



## Big Water Salmon And Trout With LongLiner®

By Steve Lumsden

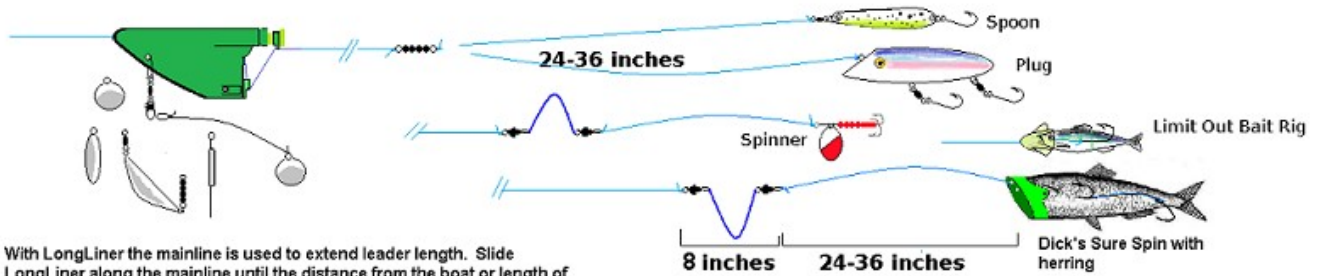


Whether trolling for salmon off of the NW coast or in those huge inland seas—the Great Lakes, there are few fish that raise excitement more as a sport fish as well as table fare. Though I am interested in catching just about any fish that swims, the highlight of my fishing year is when the salmon are in. Contrary to trout, stealth is not typically as important for salmon fishing—but presentation is. A perfect spin on a herring, pulse on a spinner blade, or the best action on a spoon or plug often makes the difference between a poor day and a memorable one. In many salmon fishing situations the weight-bait distance has much to do with desired bait

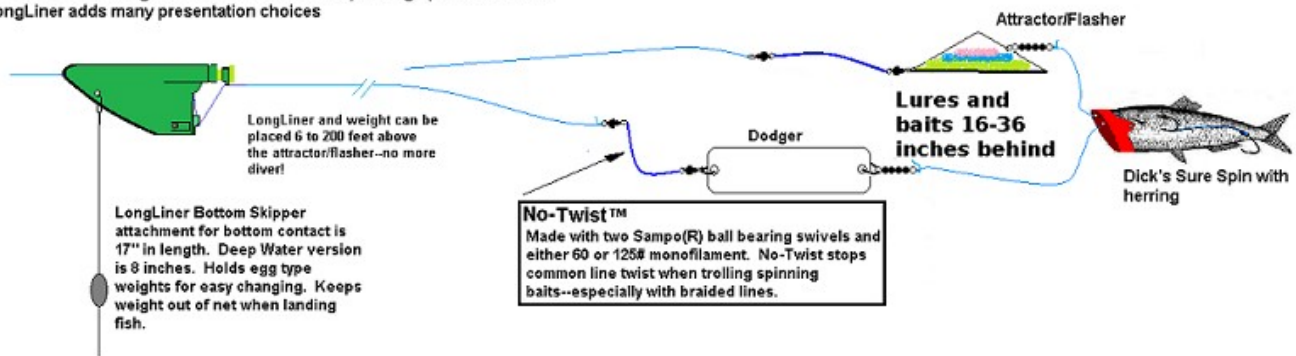
action. It is common to see knowledgeable anglers using herring or plug leaders in excess of 6 feet. Working a bait with such a leader can be extremely effective but the problems mount as the fish is brought to net. With the weight against the tip of a long flexible rod and a hot fish on a long leader, the angler has a real world control problem. Getting that fish into the net takes a whole lot of body English and a skilled partner with the net! The exciting thing about LONGLINER is that you can fish the long leaders (even with a shorter boat rod) and bring the fish to net. Because LongLiner releases to a free slide mode after the fish is hooked, fast runs pull line through freely, reducing the effect of the weight essentially becoming a sinker slider. It is in this way that the angler will enjoy a serious increase in control when fishing long leaders and landing fish with a 3-foot leader or less. That even reduces the amount of fluorocarbon leader by 50% or more.

Salmon plugs such as the Lyman, spoons like those from Legendary, herring, and baits like Brad's Super Bait and Super Cut-Plug, all work at their best when the separation between the weight and the bait is increased. The amount of this distance varies with regard to the bait. My experience is that 25 feet or more is good when trolling plugs like the Lyman, and I often use 50 or more. Spoons are often fished 15 to 25 feet away from the weight, while herring do well 8 to 20 feet from the weight if the situation allows it. I really like the Limit Out Bait Rig as it gives my herring a perfect bullet spin. Trolling with an attractor (Fish Flash, Kone Zone) and a herring, spinner, or lure, allows me to give up the diver and fish my rig 10-15 feet behind the weight. Often your catch rate will increase when rigging this way. I have trolled LongLiner with weights as heavy as 16 ounces, but typically use 3 to 8 ounces. You will find that reproducible depth will be easy.

Retrieval of gear is also much less a problem as it is always good to retrieve gear when a fish is on in your boat (I realize that this is not customary in the Great Lakes when large spreads are being used).



With LongLiner the mainline is used to extend leader length. Slide LongLiner along the mainline until the distance from the boat or length of leader that is desired and lock. This hold the weight in that position while trolling for action and stealth. Bait can be fished 200 feet or more behind the boat while trolling or at anchor in current depending upon conditions. LongLiner adds many presentation choices



Another method that has become very successful is the pairing LongLiner with Side Planers. Not only do they help increase the number of rods in play, side planers often account for the more sensitive and wary fish in the take. It is felt by many salmon and trout anglers that some fish do not like the boat trolling over the top of them and move aside to avoid the annoyance. Surface trolling with Side Planers is easy, but attaining depth is not so easy. Metal lines (lead core, stainless, or copper) all require heavy gear that some anglers would rather not use. LongLiner allows you to fish at depth behind a Side Planer while achieving depth with your favorite rod.

