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The **OFF SHORE** RELEASE

Your Leader In Trolling Technology www.offshoretackle.com



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

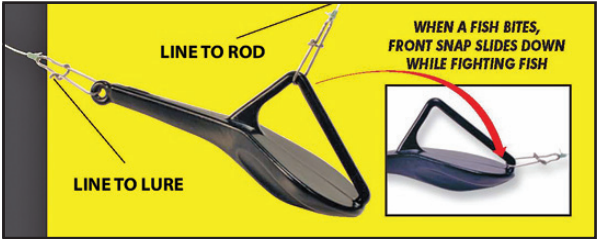


**Now this is living ...
Off Shore Tackle style!**

TADPOLE IS A GAME CHANGER

BY JAY COUCH

Off Shore Tackle LLC released a game changing innovation in resettable diving weights a couple years ago known as the OR36 Tadpole No. 1 and No. 2. The Tadpole would soon take over the water column with its ability to dive deeper and faster than conventional weights and diver systems. Currently the OR36 Tadpole is available in four sizes including the original No. 1 and No. 2, plus a larger No. 3 and the new Magnum.



The simple design of the Tadpole is a big part of why I think anglers rave about them. To get started fishing with Tadpoles, tie the supplied coast lock snap on the main line and clip the snap over the tow arm of the Tadpole. Next take the second supplied coast lock snap and attach it to the eye on the tail of the Tadpole. The rig is finished by adding a favorite spinner harness to the back of the Tadpole.

I have great success slow trolling with both a traditional spinner harness and also slow death rigs fished behind the Tadpole. I also recommend adding a six foot leader to the back of the Tadpole and trolling using flutter spoons and shallow diving crank baits.

The coast lock snap that slides on the tow arm is the only moving part of the OR36 Tadpole. When dropped into the water on slack line the snap slides into the elbow of the tow arm causing the Tadpole to begin diving much like a crank bait. When a fish is hooked the resistance of the struggling fish causes the snap to slide to the forward position preventing the Tadpole from diving and making it easier to reel in hooked fish.

The Tadpole has no levers to set or tension adjustments to make. The Tadpole also dives down in the

water column quickly helping to avoid hook ups with non-target species like white perch and white bass while setting lines. Once set, the Tadpole can be fished in combination with planer boards like the popular Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer.

CREATIVE RIGGING OPTIONS

Tadpoles were designed to be fished at the terminal end of the fishing line, but with a little creative rigging the Tadpole can also be set up like an in line weight. Simply place an OR19 planer board release on the split ring attached to the tow arm of the Tadpole and then add an OR16 Pro Snap Weight Clip to the back of the Tadpole by way of another split ring. Rigged in this fashion any amount of desired lead length can be set out and then the Tadpole attached to the fishing line with both clips. This rigging option puts more distance between the lure and the weight and often works wonders when fishing in exceptionally clear water.

When rigging in line leave a couple inches of slack between the clips so the line can release from the OR19 release on the tow arm. With the front clip set to release the weight will come to the boat hanging by the rear clip allowing a quick easy one hand release like a snap weight. I use this setup to get the bait down faster on less line out and more accurate depth control than standard in line weights.

I find that the Tadpole fishes target depths more consistently in heavy waves and suffers far less from wave surges and depth loss compared to in line trolling weights. The Tadpole has a subtle, but deadly wandering wobble when trolled. I find that the Tadpole often produces three to four

times better than traditional in line weights.

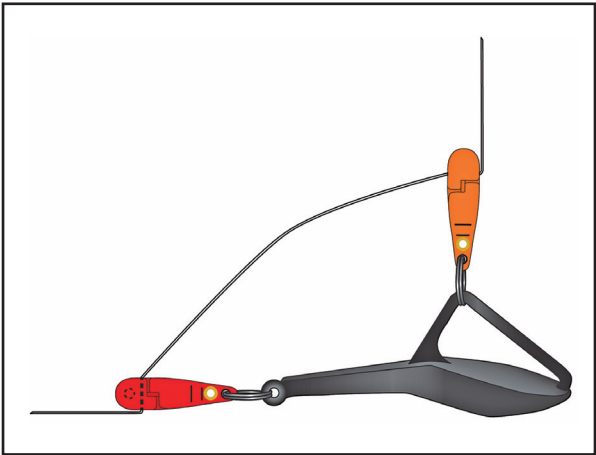
Another trick is to add a short spinner blade combination we call “Chicken Wing” to the back of the Tadpole. The extra flash and noise works well when fishing in cloudy water. Customized colors can also be added to the Tadpole to gain more visual effect in the water column. In off color waters I often match those colors to my bait presentation and shorten my leader to create the illusion of a predator chasing prey in the water.

SLOW DEATH

Slow Death rigs are popular among walleye anglers. Normally this single hook and worm rig is used in combination with a bottom bouncer and used to target walleye on bottom structure. The tantalizing spin of a Slow Death rig can also be fished on a Tadpole and used to target suspended fish. Simply substitute a Slow Death rig baited with half a nightcrawler in place of a traditional spinner rig.

PRECISION TROLLING SYSTEM

The OR36 Series Tadpole Resettable Diving Weight becomes a depth control trolling system when coupled with your favorite live bait or hard bait presentation and the Precision Trolling Data dive charts. Precision Trolling Data publishes the diving depths of all the Tadpole sizes both on their popular iPhone and Android apps and also on printed versions known as Precision Trolling Data “Stickers”. The information is based on lead length and trolling speed allowing anglers to dial in the Tadpole to literally any target depth and at all common trolling speeds. For more details on Precision Trolling visit www.precisiontrollingdata.com for purchase options.



RIVIERA ROD TOWERS

BY JEFF GIESE

The Riviera SRT Rod Towers are the best vertical trolling system available on the market. The towers are easy to mount and east to remove. Each tower holds 3 to 6 rods that can be set in various configurations. Plus, each individual rod can adjust in 15 degree increments, so you can set your rods at any angle you desire.

Unlike the Riviera Rod Towers, horizontal rod holders take up lots of boat space. Fishing with big boards and in line boards can lead to line tangling and rod shuffling. But running either board is more effective with Riviera Rod Towers. At different levels, lines don’t get pulled under by waves, and boards don’t jump other boards. By running Riviera Rod Towers, more space is open for landing fish.

When it’s time to move to a new spot, the swiveling bases allow you to leave rods in the towers and go. The Riviera Rod Towers are a convenient and efficient way to troll.

Editor Note: Jeff Giese has been a licensed fishing guide for over 30 years. He grew up in Central Wisconsin where he began fishing on the Wisconsin River and the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir. He has also fished extensively for walleye in Lake Winnebago and the Great Lakes for walleye and salmon. Jeff currently resides in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.



WEIGHTING FOR A GREAT WALLEYE BITE

BY KEITH KAVAJECZ & GARY PARSONS

If you are a serious about walleye fishing, then you are likely serious about trolling. Year in and year out, trolling is the primary tactic for targeting walleye on some of the best walleye fisheries; big waters in particular, like, the Missouri River Reservoirs, Wisconsin's Lake Winnebago, Minnesota's Lake Mille Lacs and Leech Lake and of course all of the Great Lakes walleye hot spots, just to name a few. It's no secret; big waters can most effectively and efficiently be fished by covering a lot of water and covering it efficiently. Now, while using tools such as planer boards to spread trolling lines horizontally are key to finding fish on big water, you've got to master the vertical aspects of the trolling presentations as well! That's where weighting systems come in.

Let's use an example where you could use different weighting systems to get the job done. For instance; it's a beautiful summer morning on Lake Erie. The forecast is calling for sunny skies and moderate breezes in the 10 to 15 mph range. As we head out toward one of our favorite walleye haunts, we know we're going to be dealing with suspended walleye so we begin by scanning the first area closely watching the fish finder for signs of life. We don't go far and begin to see clouds of bait fish near the surface over 48 feet of water... things are beginning to look good. We go a little further and see the tell-tale arcs of predator fish ... some down within two or three feet of the bottom, some about half way down in the water column at about twenty five feet. These are the fish we're looking to target. The higher fish are the active feeders and the ones that are most likely going to bite.

For this scenario we're going to be fishing spinners tipped with crawlers. By itself a spinner won't go down in the water very far at all on a troll, so we know we need a weighting system to get the lure to the fish. While there several methods for weighting spinners available to us, we tend to stick with what is typically considered the three most versatile and effective for this type of fishing; Off Shore Tackle's OR20 Pro Weight System (which can be used as either a Snap Weight or an in line weight) and the Off Shore Tackle OR36 Tadpole Resettable Diving Weight.

The Off Shore Tackle Pro Snap Weights are made now by combining the Off Shore Tackle OR20 Series Pro Guppy Weights (available in various sizes from ½ oz to 3 oz) attached to an Off Shore Tackle model OR16 Pro Snap

Weight Clip, red in color. The weight can be clipped to the main line anywhere from a few feet ahead of the lure to a hundred or even a hundred and fifty feet ahead of the lure under extreme conditions (extremely clear water – extremely spooky fish). When a fish is hooked, the Pro Snap Weight is simply removed from the line as the fish is being reeled in. In this scenario we're dealing with fairly clear water, but the fish should be aggressive enough not to be too spooky so we let out the spinner about fifty feet before attaching a two ounce OR20 2 Pro Guppy Weight. Then we let out another fifty feet and attach an Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer board to take the presentation out to the side of the boat, spreading our baits to cover more water. With an average trolling speed of 1 to 1.5 mph, our first spinner should be right in that twenty two to twenty five foot range where we marked the arcs earlier.

On another rod, let's rig a Pro Guppy Weight "in line" style, meaning it's tied into the line between the lure and the rod. On the main line we use a ball bearing snap swivel to connect a one ounce OR20 1 Pro Guppy Weight, and then connect our spinner to the back of the weight (also using a swivel). The spinner is tied on a four foot leader, which is about an average length for use with in line weights. If the weight was tied much further from the spinner, it would make netting fish a tricky proposition since the in line weight obviously cannot be easily removed as in the case of the Pro Guppy Snap Weight. Again we let out fifty feet of line before hitching up an OR12 Side Planer and send this set up out into our trolling pattern. By letting out a couple more lines varying the size of the weights, we're soon trolling the area and covering a wide swath of the water column both horizontally (with the use of the OR12 Side Planer



...while using tools such as planer boards to spread trolling lines horizontally are key to finding fish on big water, you've got to master the vertical aspects of the trolling presentations as well! That's where weighting systems come in.

boards) and vertically (various weights covering various depths).

Our third option is the OR36 Series Tadpole Resettable Diving Weight, a unique in line type of weight design that allows the angler to set the dive-planer-style weight to carry a lure to a desired depth, then when a fish is hooked, the weight "releases" allowing the fish to be brought in without added resistance on the line. The most common question at this point is, "So why the three different styles of weights?" Answer: They all serve basically the same function ... that is take our offerings down to the fish zone ... but they each add their own benefits to the presentation and until we start getting bit, we won't know which one the walleye prefer on this given day. Pro Snap Weights, besides having the advantage of being able to be attached virtually anywhere on the line, give baits like spinners a much different action than in line weights like the Guppy and the Tadpole. Picture the scenario above ... we mentioned we were trolling in a moderate breeze, which we'll say had us trolling in two to three foot waves. With the Pro Snap Weight attached about fifty feet ahead of a spinner, the rise and fall of the weight caused by the board bobbing up and down in the waves, would induce only a slight undulation in the trailing spinner because most of the bobbing action would be lost in the fifty foot leader. On the other hand, with the in line weights only four feet ahead of the spinner, as the board above climbs up and down the waves, the weight rises and falls trailing the spinner close behind. Which is better? Some days one ... some days the other ... that's one of those things you need to let the walleye decide on.

Of course there are other weighting options too, but the main point to remember this season is to learn and understand all the weighting systems available to you as a walleye angler. Learn the best times to go "light weight" and when to go "heavy weight", when to troll Pro Snap Weights and when in lines or other options are called for. Understand all your weighting options and you won't have to wait long for your Next Bite.

Editors Note: If you have questions or comments on this or other articles from Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz, visit their website www.thenextbite.com.



You've got to master the vertical aspects of trolling presentations (aka your weighting system options) in order to be as efficient and effective as possible when targeting open water walleye.

NORTHERN PIKE AND WALLEYE, THE OR34 WAY

BY ZAK JOBES

On a trip to northern Ontario’s Lake Esnagami, I had the chance to use Off Shore Tackle’s OR34 Mini Planer Board. The OR34 is a great tool for smaller bodies of water such as Lake Esnagami. The advantage of the OR34 Mini Planer Board is it can be used with a spinning rod in combination of shallow diving lures such as small crank baits or worm harnesses.

After talking to a camp guide, we were informed that many of the walleye and northern pike were still in the shallow bays and were starting to take cover in the cabbage and weeds that are commonly found in the shallow bays. The OR34 allowed us to use shallow diving lures such as a Rapala Flat Rap or float-

ing Rapalas to fish just above the tops of the weeds in 4-8 feet of water. By using the OR34’s we were able to get the lure away from the boat allowing for more hook ups!

