

**FREE!**



Volume 32, 2025



SCAN FOR DIGITAL VERSION OF  
THE OFF SHORE RELEASE

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

# The **OFF SHORE** RELEASE

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



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Captain Greg Horoky is a well known and respected Lake Erie charter captain, popular seminar speaker and has been Off Shore Tackle LLC's Canadian Pro Staff Director for many years. He has been featured in many articles over the years and to date is the only Canadian to win a Professional Walleye Tour event.

You will also recognize Greg as the face of The Colchester Fishing Derby and The Colchester Shootout walleye events.

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



BY JAKE ROMANACK

Off Shore Tackle manufacturers not one, but three different size/models of in-line planer boards. No matter what body of water or fish species an angler might target, Off Shore Tackle has the ideal planer board.

## OR12 SIDE PLANER

One size doesn't fit all, but the OR12 Side Planer certainly does the heavy lifting when it comes to in-line planer boards. This iconic trolling product was the first in-line board introduced by OST back in the day. "The OR12 came to be because at the time other in-line boards on the market were riddled with issues," says Bruce DeShano, Chairman of the Boards and founder of Off Shore Tackle. "Early in-line boards were delicate and easily broken, the line releases used were poorly designed and commonly damaged the fishing line, not to mention

these early boards didn't plane out to the side very well. I knew we could build a better planer board and the OR12 has evolved as the planer board all others are compared to."

Part of what makes the OR12 so popular is the versatility this in-line board brings to the market. By simply switching out the line releases and clips, the OR12 can be used with any line type or diameter, it can be fished fast or slow, it can be rigged to release or rigged to remain fixed on the line and the OR12 is big enough to handle most popular lures and trolling hardware. In short, the OR12 is big enough to get the job done, but small enough to be affordable.

Walleye anglers flock to the OR12, but this board is equally handy for targeting trout and salmon with lead core, steelhead on high lines and even slab pan-

fish like crappie. Day in and day out, the OR12 gets the job done north, south, east or west.

## OR38 MINI PLANER

The OR38 is unlike any other in-line board on the market. Instead of gaining buoyancy with closed-cell foam, the OR38 features a buoyancy chamber on the top of the board that keeps the board upright while at the same time reducing drag. The body of the board is a blade design that is ultra-tough. These unique features allow the OR38 to plane to the side much better than other boards on the market.

The bracket is reversible, making it easy to rig the OR38 to run on either the port or starboard side of the boat. Small enough to fit in any tackle box, yet big enough to pull a wide variety of lures, weight systems and trolling hardware. The OR38 fills an

important niche in the world of in-line boards.

Crappie anglers naturally flock to the OR38, but this board is also handy for fishing walleye, bass and pike when using lighter lures. Stream steelhead anglers use the OR38 to spread out plugs when back trolling and bank anglers use the OR38 to present their gear out into the main current. Catfish anglers can even utilize the OR38 to catch skipjack and other baitfish.

The OR38 was designed with the idea of fishing lighter lines and lures. Unlike larger boards that require the use of traditional trolling rods/reels, the OR38 can be fished with spinning tackle.

## OR37 SST PRO MAG

The OR37 is the largest board in the Off Shore Tackle line up and the board that was designed to pull heavy gear. Great Lakes trout and salmon anglers who pull long lengths of lead core, stranded copper wire, weighted stainless wire, heavy Snap Weights, Torpedo Divers or oversized paddles and rotators rave about the OR37 and its ability to pull the largest lures and heaviest fishing gear.

The OR37 is also widely in use among muskie trollers who pull Double 10 CowGirl spinners, monster plugs and giant sucker minnows without issue. The OR37 is also rapidly becoming the board of choice among tournament cat anglers who troll cut bait and live bait rigs using heavy Snap Weights. The SST in the name of the OR37 stands for salmon, steelhead, trout, but this board clearly is well suited to targeting muskie, trophy cats, stripers and a host of saltwater species.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

All the in-line boards in the Off Shore Tackle line up can be fished with the factory supplied line releases and clips. Anglers also have the option of switching out and using any of the Off Shore Tackle planer board releases or aftermarket line clips.

Built to last for years and years, all the parts on these in-line boards can be sourced and purchased should repairs be required. Simply contact an Off Shore Tackle dealer for information or reach out to [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com).

No matter what body of water or species that is on your hit list, Off Shore Tackle makes an in-line board that's perfect for the job.

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## PLANER BOARDS

## ECONOMY TATTLE FLAG® KIT

## RELEASES AND CLIPS

## EZ CRANKBAIT TUNER

## TADPOLE DIVING WEIGHTS

## GUPPY WEIGHTS

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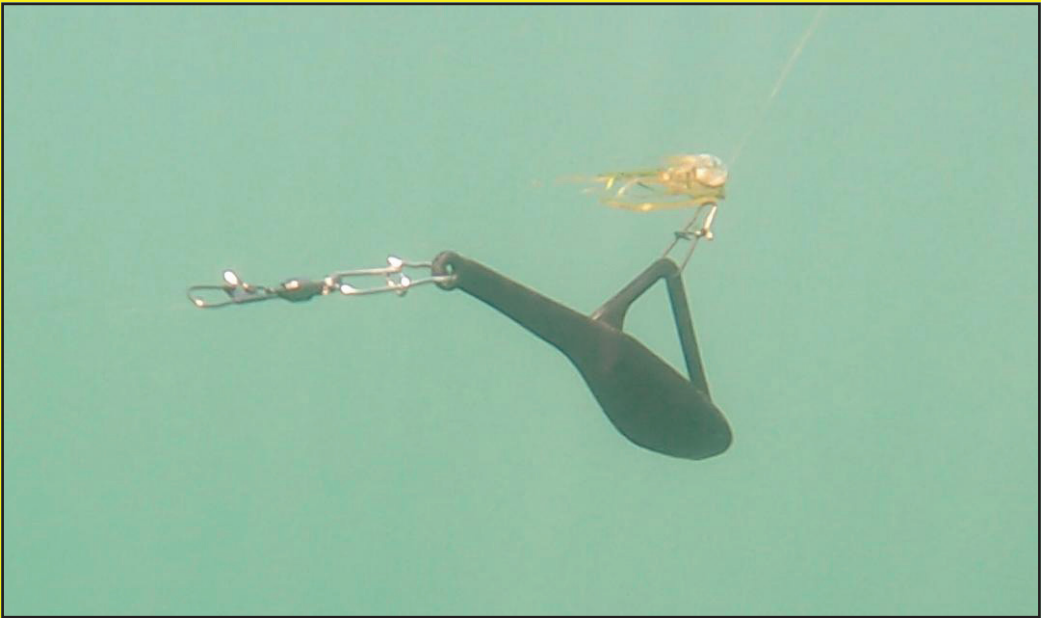
# THE TADPOLE RESETTABLE DIVING WEIGHTS

BY MARK ROMANACK

The market is flooded with in-line trolling weights, but there is nothing like the Off Shore Tackle OR36 series Tadpole Resettable Diving Weights. Most in-line weights achieve depth based on their weight, trolling speed and how much line is deployed. Long leads are often necessary to achieve any significant depth. The Tadpole’s feature a diving lip similar to a crankbait that helps them achieve more depth with shorter lead lengths. Tadpole Divers also hold their depth better at faster trolling speeds compared to traditional in-line weights.

Made from environmentally friendly zinc, the Tadpole functions using an ultra simple and fool proof trip mechanism. Each Tadpole is supplied with two coast lock snaps. One of these snaps is tied to the terminal end of the fishing line and attached to the tow arm of the Tadpole. The second snap is attached to the back of the Tadpole to facilitate adding a leader and the lure of choice.

When the Tadpole is placed in the water and given a little slack line, the coast lock snap will slip into the elbow of the tow arm and the Tadpole is ready to dive and deploy. When a fish is hooked, resistance will force the coast lock snap to slide to the forward position on the tow arm,



This under water photograph of a Tadpole at work shows how when weeds catch on the line, the Tadpole will still function as designed while at the same time preventing grass and weeds from sliding down and fouling the lure. Not only does the Tadpole dive, it does so more efficiently than other in-line weights.

effectively converting the Tadpole from a diving device to an in-line weight.

The beauty of this ultra-simple design is the Tadpole dives when you need it to and when a fish is hooked, it stops diving, so the angler is only fighting the fish, not the resistance of the diver. Should a hooked fish come unbuckled during the fight, simply giving a little slack line will allow the Tadpole to re-engage as a diving device, saving valuable time setting lines.

### TADPOLE SIZES

The Tadpole Diving Weights come in four sizes including a No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and a Magnum. The No. 1 and No. 2 sizes were designed for targeting fish found in the top 30 feet, while the No. 3 and Magnum sizes can reach depths up to 50 feet.

### POPULAR LURES

Tadpole Diving Weights were designed to function with lures that have little or no “dive curve” of their own. Nightcrawler harnesses, live bait rigs, in-line spinners, trolling spoons and shallow diving crankbaits are the most commonly used baits. Tadpole Diving Weights effectively get these baits to depth quickly and efficiently.

### BOARD AND FLAT LINE FRIENDLY

Most anglers who troll using Tadpole Divers team them up with in-line planer boards such as the popular OR12, OR38 and OR37 models produced by Off Shore Tackle. In-line boards help anglers spread out their gear and cover more of the water column.

However, Tadpole Divers can also be trolled as flat lines when targeting fish holding tight to structure. An effective

four rod spread can be easily set up by running two lines with the rods parallel to the boat and two additional lines with rods presented at a 90 degree angle to the boat.

While the Tadpole is not designed to function like a bottom bouncer, these in-line weights can be presented close to bottom for structure loving species like walleye, smallmouth bass, brown trout and many others.

### SUGGESTED LEADERS

Tadpole Divers are designed to be fished with a 48 to 72 inch long leader. Fluorocarbon line makes for the ideal leader material, but monofilament line is also a good option. For targeting smaller species like walleye, spring coho or smallmouth bass, a leader of 12 to 15 pound test is ideal. For larger fish like trout, salmon and steelhead, bumping up to a 20 pound test

leader is advised. Tadpole Divers are commonly used to target toothy fish like northern pike and muskie in freshwater and a host of species found in saltwater. In this case, adding a short wire leader at the terminal end will help prevent bite offs.

### OTHER BENEFITS

Besides being an efficient means of getting baits to depth, Tadpole Divers are also useful in managing other trolling issues such as lines getting fouled by floating weeds or debris. Floating weeds, cottonwood dust and other debris can quickly foul a trolling lure. The Tadpole Diver catches debris instead of it sliding down to the lure.

The Tadpole Diver is also a handy way of trolling during heavy insect hatches such as the spring mayfly hatch or in the summer when spiny water fleas become a constant line fouling problem.

### SUMMING IT UP

The Off Shore Tackle OR36 Tadpole Resettable Diving Weights fill an important niche in the trolling scene. A quick comparison between the dive curves of Tadpoles and other in-line sinkers tells the story best. If your goal is to get to depth without using long trolling leads, the Tadpole Diver has you covered.



