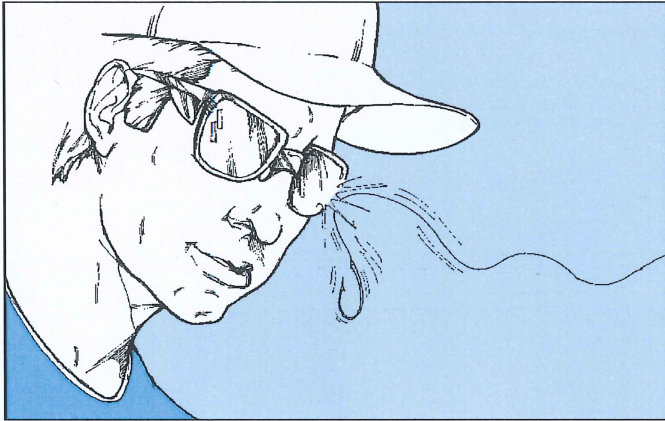
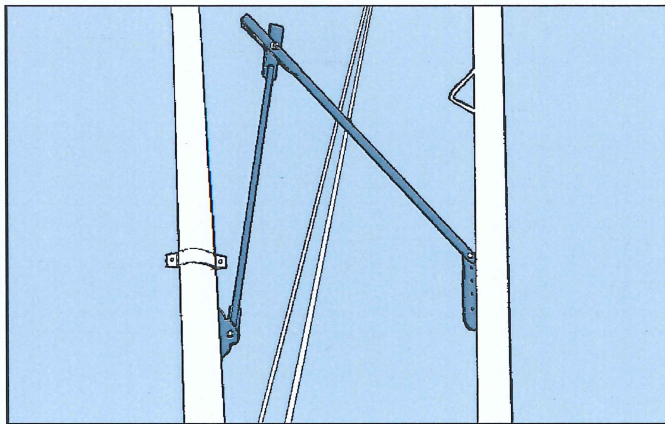


Troll

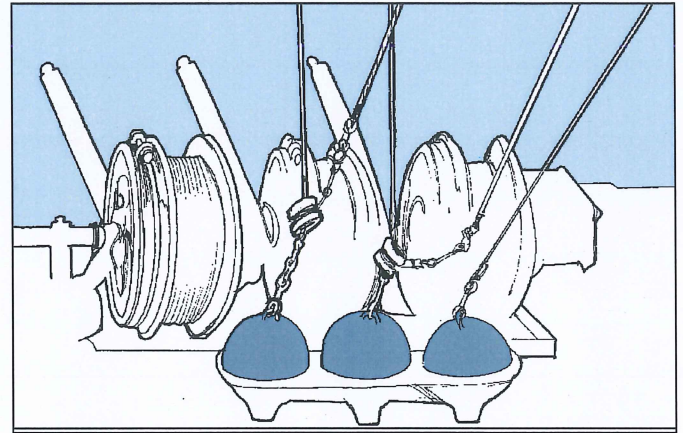
Safety steps and requirements for trolling include the following:



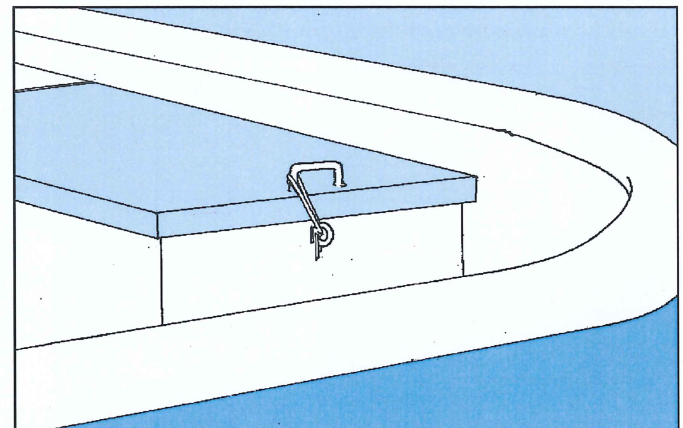
- When practical, wear sunglasses or safety glasses to protect your eyes from flying fish hooks. Hats with peaks, such as baseball hats, also offer some protection against flying hooks.



- Trolling and paravane stabilizer poles **must** have devices that lock the poles down and limit their downward travel. Unsecured poles that pop out of position can damage the vessel, make the boat unstable, or injure crew.



- Gurdy brakes **must** be kept in good working order. Crew **must** be able to stop the lines at all times.



- Secure cockpit covers. Cockpits **must** have covers that can be secured in bad weather. Without secured covers, water can enter the cockpit, causing stability problems.
- Ensure any drains from interior spaces to the cockpit are fitted with one-way valves to prevent down-flooding.
- Be careful lifting paravanes (stabilizers) when putting them out. It's best to have two or more people to lift the paravanes, if possible. Stand clear of the paravane chain so your leg doesn't get caught in it.

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- Inspect trolling wire for kinks and broken strands. These can lead to wires snapping and injuring crew members.
 - Throw your hooks in the water before snapping onto the trolling wire. This way, you'll avoid getting snagged by hooks on a moving, descending trolling wire.
 - When lifting cannon balls, feather the hydraulic lever very carefully so that the ball won't hit the block—or you.
 - Don't try to pick a rat's nest loose when the cannon ball is hanging overboard. Secure the troll wire first.
 - Make sure the gurdy levers are off and the brake is on when fishing is over and the cannonballs are in their holders. This prevents the gurdies from being engaged accidentally.

Tips from fishermen:



- When fishing alone, always take the boat out of gear when transferring from the cockpit to the wheelhouse or when performing other station transfers.
- Feather the direction valve to ensure proper direction of troll gurdies.
- Take a moment every hour or so to stretch the tendons of the forearms while dressing fish or unsnapping gear to prevent carpal tunnel syndrome.
- Wear sunglasses or protective glasses while pulling troll gear—lures can be spit back on a perlon leader at great velocity.
- Place small amounts of reflective tape all around the boat for visibility, especially at the ends of trolling poles.