fish once the diver has been reeled up to within a few inches of the rod tip.

This common setup works, but in clear water environments having the diver so close to the lure can create a spooking factor. To solve this problem, a growing number of anglers are rigging their diving planers using an Off Shore Tackle line release to the tow arm of the diver and fishing the diver like an in-line Snap Weight.

The release used depends on the type of line being fished with the diving planer. When monofilament, fluorocarbon or co-polymer lines are being used, the OR16 Pro Clip is an excellent choice. When braided lines are being used, the OR18 Snapper is the ideal release choice. Anglers who use wire line on their divers can also use the OR18 Snapper, but the release should be attached to the fluorocarbon leader, not the wire line. Clipping a release to wire line can damage the wire.

To get started with the in-line rigging method, the rod and reel used for fishing divers must first have a 25 to 50 foot leader of fluorocarbon line added. A double Uni knot is a good option for attaching a super braid to the fluorocarbon leader material. If stranded wire is being used on the diver, an Albright knot is a good choice for attaching stranded wire to the fluorocarbon leader material. (YouTube offers many videos on how to tie the Uni and Albright knots).

Once the leader has been rigged on the diver rod setup, let the desired lure and leader material out until the monofilament, braided or wire line reaches the rod tip. Place the diver on the line using the proper release type for the line being used. Lower the diver into the water, place the rod in a conveniently placed rod holder and back off on the reel drag until the resistance of the diver starts to slowly play line off the reel. When the diver has been deployed to the desired distance, tighten the reel drag enough to prevent further line from playing out.

This simple but effective means of rigging a diving planer as an in-line weight works flawlessly. When a fish is hooked, the diver will pop leaving the diver dangling on the line. This makes it much easier to reel in hooked fish.

Once the diver is within reach of the rod tip, the diver is removed, and the angler continues to fight the fish to net. This in-line rigging method is slick, easy, effective and it helps anglers catch more and bigger fish using diving planers.

PLEASE NOTE

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

TEACHING THE TROLLING GAME: A FATHER-SON FISHING TRIP TO REMEMBER

BY JEREMY BOCK

This past summer, I had the privilege of taking a father and son out on the water for a fishing trip. They had purchased the outing from a donation I had made, and their goal was to catch walleye by casting—but they were open to trolling if needed.

I knew casting would be a challenge that day as there was little to no wind, and after two hours and only one fish, they turned to me and said, "I guess we can give trolling a try." It wasn't exactly a ringing endorsement, but it gave me an opening to show them just how effective trolling, especially with Off Shore Tackle planer boards can be.

We headed to the mud flats, and using my electronics, I began scanning for pods of fish before setting up our trolling pass. Forward Facing Sonar has been a hot topic in the fishing world lately, especially for casting directly to fish, but it's also something I use 100% of the time when trolling.

I run a Forward Facing Sonar mounted to my trolling motor, with the graph attached to a telescoping mount. This setup allows me to raise the graph high enough to see it from the back of the boat. It shows me the depth and location of fish in front of the boat, giving me the ability to adjust my lines accordingly. As the boat moves over the fish, they typically scatter to the sides but often stay at a similar depth which is key when setting your gear.



What a day to remember for Chuck Wierschem and his son Jack when they went out fishing with Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer Jeremy Bock.

We started with crawler harnesses and I took some time to explain my Off Shore OR12 Side Planer Board setup. I run the OR18 Snapper Adjustable Tension Release on the bracket paired with the OR16 Pro Clip on the tail of the board. All of my boards are upgraded to the Tattle Flag® system, and I make full use of the spring tension options it offers.



Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer, Jeremy Bock and Jack Wierschem with a nice Lake Winnebago walleye caught while learning how to troll using Off Shore Tackle products.

A lot of anglers overlook the Tattle Flag's® adjustment holes, but those small tweaks can make a big difference. I usually run my flags with the lightest tension possible, especially when trolling with crawlers because fish will often come up and just "bump" the bait. That subtle flag movement is often the only indicator of a light bite, and the light setting lets me see it.

When we began trolling the graph lit up with fish, from the surface to the bottom, but we weren't getting bit. Time for a change. I swapped out a few crawler harnesses for slow death rigs, which I've found to be incredibly effective when the bite gets finicky. I tie my own rigs, using a variety of blades and color combinations. Some are just a slow death hook and one bead; others have multiple beads with more complex color patterns.