## DON'T BE FOOLED

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





# THE PRECISION TROLLING 50+3T SYSTEM

BY PRECISION TROLLING DATA STAFF

Over the years the folks at Precision Trolling Data have partnered with Off Shore Tackle to create several trolling systems aimed at helping anglers catch more fish. In the early years the 50/50 Snap Weight System was designed to help anglers better understand Snap Weights and how to get the most from these in-line weights. At the time Snap Weights were a new Off Shore Tackle product and the 50/50 system provided critically important depth data for all six sizes of Snap Weights along with three common trolling speeds. (A Snap Weight is simply an Off Shore Tackle OR20 series Guppy Weight attached via split ring to an OR16 Pro Clip that you “Snap” onto your fishing line at a location you choose).

Some years later Precision Trolling pioneered the 20 Plus Method which provided anglers an idea how much deeper their favorite crankbaits would run if a one ounce Snap Weight was placed on the line 20 feet ahead of the crankbait. It turns out that adding a one ounce Snap Weight to the line 20 feet ahead of a crankbait fished 120 feet back, increases the diving depth about 30%. A quick reference chart in the Precision Trolling book did the math for you.

In more recent years, PTD introduced the 50+2 Data trolling system to help anglers get even deeper with their favorite crankbaits. The benefits of adding a two ounce Snap Weight 50 feet ahead of your crankbaits are many. The two ounce Snap Weight adds significant diving depth to popular crankbaits. Even better, adding a two ounce Snap Weight makes it

This simple rigging on the OR36 Tadpole No. 3 Resettable Diver is going to change the way anglers approach trolling for deep water fish. Because the Tadpole Diver dives more efficiently than in-line weights, it can be used to get diving crankbaits 30, 40, 50 or even 60 feet down!

possible to reach significant depths with shorter overall lead lengths. No longer do anglers have to fish those excessively long trolling leads to get the maximum depths from their favorite crankbaits.

The next step in this evolution of trolling excellence is something Precision Trolling Data is calling the 50+3T Data. In recent years we have received countless requests to combine a three ounce Snap Weight with popular crankbaits. After doing some exhausting preliminary testing, it became obvious that the three ounce Snap Weight only increases diving depths of crankbaits modestly compared to the two ounce Snap Weight. The added resistance and drag of the larger three ounce Snap Weight simply isn’t an efficient means of getting crankbaits significantly deeper. This became especially noticeable at faster trolling speeds above 2.0 MPH.

The answer to this problem and desire to get deeper is another Off Shore Tackle product known as the OR36 series No. 3 Tadpole Resettable Diving Weight. Precision Trolling Data rigged a No. 3 Tadpole using an OR16 Pro Clip on the tow arm using a simple split ring and snap swivel. No other releases are required. Instead of rigging the Tadpole just in front of the lure as this product was originally designed for, this new rigging method enables the Tadpole to be rigged 50 feet ahead of the crankbait, much like a Snap Weight.

Because the Tadpole features a lip similar to those found on crankbaits, the Tadpole achieves greater depths than Snap Weights and other in-line weight systems. By combining Off Shore’s OR36 3 Tadpole with a diving crankbait, it’s possible to reach depths never before achieved without using excessively long lengths of lead core line or stranded trolling wire.

Here’s how the 50+3T Data works. Consult the “Line Type” click to change option on the Precision Trolling Data app to see if this data is available for the lure in question. Currently only about 20 of the most popular crankbaits feature this data. Over time, more lures will be tested with the 50+3T Data and updates to the app will be offered.

Select the 50+3T Data option and let the desired crankbait out behind the boat 50 feet. Put the No. 3 Tadpole on the line and consult the “Feet Down” picker wheel to determine the desired target depth. Once



The staff at Precision Trolling Data spend countless hours on the water documenting the diving depth of lures and popular trolling hardware. The new 50+3T Data is going to become one of the most practical means of targeting fish found in deep water.

the target depth has been selected from the “Feet Down” picker wheel, the “Feet Back” picker wheel will spit out the total overall lead length required to achieve the desired target depth.

The app provides the total overall lead length, including the initial 50 foot lead into the “Feet Back” requirement. Because Tadpole Divers sink and are very speed dependent, the app also offers a number of popular trolling speed options to choose from.

The benefits of the 50+3T Data offerings are similar to the 50+2 Data. The 50+3T Data system can reach significantly deeper depths than the 50+2 Data and can also achieve those depths using modest lead lengths. For the first time anglers can get popular crankbaits to 30, 40, 50 or even 60 foot depths without having to invest in dedicated lead core lines or wire line trolling.

Similar to the 50+2 Data, when a fish is hooked, the angler will reel in the hooked fish, remove the Tadpole Diver from the line and continue to fight the fish to net. The 50+3T Data system can be fished in combination with both dual planer board mast systems and in-line boards such as the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer and OR37 SST Pro Mag Board. Anglers can also fish this system in

place of traditional diving planers by running this rig as a flat line off the corners of the boat. Because this rig dives so quickly, other planer board lines can easily be used without fear of tangling with this flat line.

While clearly the 50+3T Data is aimed at anglers who are trying to target deeper fish, by shortening up the lead lengths, this system can also be used to target fish at normal depths. The staff at Precision Trolling Data expects this new trolling data to become immediately popular with walleye anglers in the Central and Eastern Basins of Lake Erie where walleye are often targeted 50 feet down or more. Anglers who fish the western reservoirs and deep water lakes such as Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake will also immediately see the benefits of getting crankbaits deep without having to use lead core line.

Precision Trolling also expects this data will quickly become adopted by trout and salmon anglers who routinely target fish found in the top 60 feet of the water column. Don’t forget striper anglers and the list goes on and on. There is simply no end to the opportunities this new 50+3T Data brings to the trolling scene. A new era in trolling is beginning and the 50+3T Data is going to make it easier than ever before to target fish in deep water.



# LOSS PROOFING THE OR12

BY CAPTAIN ERIC HIRZEL

One of the many advantages of the Off Shore Tackle in-line planer board system, is having the ability to rig them to release. When fishing a multiple board setup, rigging so the line releases from the bracket allows a board and hooked fish to swing to the middle of the spread. The beauty of this set up is the fish can be landed without moving other boards out of the way.

Fishing 411’s Mark and Jake Romanack have written and demonstrated how this is done using the OR12 planer boards by using the “loop trick” to attach the line into the OR19 (orange) line release mounted on the bracket. The line is then attached to an OR16 Pro Clip (red) on the tail of the board. This allows the line to come free of the OR19 release with a sharp snap of the rod letting the fish and board swing in behind the boat so fish and board can be retrieved in the middle of the spread. Most of the time this system is foolproof and extremely effective, especially for big water trolling. However, there are times when a slight modification to this setup will save aggravation, productivity, loss of gear, and ultimately put more fish in the boat.

### FREE RANGING BOARDS

I am a fulltime guide on Lake Erie and when I troll for walleye in early spring and fall, I typically run up to twelve OR12 boards (6 per side) pulling deep diving crankbaits like the Bill Lewis Precise Walleye Cranks, often with in-line Off Shore Tackle OR20 Pro Weights. Tournament and derby anglers run the same setup as do most “mom and pop” anglers as a matter of routine. Most of the time the lake conditions make this presentation highly effective, but there are times when



Sooner or later a planer board is going to pop off the line and float off. This could happen because someone didn’t put the board on the line properly or the line could break. By simply putting your name and telephone number on the board, there is a chance another honest angler will find the board and notify you.

rough seas can throw a monkey wrench into the program.

A board occasionally will come completely free from the main line leaving it free floating behind while you slowly troll away from it. More times than not the cause for a board to separate from the line is self inflicted from not getting the line placed behind the OR16’s pin properly, said pin getting worn to the point where it won’t hold the main line or after heavy use the pin wears off.

When this happens, the board can be retrieved by executing a U-turn with the full spread out, locating the board visually, then navigate to it if calm seas and boat traffic allow. If the lake is too rough to troll back into the wind or there is heavy boat traffic, the entire spread must be pulled in quickly and navigate back to the floating board to retrieve it. Even though the boards are bright yellow, it is amazingly difficult to locate a free-floating board in rough water which often

results in loss of the board. At best, the board is found but the time spent finding it is unproductive and aggravating.

### ENTER OR18 SNAPPER RELEASE

Off Shore Tackle has the OR18 Snapper Release with a cam operated over-the-center positive locking mechanism to firmly hold the line behind a pin. I mounted it to the bracket on OR12 and OR37 SST Pro Mag (the OR18 comes standard on the bracket of this model) boards along with an OR16 off the tail or on a Tattle Flag® wire on the back of my OR12. I’ve run boards rigged that way and never had the Snapper Release fail in any condition. For an extra amount of safety, I have found that the solution was to replace the OR16 clip on the tail of the boards with an OR18 and deploy the board the same way. Now I am confident the boards will stay attached to my main line in the roughest conditions with

the biggest fish hooked up!

### LOSS PREVENTION

Even though I have 100% confidence that a properly deployed OR12 board will do its job every time, I still get the occasional “free ranger” on trips. Customers like to get involved setting lines and they sometimes fail to get line in the tail release/clip properly which results in boards coming loose. For this reason, I recommend saving a waypoint the second it comes loose to help you navigate downwind or down current to help locate it. Also put your name and number on every board so a finder has the option of returning it.

**Editor’s Note:** Captain Eric Hirzel of Erie Gold Sportfishing has been chasing walleye on Lake Erie for most of his life. His “hands on” charter fishing style has his customers coming back year after year to enjoy the bounty of Lake Erie.

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The

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

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

## 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](http://www.offshoretackle.com)!

[www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)



# DOWNRIGGER RELEASES, ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL

BY MARK ROMANACK

Those anglers who fish using downriggers quickly discover what works and what doesn't regarding line releases. If a downrigger line release has too much tension, it becomes difficult or impossible to trip the release when switching out lures. If the downrigger line release is too light, false releases and missed fish will plague the day.

The key to having a successful day using downriggers is to select a downrigger line release that's ideal for the job. Off Shore Tackle produces a host of downrigger line releases designed to cover everything from spring coho and wall-eye, up to trophy salmon, striper and saltwater species.

## OR4 LIGHT TENSION DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR4 Light Tension Downrigger Release has been a staple in the Off Shore Tackle line up for decades. Designed for targeting smaller fish such as spring coho, brown trout and walleye, the OR4 features an oversized jaw that holds the line firmly while trolling, but the line can be tripped easily with a short snap of the rod tip.