We discovered that the OR34 Mini Planer Board, hooked up with our own version of release and clip set up, was a perfect tool for these extremely shallow and spooky fish getting our presentations away from the noise of the boat. This same presentation can also be incorporated on small, calm bodies of waters near you as well.

Don’t ever be afraid to try different set ups with the Off Shore Tackle LLC products – the main thing is finding what works for you and results in lots of fish in the box!



TROLLING THROUGH THAT BIG WATER MYTH

BY JP BUSHEY

“Many of Off Shore Tackle LLC’s products are must-haves for the Great Lakes crowd, but don’t overlook their effectiveness on the smaller bodies of water, too,” says Ontario outdoor writer JP Bushey.

As a teenager close to twenty years ago, I blew the lid off our family’s fishing success on our cottage lake in northern Ontario. It’s a sleepy, under-developed little gem and back then, I fished it out of a fourteen foot boat with a six horsepower tiller. A small electric on the stern and a portable sonar rounded out my rig. A far cry from the boat I fish from today, this no-frills set-up was still the perfect trolling platform. After several seasons fishing jigs, bottom bouncers and slip bobbers, my catches immediately sky rocketed when I started experimenting with trolling gear including the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planers,

portable downriggers and a variety of Off Shore’s OR20 Series in line weighting systems. My early trolling experiences weren’t limited just to walleye. My trolling experiments led me to pike pushing thirty pounds, crappie over fourteen inches long and more enormous smallmouth than I could ever count.

Since then, I’ve never looked at small inland fisheries the same. It all changed my life. Whether they suspend, hug structure, bury into cover or hang around anywhere in between, Off Shore Tackle LLC has a solution for putting fish in the boat anywhere there’s water.

Right off the bat, recognize that ‘trolling’ in and of itself simply isn’t a technique that only works for salmon, steelhead, browns or other ‘big water’ species. Smallmouth bass, pike, perch and crappie are all fish you can catch using planer boards, weighting systems, downriggers and the right lure. There’s very likely a small lake or river

within a short drive of you where you can take excellent fish trolling. Just as lakes and rivers vary in character from shallow, weedy bowls to deep and rocky; so to can a well-played trolling attack. What’s more, I’ve yet to run across a fish species that I couldn’t catch trolling.

SMALL WATER, BIG OPPORTUNITY

In shallower lakes with lots of weeds and panfish, targeting open lanes and basin-style spots can be the biggest factor in not only fishing more efficiently, but locating the largest fish. If you can find weed lines where the deepest water cuts way in, trolling both the OR12 Side Planers and the OR34 Mini Planer Boards will produce all season long. Never be afraid to wander off that edge, over the depths too. Of course, depth is a relative number. In some lakes, the basins might only be fifteen or twenty feet deep.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

TROLLING THROUGH THAT BIG WATER MYTH — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Anytime chopped up weeds litter the surface, a trolling board helps gather them, and keeps them from sliding down onto your lure. In extreme cases, clipping on an OR16 Pro Snap Weight Clip several feet up the line from your lure beats the weeds indefinitely.

Weed choked waters normally mean lots of panfish and if you're lucky, big ones. OR34 Mini Planer Boards are super sensitive tools for monitoring activity on the end of your line. I've had excellent luck on big perch and crappie using OR34's to present small crank baits and especially in line spinners.

On the full-sized, OR12 Side Planer, adding the OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit tips you off to any smaller fish or weed. One look at Off Shore Pro Tommy Skarlis' record on the professional crappie tour tells you all you'll need to know about how deadly this program is on big, plate crappie. Sensitivity has always been my biggest reason for using OR34 Mini Planer Boards. If an eater walleye or panfish even breathes on your bait, the OR34 will tell you by how it reacts.

Inland lakes and rivers with more depth and more variety in terms of structure really open things up for trolling. Pike, lake trout, brook trout and smallmouth bass are all great fish to target. I never launch in a new lake without a selection of OR20 Series Pro Guppy Weights and a set of OR12 Side Planers. Personally, these tools really are my 'new water security blanket.' You'll learn more in an hour of trolling than in a couple days of casting the shorelines, you really will. On new lakes, I automatically search out the most dominant structures and the deepest water. How do the two fit together? Just like on shallow, weed choked fisheries, there's always that magic zone where the bulk of the action gathers. I truly believe that on any lake, no matter the size, 90% of the fish occupy 10% of the water and there's no better way to sift through it all than trolling.

On those deeper, 'two story' fisheries, my 1-2 punch almost always involves a weighted, baited spinner rig on one side of the boat and a crank bait or minnow bait on the other. Spoons are also inland killers, particularly for lake trout and pike. For lakereels, try a high-flash, high-action spoon. Closer to ice-out, drag these baits with little to no added weight. By mid-summer, adding Pro Guppies from ½ to 3 oz. carries them into the feeding zones.

The beauty of the OR20 Pro Guppies is their ability to carry delicate, shallow-diving minnow baits or spoons down deep. I could easily troll the rest of my life for suspended fish with a Reef Runner Ripstick or six inch Jake. Yakima's Mag Lip is another outstanding trolling plug, offering tremendous action and a deep, knocking rattle at any speed, with colors to fit any conditions. It's a newer bait that has rocketed out of the gates, taking amazing catches all over North America.

UNIVERSAL TROLLER

For me, staggering lines through the water column will always be the way to go. On most of our natural lakes in Ontario, the snelled spinner rig and plug tag team is unbeatable. Whatever's down there will bite them, and you can run from the surface down to thirty feet or more. Mold and tweak your presentations based on the season and the target species.

Tiny back lakes can hold great populations of spring time lake, rainbow and brook trout, and board trolling spoons and spinners is a winning presentation for them. This is easy to do from a kayak or canoe, also! The beauty of the snap style weights like Guppies is that you can instantly change weights and the distance from your lure. Tadpoles can be clipped to the line and easily adjusted, too. Along weed edges, shoals and points, I like to keep the distance between my bait and weight short, usually less than five feet. Over the basins for those suspending wanderers, you can double or even triple that. The closer you set your weight, the quicker the lure will react to changes in speed or direction.

Portable downriggers that use three to six pound cannonballs are also a terrific, small water play. Easily clamped onto a canoe, duck boat or any other small vessel, they allow you to precisely target specific zones. Off Shore's OR4 Light Tension

Single Downrigger Release is ideal for small water trolling. They're sensitive enough to fish for a range of species, and very user friendly. Like OR20 Pro Guppy Weights, a downrigger lets you deliver shallow diving lures to any zone while preserving their natural action.

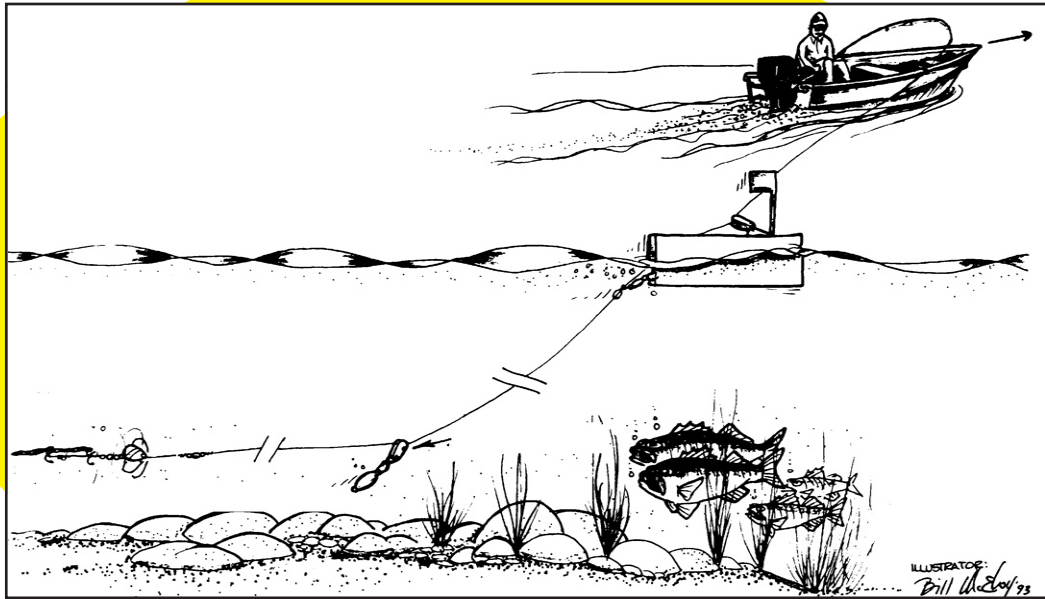
No matter where you fish, if you're running spinner and bait combos, use the OR4 release. It has been precision designed to solidly tag fish that inhale and mouth crawlers or leeches. It's the best 'finesse clip' on the market, bar none. Often overlooked, in line spinners are also excellent off downriggers. Add a section of nightcrawler or fish them 'plain Jane.'

TROLL INTO NEW HORIZONS

As a final thought, don't limit yourself when it comes to Off Shore Tackle's product lines. If there's a lure you like to fish, I can almost guarantee you it'll work behind a Side Planer, off a downrigger, or with Pro Snap Weights. I've used my Off Shore OR12 Side Planers to catch fish on some wild stuff, including soft plastic swim baits, lipless crank baits, spinner baits and even just a hook, split shot and live minnow. If there's a body of water you fish (or would like to check out) open your mind to the possibilities trolling provides for more fish, bigger fish and just a lot of fun in general.

It's a total myth that these kinds of products only apply to the Great Lakes and other massive bodies of water. What's also nice is that few people tap the potential of Off Shore Tackle's products on the smaller lakes and rivers. You'll be showing those fish a whole new game plan, and you'll like the results, believe me. To all our friends far and wide, keep your eyes on those rods. Have a great trolling season!

Editor's Note: JP Bushey is a valued member of the Off Shore Tackle Pro Staff and these other fine companies; Freelance Outdoor Writer & Photographer in Barrie, Ontario, Facebook Page: The Bushey Angle, Regular Contributor with Ontario OUT OF DOORS Magazine, Northern Ontario Tourism, Hooked Magazine, Angling Authority.com, The Fishing Headquarters.com, Ontario Fishing Community, Metroland North Media, Proud Supporting Member of: Off Shore Tackle Team Canada, St. Croix Rods, Brecks, Williams Lures, Reef Runner Lures, Plano/Frabil, Drifter Tackle, Fishoflaug.



COMPANY MISSION STATEMENT

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

PLEASE RELEASE ME

BY MARK ROMANACK

Please release me, let me go. Like a country music oldie on the radio planer board releases are constantly playing to a different tune. You see there is no such thing as a “universal” planer board release that functions well in all trolling situations. This is precisely why Off Shore Tackle LLC produces a wealth of released designed to cover all the common board trolling presentations, line types and trolling speeds.

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

HALF SIZE RELEASES

OR10 ADJUSTABLE LIGHT TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE, YELLOW

The popular OR10 release is hands down the bestselling line release on the market. Designed with walleye anglers in mind, the OR10 functions flawlessly when targeting walleye and similar sized fish. Designed to function with 10 to 20 pound test monofilament, the OR10 also features a sliding spring tension setting that enables the tension to be increased or decreased by simply using the blade of a screw driver to slide the spring toward the pads (increasing tension) or away from the pads (decreasing tension) in the plastic housing.

This release is wildly popular among Lake Erie’s army of charter captains who routinely troll using a Riviera Planer Board Mast System. The OR10 handles crank baits, Jet Divers, OR36 Tadpole Divers and other walleye hardware making it hands down the most versatile line release on the market.

Even anglers who favor braided lines still choose the OR10 line release. When using braided line, simply half hitch an ordinary rubber band around the line and place the rubber band into the OR10 line release.

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

OR14 ADJUSTABLE MEDIUM TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE, BLACK

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

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

OR19 ADJUSTABLE HEAVY TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE, ORANGE

The OR19 has a heavy spring tension and comes as standard equipment on the OR12 Side Planer board. This release is also popular among dual and triple board trollers who need the extra tension when trolling large or deep diving baits, weighted lines and heavy in line weights. Many muskie trollers swear by the OR19 for trolling bucktails and body baits. The OR19 function well with 20 to 40 pound test monofilament lines.

FULL SIZE RELEASES

OR3 LIGHT TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE, WHITE

The OR3 is a Light Tension Planer Board Release with a strong following among charter captains and serious amateur anglers who feel the larger pad diameter of the OR3 provides added resistance for trolling at higher speeds. When a walleye or similar sized fish is hooked on the OR3 typically the line doesn’t pop free. The angler rather detects the strike by noting the additional rod bend and then trip the release by snapping the rod tip.