Within 2 minutes of deploying the first slow death setup, a board went back. We landed a solid 20 inch walleye. Five minutes later, another fish, this time 21 inches. That was all the confirmation we needed. We switched four more lines to slow death rigs and over the next 90 minutes, we put 16 walleye in the boat with most being over 20 inches. For that body of water, it was an incredible day.

Beyond the fish, the boat was filled with big smiles, high-fives, and excitement. The father and son quickly learned how to set boards and run lines themselves. They were soon handling most of the spread, saying:

"Wow, we see how effective trolling can be and why it's so important to be a versatile angler. Thank you for teaching us and letting us be hands-on."

Though they didn't yet own a boat, they were planning to purchase one in the fall and asked me to help them pick up a set of Off Shore Tackle planer boards and the necessary accessories, which I was more than happy to do. More importantly, their view on trolling completely changed, and they walked away better anglers.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, CHANGE PERSPECTIVES

You can have the same kind of impact on others around you who love to fish. I don't know anyone who doesn't want to become a better angler and we all have something to offer. Whether it's explaining your gear setup, demonstrating techniques, or simply encouraging someone to try a new method, those small moments can lead to big changes.

Look for the opportunity. Take the time to teach. Most importantly—encourage.

THE PRO WEIGHT SYSTEM

The Off Shore Tackle OR20 Pro Weight System is a kit that contains an assortment of 1/2, 3/4, 1, 1 1/2, 2 and 3 ounce Guppy weights along with four OR16 Pro Clips and split rings. The cool thing about this kit is it allows anglers to fish these trolling sinkers either as an in-line weight or as a Snap Weight depending on conditions.

IN-LINE RIGGING

To use the Guppy weight as an in-line trolling sinker, simply attach the Guppy to the terminal end of your fishing line. Next add a leader and the desired lure to the back of the Guppy. For spinners, crawler harnesses, and spoons, it's best to add a swivel to the leader to prevent line twist.

Guppy weights are extremely popular with anglers who pull crawler harnesses and other live bait rigs for walleye, crappie and other panfish, but these in-line weights are also handy for trolling up coho, brown trout, northern pike, and a host of other species.

This setup can be trolled as a flat line straight out the back of the boat or trolled in combination with in-line boards such as the OR38 Reversible Mini Board or OR12 Side Planer to gain more lure coverage. Especially useful for pulling harnesses among weed flats. While trolling weeds will momentarily catch on the Guppy weight before it pulls free catapulting the harness and trigger strikes.

By using different sized Guppy weights, trollers can easily stagger their gear, flooding the water column with live bait rigs or lures. When using in-line boards to deploy Guppy weights, it's best to set the smaller/lighter sized weights on outside board lines, using progressively heavier weights for middle and inside board lines. This setup allows anglers to hook and fight a fish caught on any board without having to clear any fishing lines.

SNAP WEIGHT RIGGING

Using the OR16 Pro Clip and a split ring to position Guppy weights on the line is another popular trolling tactic known as a Snap Weight. This rigging system allows the angler to have more separation between the lure and the weight. This is especially useful when trolling in clear water situations.

To rig as a Snap Weight, simply let the desired lure out behind the boat. For trolling with harnesses, in-line spinners, spoons and stickbaits, a 20 to 50 foot lead is commonly employed. Once the lure is out the desired distance, place the Snap Weight on the line by clipping the OR16 Pro Clip onto the line, being sure to get the line behind the plastic pin located in the center of the rubber pads.

Once the Snap Weight is on the line, simply play out more trolling lead to reach the desired fishing depth. All the popular sizes of the Pro Weight System are featured in the Precision Trolling Data phone app, making it easy to determine exactly what lead lengths and trolling speeds are required to fish specific depths.

When a fish is hooked using the Snap Weight system, the fish and the Snap Weight are reeled in together until the Snap Weight is close enough to the rod tip so it can be easily removed from the line. The fish is then fought to net.

Snap Weights are commonly used to fish live bait rigs, but they can also be used to get a host of other trolling lures to depth including crankbaits, stickbaits, spoons and in-line spinners.