## OR1 MEDIUM TENSION DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

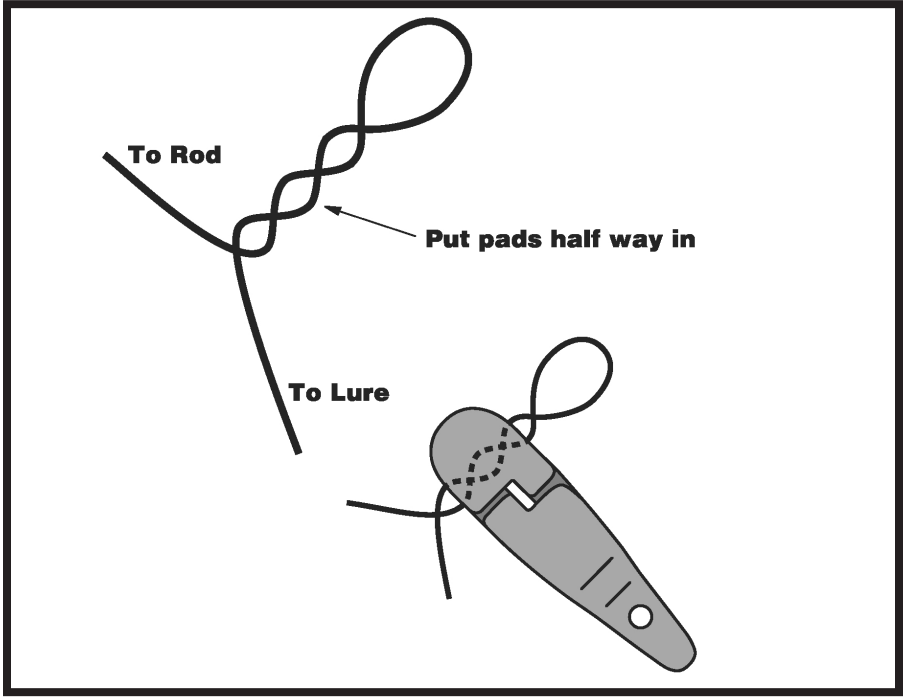
The OR1 was the first product produced by Off Shore Tackle and continues to be one of the best selling products today. The work horse of downrigger fishing, the OR1 has just the right amount of tension for trolling spoons, plugs and spinners when targeting steelhead, lake trout, striper and salmon.

## OR8 HEAVY TENSION DOWNRIGGER RELEASE

The OR8 is the heaviest tension downrigger release in the Off Shore Tackle line up. Designed for faster trolling speeds and pulling heavy gear like rotators, dodgers, cowbells or saltwater lures, the OR8 won't let you down.

## OR7 DOWNRIGGER STACKER RELEASE

The OR7 is a light tension stacker release designed to allow two fishing lines to be fished using just one downrigger. This stacker release features two OR3 Light Tension Releases connected using a short and slightly longer length of steel cable. The release on the short cable is attached to the downrigger cable and the release on the longer cable is used to add a second line to your downrigger set up. A coast lock snap is also placed over the



downrigger cable to prevent losing the stacker release when a fish is hooked.

## OR2 MEDIUM TENSION STACKER RELEASE

The OR2 Medium Stacker Release features two OR1 Medium Tension Releases connected with a short and slightly longer length of coated steel cable. Designed to allow two fishing lines to be fished with just one downrigger, the OR2 has just the right amount of tension for targeting lake trout, steelhead and salmon at normal trolling speeds.

## OR6 STACKER STRIPPER/WEIGHT RETRIEVER

The OR6 is a great addition when stacking two lures on a downrigger.

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

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

## DOWNRIGGER RELEASE TRICKS

In most cases getting the best results from a downrigger release requires placing the line near the back of the rubber pads. This simple step increases the amount of tension required to trip the release,

working to ensure a solid hook set is achieved before the line pops free from the release.

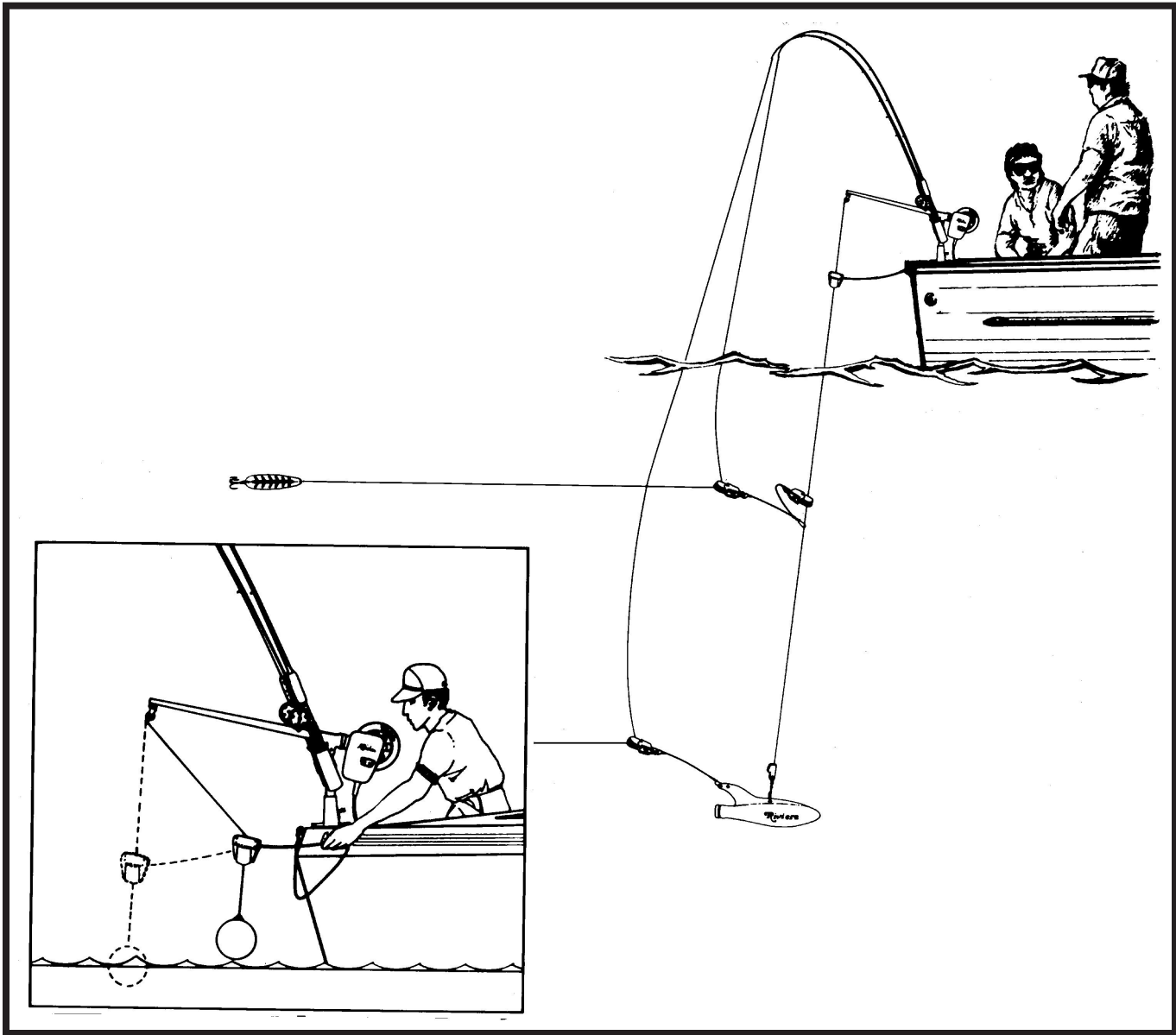
Another commonly employed option for using downrigger line releases, especially with the heavy tension OR8, is known as the "loop trick". Before placing the line into the downrigger jaws, wrap the line around an index finger and twist to create a small loop of line. Place the twisted line between the downrigger jaws while allowing the loop of line to protrude beyond the release jaws.

This rigging option increases the purchase at the release jaws, eliminating false releases while at the same time making it easier to trip the line from the release when switching out lures or when a small fish has been hooked.

The "loop trick" works flawlessly and is especially handy when fishing at maximum depths.

## SUMMING IT UP

The key to enjoying success when trolling with downriggers is choosing the right line release for the job. Unfortunately, one size doesn't fit all, but thankfully Off Shore Tackle produces the widest assortment of downrigger line releases on the market. No matter what species is being targeted or what trolling speeds are employed, Off Shore Tackle has a downrigger line release for the job.





# FISHING NETWORKS

BY CAPTAIN ERIC HIRZEL,  
ERIE GOLD SPORTFISHING

When I hear the words “Fishing Networks” my first thought is television or streaming platforms such as World Fishing Network and Sportsman Channel just to name a couple. Each of these “networks” broadcast fishing related programming that is both entertaining and educational. Most of them teach us how to find success through techniques, locations, and timing of the best bites.

For tech minded anglers, the mention of “network” conjures thoughts of their boat electronics all linked together to expand the versatility and effectiveness of each individual function. In the same token, human idea sharing is commonly referred to as “networking”. It is quite common and valuable in the business world. When you think about it, wisdom, experience, skill, and intuition are tapped into prior to decision making in nearly everything we do. Politics, religion, education, vacations, buying, selling, and the list goes on. Our “people” create a network that we trust and rely on for our day to day lives.

### THE ORIGINAL FISHING NETWORK

The same idea sharing applies with fishing. These highly effective and common “fishing networks” have been around since fishing was invented. Without a doubt, sharing information has resulted in more fish caught throughout history than all the innovative technology developments combined yet we rarely ponder it. Simple word-of-mouth idea sharing is timeless and so incredibly effective in improving the odds of a successful fishing trip.

Recently I had a bit of a revelation about how important all the people I know and talk to in the sport fishing industry are. I realized that my “fishing network” is as critical to me as my boat or a fish hook. I am a full-time charter captain on Lake Erie and not a day goes by that I am not tapping into my group to share information. There are a few elements many of us take for granted that are key to a productive fishing network.

### TRUST

An effective fishing network relies on a couple key elements but the most important is trust. I am fortunate to have a talented group of friends who are fellow captains or anglers who I trust 100%. I trust their abilities, skill, experience, judgement and honesty. Just as importantly, I’m confident they all think the same of me.



Captain Eric Hirzel uses a host of Off Shore Tackle products in his day to day fishing charters. In Eric’s words establishing a “fishing network” of trusted individuals is the best way to stay on consistently good fishing. The sharing of information with others is how good anglers make catching fish look easy.

### TWO WAY COMMUNICATION

It is easy to get a solid heads up from someone and have a great day of fishing off their shared information. But we all have those days when we struggle for a variety of reasons. Often a call on the VHF radio or phone from a fellow charter captain saves the day for me and my customers. It is critical that your “people” must know they can trust you to do the same for them.

### DON’T FORGET THE BAD STUFF

Obviously, the quickest path from struggling to catching fish is getting in the right place and putting out the right presentation. This often comes because someone from your fishing network shared that info with you. But regardless of where you fish, information about dreadful things like weather, water clarity, negative fish, etc. is essential information. Knowing where not to go saves time, fuel, and unproductive effort. The same applies to wrong speed, lure selection, or direction of trolling.

Bad weather or big wave conditions can certainly fall into the “bad” category. Letting your fellow anglers know what the current conditions are can help them decide if it is a good decision to head out or not. Crews can vary in age, physical condition, or experience so the making the call “to go” or “not to go” is not a one size fits all decision. In many situations, knowing the bad stuff is as valuable as info

on a hot bite.

### IT’S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT FISH

There are lots of variables in the fishing game that are collectively critical in finding and catching fish. There are also important things outside of the actual fishing that I rely on my network for. We often get into a pinch where we need information on parts, technical information, weather, business hours for fuel docks or bait shops, and tackle recommendations. A good fishing network to tap into that sort of experience can make finding answers to those needs simple.