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

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

OR17 MEDIUM TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE, BLACK

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

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

OR30 HEAVY TENSION PLANER BOARD RELEASE, RED

The OR30 is Off Shore Tackle’s heaviest tension planer board release and it fills the niche of the Great Lakes muskie troller and also a wide range of saltwater trolling applications. This release is the ideal choice for anglers trolling at extreme speeds and with large lures. The OR30 functions perfectly with 20 to 40 pound test monofilament lines.

OR18 SNAPPER RELEASE, BLACK

The OR18 Snapper is the most unique release in the Off Shore Tackle line up. This cam lock style release is designed to hold fused and braided lines securely. The most common use of the OR18 is in combination with the OR12 Side Planer board. Anglers mount the OR18 on the bracket because this release functions flawlessly with monofilament, fused and braided lines.

The OR18 is widely popular among professional wall-eye tournament anglers and most trout and salmon charter captains also favor the OR18 when pulling sinking lines on in line boards.

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

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

MINI BOARDS AND PANFISHING FUN

BY MARK ROMANACK

The OR34 Mini Planer Board gets a lot of use among walleye anglers, but this pint sized planer board was actually designed with panfish in mind. Ideal for targeting open water crappie, white bass, wiper hybrids, white perch and lots of other species, the OR34 is small and light enough to make panfishing fun and not a chore.

Anglers can use the OR34 with their traditional trolling rods/reels or even more fun use your favorite medium/light to medium action spinning gear. Fished on light gear and line, the OR34 Mini Board makes targeting panfish a riot.

The OR34 comes factory equipped with an OR10 Light Tension Planer Board Line Release for the bracket and a snap swivel and split ring for rigging at the tail of the board. The standard rigging method is to let your desired lure out behind the boat, then place the fishing line into the OR10 release and finish rigging by clipping the snap swivel over the line as well. Rigged in this manner the board can be released when a fish strikes, allowing the board to slide down to the fish.

Most anglers prefer to stop the board by placing a barrel swivel or a small split shot on the line about two feet in front of the lure. This simple set up allows multiple boards to be run on each side of the boat and no line clearing is required when a fish is hooked on an outside line.

PANFISH TROLLING LURES

A host of small lures and live bait rigs can be trolled in combination with the OR34 Mini Planer Board. For targeting panfish 1/32 to 1/16 ounce jigs tipped with twister tail bodies are a good starting point. Many anglers rig two jigs in line and spaced about two or three feet apart to double up the amount of lures in the water.

Small crank baits like the Berkley Flicker Shad and Rapala Shad Rap series are also great crappie trolling baits. A third lure option for panfish trolling are small (1/16 to 1/8 ounce) in line spinners like the famous Yakima Rooster Tail.

OPTIONAL RIGGING METHOD

The standard “release and slide” rigging method works well, but many anglers are rigging their OR34 to stay on the line. The factory supplied OR10 release is mounted to the bracket of the board and an aftermarket OR16 Pro Snap Weight Clip is added to the tail of the board (in place of the snap swivel). With this rigging configuration the line is easily tripped from the bracket when a fish is hooked. Now the board is attached to the line via the Pro Snap Weight Clip. Because the OR34 is so light, the second an angler comes tight on a fish the board pops up out of the water clearing other lines in the process.

The board and fish are reeled in together and the board removed when it gets close to the boat. At that point the angler continues reeling in the fish to net.

RIVER FISHING

The OR34 can also be fished from shore and used to get lures out into river current. Places that receive strong river runs of white bass including the Detroit, Maumee and St. Clair Rivers are prime examples of places shore anglers can use boards to reach fish they could never cast a lure to.

Boat anglers can also incorporate the OR34 by anchoring their boat off the bow and using the boards to fish crank baits and other baits out to the side of the boat. A good set up is to run two boards off each side and a flat line off each corner of the boat. This six rod pattern puts a lot of baits in the water and is especially deadly on slab sized panfish.

EASY TO GET STARTED

Because the OR34 doesn’t require investing in expensive trolling rods and reels, anyone can sample the advantages of board trolling using the gear they already own. Inexpensive and easy to rig, the OR34 is a great way to put more panfish on ice.

TROLLING HEAVY METAL

BY MARK ROMANACK WITH
CAPTAIN STEVE MARTIN

In recent years sinking style fishing lines like lead core and copper line have become critically important to Great Lakes trout and salmon trolling. These lines can be used to reach substantial depths and with the help of in line planer boards like the popular Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer it's possible to stack several of these lines off each side of the boat.

Great Lakes charter captains like Steve Martin literally live and die by how well they can produce fish on boards these days. "When I'm salmon trolling, I always have a



minimum of three board lines per side in the water and often I'm fishing four board lines per side," says Captain Steve. "In the spring at Benton Harbor when the fish are typically in 60 feet of water or less, we run a lot of lead core set ups and usually the 3, 5, 7 and 10 color rigs are the ticket.

Captain Steve runs a braided backing on his lead core and copper rigs. "I set up my OR12 Side Planers with an OR18 Snapper Release on the bracket arm and an OR16 Pro Snap Weight Clip at the tail of the board," explains Captain Steve. "By running the shorter rigs that also fish closer to the surface on the outside and the progressively deeper rigs closer to the boat, I can stagger four lines per side and never have to clear a line to fight a hooked fish."

Later in the summer when Captain Steve moves his charter business up to Frankfort, Michigan, he continues to run a lot of board lines. In Frankfort however he puts more emphasis on fishing deeper, running 45# test copper line rigs. "My typical Frankfort board set up is a 200 copper on the outside, followed by a 250 copper, then a 300 copper and my board closest to the boat is running either a 350 or 400 copper," explains Captain Steve. "Depending on how deep the fish may be, I may also mix in lead core rigs to fish the higher parts of the water column."

No matter if Captain Steve is fishing copper or lead core, he is always using the OR12 Side Planer. "I'm completely sold on the Off Shore boards for trolling heavy metal," says Steve. "In fact, I think the OR12 fishes better in rough water than other boards I have tried. Also in turns the Side Planer rides more upright in the water and does an excellent job of handling the heavy pull and resistance of long copper line rigs. Heavy copper line rigs tend to pull other boards onto their side when making turns which often causes the board to dive."

Editor Note:

Steve Martin of Mi Hi Charters puts more days on the water than any other captain we know. Steve also fishes the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer literally every day he's targeting trout, salmon and steelhead. Captain Steve has the respect of anyone who has fished on his boat or fished against him on the tournament trail. To learn more or book a charter visit www.mihicharters.com.

MINI BOARDS, THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

BY MARK ROMANACK

Late last August I found myself in Alaska sharing a river boat with my wife Mari and youngest son, Captain Jake. The guests of Salmon Catcher Lodge, www.salmoncatcherlodge.com, our goal was to showcase on video the silver salmon fishery the Kenai River is world famous for. On this particular trip we were guided by one of the regions most popular river guides Ian Flannery of Fin N Feather Guide Service, www.finfeatheralaska.com.

Ian is one of several guides in the region who have fished the Kenai River since he was old enough to hold a fishing rod. Pluggin' with high action crank baits is the "go to" method of catching fresh run silvers as they make their way upstream to spawn. A variety of plugs have become popular on the Kenai but the Luhr Jensen KwikFish and the Yakima Mag Lip dominate the show.

Both these plugs were designed with trout, salmon and steelhead fishing in mind. The aggressive side-to-side wobble generates savage strikes when fished "drop back" style on rivers.

Our crew is very familiar with the Mag Lip and have used them to catch browns, coho, kings, steelhead and even walleye. Ian taught us a new trick by showcasing how Alaska guides rig a strip of fresh anchovy on the belly of these plugs to give them a scent trail in the water.

Those who fish steelhead and salmon often know that scent plays a major role in getting these fish to strike. The strip of anchovy is lashed in place adjacent to the middle treble hook using a stretchy thread and a few half hitch knots. The Mag Lip actually has groves molded into the body to help hold the anchovy strip in place.

Until you've seen this "cut bait dressed" plugging technique in action it's hard to appreciate how well it works. Baited plugs out fish clean plugs about two to one. This plug trick is widespread in Alaska and up and down the Pacific coast. Strangely this tactic hasn't caught on back home in the Great Lakes region.

Ian was kind enough to show us a couple new twists about plug fishing and we returned the favor by showing him how river plug fishing can be enhanced with the Off Shore Tackle LLC OR34 Mini Planer Board.

Traditionally Alaska river guides fish their plugs from an anchored boat and simply drop the plugs back far enough that they dive against the current and contact the bottom.

In Alaska, anglers are only allowed one rod per angler so the typical charter fishes four lines, with two running straight out the back of the boat and two rigged as out-downs off the port and starboard sides of the boat. This four rod pattern positions four lures in the water spaced out a total of about 20 feet.

It took Jake and I about a minute to realize we were fishing flats and that spreading out the lines a little would greatly increase our odds of contacting fish. Jake grabbed an OR34 Mini Planer Board out of our gear bag and quickly rigged it on the starboard out-down rod. Jake let out about 40 feet of line effectively positioning that plug equal distance away from the boat.

Ian didn't seem impressed with the OR34 idea, but before he could even comment, the board rocketed back and we were hooked up to a screaming silver salmon. Moments later our first silver of the trip was in the boat, landed with the help of an OR34 Mini Planer Board.

Jake quickly reset the plug and again rigged the OR34 onto the line. The board was hardly in the water when our second silver hit and hooked up. We were on the water less than 10 minutes and twice we hooked silver salmon on the board line.

The long story short, we ended up catching four of our limit of eight silvers on that one board line! In between those four silver salmon that same board line also caught

HOW TO USE YOUR MINI PLANER BOARD

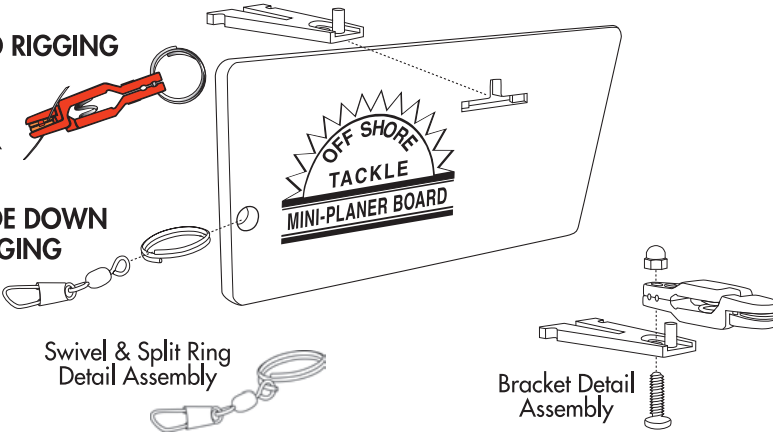
Our Double Agent! The OR34 works for both sides! You decide whether you run it on the port or starboard side! It is reversible — you change sides by switching the direction of the bracket! One Board...Dual Purpose!



PRO RIGGING

OR

SLIDE DOWN RIGGING



Assembly shown is for running this board off of your port side. Simply reverse the direction of the bracket to run the board off of the starboard side.



Heavy Tension



Light Tension

You can adjust the tension of the release/clip by positioning the spring as shown above.

a half dozen bonus pink salmon. The moral is that plug fishing in rivers can be dramatically enhanced by using the OR34 Mini Planer Board to spread out lines and also to get more baits in the water.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

SOUND AND WALLEYE... GOOD OR BAD?

BY TED TAKASAKI

Do you remember the days when your dad told you to be quiet whenever he took you fishing because you will spook the fish? Well, forget that noise. Dad was only half right. True, there are actions and sound that can spook fish. Their natural instinct warns them of danger when they hear an anchor banging on the bottom of a boat, the pounding of footsteps on shore, a rock tossed carelessly into the water or even the vibrations created by the approach of your boat. The fish react to survive and quickly dart for deeper water, away from the boat, or to nearby cover.

When fish are spooky, smart anglers have learned to adapt by utilizing tools which help spread your lines and to dive deeper. Off Shore Tackle LLC has done exactly that.... their in line planer boards will take your lures/bait out to the side and away from the boat. Then add OR20 Series Pro Guppy Snap Weights which pull your lures down deeper. This combination will get you to where the fish are.

But, other sounds can attract game fish. Some work like magnets to draw largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye and even muskie to your bait and help them zero in for a quick meal. Under certain conditions, learning to make sound work for you means the difference between fish or no fish. Yet, few anglers consider its value. So, here is some sound advice.

HOW FISH HEAR

Try to envision the watery world which fish inhabit in order to realize how important hearing is to them. Go swimming in a lake and experience the darkness which surrounds you as you dive deeper. Depending on water clarity and cloud cover, sunlight can penetrate only so far during the day. At night, the sole illumination is the soft glow of moonlight, and that only happens during a portion of each month. Even during the full moon, water turbidity often limits moonbeams to the upper portions of the water column.