50+2 DATA

The 2 ounce Snap Weight is commonly used to get crankbaits to deeper depths than these lures would run unassisted. The most accurate data for fishing Snap Weights in combination with diving crankbaits is known as the 50+2 Data published in the Precision Trolling Data phone app.

This data involves letting out the desired lure 50 feet behind the boat, then placing a 2 ounce Snap Weight on the line. Additional trolling lead is played out to reach target depths.

Using the app is as simple as selecting the trolling speed from the MPH picker wheel and then selecting the "feet down" picker wheel to the desired target depth. The "feet back" picker wheel will indicate how much total lead (including the initial 50 foot lead) is required to achieve that target depth.

Not all the lures found in the PTD app feature the 50+2 Data. By consulting the "lists" feature on the app an angler can quickly determine exactly which crankbaits feature this invaluable trolling data. More lures are regularly tested with the 50+2 Data and included in annual app updates.

SUMMING IT UP

Off Shore's OR20 Pro Weight System is one of the most versatile trolling systems on the market. Made from environmentally friendly zinc alloy, investing in a kit is a good starting point, but additional Guppy weights, split rings and OR16 clips are sold separately so you can create your own version and add to it as you care to.



SUMMER BROWN TROUT

BY JAKE ROMANACK



Jake Romanack of Fishing 411 TV and veteran Off Shore Pro Staffer has a passion for targeting brown trout. This monster was caught on the Niagara Bar in Lake Ontario during the month of July. Summer time browns are an exciting alternative to trolling for salmon during the summer months.

A strong tradition for targeting brown trout exists in a host of Great Lakes waters. Typically, these fish provide some of the first open water angling opportunities of the year. Starting at ice out and lasting well into May, countless anglers target brown trout in Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Ontario.

Interest in catching brown trout seems to start waning about the same time water temperatures get right for targeting spring coho and chinook salmon. Brown trout may be the bridesmaids of salmonid fishing, but there are avid anglers who simply can't get enough days on the water chasing Great Lakes browns.

LAKE ONTARIO

Of the four Great Lakes that are regularly stocked with brown trout, Lake Ontario stands out. Thanks to stocking contributions from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Lake Ontario is not just an excellent fishery, it's a top sport fishing destination.

Stocking helps sustain this world class fishery, but Lake Ontario also benefits from nearly ideal habitat and a diverse forage base that consists of alewife, smelt, emerald shiners, gizzard shad and round goby, all of which brown trout slurp down without hesitation. Several rivers pour nutrient rich waters into Lake Ontario including the Niagara, Salmon, Genesee, Oswego, Trent and Black. The Welland Canal also contributes nutrient rich waters from Lake Erie.

Collectively these rivers help create what could only be described as picture perfect conditions for raising brown trout and other salmonids. Brown trout are regularly caught on Lake Ontario from the Welland Canal on the west end of the lake, all the way to the Salmon River in the east. The famed Niagara Escarpment forms a rocky shoreline of limestone and dolomite that in turn yields ideal habitat for brown trout.

Rocky shorelines stretch from the beach out to about 80 feet of water, setting up a west-to-east highway brown trout follow to find food and desirable water temperatures. Targeting brown trout in the summer time on Lake Ontario is about finding water temperatures in the 55 to 65 degree range that collide with rocky bottom structure.

A sub-surface temperature and speed probe is an absolute must for finding these fish. Without this invaluable piece of fishing electronics, it would be time consuming at best or impossible to pinpoint summer brown trout action.

TROLLING SETUPS

Summer brown trout on Lake Ontario are routinely taken using traditional trolling gear including downriggers, diving planers and lead core line fished in combination with in-line boards such as the Off Shore Tackle OR12. Spoons, shallow diving stickbaits and deeper diving crankbaits will all consistently take fish.

DOWNRIGGERS

A downrigger is a critically important piece of equipment for targeting summer browns. The downrigger is used to deploy the probe and to present baits close to bottom. Spoons and shallow diving stickbaits are the lures most used on the downrigger lines.

Off Shore Tackle makes several downrigger line releases suitable for brown trout fishing. My favorite is the OR8 Heavy Tension Downrigger Release. The extra tension of this line release makes it versatile enough to use with all common trolling gear. When setting the line from my trolling rods into the OR8, I grasp the line near the rod tip, fold the line over my index finger and twirl my finger to create a loop of line with a few twists. The twists of line are placed between the rubber pads on the OR8 letting the loop protrude an inch or two beyond the release jaws. This is commonly referred to as the "Loop Trick".