### FINDING FISH

As a charter captain I strive to make sure every group has a fun, productive, comfortable, and safe experience. It is simple on Lake Erie to stay on the fish if you are out every day. However, weather or schedules can sometimes put gaps in the days we get out, so it is very typical for all of us captains to work together to help decide where to head after a gap in fishing days. There are a few different ways we can help each other to find success.

### SHORT TERM SEARCH

Obviously, giving my customers the best chance to catch quality fish is to get on top of a concentrated and active school in the right water conditions. When you fish big water for walleye like I do, those locations can change from day to day. Even a one day gap in the schedule

can change the best locations to fish, especially if tough weather is in play. A great network of fellow captains and anglers helps to narrow down the search for active fish. It can be as simple as “how did it go yesterday?” if there are skippers who ran the day before.

More common with weather related gaps, the early morning phone calls, or chats with fellow captains in the marina can create a plan to cover different pieces of water to find a good bite. Several boats searching for different water and getting bites is communicated by VHF radio or cell phone to others in the group. This mutual effort can get the group onto a bite in a short amount of time.

### LONG TERM INTEL

Knowing specific locations that produce year after year comes with experience. Lake Erie walleye can be predictable year in and year out because of their annual migration and spawning cycles. Many captains keep dated logbooks for weather conditions, bite information, catch rates, techniques, and presentations to help future decisions. Decades of collecting this information show how dependable those patterns are in all kinds of conditions. Old salts who have fished full seasons for decades have tons of that kind of information, so it is wise to listen to any advice they have to offer.

CONTINUED ON  
PAGE 7



# FISHING NETWORKS

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

### WE ARE ON FISH

When things come together and good water and fish are located, getting them to bite can be a challenge. In a trolling situation there are many variables that need to get tweaked daily to consistently put fish into the boat. Finding the right combination of speed and direction in concert with effective lure style, running depth and color, can take valuable time to figure out. Every-

body in the fishing network wins when captains share the combination working for them over the VHF radio or cell phone. Again, experience tells us what programs have worked in the past for the time of year, water temperature, water clarity, and weather conditions. The shared network info helps everyone tweak their program and produce bites.

### BIG OR SMALL

We all have our own fishing networks that are helpful to everyone in them. Some folks have a small circle of friends they share information and that is fine. In contrast, there are anglers that are blessed with a huge group of friends and colleagues that span across a large geographic area that help them find success no matter where they fish. Big or small, every effective

network shares those elements of trust, reciprocation, wisdom, and friendship. I am fortunate to have a great fishing network to share information with no matter where I go fishing.

**Editor’s Note:** Captain Eric Hirzel operates Erie Gold Sportfishing out of Port Clinton, Ohio. Besides being a long time user of Off Shore Tackle products, Captain Eric is part of the trusted Fishing 411 TV network of anglers who have helped our crew get on fish countless times over the years. The results of these relationships are critically important to shooting interesting and informative television episodes. In turn, when these TV episodes broadcast, they help countless other walleye anglers to become more successful on Lake Erie. Captain Eric’s article Fishing Networks captures the very essence of what it takes to be consistently successful as an angler, regardless of the location or the target species.

OR20

PRO WEIGHT SYSTEM

IN LINE WEIGHT RIGGING INSTRUCTIONS

LINE TO LURE

LINE TO ROD

SNAP SWIVELS  
(not included)

We've Gone GREEN!

99.99% Lead Free!

OFF SHORE TACKLE

LLC

THE IN LINE METHOD

Attach the Guppy Weight as shown on the left.

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

www.offshoretackle.com

# CRAPPIE FISHING WITH OFF SHORE TACKLE

When most anglers think of crappie fishing, they think of slip bobber rigs, minnows and tiny jigs. Truth be told, a lot of crappie anglers troll to fill their livewell with these tasty panfish. Both white and black crappie can be readily caught using select trolling tactics and gear. While this practice is clearly more popular in the southern states, trolling tactics work on crappie everywhere they are found.

### JIG TROLLING

Long lining jigs tipped with soft plastic bodies are wildly popular in many areas. Normally this practice is conducted in fairly shallow water that smaller 1/32 and 1/16 ounce jigs are the most commonly used baits. These jigs are tipped with twister tail grubs, paddle tail grubs or small split tail minnow grubs. When crappie are found in a little deeper water, long lining can be conducted using 1/8, 3/16 and 1/4 ounce jigs. The Precision Trolling Data phone app provides the running depths of all popular crappie jigs, making it easy to get baits

presented accurately to suspended fish.

**CRANKBAIT TROLLING**

Crappie may be classified as a panfish, but they are voracious feeders who spend a lot of time hunting down minnows. A wealth of crankbaits do an excellent job of imitating the many minnow species crappie routinely feed on. Some of the most popular crankbaits among crappie enthusiasts are the modest 4, 5, 6 and 7 sizes of shad baits including the Berkley Flicker Shad, Rapala Shad Rap, Arkie 220 series baits, Jenko Crappie Crank, Reef Runner Rip Shad 200 and the Johnson Crappie Buster Shad.

### CRANKBAITS AND BOARDS

These baits are effective when trolled as flat lines or they can be combined with the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer or the OR38 Mini Board. Using in-line boards spreads out lures, making it possible to fish more lines and to cover more water. Because crappie often run

small, outfitting the OR12 with an aftermarket OR12TFEK Tattle Flag® Kit is the way to go. This is an economical way of converting the OR12 Side Planer to include a spring-operated Tattle Flag® using the existing releases and flag from the OR12, the necessary linkage arm, spring and hardware from the kit. It takes about five minutes to install and anyone with a screwdriver can make this conversion. When trolling with a Tattle Flag® equipped board, should a small fish get hooked, the flag will fold down tipping off the angler to reel in and check that line, Tattle Flags® are so sensitive even if a lure snags on a piece of floating weed or other debris in the water, the flag will telegraph the issue.

**TADPOLE DIVERS**

It’s very common to find crappie in water that is deeper than common crankbaits will dive. In this situation, using an Off Shore Tackle OR36 Series Tadpole Resettable Diving Weight in combination with a crankbait is a great way to get lures to deeper depths. The

OR36 No. 1 and No. 2 Tadpole sizes are ideal for crappie trolling applications. In addition to marrying up a Tadpole with small crankbaits, these divers can also be used to present jigs, spinners and live bait rigs to depth. Many crappie anglers use Tadpole Divers to supplement their planers board spread, to add in a couple extra lines and to fish the deeper depths. By using longer rods and fishing the Tadpole Diver off the corners of the boat, a lot of bonus fish can be caught. Because the Tadpole is a deep diver, in-line board lines can be reeled in right over top of this flat line without issue.

**SUMMING IT UP**

Crappie are among the most popular sport species in North America. Not only are they found in most states, the daily limits are also generous and these fish rival walleye, perch and bluegill for table fare. Give crappie trolling a try and you’ll be amazed how willing these fish are to strike a wide variety of lures and baits.



# NIGHT FISHING WITH PLANER BOARDS

Night fishing with planer boards has never been more popular. Thanks to the fall Lake Erie derbies including the Fall Brawl and the Fall Slam, a growing number of anglers are targeting walleye at night. It’s no secret that the big fish feed at night. Planer boards like the popular OR12 Side Planer can be rigged for fishing at night with some simple modifications.

### BOARD LIGHTS

Some anglers prefer to mount lights to their planer boards including small cyalume sticks or chem-lights to make the boards more visible in the dark. Smaller models can be taped or zip tied to the board flag, while larger models are best used by taping them to the top of the board. Cyalume sticks show up great and are produced in both green and red colors, helping to communicate left and right to other anglers.

The down side to cyalume sticks is they only last long enough for about one night of fishing. The best advice is to buy these lights in bulk and keep a good supply on board.

There are also a number of after-market options available for LED lights which most have a mount that is able to be fastened to the board via screws or heavy duty, double sided tape.

### USING REFLECTOR TAPE

Another viable option for night



Captain Noah Humfeld guides multi species both inland and Great Lakes while utilizing Off Shore boards in both daytime and night time applications.

trolling with boards is to attach reflector tape to the board flag and top of the planer board. Widely available at a host of big box stores, reflector tape can be easily cut to fit planer boards.

Clean your planer boards using denatured alcohol before applying reflector tape. This step will ensure the tape sticks and stays stuck for

years to come.

When fishing, wear a head lamp. A typical head lamp is bright enough to easily see your planer boards 100 feet away or further.

### USE THE BAIT CLICKER

Another trick for monitoring boards when night fishing is to set the bait clicker on your trolling

reels after the board is set and the rod is placed in the rod holder. Back off on the reel drag until it starts to slip, then tighten the drag just enough to keep the board from pulling out line. When a fish is hooked, the extra drag will pull out line and the bait clicker will sound off making it easy to tell which rod has hooked a fish.

### EXTRA BATTERIES

When night fishing, it’s important to keep a supply of replacement batteries handy. Most head lamps use AAA size batteries, but a few models require AA size batteries. Don’t let a dead battery put a premature end to your fishing fun.

### BOAT LIGHTS

When night fishing, it helps to mount some lights in the boat for rigging and for landing hooked fish. The Cisco Fishing Systems CFS Sure-Lok LED Boat Light is a track mounted accessory light that can be placed anywhere track can be mounted on a boat. This light packs 1350 Lumens and does a great job of lighting up the night.

### SUMMING IT UP

Trolling after dark is wildly popular with walleye anglers. Trout and salmon trollers will also find that fishing early and late in the day is the best way to ensure fishing success. No matter what species you’re after, planer boards can be easily modified for night fishing applications.



Off Shore Tackle planer boards are commonly used at night to target trophy walleye, salmon and more. Anglers use a number of creative ways to keep track of their boards in low light conditions.



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, BRUCE DESHANO

It was about 42 years ago while lake trout fishing in Port Austin, Michigan, I started making down-rigger releases using Muler electrical clips. At that time, we were fishing trout and salmon tournaments and this release let us know we had a hit before the line was released thus giving us a heads-up and allowing us to catch more fish. I never anticipated making this a life-changing business at the time since I was doing well as a mechanic for Detroit Edison. The simple electrical clip evolved into injection molding of the release and expanding into several other models based on this clip. Moving forward a few years we built the mini release to offer to companies already making in-line boards. After showing no interest in the mini release, we began a 2 year project to build our own in-line planer board. In the early 90's The In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail was just starting and besides competing in the tournaments, we started supplying the anglers with product. With the help of Gary Parsons, Keith Kavajecz, Mark Romanack and premier tool maker Mike Zelkowski, we fine tuned the Off Shore OR12 Side Planer into the quality board we are known for. Along the way, we made numerous other products which form the company it is today.

After all these years and a lot of help from many people we have a company that I am very proud of. Now is the time to turn it over to my son Nick. I have utmost confidence that it will be in good hands. He has been involved in the company since it started and understands the entire process. It's time for me to retire and enjoy life with more traveling and more time in Cancun.

