

FISHING Gotcha™ Trolls

Thank you for purchasing a Gotcha Troll. Without a doubt, these lures are very successful at catching fish. The Gotcha Troll is most popular in the Southeast and the Florida Panhandle to catch bluefish and Spanish mackerel. However, any fish that feeds on small bait fish will be tempted by the Gotcha Troll.

The standard procedure for using the Gotcha Troll is to drag across the top of the water. You can do this by attaching the supplied leader to mono from a rod or to a hand-line.

The Gotcha Troll can also be used with a planer to obtain greater depth. Most trolling rods will handle the smaller size #1 and #2 planers. Be sure to set your reel drag just tight enough to pull the planer without slippage. Special planer rods, downriggers or handlines are required to handle the strain of the larger planers. Handlines are easy to use and often are the salvation of a fishing trip if the fish are feeding at depths only reachable with the larger planers. Length, diameter and density of the handline affect how deep a planer can dive. Thin, strong and flexible are the preferred qualities in a handline. Monofilament is a better handline material than braided nylon or dacron. Stainless steel cable (49 strand) is even better yet.

Although there is a point at which the drag on the handline or planer cable hampers the planer's ability to dive, they can be assumed to dive approximately one foot for each two feet of appropriate size planer line. Too thick a planer line will not allow the planer to dive as efficiently, while too thin a line risks tangling and breaking and is more difficult to handle. Because fish do not always feed at the same depth, a well-equipped boat will have several handlines of various lengths. A range of sizes from 20' to 75' should prepare you for most situations. Obviously, if a downrigger or a planer rod is used to pull the planer, versatility is increased to the point where the only limitations are the amount of line and the size of the planer.

Fluorocarbon, which is more expensive than monofilament, is less visible and potentially even more effective. When using small planers, a leader of 20 to 30 ft. is sufficient. Larger planers or clear water conditions may require leader lengths of as much as 40 to 50 ft. Sea Striker offers plastic leader wheels for convenient storage of longer leaders. A ball bearing swivel connected to the will minimize line twisting. Never connect the lure to the line with a snap swivel or the action will be impaired. An improved clinch knot (see diagram) is recommended to tie the lure directly to the leader.

Pass the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back, and make 5 turns around the standing line.



Holding the coils in place, thread the tag end of the line through the first loop above the eye, then through the big loop. Hold the tag end standing line while pulling up the coils. Make sure the coils are in a spiral, not lapping over each other. Slide tight against the eye. Clip the tag end.



Trolling speeds should vary for different species. Spanish mackerel, Atlantic bonito, false albacore, skipjack tuna and smaller school king mackerel are fast, aggressive feeders and move very quickly. Obviously, a faster trolling speed is desirable for these fish. A speed of 5 or 6 miles per hour or even greater is generally most productive. In the absence of a speedometer or electronic indicator, a tachometer reading of somewhere between 1000 and 1500 rpm's should get the job done. Don't be afraid to experiment and vary your speed until the right combination is found. In the case of bluefish, a slightly slower speed is usually most effective.

If you are in an area where you expect fish, repeatedly turning the boat will often add to your catch. The direction change of the lures appears to trigger the feeding instincts of the game-fish. In a tight turn, the dropping of the lure closer to the bottom will often yield an unexpected bonus such as a flounder or other deep feeding fish. Avoid too tight a turn or you will find yourself with a tangled mess, as your lines cross over one another.

A pair of innovations from the past few years that have taken the fishing world by storm involve the Gotcha Troll as the terminal lure part of a bird rig or daisy chain. In a bird rig, the Gotcha troll is tied behind a small bird and trolled across the surface of the water. The Sea Striker 5" bird combined with a The "flutter" that it makes has proven irresistible to many fish, apparently simulating the sight and sound of injured or panicked baitfish.

Whether you are a new angler just beginning to enjoy coastal fishing, or an experienced veteran, you will find the Gotcha Troll an excellent choice for many gamefish, especially bluefish and Spanish mackerel. The rigs are not difficult to make and you can easily assemble them yourself. Sea Striker has all the accessories you need.

Good Fishing!

Tips from Sea Striker®

The clearer the water, the longer the leader.

The larger the planer, the longer the leader.

Use a ball bearing swivel attached to the planer – never to the lure.

Fish not biting, water clear. Try a different color or vary your trolling speed, but a faster speed is more likely to be productive.

Fish not biting, water cloudy or dirty. The water may be clearer at a greater depth, so try a planer. If possible, move offshore to clearer water. A transition line between dirty and clear water is often loaded with fish.