The problem for fish is that they rely heavily on their sight to feed and this ability decreases dramatically when the water muddies. Since this situation may occur for days at a time, it's obvious why evolution favored species that developed keen "hearing". A fish starves if deprived of nourishment for long enough.

Fish can "hear" in three different ways. First, they have ears called otoliths. Their otoliths are located in much the same place as human ears, one on each side of the head. But, they differ greatly from humans in that they do not have openings to the body's surface. Instead, sound waves travel through the skin and flesh of the fish's head to the otoliths. Hearing done in this manner is directional just like ours. Secondly, scientists have discovered a link between the swim bladder and their ears. Covered by an elastic membrane, the swim bladder vibrates like a drum head or a microphone to amplify even the faintest signals that reach it.

Third, fish also have sense organs called lateral lines. These are channels that begin on either side of their heads.



These channels merge as a thicker horizontal line extending down each side of their bodies. They can be easily seen on some types of fish. The lateral lines' purpose is to pick up close sounds and pinpoint their origin. Lateral lines are the ones that fish depend on most to detect noise or vibration created by nearby schools of bait fish or other tasty morsels, like a crayfish or worm.

In combination, the otoliths, the swim bladder and the lateral lines give fish the ability to hear even slight displacements of water as far away as several body lengths. They can hear a nightcrawler wiggle, a leech swim, or the struggling of a wounded minnow. Like us, they can measure whether sound is getting louder or softer, so they know if prey is coming closer or going away. Individual, smaller fish may have a stealth advantage over bigger fish. Little fish disturb less water as they swim so they will make less noise/vibration. But, the racket caused by schools of bait fish is cumulative. Studies have revealed that individuals of some species know when a meal is close. This is because they can identify the noise that others of their kind make as they feed. Silence is not always golden. So... how does all of this noise apply to fishing? Not much when fish are finicky and the water is

clear. But, the general rule is; the darker the water, the deeper the water, or the more aggressive the fish, the more you can rely upon sound. We have talked to scuba divers who have clicked rocks together on the bottom only to find fish swimming in close to investigate. Our theory is that these fish are coming in to find out what's making the noise in order to feed on the perpetrator.

Testing and experience on the water have discovered several ways to add sound to a variety of live bait presentations and lures.

For example, spinners of all kinds use sound as well as flash as their primary attributes. Whether attached to spinner baits for bass, in line spinners for northerns, muskie and trout, or spinner rigs for walleye, a turning blade transmits vibrations to call fish close like a dinner bell and to help them locate the bait in murky water. Colorado blades are best when visibility is poor. Their shape broadcasts more noise than the slimmer willow leaf style, which is better suited for occasions when water is clear. Hatchet or chopper style blades were designed to be noisy even at slower speeds.

Rattle chambers, such as rattling beads or tubes, can be added to some live bait presentations. For rigging, try adding one colored rattling bead in front of the hook for walleye and smallmouth. Exchange standard pencil weights for a slip sinker that has rattles built in, or use it as the sinker for the dropper line of a three-way rig, or in front of a Carolina Rig for bass.

Try using sound while jigging as well. Bass anglers have the option of buying jigs with built in sound chambers. When water is dirty, they flip one into heavy shoreline brush. They shake it, then pause, and shake it again, repeating the process several times to allow largemouth bass to hone in on it. They can also insert commercially made rattle tubes into soft plastic baits like worms or lizards for the same reason.

Walleye anglers can use similar tactics. Muddy water forced Tom Keenan, to add rattles to his 1/8th ounce yellow-glow jigs during a big tournament on his home waters of Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin. He flipped them into pockets and along edges of cane beds. But, as noted before, sometimes sound turns fish off. Walleye wouldn't bite for Keenan after the water cleared on day three....until he took off the rattles. He ended up winning the event.

There's a wide variety of crank baits on the market that have built in rattles. These noisy lures will often work for almost every species of game fish, from largemouth to smallmouth and walleye. We would prefer to pick out a crank with rattles vs no rattles to start with. Keep changing up until you find out what the fish want.

Rattles and spinner blades may not sound like much to you. But to game fish, there are days when they sound like music to their ears.

MINI BOARDS, THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

RIGGING TIPS

The OR34 Mini Planer Board comes factory supplied with a light tension OR10 line release for the tow arm and a snap swivel at the tail of the board. Set the plug the desired distance behind the boat and then place the line in the OR10 release. Finish the rig by placing the snap swivel over the line.

When a fish strikes and the line trips free from the release, the board slides down the line. By placing a bead, swivel or split shot on the line a few feet in front of the plug, the board and the fish are effectively netted together.

The standard "release and slide" rigging method works well, but I favor rigging the OR34 with an OR10 release on the bracket and an OR16 Pro Snap Weight Clip at the tail of the board. The fishing line is placed in both clips. When a fish strikes, the tension of the OR10 front release allows the line to pull free, leaving the board attached to the line via the heavy tension OR16.

When a fish is hooked on this rigging option the second the line pulls tight the board trips. Because the OR34 Mini Planer Board is exceptionally light, the board dangles on the fishing line much like a Pro Snap Weight when fighting the fish. As the board nears the boat it's a simple process to remove the board from the line and continue fighting the fish to net.

Rigging the OR34 in this fashion insures no slack line is created when a fish strikes and a hook up is achieved. Because the board lifts right up out of the water when a fish is hooked, it's also easy to rig two, three or even four of these boards per side of the boat with no need to clear lines to fight hooked fish.

The OR34 is small enough it fits in a tackle box and can be fished in combination with virtually any rod and reel combination. On the Kenai River we were rigged up with medium/heavy bait casting gear and 25 pound

test Maxima Ultra Green fishing line. Back home on the salmon and steelhead rivers of Michigan a nine to 10 foot medium action spinning outfit loaded with 10 pound test Ultra Green works well.

MORE OPTIONS

Thinking outside the box, OR34 Mini Planer Boards can be used to deliver plugs to places in a river an angler could never cast or drift a lure into. Undercut banks, log jams and water too deep to wade are just some of the places a Mini Board can be used to target salmon and steelhead.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about fishing the OR34, check out Fishing 411 TV on the World Fishing Network this winter and spring. The show filmed on the Kenai River will broadcast in January and again in April of 2015.

OFF SHORE TACKLE TADPOLE SOCIETY

Hey fans of Facebook, the Off Shore Tackle Tadpole Society is a group page dedicated to helping anglers find new and creative ways to catch more fish using the OR36 Series Tadpole Resettable Diving Weights. The brainchild of Off Shore Tackle LLC pro staffer, Jay Couch, this creative solution to sharing fishing information has already reached countless anglers and

continues to grow in popularity.

To get involved all you need to do is visit the site <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Offshoretackletadpolesociety/> and ask to get involved. Jay will welcome you on board and get the learning and sharing process started.

Most of the members are walleye anglers, but a

growing number are using Tadpoles to catch trout, salmon and crappie as well. The cool thing about the OR36 Series Tadpole Resettable Divers is they can be used to fish crank baits, spinners and spoons at a wide range of trolling speeds. Even better the Tadpole fishes beautifully behind in line, dual and triple board planer systems.

THE TWO “T’S” OF SPINNER FISHING

BY CAPTAIN JAKE ROMANACK

In my book there are two “T’s” that sum up the important aspects of spinner fishing for walleye. The first “T” stands for Tadpole because the OR36 Tadpole Resettable Diving Weight is the ultimate diving device for fishing walleye spinner rigs.

What sets the Tadpole apart from in line weights and other diving devices is the simplicity in which these divers function. There are no trip arms or adjustable screws to mess with. The only moving part on a Tadpole is the coast lock snap that attaches to the terminal end of your fishing line and slides up and down on the tow arm of the diver. When the Tadpole is dropped into the water the snap slides to the elbow of the tow arm and the Tadpole dives much like a crank bait.

The depth of the Tadpole is controlled by controlling the lead length. The exact diving depths of the Tadpole divers can be purchased for a nominal price by visiting www.precisiontrollingdata.com. When a fish strikes and is hooked, the snap slides to the forward position and the Tadpole no longer dives and rises to the surface making it easier to fight hooked fish.



Tadpole divers come in four different sizes, but for walleye spinner fishing my favorite is the No. 1. This one ounce weight dives nearly twice as deep as a one ounce keel sinker on the same lead lengths. The extra diving depth of the Tadpole allows me to reach target fish using shorter lead lengths, which in turn works to generate better hook up ratios. Even better, the Tadpole has diving resistance in the water so when a walleye strikes the trailing spinner rig, the hook is firmly set even before the rod comes out of the holder.

The second “T” stands for Tattle Flags because any time I’m fishing Tadpole I’m also fishing OR12 Side Planer boards equipped with an OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit. These spring loaded flag kits are designed to allow the flag to tip down when a fish is hooked making it much easier to detect bites.

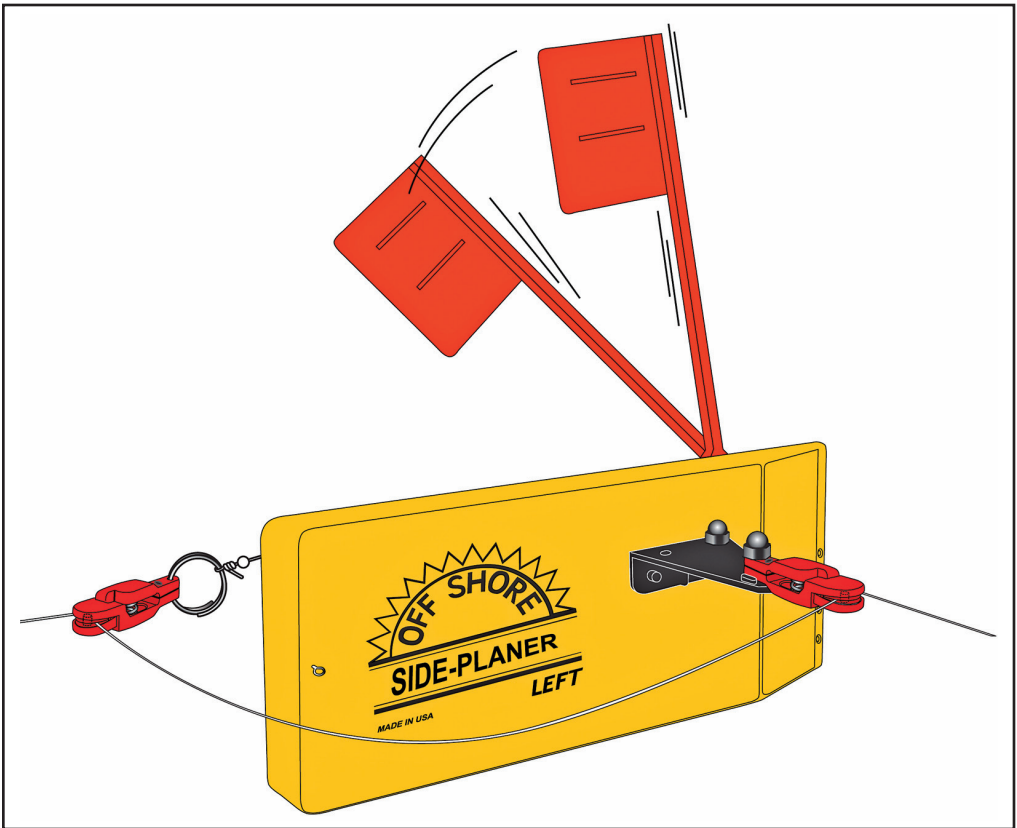
The spring tension on the OR12TF Tattle Flag is adjustable making them sensitive enough to telegraph not only walleye bites, but also when non-target species like white perch, sheephead and white bass are inadvertently hooked.

Tattle Flags are critical to spinner fishing success because this presentation is practiced at slow trolling speeds; the Tattle Flag virtually guarantees every fish that bites will be detected immediately.

Combining the Tadpole with the OR12 Side Planer equipped with the OR12TF Tattle Flag allows me to target walleye at any depth and spread my lines out to cover the maximum amount of water. This simple set up has become my “go to” walleye fishing system when fishing Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay or anyplace that walleye tend to suspend in the water column.

For more information on spinner fishing with Tadpoles check out the Kindle E-Book Spinner Fishing Secrets by Mark Romanack available at Amazon for just \$6.99.

Editor’s Note: Captain Jake Romanack is the youngest member of the Off Shore Tackle LLC pro staff and one of the rising stars in professional fishing.



BOAT LAUNCH ETIQUETTE

BY MARK ROMANACK
WITH CAPTAIN TERRY KUNNEN

The art of launching and loading a fishing boat may seem simple, but based on the number of disasters I witness every year, a good number of us could benefit by boning up on our boat launch etiquette! When everyone who visits a boat launch follows these simple “rules of the road” the process of getting in and out of the water becomes far less stressful. After all, fishing is supposed to be fun and no one wants to start or end their day on a sour note.