I want to thank all of you for your support for the past 42 years. It has meant a lot to me. The "Chairman of the Boards" is signing off!



Bruce is looking forward to having more time to travel now that he has handed the reins over to his son Nick.



Nick looks forward to a bright future for Off Shore Tackle LLC with the support of our extensive Pro Staff and input from the general public in keeping our product line evolving and expanding.



# FROM THE DESK OF NICK DESHANO

As we welcome the changing seasons and prepare for another exciting year on the water, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey and share some updates that highlight the incredible work being done at Off Shore Tackle LLC.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to each of you; our loyal customers, dedicated team members, and passionate anglers. Your commitment to the sport and support for our products is what drives us to innovate and improve. Together, we've built a community that values not only the thrill of fishing but also the shared experiences that come with it.

Many of the smaller and family owned companies are being targeted by large corporations and shipping their products and the American jobs they create overseas. We at Off Shore Tackle LLC remain committed to producing the highest quality products possible right here in the USA! That cannot be possible without the help of the American worker. I'd like to thank all the American workers that help make our products from our suppliers to our own amazing in house assembly team that takes great pride in what they do.

We are committed to continuous improvement, and your input plays a crucial role in guiding our innovations. There are many ways to reach out to us, whether it's directly through email ([offshoretacklehelp@gmail.com](mailto:offshoretacklehelp@gmail.com)) or through conversations with our accomplished Pro Staff, which includes some of the best multi species anglers in the world. We are there to answer any questions you have to put more fish in your boat and get the most out of our products. Our Pro anglers work tirelessly giving seminars, writing articles, and producing television and social media content. As we gear up for each fishing season, I encourage you to share your stories, tips, and experiences with us. Whether it's a trophy catch or a quiet day on the lake, your stories are the heartbeat of Off Shore Tackle LLC, and we love hearing from you.

I would like to finish by acknowledging the contribution of a longtime supporter, friend and Canadian Pro Staff director, Greg Horoky. Greg is on the cover of this edition of the Off Shore Release and has always been one of our strongest advocates. We'd like to thank Greg for all the years of dedicated support and look forward to many years to come. After many years Greg has decided to hand over the reins of the Canadian Pro Staff to Paul Powis, who will do an excellent job.

The future of Off Shore Tackle LLC is bright, and as the late, great Tommy Skarlis would say, "Trust in the One with the Sun"!





OFF SHORE TACKLE

Your Leader In

Our products can be used with any monofilament

Planer Boards

Model # OR38 Awesome Crappie Mini Board



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

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



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

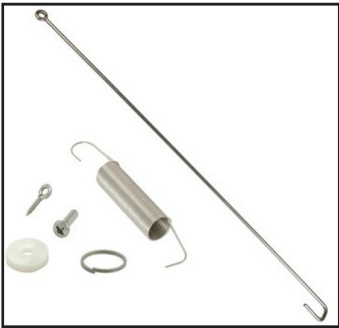
Model # OR37L SST Pro Mag Planer Left  
Model # OR37R SST Pro Mag Planer Right



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

Tattle Flag® HD Upgrade Kit

Model# OR12TFEK  
Tattle Flag® HD Economy Kit

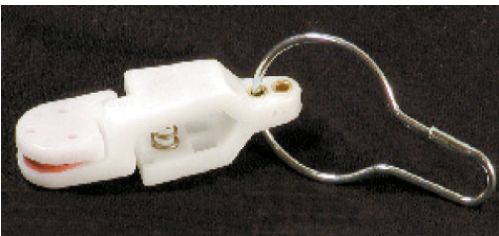


This kit works by using your OR12 Side Planer with the flag and release/clip that came on your OR12. This kit just contains ONLY the hardware which consists of a HD wire, spring, washer, screw eye, split ring, 6/32 screw and limited instructions.

Planer Board Releases

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

Model # OR3  
Light Tension Planer Board Release - White



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR17BWW  
Medium Tension Planer Board Release - Black



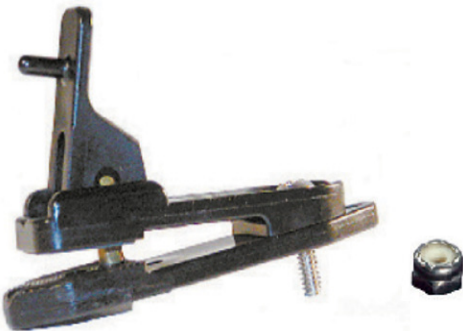
This release is ideal for deep water good size fish. It can also be used to pull lead core, snap weights and deep diving crankbaits.

Model # OR30BWW  
Heavy Tension Planer Board Release – Red



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

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



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

Model # OR39  
Sam's Pro Release-Black



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

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

Model # OR10  
Adjustable Light Tension  
Planer Board Release—Yellow



This release is ideal for small light biting fish.

Model # OR14  
Adjustable Medium Tension  
Planer Board Release—Black



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

Model # OR19  
Adjustable Heavy Tension  
Planer Board Release—Orange



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

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



# PRODUCT SHOWCASE

## Trolling Technology

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



### Pro Weights



Model # OR20  
Pro Weight System



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

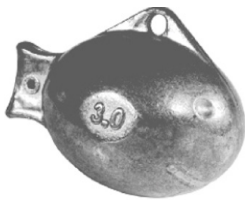
*The OR16's and guppy weights are available to purchase separately so you can create your own custom Pro Weight System!*

Model # OR16  
Pro Clip—Red



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

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



#### Replacement Pro Guppy Weights

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

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

Model # OR20 1  
1 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

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

Model # OR20 2  
2 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

Model # OR20 3  
3 Ounce Pro Guppy Weight

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

PLEASE VISIT US AT ...

**www.offshoretackle.com**

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

### Resettable Diving Weights



Model # OR36 1  
Tadpole Size 1

Model # OR36 2  
Tadpole Size 2

Model # OR36 3  
Tadpole Size 3

Model # OR36 MAGNUM  
Tadpole MAGNUM Size

### Downrigger Releases

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

Model # OR4  
Light Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, White



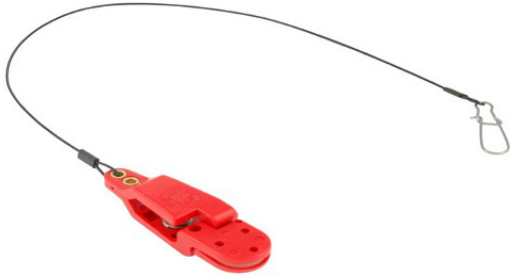
This release is ideal for light biting fish.

Model # OR1  
Medium Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, Black



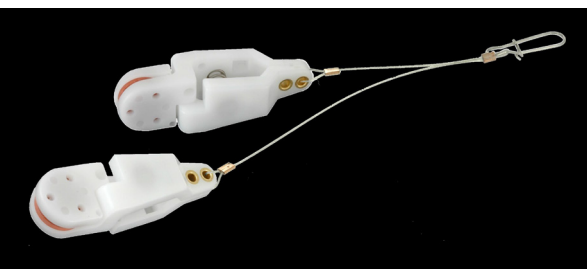
This release is ideal for deep water and/or good size fish.

Model # OR8  
Heavy Tension Single  
Downrigger Release, Red



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

Model # OR7  
Light Tension Stacker  
Downrigger Release, White



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

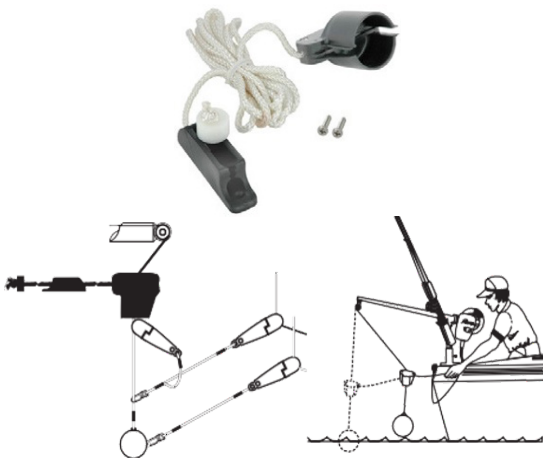
Model # OR2  
Medium Tension Stacker  
Downrigger Release, Black



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

### Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever

Model # OR6  
Stacker Stripper/Weight Retriever



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

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

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

### Replacement Pads



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



Model # ORRP8SN  
Replacement pads for OR18 releases.



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



Model # ORRP16HL  
Replacement pads for OR16 clips.

### EZ Crankbait Tuner

Model # OR40  
EZ Crankbait Tuner



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



# STORING IN-LINE PLANER BOARDS

BY MARK ROMANACK

Truth be told, there are probably as many ways to store in-line planer boards in and out of a fishing boat as there are people who use in-line boards. Over the years I’ve seen a lot of creative and useful storage tricks that help keep your boards not only within arm’s reach, but in perfect working order.

Proper storage options help to ensure in-line boards will last for years and years. In the case of Off Shore Tackle boards, you can expect these products to last for decades and decades!

## STORING LINE RELEASES AND CLIPS

The rubber pads in line releases should not be stored while touching one another. Over time the rubber pads will fuse together and become ruined. The simple solution to this problem is to cut some small squares of paper and place the paper between the rubber jaws. A business card cut up into many little pieces works well for this chore.

This simple fix prevents the rubber pads from touching but doesn’t overly stress the release spring.

## BOAT BOARD STORAGE OPTIONS

Thankfully a host of manufacturers have designed storage options for keeping in-line boards handy and ready for action. Just a few of the brands that excel in this category include Fishing Addiction Gear, RyTek Marine, Traxstech, Big Papa Sportfishing and Amish Outfitters all produce excellent products that help conveniently store planer boards in a fishing boat.

## AFTER SEASON STORAGE

After the fishing season is over and boats get stored for the winter, planer boards will once again need to find a new winter home. Unfortunately, the manufacturing world hasn’t really addressed this issue. Boards end up piled up in crates, buckets and all measures of containers. The problem with this option is the flags on the boards tend to get damaged and



There are a number of methods for storing in-line planer boards between uses. This cradle system produced by RyTek Marine is one option that works flawlessly for the OR12 Side Planer.

the spring systems also take a beating when not properly stored.

Anyone who is handy with a table saw can make a pretty simple off season planer board storage rack from a length of 2 x 4 lumber. Simply cut a groove down the edge grain of the board deep enough to enable the nose of the board to rest upright in the groove. This board can in turn be mounted to any flat surface in the garage, work shop or basement.

Simple, yet effective, this storage option keeps the boards upright, allows the flags to extend and the spring systems to remain in the compressed position. To further ensure the springs on flag systems keep their tension, set the flags to the lowest spring tension setting for storage.

## OFF SEASON MAINTENANCE

The time to do maintenance on your boards is during the off season. This is the perfect time to replace flags that have gotten bent

or faded from hours in the sun. The same is true of flag springs that have taken a beating and need replacement.

Line releases that are showing signs of wear should also be addressed. If the rubber pads are getting worn, they can be easily replaced by **carefully** popping the old pads out with a razor blade or knife and replacing them with new pads. A single drop of Super Glue will ensure the new pads stay in place. The operative word here is “single” drop of glue. If too much glue is applied, it will squeeze out and make a mess of your releases.