This setup ensures the release has a firm grip on the line, eliminating any false releases, but when it's time to trip the release to fight a fish or switch out baits, it's a simple matter of giving the rod a quick upwards snap. The extra tension of the OR8 also helps to bury the hooks deep when a fish strikes.

DIVING PLANERS

Diving planers work to get gear to depth and to position the gear a little out away from the boat. Traditionally divers are rigged with a leader that's approximately the length of the rod. This ensures that when the diver is reeled up to the rod tip, the fish will be close enough to easily net.

Rigging divers like a Snap Weight makes it possible to place the diver further up the line, eliminating any spooking factor of the diver. This rigging method starts by adding a 20 to 50 foot fluorocarbon leader to the main line. A double Uni knot is ideal for attaching a fluorocarbon leader to a braid main line. If wire is the main line, the Albright knot is a good choice for attaching fluorocarbon leaders to wire main lines.

On the trip arm of the diver, use a split ring to add an OR18 Snapper Release. Let the desired lure and leader out behind the boat, then attach the Snapper Release and attached diver to the line. Close the Snapper with the lever forward to ensure it remains firmly on the main line if using braid and on the leader if using wire as a main line.

The diver can now be deployed by backing off the reel drag until the diver slowly works its way out. When a fish strikes, a quick snap of the rod will trip the diver, leaving it dangling from the line like a Snap Weight. When the diver is reeled in close enough to reach, remove it from the line and continue fighting the fish to net. This simple setup is flawless and works on all the species commonly targeted using divers.

LEAD CORE AND BOARDS

Lead core is a sinking color marked line commonly used to target Great Lakes trout and salmon. A rigging method known as segmented lead core consists of a select length or color of lead core line that's sandwiched between a backing line and leader. By staggering the amounts of lead core line used, anglers can target various depths and run multiple lead core rigs on each side of the boat.

Spoons work best when fishing segmented lead core because the spoon won't dive down below the lead core, making it possible to hook fish on an outside line and reel in those fish without having to clear inside board lines.

Lead core is used by fishing the shorter and higher fishing lead core lines on outside boards, while longer and deeper lengths of lead core are fished on middle and inside board lines. The OR12 Side Planer is the perfect tool for fishing segmented lead core lines. The OR12 will handle all setups of lead core from one color out to 10 colors with ease.

Anglers who use monofilament line as a backing line can use the OR12 exactly the way it comes out of the package with an OR19 release on the bracket and an OR16 Pro Clip at the rear of the board. Those anglers who use braid as a backing line will want to rig the OR12 with either a OR18 Snapper Release or an OR39 Sam's Pro Release on the bracket and an OR18 at the rear of the board.

SUMMING IT UP

Anglers who are looking to target brown trout should consider a trip to Lake Ontario in the summer months. In June, July, August and September, it's a safe bet that brown trout will be found in 20 to 80 feet of water. Use a probe to pinpoint where 55 to 65 degree water hits the bottom and concentrate efforts trolling those depths. The rewards might just be the biggest brown trout of your life!

CREATIVE WAYS OF USING THE OR16 PRO CLIP

BY JESSE HANES

When it comes to walleye fishing with crawler harnesses, I prefer not to use fixed or in-line weights. Instead, I opt for versatility, using the OR16 to secure weights to my main line; allowing me to easily change weights to suit conditions.

For example, when my rods are stored upright in my rod holders, I simply remove the weights and avoid them slapping around and potentially tangling lines or breaking gear. I can also simply and quickly change my weight to the preferred size for the depth of water I'm targeting. For bottom bouncing or fishing in heavy weeds, I use stick-weights in 1 ounce and 3 ounce sizes. A 2 ounce weight rigged on an OR16 Pro Clip works best for suspended fish. This setup also makes it easy to double down as a 50+2 setup when running crankbaits down deep. Give this a try to put more fish in your boat this summer!