HAVE YOUR LAUNCH FEE READY

When you pull up to a boat launching facility, have your launch fee ready to go. If you have the exact change the process goes much faster and allows the attendant to serve more anglers in less time.

GETTING READY IN THE PREP AREA

One of the biggest problems at boat launches is anglers show up on the ramp without having their gear or boat ready for launch. Most launches have designated prep areas that are designed to provide an opportunity for removing the travel cover, loading coolers and fishing gear into the boat, removing the trailer straps, installing navigation lights, etc. Having these steps taken care of before the boat hits the ramp will make the process of launching much faster and free up the launch for other anglers as fast as possible.

On the ramps that don’t have these pre-launch prep sites, drive around to the trailer parking area and get the gear and boat ready for the water. When the boat is water ready, drive around and loop and launch the boat. This simple step speeds up the launching process and prevents other anglers from getting frustrated.

STRAP ON OR STRAP OFF

Depending on your trailer type, the ratchet strap that attaches the bow of the boat to the trailer will need to be on or it can be removed before backing down into the launch ramp. For roller style trailers keep the strap attached to the bow eye until the boat is in the water. For bunk style trailers its okay to unhook the ratchet strap when prepping the boat.

The one exception to this rule is when fishing in freezing conditions. The bunks of a fishing boat trailer can easily glaze over with ice and allow the boat to slip off the bunks if the ratchet strap isn’t firmly in place. In freezing conditions it’s always a good idea to leave the ratchet strap in place until the boat is floating.

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BOAT LAUNCH ETIQUETTE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8



Captain Terry Kunnen spends a lot of time at boat launches. His tips can make the process of getting a boat in and out of the water stress free.

LAUNCH THEN PULL AWAY

After most anglers launch their boat, they tie their boat to the dock and wait for their partners to park the vehicle and walk back to the ramp. This process often takes several minutes and prevents other anglers from launching. Toss in a bathroom break and pretty quick you have folks pulling out their hair on the launch pad!

After launching, pull your boat away from the dock a short distance and simply idle in the channel while waiting for your partners to return from the parking lot. This frees up the launch for other anglers to put their boats in the water and greatly speeds up the flow of traffic.

When your partners show up at the dock, simply idle in, pick them up and head out for a great day on the water.

DROP OFF AND GO

At the end of the day when it's time to load the boat, idle up to the dock and drop off someone to go and get the vehicle and trailer. In the meantime, pull back away from the dock so other anglers can do the same process.

Tying up the dock while waiting for a partner to fetch the vehicle is a waste of time and an inconvenience to other anglers or boaters who want to use the ramp. Some ramps have designated launching and loading lanes, but the majority of public access sites require boaters to both launch and load from the same dock.

LOAD UNDER POWER

Power loading or the process of completely powering your boat up onto the trailer is illegal at most public access sites. While power loading is frowned upon, that doesn't mean you can't use the outboard to get the boat started onto the trailer. Simply idle the boat onto the trailer until the hull contacts the bunks. If the trailer is backed into the water far enough that the bunks are mostly submerged, the boat should easily slide onto the bunks and only need to be ratcheted up a foot or so.

Walking the boat up to the submerged trailer takes far more time and ties up the launch needlessly. This process requires the ratchet strap to be pulled out most of the way and it takes considerable time to hook up to the boat eye and reel in all of the ratchet strap.

HELP A GUY OUT

For those who are experienced at backing up a boat and using public access sites, don't hesitate to offer a friendly helping hand to those who simply don't have those acquired skill sets or experience. Kindness and the willingness to help others goes a long way towards keeping boat launches both friendly and productive places.

These simple boat launching and loading rules of etiquette will go a long ways towards making fishing fun and taking stress out of the equation.

PLANING FOR EYES

BY CODY BROWN

While the last couple of months of summer in 2014 were some of the harder fishing of the year; fall approached fast and with that came the time of year that all walleye anglers have come to appreciate. With walleye in a very aggressive mode and the fish of a lifetime just a cast away what's not to love?

In fall, walleye switch to an aggressive feeding mode in order to build fat reserves for the upcoming winter, which means fish can be easier to catch given the right presentation. Popular tactics among this time of year will include the use of jigs, live bait rigs, and crank baits; the last of which I will focus on for the purpose of this article.

In using crank baits to catch walleye, many tactics exist from long lining to the use of weights such as, the OR20 Pro Snap Weight System created and made popular by Off Shore Tackle LLC. The Pro Snap Weight System by Off Shore Tackle is simple and effective. You simply connect the weight to the line with the OR16 Pro Snap Weight Clip, where you want the weight, and go. But, the best tactic for fall walleye when using crank baits for me has to be with the use of planer boards.

I like using planer boards in the fall for two reasons; first, they allow you to cover more ground. Planer boards allow you to cover more ground by spreading out your presentation, so that everything isn't right behind the boat, thus putting your presentation in front of more fish, which leads to catching more fish. Second, by spreading out your presentation, they allow you to catch fish that might not be as aggressive, or may be spooked. When trolling through an area you always have aggressive fish, those that take the bait and less aggressive fish, those that might jot out to the side or swim

off briefly. Having presentations further out to the side with planer boards, allows you a chance to catch these less aggressive/spooked fish.

When using planer boards, I personally prefer OR12 Off Shore Tackle in line Side Planer Boards, due to the wide range of options and consistency they produce. From small lakes to big lakes, Off Shore Tackle has you covered with in line planer boards from their mini OR34 to their larger OR12. They offer a wide variety of planer board clips and releases to suit your specific needs; such as the Snapper (OR18), OR16, OR10, OR14, OR19, OR3, OR17 and OR30's for example. I

From small lakes to big lakes, Off Shore Tackle has you covered with in line planer boards from their mini OR34 to their larger OR12.

have never been let down by Off Shore Tackle boards due to inclement weather, or anything else while out on the water, which is why they are the top option in my opinion.

In combination with my planer boards, I have specific crank baits I like to use with my boards, to yield great results in the fall. The first is the larger series of Reef Runner lures because they offer a bigger profile presentation to fish that are looking for a big meal to build up those fat reserves. I also like Rapala Floaters in #9 and #11 sizes. These baits offer an action that fish always fall for, and once again that bigger profile that fish are looking for this time of year. Other great options include Storm Thundersticks, Bomber Long A's, and Rapala Husky Jerks. The most important part of figuring out what to use this time of year is size, as fish are looking for bigger meals that yield more energy and fat to build up for winter.

So, when the time comes to tie on a crank bait in the fall don't overlook the simple option of adding an in line planer board to your arsenal. They allow you to cover more water, and get your presentation in front of more fish, which means more fish in the boat!



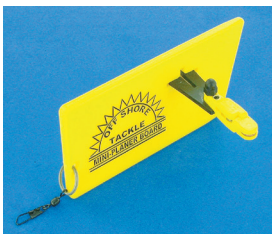


OFF SHORE TACKLE

Your Leader In...

Side Planer Boards

Model # OR34 Mini Planer Board



Each OR34 Mini Planer includes an OR10 release, OR16 clip, black bracket, split ring, snap swivel, nylon nut, 6/32 x 1/2" screw, and instructions. One board...Dual Purpose....It's Reversible and runs directly off of your rod line! Ideal for light tackle fishing.

Model # OR34B2 Bracket 2 Pack

Model # SS BE Snap Swivel

More replacement parts are available for the OR34: see order blank for details.

Model # OR12L Side Planer Left

Model # OR12R Side Planer Right



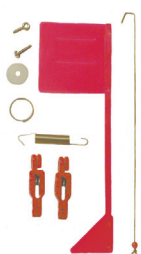
Each OR12 Side Planer includes a stationary flag, one OR19 (orange) release, one OR16 (red) clip, instructions and is carefully ballasted to run flawlessly in rough water off of your rod line. Ideal for several species of fish.

Model # OR12P2 Pigtail And Split Ring

More replacement parts are available for the OR12 Side Planer: see order blank for details.

Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit

Model # OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit



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

Model # OR12TFEK Tattle Flag Upgrade Economy Kit



This kit will only work by using an OR12 Side Planer and two OR16 (red) clips that you previously purchased as this kit just contains ONLY the hardware which consists of a wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and limited instructions.

Model # ORS2 Spring

More replacement parts are available for the OR12TF and OR12TFEK: see order blank for details.

Planer Board Releases

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

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

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



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

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



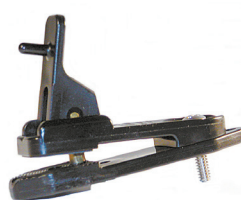
Model # OR30BWW or OR30BWOW Heavy Tension Planer Board Release —Red



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

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

The OR18 is a full size release designed with an adjustable cam action locking arm that can be set to release at a range of tension settings or tightened down to hold even super braid lines and lead core securely. This release is made to attach to the bracket of our OR12 Side Planer. With the wide range of tension settings this release is ideal for Walleye, Striper, Salmon, Steelhead, Trout, and Muskie.



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

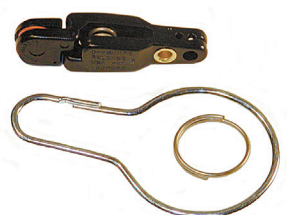
Model # OR10, OR10BWW or OR10BWOW Adjustable Light Tension Planer Board Release—Yellow

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



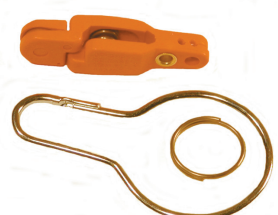
Model # OR14, OR14BWW or OR14BWOW Adjustable Medium Tension Planer Board Release—Black

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



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

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



Pro Weights

Model # OR20 Pro Weight System



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

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



This half size clip has an extra heavy spring tension and includes a split ring. They are also available without split rings as shown on the order blank. You simply position your fishing line behind the pin that protrudes through the center of the pads to hold your snap weight securely on the line.

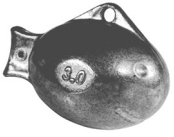
The OR16 comes as standard equipment on the tail of the OR12 Side Planer and in our OR20 Pro Weight System. It is ideal for use with snap weight fishing, super braid lines and with our tattle flag system.

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

...Trolling Technology



Replacement Pro Guppy Weights



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

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

Model # OR20 1
1 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

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

Model # OR20 2
2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3
3 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Resettable Diving Weights



Model # OR36 1
Tadpole Size 1

Model # OR36 2
Tadpole Size 2

Model # OR36 3
Tadpole Size 3

Model # OR36 MAGNUM
Tadpole MAGNUM Size

Model # CS BE
Coast Lock Snap

Model # OR8
Heavy Tension Single Downrigger Release, Red



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

Model # OR7
Light Tension Stacker Downrigger Release, White



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

Model # OR2
Medium Tension Stacker Downrigger Release, Black



This release is ideal for Salmon, Steelhead, Striper and Trout using 10-25 pound test monofilament line and allows you to run two lines off of the same downrigger.

Promotional Items



Model # DCL



Model # HT



Model # LYND



Model # CLR



Model # PN



Model # FRSB

Downrigger Releases

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

Model # OR4
Light Tension Single Downrigger Release, White



This release is ideal for Walleye, spring Coho, or other small to medium size fish using 10-25 pound test monofilament line.

Model # OR1
Medium Tension Single Downrigger Release, Black



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

Replacement Pads



Model # ORRP8

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



Model # ORRP8SN

Replacement pads for OR18 releases.



Model # ORRP16

Replacement pads for OR10, OR14, OR19 releases along with OR16 clips WITHOUT the pin protruding through the center of the pads.



Model # ORRP16HL

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

**MANY MORE
PROMOTIONAL
ITEMS
AVAILABLE.**

**SEE OUR
WEBSITE FOR
MORE DETAILS.**

WWW.OFFSHORETACKLE.COM

THE COLOR OF MONEY

BY MARK ROMANACK
WITH DARRELL WOOD

In my family when someone’s hands smell like fish, we joke and say that’s the smell of money. I’ve made a comfortable living communicating the outdoor lifestyle in magazines, on-line, in books, video and through outdoor TV. Promoting recreational fishing ranks at the top of my priority list and I’m never more happier than when my hands smell like fish!

Darrell Wood is one of the more popular and prolific National Team Pro Staffers for Off Shore Tackle LLC. It’s hard to be on Facebook and not feel Darrell’s presence. His frequent posting of images, tips and fishing reports help inspire others to get on the water and follow in Darrell’s wake.

Besides being a talented tournament angler, fishing educator, dedicated father and commensurate ambassador for the sport of walleye fishing Darrell owns Hi Tech Custom Painted Baits, LLC. As an avid open water troller, Darrell knows full well how important lure color can often be in fishing success. That goes double when the lures of choice are popular crank baits and spinner blades used to target walleye.

“I started Hi Tech Custom Baits in September of 2012 soon after meeting Jay Couch at an MWC event,” recalls Wood. “After seeing a few of my custom painted crank baits, Jay kept bugging me to turn my passion for painting fishing lures into a business.”