The foam on the back of Off Shore boards may also need to be replaced eventually. Off Shore Tackle sells replacement foam pre-cut to simply drop right in. You can also find these foam replacements at select outdoor sportsman shows where Off Shore Tackle has a display and Pro Staff to help with this chore.

If your OST boards are old

enough, they have lead ballast weights. They can be replaced with the zinc molded weights. Brackets can also be replaced if necessary.

Essentially every part of an Off Shore Tackle planer board can be sourced and replaced as needed, ensuring the investment in Off Shore Tackle lives on for years and years to come.

## SUMMING IT UP

Off Shore Tackle products are designed and manufactured in the USA to provide customers years of trouble free service. Should your boards eventually need some maintenance or replacement parts, Off Shore Tackle has your back. Parts can be purchased from many dealers or sourced directly from [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com). In short, you won’t find better designed products or products that last longer. While OST products may cost a little more, they more than make up for this in longevity and customer service.

# THE OFF SHORE TACKLE MISSION STATEMENT



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





# SST PRO MAG PLANERS FOR BIG WATER SUMMER TROLLING

BY CAPTAIN DAVE BOON,  
COPPER BLUES FISHING

Mid-summer big water trolling on the open waters of lower Lake Huron demands that you cover much of the water column in this multi species fishery.

To accomplish this, I use Off Shore Tackle’s OR37 SST Pro Mag in-line planer boards, towing a variety of weighted lines including lead core, weighted steel and copper. I set up my Off Shore boards using the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release on the bracket and because I use monofilament backing, I use the OR16 Pro Clip on the tail of the board. If you are an angler that uses braided super lines as your backing, then it would be best to replace the OR16 Pro Clip with the OR18 Snapper Release to securely hold your braided line in place.

The beauty of running the OR39 on the bracket of the boards is the fact that you can adjust the amount of tension that it takes to “trip” the release. The set-screw on the release allows you to dial in just the right amount of tension for whatever fishing application or sea condition you are faced with. You can also factor in whether you want the release on the bracket to release at all. Some anglers prefer it doesn’t when they’re fighting fish. For me, I like to have the option to trip the release on the bracket at the time in the fight where I feel it’s most appropriate. To that end, I tighten the set screw first for the wave conditions so as not to get unwanted tripping and second so that a good snap of the rod tip will trip the board when I want it to.

When setting the boards in place it is imperative to make sure that your backing line is securely behind the pin on your OR16 Pro Clip on the tail of the board. This will ensure that the board will stay firmly attached to your line. Once the boards have been deployed, I use the rod holders along the vertical stanchions of my rocket launcher arch, which gives me ample spacing between rods.

In normal conditions, I like to fly the board flags high and proud, but in rough, wavy conditions, I will lower the flags. It can easily happen that in wavy conditions where one board line could snag onto the flag of the board next to it. I’m happy to compromise a little visibility to lessen the chance of one board line tangling with another.



Captain Dave Boon uses the OR37 SST Pro Mag for much of his big water charter fishing. On any given day Captain Dave is tasked with catching walleye, lake trout, coho, brown trout and Atlantic salmon. He finds that the SST Pro Mag is ideal for the multi-species angler.

My typical summer spread might include three OR37 boards on one side towing 200, 300, 400 feet of weighted steel line, accomplishing depths of 40, 50, 60 feet respectively. On the other side, another three OR37 boards

towing 6, 8, 10 colors of lead core accomplishing depths of 30, 40, 50 feet respectively.

The depths I suggest will vary, depending on speed etc., but generally allows me to cover the top 60 feet of the water column. I

typically catch walleye in the top 40 - 50 feet of the water column. I like to run the deepest line closest to the boat and the shallowest the furthest away. This allows me to fight a hooked fish without having to clear or move any of my board lines.

An advantage of the OST boards for walleye is that even if the walleye hasn’t pulled drag from the reel, the board will easily fall back out of sync with the others, alerting me that there is a fish on.

The rainbows and salmon typically hit on the boards that are covering the 50 - 60 feet range, and they of course, will rock the Pro Mag boards backward with great force, screaming drag from the reel and ensuring that no one on board is dozing off!

In conclusion, the Off Shore Tackle OR37 SST Pro Mag boards give me the opportunity to present baits in stealth mode out away from the foot print of the boat and allow me to work much of the water column in this multi species fishery. Purpose Built, Performance Proven, Results Rendered!

**Editor’s Note:** Captain Dave Boon is a new face on the Off Shore Tackle Pro Staff. Based out of Ontario, Canada, Dave spends most of his time charter fishing Lake Huron for a wealth of species.

## OFTEN IMITATED NEVER DUPLICATED!

**THE BEST PLANER BOARDS ON THE WATER!**

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**OR37**

**OR12**

OR12 shown with the Tattle Flag® kit attached (sold separately)

**DOWNRIGGER RELEASES**

**OR1**

**OR2**

**OR8**

**TADPOLE RESETTABLE DIVING WEIGHTS**

**OR36**

MADE IN THE USA

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# SNAP WEIGHTS FROM THE BEGINNING

BY MARK ROMANACK

It’s safe to say that Off Shore Snap Weights (the combination of an OR20 series weight attached via a split ring to an OR16 clip) were a game changer when they were first introduced in the early 1990’s. At the time, the only other in-line weights on the market were designed to be attached near the lure. Snap Weights were the first in-line trolling weights designed to be mounted anywhere on the fishing line!

The early Snap Weights were sold as a kit (OR20) that featured an assortment of 1/2, 3/4, 1, 1.5, 2 and 3 ounce lead sinkers along with four OR16 clips and split rings. Not long after Snap Weights were introduced, Off Shore Tackle upgraded to molded zinc Guppy Weights, an environmentally friendly metal which also allows for a more consistent weight.

The ability to let your lure out 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 feet or more before attaching the Snap Weight created the first “stealth trolling” scenario. Separating the weight from the bait works wonders in triggering strikes, especially when fishing in clear waters or when targeting spooky fish species.

Snap Weights attach to the line thanks to another unique invention, the OR16 Pro Clip. At first glance the OR16 (red) appears to be an ordinary planer board line clip, but upon closer inspection, when the jaws are opened there is a small plastic pin located in the middle of the rubber jaw pads. When the OR16 is pinched open and the fishing line placed behind this pin, the Snap Weight is firmly attached to the line.



Pro Staffer, Captain Rob Barnes uses Snap Weights often in his guiding and personal fishing with his son, Everett, to target walleye and other species.

Snap Weights were designed at a time before super lines hit the market. The rubber pads in the OR16 work flawlessly with monofilament, fluorocarbon and copolymer lines. If super braids or fused lines are used with Snap Weights, it’s recommended to place the line behind the pin that protrudes through the center of the pads and then wrap the line one loop around the jaw. This simple step prevents the slippery super line from sliding and damaging the rubber pads and/or

center pin of the OR16.

### THE 50/50 METHOD

Because no one had used Snap Weights, it became necessary to provide anglers some user suggestions. The 50/50 METHOD was created by Precision Trolling Data as a means of helping anglers understand how deep Snap Weights would run when the various weight sizes were used, and common trolling speeds employed.

A chart was created that ap-

peared in the early Precision Trolling Data books. This simple to use system consisted of letting your lure out 50 feet, attaching the Snap Weight of the desired size on the line and then letting out an additional 50 feet of line. At this point the rig could be fished as a flat line or attached to a planer board and sent out to the side of the boat.

The 50/50 Method became so popular countless anglers to-day still rig and fish their Snap Weights using this simple, but effective trolling setup.

### MODERN SNAP WEIGHT DATA

As the use of Snap Weights evolved and more and more anglers began using them, it became obvious that a more versatile method of using Snap Weights for controlled depth fishing was needed. Again, Precision Trolling Data stepped up and created a whole new level of Snap Weight trolling data for the PTD phone app.

In the PTD app under the Off Shore Tackle menu, five sizes of the Snap Weight appear. This data is based on the running depth of the Snap Weight, not the trailing lure. This decision was made because anglers use Snap Weights to troll such a wide variety of baits including crawler harnesses, in-line spinners, trolling spoons and shallow diving crankbaits. It was determined that the lead length from the lure to the Snap Weight isn’t as important as the lead length from the Snap Weight to the rod tip.

CONTINUED ON  
PAGE 15



### THE 50/50 METHOD

Walleye, steelhead, trout or salmon suspended within 20’ of the surface are prime targets for the 50/50 rigging method.

## OR20 PRO WEIGHT SYSTEM

### SNAP WEIGHT RIGGING INSTRUCTIONS

Set your favorite spoon, spinner or shallow diving crankbait 50-feet behind the boat. Pinch an OR16 Pro Clip onto the line and let out an additional 50-feet of monofilament. This lure and snap weight combination can be fished as a flat line or rigged on an Off Shore Tackle Side Planer or Riviera catamaran style dual (DBP) or triple (TPB) planer board.

When using the 50/50 rigging method, it’s best to start fishing with several different weights until the fish communicate which weight and depth range are most productive.



Begin fishing each day with a lure spread that incorporates a variety of snap weight sizes. Staggering lures at different depths is the fastest way to pattern suspended fish. Once a pattern has been determined, switch all lines over to duplicate the productive weight and distance combination.



**www.offshoretackle.com**



WANTED

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

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



SNAP WEIGHTS  
FROM THE BEGINNING  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

This trolling strategy allows anglers to pick any lead length they want from the lure to the Snap Weight. Once the Snap Weight is placed on the line, simply zero out the line counter and let the Snap Weight back the desired “feet back” distance to achieve the desired “feet down” number. The data in the PTD app is based on a 1.5 MPH speed option.

THE 50+2 DATA

The next step in the evolution of fishing Snap Weights was to create a trolling system for fishing diving crankbaits in combination with Snap Weights. Once again Precision Trolling Data stepped up and created the 50+2 Data a trolling system that provides incredibly accurate diving depth data for a host of popular crankbaits.

The 50+2 Data method requires following a rigid set of requirements. First select the desired diving crankbait and open that

page in the app. Touch the “line type” option to see if the 50+2 Data is available for that particular lure. If the lure is offered with 50+2 Data, choose that option and let the lure out behind the boat 50 feet.

Next place an Off Shore Tackle OR20 Series two ounce Guppy rigged Snap Weight on the line. Now go to the “feet down” picker wheel on the app and dial up the desired running depth. Now move to the “MPH” picker wheel and select the desired trolling speed.

At this point the app will kick out the “feet back” or overall trolling lead including the 50 foot initial lead required to reach that target depth. The 50+2 Data is incredibly accurate and allows anglers to not only fish deeper, but also to use shorter overall lead lengths.

BASED ON

10# MONOFILAMENT

The 50+2 Data is based on 10#

test or .014 diameter line diameter. If other line diameters or types are used anglers have some options to consider. If fluorocarbon, copolymer, fused and even super braid lines at or very close to .014 in diameter are used, the 50+2 Data will be nearly identical.