TRICKS FOR USING SINKING LINES WITH PLANER BOARDS

Sinking lines such as lead core, stranded copper wire or weighted stainless steel wire are deadly effective means of getting a host of lures to depth. Commonly used to target trout and salmon in the Great Lakes, weighted lines can also be used to target walleye, striper, muskie, and a host of saltwater species as well.

The benefits of sinking lines are they help get lures deep and they create a separation between the lure and the boat that helps to trigger strikes from spooky species and when fishing in clear waters. Adding an in-line planer board such as the OR12 Side Planer or the OR37 SST Pro Mag is an effective way of spreading out lures while covering a host of depth zones at the same time.

Shorter (more shallow running) lengths of these weighted lines are typically fished on outside board lines, while longer and deeper running setups are fished on middle and inside board lines. Using this strategy, an angler can literally flood the water column with baits yet still reel in hooked fish without having to clear other board lines. Slick!

One of the other advantages of trolling with sinking lines is they have little stretch, so when a fish bites, the hooks are typically driven home quickly. Because these sinking lines are highly speed sensitive, anglers can use trolling speed as a means of controlling where the lures are running in the water column.

RIGGING SINKING LINES

Typically sinking lines are rigged as a premeasured segment of line sandwiched between a leader of fluorocarbon line and a backing line that can be either monofilament or super braid. Because these sinking lines take up a lot of space on trolling reels, most anglers favor using a thinner diameter super line as a backing line. This enables you to load more backing line onto the reel to deal with powerful fish.

With lead core a double Uni knot is typically used to attach the backing and fluorocarbon lines to the lead core. By removing about six inches of the lead core, the double Uni knot can be tied creating a very small knot that easily travels through the reel and rod guides.

Stranded copper line is typically terminated using an Albright knot. Weighted stainless steel wire is commonly terminated using line crimps and small barrel swivels that also easily pass through the rod and reel guides.

RIGGING A MONOFILAMENT BUMPER

Another option for rigging sinking lines requires adding a 10 to 15 foot long monofilament bumper between the sinking line and the braided backing line. This setup has the advantage of letting anglers use traditional monofilament line releases on their in-line boards instead of expensive after-market releases designed for super braid. The lure, leader and sinking line are deployed and the in-line board is attached to the bumper line.

The monofilament bumper should be a stout line to stand up to considerable abuse. For trout and salmon fishing, a 25 pound test monofilament bumper works nicely. For targeting smaller fish like walleye, the bumper can be reduced to 20 pound test monofilament. It's best to pick a hard surfaced monofilament such as Berkley XT, Berkley Big Game, P-Line CXX or Maxima Ultra Green for the bumper.

SUITABLE REELS

The reels suitable for using sinking lines are generally the round frame level-wind style trolling reels. Line counter reels aren't necessary because each reel is loaded with a premeasured amount of sinking line. To identify how much sinking line is loaded onto each reel, a small sticker with the necessary information is placed onto the reel for quick reference.

A 20 size reel is large enough to accommodate 200 yards of backing line and 1, 2 or 3 colors of lead core line (30, 60 or 90 feet) respectively. A 30 size reel is needed for running 4, 5 or 6 colors of lead core with an adequate amount of backing line. A 40 size reel will handle 7, 8, 9 or 10 colors of lead core and super braid backing line.

Because stranded copper and weighted stainless steel wire lines are larger in diameter, bigger capacity 40, 50 and 60 class reels are generally used to fish these lines.

BOARD CHOICES

The shorter lengths of lead core line can be matched up nicely with the OR12 Side Planer board. This work horse in-line planer will handle lead core setups up to and including 10 colors.

Heavier copper and weighted stainless steel wire rigs will require using the larger OR37 SST Pro Mag boards.

ROD TIP TOPS

Lead core line can be fished with any rod suitable for trolling an in-line planer board. Copper and stainless wire rigs should be matched up to a rod that features either a roller tip top or a Twili-style rod tip.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Many anglers shy away from using sinking lines because they are hesitant to invest in the dedicated rods and reels needed to use these lines effectively. Without question fishing sinking lines requires a financial commitment, but once the investment is made, an angler can expect many years of service from quality rod and reel setups.

Sinking lines are deadly effective and when paired up with in-line planer boards they become a fish harvesting system.

Editors Note: Several videos are available online on how to tie Uni and Albright knots.