Currently Hi Tech Custom Baits has 26 stock color options, but Darrell will custom paint just about any fishing lure or trolling hardware any color combination a customer imagines. “Typically my customers provide me baits that aren’t producing because they have marginal paint finishes,” says Wood. “I repaint those baits according to the recommendations of my customer, effectively turning dud lures into productive fishing baits!”

Darrell will custom paint both opaque and clear body crank baits. “A lot of guys are favoring the look of custom paint jobs produced on clear body styles like the Rapala Glass series or the Bare Naked series from Reef Runner,” explains Wood. “You get a unique look when clear lures are custom painted that is tough to find in a factory paint scheme.”



Darrell Wood is an Off Shore Tackle pro staffer and owner of Hi Tech Custom Baits. Darrell lives near Sandusky, Ohio and fishes Lake Erie often with his custom creations.

Hi Tech Custom Baits produces custom painted crank baits, blades for spinner rigs and recently expanded to include custom painted Off Shore Tackle OR36 Series Tadpole Resettable Diving Weights.

“Jay Couch and a growing number of other anglers believe that painting the Tadpole and making it more visible to the fish creates an illusion that a predator is chasing prey in the water,” explains Wood. “I find that the Tadpole is a more efficient means of getting spinners, spoons and even crank baits to depth compared to traditional in line trolling weights. Because the Tadpole dives deeper on shorter lead lengths I can set lines faster and get baits in the strike zone quicker compared to keel sinkers.”

Tadpole divers come in four sizes including the No. 1, 2, 3 and Magnum. For targeting walleye suspended from five to 25 feet below the surface the No. 1 and No. 2 sizes are ideal. In the Central and Eastern Basins of Lake Erie where walleye frequently suspend deeper in the water column, the No. 3 and Magnum Tadpole come into play.

Because Darrell Wood spends most of his fishing time on Lake Erie his custom paint finishes feature a lot of pink, purple, white and chartreuse shades. “Some of my favorite colors include pearl white, pearl raspberry and pearl chartreuse,” adds Wood. “I also strongly recommend that anglers who fish on Erie have their baits painted with a bright orange belly strip. It’s amazing how well this little detail works especially during the fall fishing season.”

To learn more about Darrell’s lure painting passion visit www.hitechcustompainted-baits.com or check out the Facebook site Hi Tech Custom Painted Baits LLC. Darrell is also a frequent visitor to the Facebook site Off Shore Tackle Tadpole Society which was created to share fishing information pertaining to these unique diving devices.

If you have lures that aren’t producing, maybe it’s time to give Darrell a call and put a custom spin on your walleye fishing efforts? For Darrell Wood and Hi Tech Custom Baits, the color of money is any color under the rainbow!

OR34 NIGHT FISHING TIP

BY JEFF OTIS

The OR34 Mini Planer Board is ideal for trolling up wall-eye after dark. Rigged with the factory OR10 release on the bracket and a snap swivel at the tail of the board, this set up allows the board to trip and slide down the line when a fish strikes. To prevent the board from sliding all the way to the fish, tie a barrel swivel and bead in line about three feet in front of the lure.

Engage the bait clicker feature on your trolling reels and set the drag light enough that when a fish strikes the bait clicker will alert you a fish is hooked up. Keep a flash light handy for landing the fish.





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

Prices in effect January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015



Order Blank

MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SIDE PLANER BOARD PRODUCTS					
OR34	Mini Planer Board; One Board...Dual Purpose...I'm Reversible	Pkg. of 1		\$17.15	
OR34B2	Replacement Bracket For OR34	Pkg. of 2		\$2.90	
34SCR BE	Replacement 6/32 x 1/2 Screw For OR34	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
SS BE	Replacement Snap Swivel For OR34	Pkg. of 1		\$0.65	
OR12L	Side Planer Left	Pkg. of 1		\$39.25	
OR12R	Side Planer Right	Pkg. of 1		\$39.25	
OR12P2	Pigtail and Split Ring For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 2		\$3.85	
FLGSCR BE	Red Flag and 6/32 Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$3.35	
GFLGSCR BE	Green Flag and 6/32 Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$3.35	
SCR BE	6/32 Screw For OR12L, OR12R, and OR12TF	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
NN BE	Nylon Nut	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
BRKT BE	Bracket With Two Pop Rivets For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 1		\$2.95	
RVT BE	Pop Rivet	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
FOAM BE	Foam Insert For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 1		\$0.85	
TAB BE	Tab To Hold Foam Insert In and Two 6/32 Screws For OR12L and OR12R	Pkg. of 1		\$0.85	
BLSTSCR BE	Ballast Weight Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
BLSTWGHT BE	Ballast Weight and 8 x 1/2 Screw	Pkg. of 1		\$1.90	
OR12TF	Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit	Pkg. of 1		\$27.10	
OR12TFEK	Tattle Flag ECONOMY KIT (No OR16's or Flag Included)	Pkg. of 1		\$9.99	
ORS2	Tattle Flag Replacement Spring	Pkg. of 2		\$7.75	
WIRE BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Wire	Pkg. of 1		\$2.10	
NW BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Nylon Washer	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
SCREYE BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Screw Eye	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
SPLTRNG BE	Tattle Flag Replacement Split Ring	Pkg. of 1		\$0.15	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PLANER BOARD AND SIDE PLANER BOARD RELEASES					
QC BE	Quick Clip	Pkg. of 1		\$0.20	
OR3	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$16.00	
OR3BWW	Light Tension, White With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 50		\$380.60	
OR3BWOW	Light Tension, White Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 50		\$377.60	
OR17BWW	Medium Tension, Black With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$182.50	
OR17BWOW	Medium Tension, Black Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 24		\$181.06	
OR30BWW	Heavy Tension, Red With Quick Clip	Pkg. of 6		\$54.85	
OR30BWOW	Heavy Tension, Red Without Quick Clip	Pkg. of 6		\$54.49	
OR18	Snapper Adjustable Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$15.60	
OR10	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$22.50	
OR10BWW	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR10BWOW	Adjustable Light Tension, Yellow Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
OR14	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 4		\$22.50	
OR14BWW	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR14BWOW	Adjustable Medium Tension, Black Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
OR19	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 2		\$11.60	
OR19BWW	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange With Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$545.80	
OR19BWOW	Adjustable Heavy Tension, Orange Without Split Ring and Quick Clip	Pkg. of 100		\$536.80	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PRO SNAP WEIGHT PRODUCTS					
OR20	Pro Snap Weight System	Pkg. of 1		\$47.70	
OR16	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 2		\$13.45	
OR16BWW	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red With Split Ring	Pkg. of 100		\$596.00	
OR16BWOW	Extra Heavy Pro Snap Weight Clip, Red Without Split Ring	Pkg. of 100		\$593.00	
OR20 1/2	1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$4.10	
OR20 3/4	3/4 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$4.50	
OR20 1	1 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 3		\$5.00	
OR20 1 1/2	1 1/2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$4.70	
OR20 2	2 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 2		\$5.20	
OR20 3	3 Ounce Replacement Pro Guppy Weight	Pkg. of 1		\$3.90	

Continued on reverse



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Prices in effect January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015



ORDER BLANK CONTINUED FROM PRIOR PAGE					
MODEL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PACKAGE	NUMBER OF PKGS. ORDERING	PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC RESETTABLE DIVING WEIGHTS					
OR36 1	Tadpole Size 1	Pkg. of 1		\$7.30	
OR36 2	Tadpole Size 2	Pkg. of 1		\$7.55	
OR36 3	Tadpole Size 3	Pkg. of 1		\$12.87	
OR36 MAGNUM	Tadpole MAGNUM Size	Pkg. of 1		\$12.99	
CS BE	Coast Lock Snap	Pkg. of 1		\$0.40	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC SINGLE DOWNRIGGER RELEASES					
OR4	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$9.95	
OR1	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$9.95	
OR8	Heavy Tension, Red	Pkg. of 1		\$14.00	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC STACKER DOWNRIGGER RELEASES					
OR7	Light Tension, White	Pkg. of 1		\$16.20	
OR2	Medium Tension, Black	Pkg. of 1		\$16.20	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC REPLACEMENT PADS					
ORRP8	Pads For OR1's, OR2's, OR3's, OR4's, OR7's, OR8's, OR17's, and OR30's	Pkg. of 8		\$3.60	
ORRP8SN	Pads For OR18's	Pkg. of 8		\$8.50	
ORRP16	Pads For OR10's, OR14's, and OR19's, Along With OR16's WITHOUT Pin Protruding Through The Center Of The Pad	Pkg. of 16		\$4.60	
ORRP16HL	Pads For OR16's WITH Pin Protruding Through The Center Of The Pad	Pkg. of 16		\$6.20	
OFF SHORE TACKLE COMPANY LLC PROMOTIONAL ITEMS					
DCL	Yellow Decal With Black Logo	Pkg. of 1		\$1.00	
HT	Yellow and Black Hat	Pkg. of 1		\$8.75	
LNVD	Lanyard With Line Clippers	Pkg. of 1		\$6.00	
PN	Yellow & Black Pen With Black Ink	Pkg. of 1		\$1.00	
FRSB	Yellow Frisbee With Black Print	Pkg. of 1		\$3.00	
CLR	Yellow Soft 6 Pack Cooler With Front Pocket and Black Silkscreen Logo	Pkg. of 1		\$5.00	

★ These items and many more products, replacement parts, and promotional items (including apparel) are available through our website at www.offshoretackle.com. Shopping always available 24/7 on-line!

Prices and packaging subject to change without notice.



Product Total

*Shipping Charges Within The 48 Mainland United States

Subtotal
(Product Total Plus Shipping Charges)

Michigan Residents and Orders Being Shipped to a Michigan Address from Non Residents, Add 6% Sales Tax Based On Subtotal

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

\$7.99

*For orders being shipped outside of the 48 mainland United States, please call for shipping charges. Duties and taxes will be your responsibility. Send THIS completed order form, along with your U.S.P.S. money order, check, (sorry, no out of country money orders or checks can be accepted), or COMPLETE credit card information to:

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

Orders will be released upon clearance of checks, please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Credit card orders are normally shipped within 5 business days of receipt of order.

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

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

Name:

c/o:

Address:

City: State: ZIP:

Telephone: () -

E-Mail Address:

Name:

c/o:

Address:

City: State: ZIP:

Telephone: () -

How did you hear about us?

Please check:
Residence
Work
Other

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

Please check: To charge your order on your MasterCard or Visa, enter your credit card number, expiration date, card ID number and sign below, or call 989-738-5600.

MasterCard Number

Visa Signature

Exp. Date:

ID Number:

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



Riviera Product Showcase

Dual Planer Board Masts

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

Unit Includes:

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

This Unit Is Available in Different Base Options

Model # DPMKA
Has The Regular Base

Model # DPMKSA
Has the Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount

Model # DPMKSLA
Has The Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount

Model # DPMKSUA
Has The Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount

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

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

Unit Includes:

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

This Unit Is Available in Different Base Options

Model # DPMPA
Has The Regular Base

Model # DPMPSA
Has The Springfield Taper-Lock Seat Mount

Model # DPMPSLA
Has The Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount

Model # DPMPSUA
Has The Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount

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



Base Options



Swiveling Rod Tower

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

Model # SRT3
Has 3 Adjustable Rod Holders

Model # SRT4
Has 4 Adjustable Rod Holders

Model # SRT5 (Shown)
Has 5 Adjustable Rod Holders

Model # SRT6
Has 6 Adjustable Rod Holders

Model # SRTRH
Extra Rod Holder With Indexing Bracket

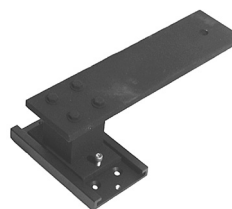
Model # SRTTA
Track Adapter For SRT That Fits Most Tracks



Track Mount For RCPK And RCWIRE

Model # TM
Track Mount

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



Planer Board Rail Clamp Mounts

Model #RCPK
Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels With Rail Clamp Mount

Unit Includes:

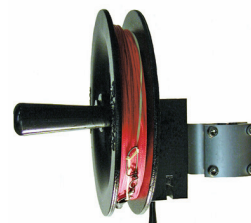
- Kachman Automatic Retrieval Reels
- 150' Fluorescent Orange 200# Planer Line
- Aluminum Clamp Bracket That Fits 3/4" to 1 1/4" Rails



Model #RCPA
Aluminum Manual Retrieval Posi-Stop Reels

Unit Includes:

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



Dual and Triple Planer Boards

Model # DPB
Dual Planer Board—Collapsible For Easy Storage



Model # TPB
Triple Planer Board—Collapsible For Easy Storage



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

Hand /Wire Line Reels



Model # RCWIRE
Kachman Automatic Retrieval Hand Line Reel Kit

Unit Includes:

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

Model # WGHT
1 1/4 Pound Weight

Model # SHNK
5' Pro Shank

ARTIFISHALLEYES

BY COREY HEISER
AND TROY MORRIS

As tournament anglers, we are constantly looking for new ways to catch walleye. If that means throwing the proverbial “kitchen sink” at the fish, then so be it. Don’t get us wrong; we aren’t just throwing darts, there is a method to our madness. Some techniques come about through a process of trial and error during our practice sessions. Other presentations aren’t developed until game day. The common thread in everything we do is artificial only, hence the name Artifishhalleyes. (We’ll dig further into that a little later.)