If significantly thinner in diameter lines are used, the bait will of course run deeper. If significantly thicker line diameters are used, the bait will of course not run as deep.

MORE THOUGHTS

It’s important to note that Snap Weights are most efficient when trolled at relatively slow trolling speeds of 2.0 MPH or below. When faster trolling speeds are employed, friction formed from the Snap Weight passing through the water, significantly impedes the ability for these in-line weights to achieve significant diving depth.

This becomes abundantly obvious if you study the 50+2 Data and compare the slow speeds to the faster speed options. Speed is the enemy of Snap Weights as they simply don’t perform as well as trolling speed and friction on the line is ramped up.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Snap Weights were the first in-line trolling weight that could be placed anywhere on the fishing line. Today there are a lot of copy cats out there, but nothing on the market functions better, is in wider use or is more trusted than the original Off Shore Tackle Snap Weight.

Today anglers can buy Snap Weights in a kit called the OR20 Pro Weight System or they can buy OR16 Pro Clips that come with split rings separately. The Guppy Weights are also sold separately making it easy to customize your own Snap Weight kit.

WHY I FISH OFF SHORE  
TACKLE PRODUCTS

BY CHAD BURNS

Back when I was still in the planning stages of starting my charter business, Burnsies Guide Service, my number one priority was to make sure my clients experienced the best fishing excursion I could offer to them. Many different facets of the ideal day on the water came in to play.

A huge part of the goal was to choose the best products out there to use with clients and friends. I insist on using products I truly believe in, can stand behind and I also know that the company stands behind their products. This made using the Off Shore Tackle products a no brainer for me. A big part of my guiding efforts is spent trolling

for walleye on the Winnebago and Green Bay systems here in Wisconsin.

I use a variety of Off Shore Tackle products throughout my charter season. The OR12 Side Planer is virtually indestructible! I have some that are over 25 years old! One of my favorite features regarding Off Shore Tackle boards is that every component is replaceable. Whether it’s the foam, flags, releases, clips, pads, etc., all of it can be replaced. Setting these boards up with the OR12TFEK HD Tattle Flag® system is a must and all of Tattle Flag® components are replaceable too! The Tattle Flag® system really shines when

trolling among small fish that bite and get hooked but would otherwise be challenging to detect.

The second product, or combination of products I use frequently is the OR16 Pro Clip with various size OR20 Series Guppy Weights. I routinely use the two ounce Guppy Weight while using the 50+2 trolling method. Guppy Weights come in sizes ranging from 1/2 to 3 ounces in size, giving me everything I need for trolling with crankbaits or pulling spinners.

I recommend replacing the rubber pads on Off Shore Tackle releases/clips every few years. While some people think the

pads can be cumbersome to change out, the process is really very simple. I use a vice grip to open the clip then take a tiny flathead screwdriver to pluck the old pad out. New pads are glued in using just one drop of super glue in the middle of the rubber pad.

To sum it up, I chose Off Shore Tackle products for my charter business, because there is simply nothing better out there! That’s why I enjoy recommending Off Shore Tackle to clients, friends, followers, and subscribers on my YouTube channel [https://youtube.com/@burnsiesguideservice6682?si=JoBp5v\\_fepUb-5Jh1](https://youtube.com/@burnsiesguideservice6682?si=JoBp5v_fepUb-5Jh1).



# TO RELEASE OR NOT TO RELEASE, THAT IS THE QUESTION

BY MARK ROMANACK

One of the reasons that the Off Shore Tackle line up of in-line planer boards are so popular is they are versatile and can be rigged a number of different ways for different fishing styles, line types or for targeting a wealth of different species. In recent years there has been a growing debate as to whether it is better to rig in-line boards to release or to keep them fixed on the line. To be honest, this typically boils down to personal choice as both rigging methods work day in and day out.

## RIGGING IN-LINE BOARDS TO RELEASE

For those who want their in-line boards to release when a fish is hooked, the good news is that the OR12, OR37 and OR38 can all be easily rigged to accommodate this fishing style. The OR12 and OR38 boards come factory rigged with the right line releases and clips for using monofilament, fluorocarbon or copolymer lines and releasing the board when a fish is hooked. If super braids or fused lines are used, it's best that an OR39 Sam's Pro Release be substituted on the bracket.

The OR37 SST Pro Mag will require replacing the factory standard OR18 Snapper Release that comes on the bracket with either an OR19 Heavy Tension Planer Board Release (orange) if monofilament, fluorocarbon or copolymer lines are used. If super braids or fused lines are used the OR39 Sam's Pro Release will need to be substituted.

Rigged in this manner the board can be tripped when a fish is hooked by simply giving the rod tip a sharp snap to pop the line free from the line release on the bracket. Once the line has been popped from that release, the board will spin around in the water and stop planing but remain pegged in place on the line thanks to the second line clip at the tail of the board.

The moment the board is released, it starts to drop back out of the planer board pattern. The angler's job is to keep tension on fish by slowing reeling as the board drops back for a few seconds until the released board clears other board lines. Once the board is clear of other lines, the fish is reeled in as normal, the board removed from the line and the fish fought to net.

Done properly, this rigging method is very effective and avoids the need to fight both the resistance of the board and the fish at the same time. Rigging to release makes for a more enjoyable fish fighting experience and it also eliminates the need to clear other lines to fight a hooked fish.

When rigging boards to release, it's best to run your highest running lure on the outside board line and progressively deeper diving lures on the middle and inside board lines. This set up helps in allowing released boards and hooked fish to be reeled in without having to clear any other board lines.

Many anglers feel that releasing the board provides slack line



This photo of an OR12 Side Planer equipped with an OR19 on the bracket and OR16 on the tail (how it comes packaged), illustrates how to utilize the “Loop Trick” when you wish to trip the board. This works especially well when using monofilament lines.

that can potentially allow fish to escape. Actually this isn't true at all. When the board is released, the line is pulled tight against the fish in the same instant. So long as the angler keeps tension on the fish by reeling slowly, no slack line is created and very few fish escape using this board releasing method.

## KEEPING IN-LINE BOARDS FIXED ON THE LINE

Anglers who prefer to keep their in-line boards fixed on the line, will often state that they feel this rigging method helps to keep tension on a hooked fish better than the release method. Tournament anglers often prefer the fixed board method because they feel every fish has the potential to make or break their tournament results.

Rigging in-line boards to remain fixed on the line means that when a fish is hooked, the board will still be planing and the angler must fight both the resistance of the fish and the resistance of the board. The biggest issue when fishing with fixed boards is that when a fish is hooked on an outside board line, other closer to the boat lines must be cleared to land the fish without tangling other lines. Back in the day this was just how people fished in-line boards and anglers simple accepted the need to clear lines when fighting fish.

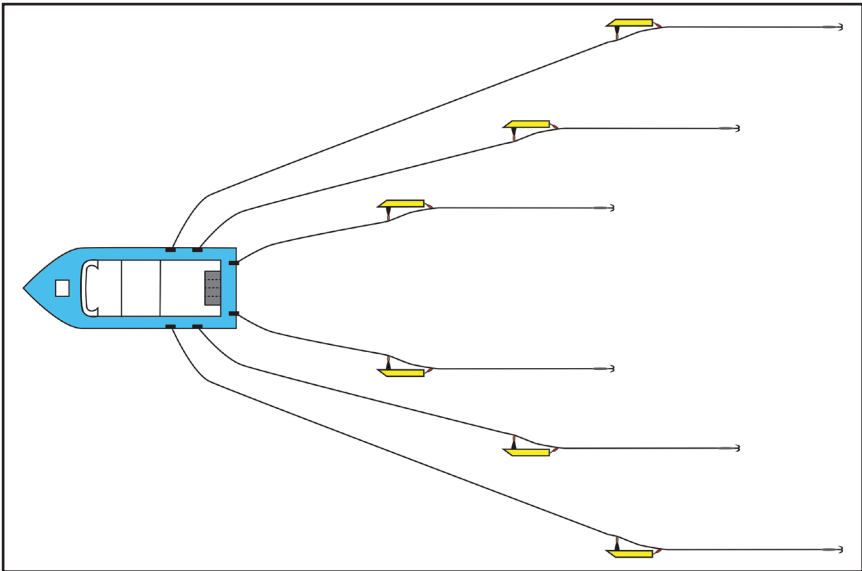
These days a different approach has taken root. Instead

of the traditional method of positioning the highest running lures on the outside board lines, a growing number of trollers set their deepest diving lures as the outside board line and their shallower running lures as the inside board lines.

When the board is fixed to the line, this rigging option allows fish to be reeled in without the need to clear other lines. Again, in order to ensure a hooked fish can be landed without tangling other lines, it's important that the angler reel in the fish slowly at first so as not to drag the hooked fish into another nearby line. Once the board has pulled back a safe distance behind the boat, the fish can be fought as normal, the board removed, and the fish fought to net.

## SO WHICH RIGGING METHOD IS BETTER?

This discussion probably has a lot of anglers wondering, so which rigging method is better? For every angler who prefers to rig boards to release, you're going to find another one who swears keeping the board fixed to the line is better. In short, Off Shore Tackle doesn't take sides on the issue and simply is happy that all the boards in the Off Shore Tackle line up can be fished either way without issue. They say that variety is the spice of life and if that is true, Off Shore Tackle offers more spice than any other planer board manufacturer.



## DISCLAIMER

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





# GETTING DOWN WITH THE 50+2 DATA

BY MARK ROMANACK

Hands down, the most popular way of getting crankbaits to depth has become the 50+2 Data produced by the Precision Trolling Data phone app. If your goal is to take a crankbait and get it to maximum depth while knowing exactly where in the water column the lure is running, the 50+2 Data is your trolling bible.

The 50+2 Data involves combining popular crankbaits with the Off Shore Tackle two ounce size Guppy Weight with the OR16 Pro Clip. (The combination of an Off Shore Tackle OR20 Series Guppy Weight attached via split ring to an OR16 Pro Clip makes up what is known as a Snap Weight). The benefits of this highly specialized trolling system are many.

Adding weight to a trolling line is a simple and efficient means of getting crankbaits to run deeper. However, just any in-line weight isn't the answer. To ensure the bait runs naturally, the weight must be placed a significant distance in front of the lure. If the weight is placed too close to the lure, the bait's orientation in the water can be influenced.

Secondly, moving the weight up the line creates a "stealthier" trolling set up as the weight does not appear in the same sight window as the bait while trolling. While this may seem like splitting hairs, in clear water conditions it becomes very important to separate the Snap Weight from the bait to achieve the best results.

## GREATER DIVING DEPTHS

The primary function of using in-line weights in combination with crankbaits is to get the baits deeper. What many anglers don't understand is that using the 50+2 Data trolling method not only gets lures deeper, but it also allows anglers to reach significant depths while using shorter overall trolling leads.

Keeping trolling leads as short as possible makes it much easier to make turns while trolling, the fish that bite are more likely to be hooked solidly and the fish fight is shorter, meaning the odds of landing the fish are far greater when shorter leads are employed.

For those anglers who enjoy live releasing their fish, using shorter leads means the fish can be landed and released more quickly, significantly increasing survival rates.