WHAT EVERY TROLLER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LINE RELEASES

BY MARK ROMANACK

Most of the trolling tactics modern anglers depend upon to put fish in the boat require the use of line releases and line clips. Off Shore Tackle is the industry's leading supplier of trolling line releases and clips designed to help anglers catch more fish in both freshwater and saltwater trolling environments.

OVERVIEW

It's important to note that no single line release can do justice to all the trolling tactics an angler might engage in. At Off Shore Tackle the goal is to build the best products possible, which means building lots of various products to use in niche trolling presentations. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to line releases.

IN-LINE BOARD RELEASES

Anglers who commonly use in-line planer boards will find that Off Shore Tackle has a wide selection of line releases designed to fit the bracket on the OR12 Side Planer, OR37 SST Pro Mag and the OR38 Reversible Mini Planer.

The OR10 (yellow) light tension release is perfect for most applications of the OR38 Reversible Mini Board. Designed to handle the lighter lines used for panfish trolling, the OR10 has two tension settings including the heavy setting (spring forward toward the pads) and a lighter setting (spring is positioned backwards away from the pads) that can be accomplished by simply using a flat screw driver blade to position the spring located between the jaws.

The OR14 (small black) medium tension release comes in handy when using the OR38 at faster trolling speeds such as often encountered while steelhead or trout fishing. Like the OR10, the OR14 features two tension settings that can be easily changed using a flat screw driver blade.

The OR19 (orange) release features a heaviest tension setting ideal for big water trolling applications. This release comes factory standard on the OR12 Side Planer but can also be used on the OR38 Reversible Mini Board and the OR37 SST Pro Mag Board. The OR19 was designed to provide the tension necessary for trolling in big water situations when anglers are commonly trolling with the waves and directly into the waves.

The OR39 Sam's Pro Release is a Silver Horde product that Off Shore Tackle markets and endorses for trolling applications that require in-line boards and the use of super braid fishing lines. Designed to allow anglers who fish a braided main line to rig their boards so they can be released, the Sam's Pro Release uses a rubber plunger and jettison clip to hold slippery super braids when trolling in all conditions.



Off Shore Tackle produces a wide variety of line releases and line clips designed for every trolling application. From in-line boards, dual and triple big mast system boards to the popular OR20 Pro Weight System, OST has the right products to put fish in the boat day in and day out. Gabe VanWormer of Perry, Michigan is an avid angler and big fan of Off Shore Tackle products.

LINE CLIPS vs RELEASES

A line release is designed to hold the fishing line firmly until a fish is hooked, at which time the angler will trip the release by giving the rod tip a sharp snap. Line clips are designed to hold onto the line securely and are not designed to release the line.

The OR16 Pro Clip is a ground breaking product that has changed the face of trolling forever. Designed originally to be used with the OR20 Pro Weight System, this unique line clip features a plastic peg that protrudes through the center of the rubber pads. When the clip is opened and the line placed behind the peg, the line can't come free making it ideal for keeping in-line weights on the fishing line.

The OR16 has also been put to work at the tail of Off Shore Tackle in-line boards including the OR38, OR12 and OR37 models. This line clip is ideal for anglers who want to rig their in-line boards to release from the bracket when a fish is hooked yet remain pegged in place on the line while fighting the fish. This setup allows a hooked fish to quickly drop back out of the planer board pattern, making it easy to fight and land fish without having to clear any other planer board lines.

The OR18 Snapper is unique in that this product can be rigged as a line release or as a line clip depending on how the cam lever is closed. When the lever is closed forward, the OR18 becomes a fixed line clip. When the OR18 lever is closed backwards, this product now functions as a line release.

The OR18 also has the distinction of being the only product in the Off Shore Tackle line up that is designed to be used with all line types including monofilament, co-polymer lines, fluorocarbon, fused lines, and super braids. The OR18 is commonly used on the bracket of both the OR12 and OR37 in-line boards and does double duty at the tail of boards as a line clip that can be used to securely hold all main line types.

PLANER BOARD MAST RELEASES

The line releases used when fishing a planer board mast system are rigged differently than releases used for in-line boards. Typically, these releases are sold with a quick clip, AKA shower curtain hook, that can be slipped over the tether line that attaches the planer board mast to the planer board.