When we say artificial only, we mean artificial only. At first, some people would think we are putting ourselves at a disadvantage by not using live bait. We believe our approach allows us to be innovative and that helps us put fish in the boat that others might miss. What walleye hasn’t seen a jig and minnow before? We are constantly experimenting with all the tools in the toolbox to make sure we are dialed in!

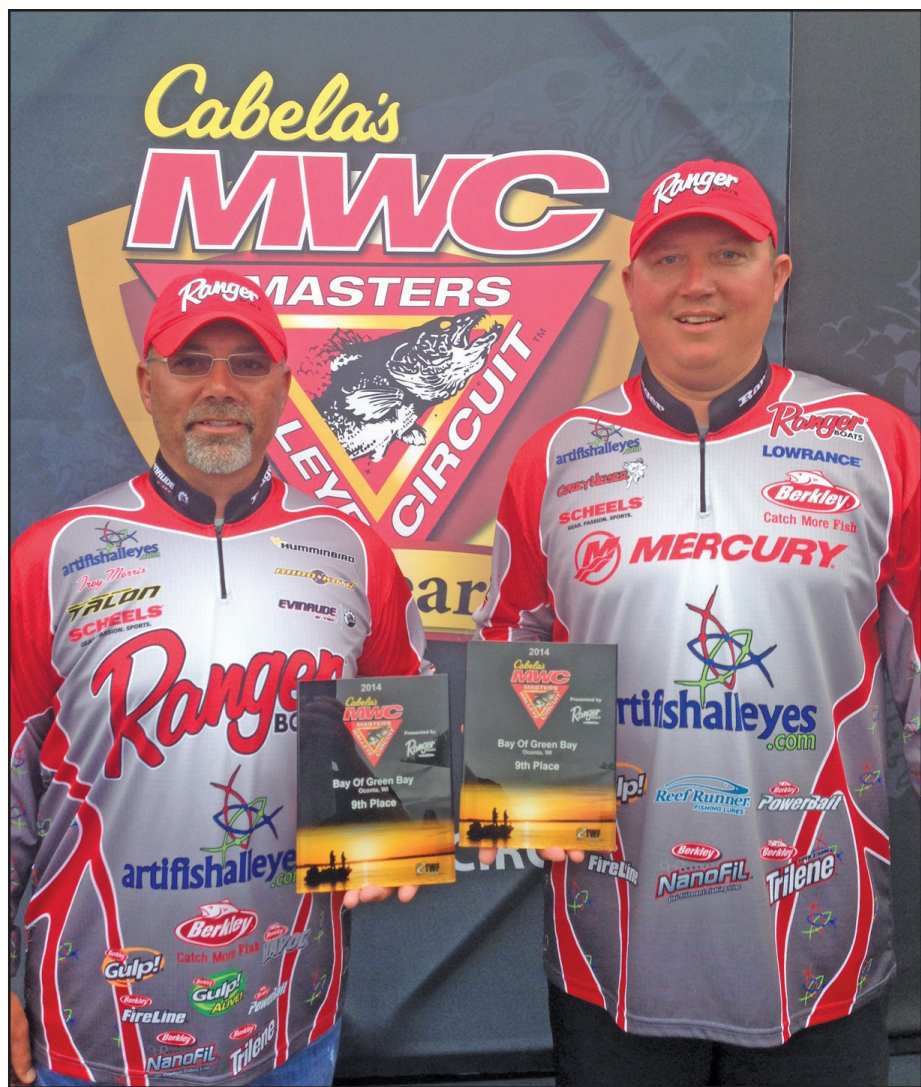
For example, during the Pierre, SD Lake Sharp MWC event, we started trolling Flicker Shads on four lead core lines. We had the same lure on all four lines, but only 3 were getting bit. We needed to change up our strategy. The lure that wasn’t getting bit was the one closest to the boat. We concluded the noise from the kicker motor was spooking the fish. So we decided to switch out the inside lead core rod for mono and snapped on an OR12 Off Shore Side Planer Board. Viola! Within minutes we landed one of our largest walleye of that tournament. We were now firing on all cylinders; all four lines were producing fish. It might

not sound like a big deal; after all, three outa four ain’t bad, right? Not when there’s a title on the line. The difference between 75% and 100% is the difference between cashing a check and writing a check.

Here’s another example. While fishing the Green Bay MWC event, we were once again trolling crank baits. This time the walleye were laying in the weeds, trolling on the break wasn’t getting it done; we needed to go over the top. We pulled out our trusty OR12 Off Shore Side Planer Boards and pulled the crank baits over the weeds. One of the really nice features of the Off Shore system is the add on OR12TF Tattle Flag. This set up allowed us to determine if there was a weed hanging on our baits. Whenever you are pulling crank baits, making sure they are running true is absolutely critical, and the OR12TF Tattle Flag Upgrade Kit is a must. The OR12TF uses spring tension settings, so you can make adjustments according to the baits you are pulling to detect the slightest changes.

Last but certainly not least. Earlier this year, we were fishing an MWC event on Big Stone Lake. The water was gin clear and the fish were shallow. We wanted to pull crank baits, but knew we needed to get the lures away from the boat because we didn’t want to spook the fish. We decided to use OR12 Side Planer Boards to target key distances from the boat and stay in the zone. Furthermore, we were fishing a large flat near the shoreline. Because the OR12 Side Planers run so true, we were able to run three lines on one side of the boat. This meant we could keep multiple baits on top of the flat, while keeping the boat off the break line, thus not spooking the fish.

Looking back at the season, OR12 Off



Tournament pros Cory Heiser and Troy Morris are the “Artifishhalleyes” vowing only to fish tournaments with artificial lures.

Shore Side Planer Boards played an important role. Not only did using them help us qualify for the 2015 World Walleye Championship, they helped us stay true to our mission, NO LIVE BAIT!

Artifishhalleyes is an organization we created to show people that you don’t need live bait to catch walleye. Furthermore,

we have set out to prove this concept in a controlled competitive tournament format by taking the “No Live Bait” pledge. We will not use live bait at any time during the year while fishing for any species of fish.

For more information, visit our website at artifishhalleyes.com or follow us on Facebook.

TROLLING SPEED, GOING THE EXTRA MILE

BY MARK ROMANACK

Every seasoned troller I know watches his or her trolling speed indicators like a hawk. It’s amazing how often even a subtle increase or decrease in trolling speed triggers fish strikes. The first step is getting the most from trolling speed is understanding how speed fluctuations as small as 1/10th of a MPH can and do make a difference. The next step is having the right equipment on board to take full advantage of controlling and just as important monitoring trolling speed.

THE BAD NEWS

Let’s start with the bad news regarding manipulating trolling speed. The unfortunate truth is that the majority of primary outboard motors and also kicker motors are not designed to deliver the subtle variations in trolling speed avid anglers covet. Most of these motors are equipped with a traditional “cable style” linkage throttle system. Cable throttle controls do not have the range of control required to dial in subtle changes in trolling speed. To gain speed control down to plus or minus 1/10th MPH requires an outboard with electronic throttle controls or some after market products.

It seems with the traditional cable linkage systems the outboard or kicker is either running too fast or too slow. If you are lucky enough to get the motor running at the right RPM, the sweet spot won’t last long as most cable driven outboards tend to gradually speed up or slow down while running.

As anyone who has tried to troll with these motors will attest, it can get pretty frustrating having to constantly adjust the throttle and seemingly never getting it exactly right.

THE GOOD NEWS

On a brighter note, the good news is a number of primary outboards and even kicker motors feature a “digital throttle control” option. In the case of larger outboards many of the newer engines now have electronic throttle controls that allow the RPM levels to be adjusted as needed to generate consistent trolling speeds.

Some smaller outboard kickers and in line outboard motors also have a similar technology. The Evinrude 15HO kicker has an electronic throttle control button on the tiller handle that allows the RPM level to be raised or lowered in small increments making it possible to dial in trolling speeds very precisely.

After market throttle controls like the TrollMaster and ControllKing systems can convert just about any four stroke kicker over to an electronic throttle control. These electronic controls feature a rheostat that allows the angler to dial in very precise trolling speeds.

For anglers who are handy at wrench work these throttle control systems can be installed at home in a couple of hours. For everyone else, getting one of these after market throttle controls is probably going to require the assistance of a good marine mechanic and a couple hundred dollars in service bills.

For anyone serious about trolling the investment is worth every penny. Also, a good marine mechanic can adjust idle and low end RPM speeds on most modern computer driven outboards. This amounts to the mechanic setting the engine idle speeds in the computer.

For example, when my Evinrude 75 E-Tec was new it idled at about 2.8 MPH making it a touch too fast for most trolling applications. I had a mechanic adjust the computer settings and now that engine idles nicely at about 2.0 MPH. The cost was less than one hour of service.

A little less sophisticated but effective way of controlling trolling speed is to drag a sea anchor. Charter boats use sea bags not only to control trolling speed, but also to stabilize the boat when fishing in rough water. A pair of bags fished on the port and starboard sides of the boat significantly reduces the rocking motion of the boat and works to maintain consistent trolling speeds.

THE ELECTRIC MOTOR OPTION

Historically most trollers favor a small gasoline kicker motor for their primary trolling chores. These days a growing number of anglers are depending more on their bow mounted electric motor for serious trolling chores.

Auto-Pilot style motors like the Minn Kota Terrova and the new MotorGuide Xi5 are rewriting the manual on open water trolling. The rheostat and FOB style wireless controls on these motors makes it possible to dial in just about any speed an angler wants to achieve.

One of the things most anglers don’t understand about trolling speed is maintaining a specific speed isn’t just about dialing in the correct RPM or rheostat setting. Maintaining trolling speeds is also about maintaining a direct line of travel.

When you monitor the Speed Over Ground numbers on your GPS unit it’s common to see some significant fluctuations in speed. Depending on the wave conditions the digital speed numbers routinely vary .3 to .5 MPH.

These variations in trolling speed are more dramatic when trolling into the wind and less noticeable when trolling downwind. This occurs because when trolling into the wind the boat tends to wander along a “snake back” course which in turn causes the boat’s forward progress to constantly speed up and slow down.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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DPMKSUA	Fits With Springfield Uni-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$409.00	
DPMKSZA	Fits With Attwood Swivl-Eze 2-3/8" Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$409.00	
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DPMPSLA	Fits With Springfield Spring-Lock Seat Mount	Pkg. of 1		\$299.00	
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, BRUCE DESHANO



Tournament victories were common for Off Shore anglers this year; along with Championships and Angler of the Year awards for several of the Off Shore team members.

Nick and I joined Tommy Skarlis, Kyle Steinfeldt and the father son team of Cory and Cody Batterson at Lake of the Ozarks in April to fish a Crappie Masters tournament. We did not win, but we did catch a lot of crappie and showed the local anglers that planer boards and tadpoles can catch crappie and catch them in areas no one has fished for them before. I think we are on to something with deep water pre spawn crappie.

Lake Erie anglers have embraced the OR36 Series #3 and Mag Tadpoles for summer walleye that have gone deep. Salmon anglers are adding the larger Tads after letting out their copper line to get deeper than the copper line alone and making it easier to get deep without several dedicated rods.

It was fun watching all the televised tournaments and how many of the anglers were pulling Off Shore Tackle LLC boards. Thanks goes out to them for supporting us! The AIM format is one of my favorites and when taking pictures of their fish, many of the anglers have had Off

Shore products in the background! Awesome job on promoting the Off Shore Tackle LLC brand!

I did not get to fish as much this year as in the past; old age setting in I guess! We did get in a little salmon and lake trout fishing on Lake Huron out of Harbor Beach, Michigan. The variety of fish caught out there is fun. Salmon, king, coho and pinks earlier in the season and steelhead, browns along with lakers and walleye throughout the year. We were catching walleye on 300' of copper and steelhead on the surface.

The Riviera SRT Rod Tower is great for multiple rods on Off Shore Boards. They can have as many as 5 rod holders and each one can be adjusted to your needs. Check them out.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook, You Tube and on our website at www.offshoretackle.com. These networks are the quickest way to find out about products and techniques for using them. As always, we here at Off Shore Tackle LLC welcome your ideas for improvements to existing products and ideas for new ones. Pictures are always appreciated of fish caught using Off Shore products as well.

Thank you for your continued support and keeping Off Shore Tackle #1 on the water!