## MAXIMUM ACCURACY

To benefit from the maximum accuracy of the diving depths associated with the 50+2 Data, anglers are advised to follow precisely the requirements of this trolling system. This trolling information is based on using 10# test monofilament that is .014 in diameter. Using other lines that are not .014 in diameter will alter the results.

Not all the crankbaits in the Precision Trolling Data phone app have been tested using the 50+2 Data. However, the most popular lures offer this data option, and more lures are being added to the 50+2 Data every year.

## SELECTING A LURE

To select a lure for the 50+2 Data, simply go to the app menu, select the lure model, then select the "line type" option on the app. If the selected bait features the 50+2 Data, it will appear as an option under the "line type" selections. Click on the 50+2 Data.

## SETTING LINES

Begin by letting the desired lure out behind the boat 50 feet. The next step is to place an Off Shore Tackle OR16 with two ounce Snap Weight onto the line. Note: Using other weight systems besides the Off Shore Guppy Snap Weight will influence the diving depth. This because the Guppy weights are a diecast Zinc which allows for a much more consistent weight as opposed to a conventional lead weight which can vary greatly.

Now consult the "feet down" picker wheel on the app and dial up the desired trolling depth. Follow up by moving to the MPH picker wheel and select the desired trolling speed. The app will respond by giving you the "feet back" information required to achieve your desired trolling depth. This "feet back" number will include the initial 50 feet of trolling lead played out. The app does the math so using the 50+2 Data is very simple.

## PLANER BOARDS

Most anglers will opt to fish their lures using in-line boards such as the popular Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer. After

the desired overall lead length is achieved, place the line into the release on the bracket and the clip on the tail of the OR12, drop the board into the water and play out additional line to allow the board to plane out to the side.

When stacking multiple lines per each side of the boat, it's best to maintain at least 50 feet of space between board lines. It also helps to position the highest running line or lines as the outside board line and deeper running lines as inside board lines. Set up in this way, when a fish is hooked on a higher outside board line it can be reeled in without having to clear other trolling lines.

## SUMMING IT UP

The 50+2 Data trolling system is the most accurate means of fishing crankbaits in combination with Off Shore Tackle Snap Weights. During the testing Precision Trolling Data takes every precaution to control all trolling variables carefully. Not only are crankbaits tuned perfectly and lead lengths measured precisely, trolling speeds and course headings are monitored to insure the most accurate depth data possible is collected and shared in the Precision Trolling Data app.

The Precision Trolling Data phone app is available for sale at the Google Play and Apple App Stores respectively. Data purchased can be transferred from device to device within the same phone platform. Paid app data cannot be transferred between phone platforms.

# ABOUT THE EDITOR

Mark Romanack is an outdoor writer, trolling authority, the executive producer of the Fishing 411 TV series and the founder of the Precision Trolling Data phone apps. Off Shore Tackle LLC has sponsored Mark since the late 1980's when he broke into the fishing business as an outdoor writer and tournament professional. Over the years Mark has been deeply involved in developing a host of Off Shore Tackle LLC products including the OR12 Side Planer, OR36 Series Tadpole

Divers and OR20 Pro Weight System to name a few. Mark's passion is trolling for big walleye, but he spends a lot of time targeting other species including trout, salmon, steelhead and panfish. To learn more about the fishing content produced by Mark and his team at Fishing 411 TV visit YouTube and search Fishing 411 TV. You'll find literally hundreds of full length TV episodes and countless video shorts all aimed at helping others be more successful on the water.





# OR12 TIPS AND TRICKS

BY COREY HANSON

A lot of people have questions when they are looking to get into trolling with boards. There are many options and ways to run boards, but for the beginner it's best to keep things simple. One of the many advantages of Off Shore Tackle boards is you can go to a favorite retailer, buy a set of OR12 Side Planers, take them right out of the package and catch fish without making any alterations or aftermarket purchases. I like to show people who are using monofilament line to twist the line to create a loop and place the twists of line in the orange OR19 release mounted on the bracket of the board. The line is then placed behind the plastic pin protruding through the center of the pads of the red OR16 clip mounted on the tail of the board.

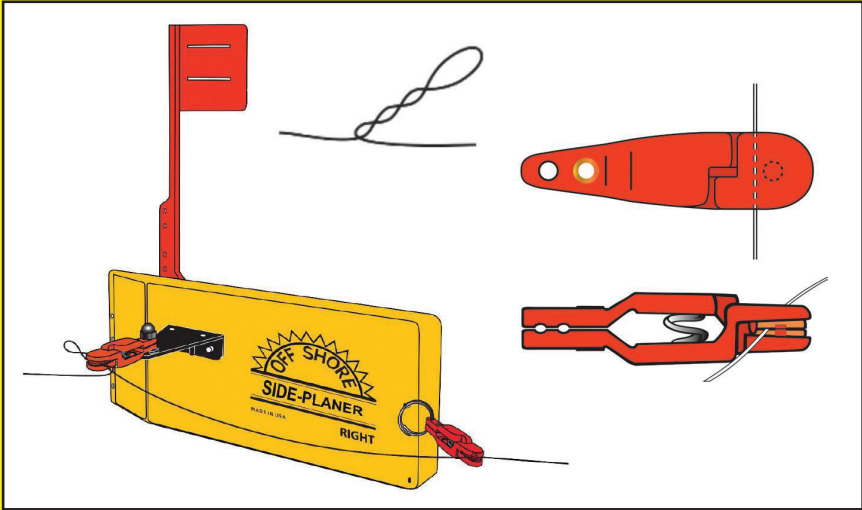
When a fish is hooked, give the rod a firm tug to release the line from the OR19. Once the line pops free from the OR19, the board will stop planing and swing backwards while still being held in place on the line by the OR16. Now you can reel in the fish and the board without having to fight the resistance of the board. This method also helps to keep from crossing other boards lines as you reel in fish.

I recommend starting with one or two left (OR12L) and right (OR12R) boards depending on your area and what is allowed in your state or body of water. Once you become comfortable rigging and fishing those boards, more lines can be added to the set up.

I like to use an OR10 Light



The line trick is an easy way to rig in-line boards so that the board can be tripped for switching out lures or when a fish is hooked.



Tension Planer Board release (that I keep attached on an Off Shore Tackle lanyard) to grab the line and make it easier to spin the line. The OR10 also makes it easy to hold the line while inserting it into the OR19 release. Once the line is inserted into the OR19, simply unclip the OR10.

Don't forget to inspect your releases and clips to see where the spring is positioned. If you

notice a release or clip slipping down the line, check the tension and easily adjust by using a pocket screwdriver to move the spring. To increase tension, move the spring forward toward the pads. To lighten the spring tension, slide the spring away from the pads. Also, remember the pads on all Off Shore Tackle releases and clips are replaceable when they eventually wear out.

# TADPOLE TIP

BY EAST SIDE GUIDE SERVICE LLC

The Off Shore Tackle OR36 Series #1 Tadpole is something I've been using a lot to successfully target steelhead in the upper water column. For all the walleye guys out there that troll spoons, this is a great way to get most from your walleye equipment.

I use my walleye reels, loaded with 16 pound test mono with a soft 8mm bead and snap on the end of the main line. Then I connect that to an OR36 #1 size Tadpole Diving Weight, add a swivel, 6 ft fluorocarbon leader,

and finally a snap, then add your favorite walleye spoon. I run this setup anywhere from 45 ft to 100 ft behind my OR12 Side Planer boards.

Hope this is helpful for guys looking to try something new without breaking the bank on new tackle!

**Editor's Note:** Jesse at East Side Guide Service can be reached by either Facebook @ eastsideguideservicellc or email eastsideguideservicellc@gmail.com.



The Tadpole Diver is widely used among walleye anglers. This simple tip shows how to rig the Tadpole for targeting off shore steelhead during the summer months.

## PLEASE NOTE

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



# IN-LINE PLANER BOARDS YOUR WAY

BY MARK ROMANACK

One of the reasons the Off Shore Tackle OR12 Side Planer, OR38 Mini Board and OR37 SST Pro Mag dominate in market sales, is these boards are versatile and can be fished with a host of different rigging combinations. For sure “one size fits all” is a phrase you won’t hear at Off Shore Tackle.

All three of these iconic in-line trolling boards can be fished with monofilament, fluorocarbon, copolymer lines, fused lines and super braids. Simply switch out the line releases and clips to match up to whatever line type you prefer for trolling. So instead of forcing you to fish a board the way the manufacturer wants you to fish, at Off Shore Tackle you can fish boards any way you prefer to fish.

## MONOFILAMENT, FLUOROCARBON AND COPOLYMER LINES

The best release to use primarily depends on the line type you are using. If you troll using monofilament, fluorocarbon or copolymer line types the line clips and releases you will select include the red, OR16 Pro Clip (typically run at the tail of the board), the OR10 Light Tension Planer Board Release (yellow), the OR19 Heavy Tension Planer Board Release (orange) the OR14 Medium Tension Planer Board Release (black) or the OR18 Snapper Release depending on the board you use and your rigging pleasure.

The OR12 comes factory supplied with the OR19 on the bracket and the OR16 on the tail of the board. The OR38 comes factory equipped with the OR10 on the bracket and the OR16 at the tail of the board as well. The OR37 SST Pro Mag comes factory equipped with the OR18 Snapper on the bracket and the OR16 once again at the tail of the board.

If for any reason you prefer to use different line releases and clips, have at it. The OR12 and the OR37 will not only accept the



Nick DeShano of Off Shore Tackle helps these customers at a consumer sport show to get the most from their board purchases. Off Shore Tackle offers an extensive line of planer boards as well as planer board releases and line clips designed to help anglers target a wealth of different species.

factory supplied releases, they will adapt to being used with any Off Shore Tackle line clip or release and the Silver Horde Sam’s Pro Release. Now that’s versatility in a planer board line up.

## FUSED OR SUPER BRAID LINES

For anglers who troll using fused or super braid lines, Off Shore Tackle produces products especially designed to function with these thin diameter and low stretch lines.

The OR18 Snapper is a cam operated line release that can be tension adjusted. Designed to

hold super lines firmly, the Snapper can be mounted to any of the Off Shore Tackle in-line boards. Generally the Snapper is used by anglers who want their planer board to remain fixed on the line.

For those anglers who use super lines and want to rig their boards to release when a fish is hooked, the OR39 Sam’s Pro Release (manufactured by Silver Horde) is the ideal option. Braided lines and fused lines are wrapped on the rubber plunger before the plunger is snapped into place in a jettison style release clip. When a fish is hooked, a quick snap of the rod tip will pop open the plunger

and allow the line to uncoil. If you want to fish super lines and rig your boards to release, the Sam’s Pro Release is the hands down choice of countless anglers.

**SUMMING IT UP**  
No other manufacturer of trolling products makes as many in-line planer boards and planer board line releases and clips. Collectively there are hundreds of ways an angler can rig their boards. Being versatile is what helps keep Off Shore Tackle “Your Leader in Trolling Technology”.



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Richard James of Percy Priest Guide Service has great success  
catching big stripers with Off Shore Planer boards!

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