Anglers can purchase the OR10, OR14 and OR19 line releases rigged for fishing planer board mast systems. Anglers also have the option of using the larger OR3 (white) line release. This release features larger rubber pads than the OR10, OR14 or OR19 releases, which in turn gives it more flexibility in terms of setting the tension. To get the most tension resistance, place the line near the back of the rubber pads. For a lighter tension setting, place the line closer to the front edge of the rubber pads.

The OR3 is a work horse and one of the most popular products Off Shore Tackle makes with charter captains who fish big dual planer boards day in and day out for walleye, brown trout, coho and other small to medium sized game fish.

The OR17BWW (large black) is the famous OR1 downrigger release repurposed for heavy duty big dual planer trolling applications. The added tension and large rubber pads make this line release ideal for trolling at faster speeds, for trolling in heavy seas and for trolling larger lures and hardware. A favorite among trout, salmon and striper anglers, a lot of muskie guides also depend on the OR17BWW for their day in and day out planer board trolling chores.

The OR30BWW (large red) is the heaviest tension line release in the Off Shore Tackle line up. The extra tension this line release provides is popular with muskie and saltwater anglers who often troll large baits and at maximum speeds. Striper anglers also sing the praises of the OR30BWW line releases.

FINAL THOUGHTS

No other manufacturer of line releases and line clips even comes close to the variety offered by Off Shore Tackle. This is just another reason why at Off Shore Tackle, we are "Your Leader in Trolling Technology.

PLANER BOARD VERSATILITY

BY LEE GOULD

When it comes to planer board versatility, Off Shore Tackle has you covered. Often Imitated, Never Duplicated; Off Shore Tackle meets all your trolling needs with planer boards, releases, clips, divers, tuner and weights.

Let's start with the OR38 Reversible Mini Board. These boards are not only the choice of many crappie anglers, but they are great for all methods of panfish trolling. On top of using these boards for panfish trolling, I also love these boards for pulling lighter crankbaits and spinners over shallow weed flats. These boards are a blast to fish with, because no Tattle Flag® is required to tell when a fish is on and they have little resistance in the water. They come equipped with the OR10 (yellow) release on the bracket and the OR16 (red) Pro Clip on the rear. Another great thing with these boards is the bracket is reversible, meaning it can be used as a left or right board.

Moving on to the next in size, the OR12 Side Planer, these boards are the most common and most widely used on the market today. Not only are OR12's the premier planer boards for walleye, but they are also popular with the salmon and trout anglers. The OR12 can easily pull copper and lead core up to 300 foot lengths!



Lee Gould is an Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer and tournament professional who commonly works at consumer sport shows helping others to get the most from their Off Shore Tackle products.

The OR12 are the best pulling boards I've ever used. They plane perfectly in the water and with different rigging options they work flawlessly no matter what you're pulling. The adjustable OR12TFEK Tattle Flag® HD Upgrade after-market articulating flag kits make it easy to see the lightest bites on all popular trolling gear. By simply switching out the line clips or releases used, the OR12 can be setup to fish with all the popular main line offerings. These versatile boards come equipped with the (orange) OR19 on the bracket which works perfectly with monofilament especially if you are popping your boards and the (red) OR16 Pro Clip on the tail that has a pin that protrudes through the center of the pads that you place your fishing line behind so the board can't come off your line until you remove it.

The other options out there, for anglers that run braid include the OR39 Sam's Pro Release and the OR18 Snapper Release. My favorite is the Snapper because it can be used with all the popular line types. I use these on the bracket of the board in the warmer months when trolling at faster speed with the larger Off Shore OR36 series Tadpoles or deep crankbaits. I also started running the Snapper Release on the tail of the board when it's cold because they are easy to open with frozen fingers.

Just like the pin in the OR16, the OR18 also has a pin that prevents the boards from coming free from your line. No matter what kind of species you're after, or type of tackle you're using, Off Shore Tackle has the products to get your lines to the fish! Check out their full line of quality, Made in the USA, products and apparel at www.offshoretackle.com.

TUNED CRANKBAITS ARE JUST A CLICK AWAY

BY MARK ROMANACK

The Off Shore Tackle OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuner is unlike any device ever produced to help anglers tune their crankbaits. Designed with both off set jaws and an adjustable slip clutch, the OR40 is infinitely adjustable making it the perfect tool for tuning all sizes, brands and models of crankbaits.