NOTES FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, NICK DESHANO

Off Shore Tackle LLC has enjoyed a very busy year! From sponsoring new tournament circuits to developing more and better fishing products, Off Shore Tackle LLC leads the pack. Once again our extensive pro staff dominated the tournament scene in 2014 and participated in a record number of sportfishing shows, seminars and fishing club events. Looking ahead to 2015, Off Shore Tackle is poised for yet another banner year!

In 2014 I got bit by the proverbial crappie bug. When teams sponsored by Off Shore Tackle took the top two spots at the Crappie Masters National Championship in 2014, I suddenly found myself exposed to a whole new world of fishing. Much of my winter and spring would be dedicated to learning more about crappie fishing.

In April I caught my first crappie pre-fishing for the Lake of the Ozarks Crappie Masters tournament in Missouri. Teamed up with my dad, the team of DeShano and DeShano introduced a new technique to the world of crappie fishing by using the OR36 Series Tadpole Divers in combination with crank baits. With the help of the Tadpole, we targeted and caught fish deeper than ever

attempted before on the tournament circuit. Some of our fish came as deep as 50 feet down! We caught over 60 crappie using Tadpoles and OR12 Side Planers. Dad and I had a blast and plan to attend more Crappie Masters tournaments in 2015.

I was also able to spend considerable time on Lake Huron fishing the Can 2 Can tournament and the Pro King tournament out of Harbor Beach. The Can 2 Can has turned into the premier tournament on Lake Huron and has been growing steadily each year. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Thumb Chapter Steelheaders to help fund their net pen project, which is proving to be a savior to the southern Lake Huron fishery.

I also spent a lot of time developing new products for spring 2015 as well as finding new ways to use the Tadpole with copper and lead core lines. What new products you ask? Let's just say my arms got a workout cranking in 500' of copper line. With the OR36 Series Tadpoles, we are finding new ways to use them to be able to use less copper to achieve the same depths.

On the social media front, our Facebook page had been growing in leaps and bounds. We have been



getting some great content from our fans as well as our industry leading pro staff of professional anglers. Feel free to post on our page about fishing with Off Shore Tackle products; we love hearing from our customers. We also have been working hard to expand our video library on our YouTube page. If there are videos on techniques using our products, let us know and we'll do everything we can to get new videos uploaded.

All in all, 2014 was a very fun and exciting year. I feel blessed to have the job I do and to be able to work with some great people and organizations. I can't wait to see what 2015 will bring! Good luck fishing everyone.



ABOUT THE EDITOR

For nearly 30 years Mark Romanack has been communicating the outdoor lifestyle. His educational efforts reach thousands through magazines, books, seminars, videos, social networking and with his nationally broadcast Fishing 411 TV series. Michigan's most published outdoor writer, with countless magazine articles, blogs, column features and 13 printed books to his credit, Romanack recently plunged into the world of E-Books, producing three new Kindle titles in 2013.

Romanack met Bruce DeShano of Off Shore Tackle in 1989 and the two have been working together ever since helping other anglers be more successful trolling for all freshwater species. "This issue of the Off Shore "Release" is crammed full of fishing tips and savvy from some of the nation's top anglers," says Romanack. "Even better if angler's have questions not answered in the newspaper, Off Shore Tackle maintains an active Facebook site that shares further tips and information on a daily basis."

It's also important to note that every one of the Off Shore Tackle pro staff members maintain their own Facebook sites and are active on all the social networking venues. These top anglers are tournament pros, charter captains, outdoor writers, and/or retail specialists that work tirelessly to promote fishing 365 days of the year and 24/7.

To check out Romanack's new E-Books on Kindle visit www.amazon.com. To log onto the Off Shore Tackle Facebook page visit https://www.facebook.com/pages/Off-Shore-Tackle-Company/95875439742?ref=br_tf with your questions. If you visit YouTube and simply type in Off Shore Tackle, you'll be greeted to dozens of short videos aimed at helping anglers catch more fish.

Other great educational video sources include the www.Fishing411.net site and the Fishing411 YouTube channel, plus www.thenextbite.com. All of these sites and more produce a host of educational videos and publications that are aimed at helping anglers become more successful.

Off Shore Tackle is hands down the "Leader in Trolling Technology" and the best on the planet at sharing that knowledge with others. All Off Shore Tackle products are American made and built by fishermen for fishermen.

Thank you in advance for picking up a copy of the Off Shore "Release". Additional copies are available at fine retailers everywhere or any of the Off Shore Tackle pro staff members.

TROLLING SPEED, GOING THE EXTRA MILE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

In a following sea the same phenomena occurs, but the variables in speed are not as noticeable because the boat tends to follow a straighter line of travel.

In other words, one of the subtle ways an angler can stabilize trolling speed is to drive the boat in as straight a line as possible. Auto Pilot electric motors help tremendously in this effort. Once the boat is going the desired direction, engaging the auto pilot function will keep the boat moving on that specific course heading and in the process reduce the amount of trolling speed fluctuations.

Helm style auto pilots designed for I/O engines and V6 outboards can also be invaluable in helping anglers control the boat's direction of travel and trolling speed. Virtually every charter captain on the Great Lakes has an auto pilot on his boat and a growing number of recreational anglers are following suit.

New products like Lowrance's Outboard Pilot system offer anglers an affordable option for steering and maintaining trolling controls on V6 outboard motors. Traditionally this style of auto pilot cost several thousand dollars. The Outboard Pilot system starts at just \$1,000.00 making it within the reach of most serious anglers.

TWO MOTOR TROLLING

The advantages of auto pilot electric trolling motors are many. One of the drawbacks is that it's not practical to troll for hours at higher speeds using only an electric motor. For speeds above 1.8 MPH it becomes necessary to implement both a gasoline motor and electric motor into the same trolling pattern.

Two motor trolling is becoming very popular with avid anglers who have discovered they can use the gasoline motor to provide the primary power and the electric motor to steer, make course adjustments and also to refine trolling speed.

This two motor trolling set up can be accomplished with a gasoline kicker motor and an auto pilot style electric motor. In some cases a primary outboard and an electric motor combination makes sense. If the primary outboard can be idled down slow enough to troll at an average speed of 2.0 to 2.2 MPH this task can be accomplished without the need or added expense of a gasoline kicker motor.

Most of my fishing boats in recent years have not been equipped with a gasoline kicker motor because I can use the electric motor to troll at slow speeds and the elec-

tric motor and the primary outboard to troll at speeds above 2.0 MPH. To accomplish this delicate balance requires a powerful electric motor. I recommend a 36 volt system on boats 18 to 22 feet in length and a 24 volt system on boats from 16 to 17 feet in length.

SPEED AT DEPTH

Most anglers are concerned with monitoring trolling speed, but ironically their boats are only equipped with gear capable of monitoring surface trolling speeds. Below the surface trolling speed takes on a whole new dynamic. A sub-surface trolling probe such as the Fish Hawk X4+ Depth is an invaluable tool for determining trolling speed at the depth baits are being fished.

This probe mounts to a downrigger weight and when deployed sends both speed and water temperature information to a LCD unit by means of a transducer signal. This almost instantaneous ability to monitor sub-surface trolling speeds and temperature fluctuations allows anglers to dial in trolling speeds in all conditions.

The unit runs about \$750.00 and can be installed in less than an hour by most anglers. The LCD screen is hard wired and can be mounted on the console or near the downrigger. I mount my unit to a strip of starboard that slides into the track on my boat. This allows me to quickly mount or remove the LCD screen as dictated by the type of fishing.

SUMMING IT UP

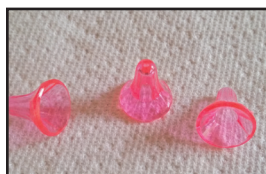
Trolling speed is one of the least understood aspects of open water trolling. It's true that anglers watch the numbers, but rarely do they take the steps to set up their boats so trolling speed can be intelligently monitored and controlled.

Getting a handle on trolling speed is something every angler should put a priority on. A wide variety of products including auto pilot electric motors, helm style auto pilots, sub-surface speed probes, digital throttle controls and outboards with wireless or digital throttles are all great ways to get the most from trolling speed and open water trolling.

Trolling speed factors into all common trolling presentations including flat line trolling, pulling boards, downrigging, fishing diving planers, in line weights and sinking lines. In short, no matter what's in the water, trolling speed matters.

CAL CLAUSEN'S BEAD TIP

On some of our instructions sheet we suggest a bead in front of the swivel and leader. Angler, Cal Clausen has been using this type of bead (known as a T-bead), upside down of course, as it also helps a lot to prevent surface weeds from tracking down the line to the lure.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING

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!



FISHING ROUGH WATER WITH SIDE PLANERS

BY CAPTAIN JERRY COX
“WALLEYE WARRIOR”

For years I was convinced I needed a mast system and dual or triple boards for trolling on days when the waves were two foot or bigger. I was of the opinion that the big boards handled rough water better than in line boards and I kept my OR12 Side Planers tucked away for those calm days.

Experience has taught me to appreciate what the OR12 Side Planer from Off Shore Tackle LLC is

capable of. Not only does the OR12 handle rough water in stride, I’ve discovered my hook up ratio increases when fishing with the Side Planer on both calm and rough days.

I fish braided line and recommend equipping the OR12 with an OR18 Snapper Release on the bracket and an OR16 Pro Snap Weight Clip on the tail of the board. Rigged in this fashion, the board stays firmly attached to the line.

These days I routinely use the OR12 to fish for walleye, trout, salmon and steelhead at all common

trolling speeds. During the course of a fishing season the OR12 Side Planer is called upon to help me fish spinners, spoons, crank baits, bottom bouncers, in line weights, lead core and copper lines. In short, the OR12 will pull “anything your heart desires” in all types of weather and wave conditions.

Editor’s Note: Jerry Cox, aka, “Walleye Warrior” is a dedicated angler who fishes from ice out to freeze up on the Great Lakes. His frequent Facebook posts and photographs help countless anglers be more successful on the water.

TWO OLD CLASSICS

BY MARK ROMANACK
WITH JP BUSHEY

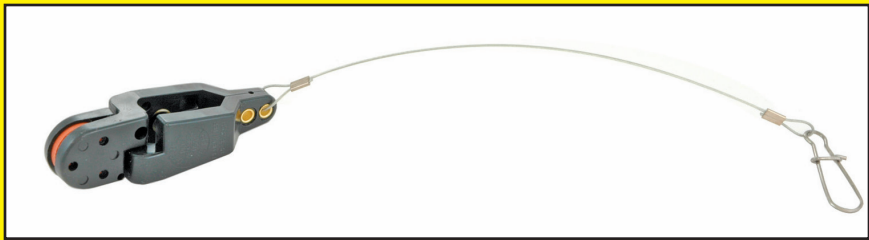
They say you can’t teach an old dog new tricks. Perhaps, but sometimes those “old school” tricks are all an angler needs to enjoy fishing success any angler would be envious of.

Ontario based Off Shore Tackle pro staffer JP Bushey and his father Larry Bushey have developed a lake trout trolling system that’s simple to master and deadly effective. This father/son fishing team target lake trout on the many rocky shoals of Lake Huron’s Georgian Bay, but their trolling methods will produce trout anywhere these fish are found hugging the bottom.

The foundation of this “Bushey Fishing Success Story” focuses on two classic fishing products that have helped generations of anglers be more successful on the water. Together the Bushey family uses these products to catch literally hundreds of trout every year!

Catch and release is a way of life for the Bushey family and they only keep a handful of trout each year for the smoker and a few “eaters” for shore lunches. The Bushey lure of choice is the Yakima U20 Flatfish, a bait that has been wobbling its way into the hearts of anglers for decades. JP and Larry only use one color, the metallic silver feeling strongly it does the best job of imitating both the size and color of the locally abundant alewives.

In order to get this bait to bottom JP and Larry use a pair of portable downriggers equipped with another classic the Off Shore Tackle OR1 Medium Tension Downrigger Release. The OR1 was the first product introduced by Off Shore Tackle LLC and continues to be the best selling downrigger release of all time!



To avoid the downrigger ball from snagging on bottom JP and Larry set their downrigger weight to run a few feet above the bottom and run the lure far enough back that the bait is diving down and crashing into the rocks. This simple set up causes the lure to rebound off the rocks triggering savage strikes in the process.

The OR1 Medium Tension Downrigger Release works perfect for trout trolling applications. This simple to use pinch pad style downrigger release has enough surface area on the rubber pads that a firm, but gentle grip is maintained on the fishing line. When a trout strikes the fish gets the necessary resistance required to get a solid hook set even when trolling slowly and in deep water.

Simple and effective, the “one two” punch of trolling their favorite lure with the help of the OR1 downrigger release works great for the Bushey family and it will work for you too. For more information on all the Off Shore Tackle LLC releases, visit www.offshoretackle.com.

Editor’s Note: JP and Larry Bushey fish together often encouraging others to get out and enjoy the fellowship and fun that fishing offers. Their fishing tips will produce trout anywhere these fish are found near bottom.

DISCLAIMER

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