A properly running or "tuned" crankbait dives straight down in the water and enjoys maximum action and also maximum diving depth. Unfortunately, many crankbaits are not properly tuned when new in the package and even if a crankbait is tuned when new, normal use will eventually cause the bait to get knocked out of tune.

Anglers who routinely fish with crankbaits understand the need to tune their lures regularly to keep these lures catching fish consistently. Lures that are running right of center will need the pull point bent slightly to the left. Baits that are running to the left of center will need the pull point bent to the right.

Adjusting or tuning a crankbait is a trial and error process and it routinely takes several adjustments to get a bait running straight. Unfortunately, not every angler has the patience to tune crankbaits properly and as a result many anglers are casting and trolling with baits that are badly out of tune and nearly useless as fish catching tools.

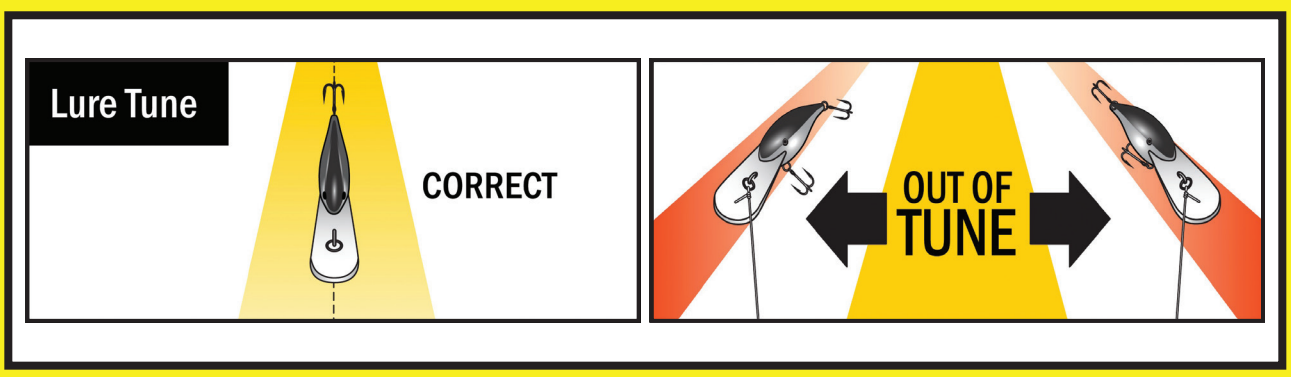
The OR40 is specially designed with an offset jaw that makes gripping the pull point on a crankbait easy. To make an adjustment, **begin by squeezing the jaws together to set the clutch mechanism**, then open the jaws and place the long jaw on the diving lip of the bait and the short jaw on the wire pull point or eye tie molded into the lure's lip. By gently squeezing the handle, pressure is applied directly to the pull point. (The OR40 adjustable slip clutch design allows the angler to customize how much pressure is applied to the wire pull point). When pressure is applied to the pull point, the clutch allows the jaw to pop open. The amount of pressure controlling the clutch is adjusted by tightening or loosening a thumb screw holding the jaws of the OR40 together. When the handle is squeezed an audible click occurs that tells you the slip clutch on the jaws is functioning. Before going to make another adjustment, **ALWAYS RESET the clutch by squeezing the jaws back together and try again**. Detailed instructions with diagrams are available on our website at www.offshoretackle.com under the Instruction Sheets tab.



The goal of the OR40 is to apply just enough pressure to the wire pull point to make small and incremental adjustments. Each time an adjustment is made, cast the lure again to see how adjusting the wire pull point has influenced the lure.

After a few adjustments the crankbait should be diving straight into the water and is ready for either casting or trolling. Tuning crankbaits is one of those jobs no one looks forward to, but the job is essential to keeping crankbaits running true and catching fish.

Off Shore's OR40 EZ Crankbait Tuner takes the guess work out of tuning a crankbait.



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Volume 33, 2026

Editor MARK ROMANACK

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Printed by Pioneer Printing



Off Shore Tackle Pro Staffer, Doug Wynn, caught this 3 pound white crappie while pulling jigs behind our OR38 Reversible Mini Board.

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