



**Strong,
Maintenance
Free
Fibreglass
Outrigger
Poles**



Reelax offer a choice of black or white poles in a range of lengths from 4.5 m to 6.5 m

4.5 m

5.5 m

6.1 m

6.5 m

Using Tag Lines To Increase Your Hook-Up Ratio

Tag line fishing is one of the most exciting innovations in modern offshore sportfishing. Developed by the Hawaiian sportfishermen in the early 1980's, tag lines have now been refined to the extent they are commonly used by Australian sportfishing craft in either pairs or threes.

The essential principle of the tag line is simplicity itself.

When a standard outrigger is used that is (say) 5.5 metres long, it follows that a section of fishing line from the **rod tip** must go out to the **outrigger tip** for just about the whole 5.5 metres, before it turns 90° to run back down to the bait or lure.

When a fish strikes, this triangular section of line is pulled taut, but critically, there is a section of line (the "**drop-back**") that is *at least* 5.5 metres long (the section out to the end of the outrigger) and approximately half the length of the boat that must be taken up by the fish *before the line is pulled taut off the rod itself*. This "dead" line or drop-back, has resulted in many, many strikes being lost, especially as bigger, faster sportfish simply don't give the angler a second chance to get that drop-back in.

The tag line principle solves this problem.

A tag line merely consists of an additional line (heavy monofilament) approximately the same length of the outrigger itself, that is affixed to the eye bolt **at the tip of the**

outrigger.

At the other end of the tag line is a float and snap clip.

The snap clip is secured to the pre-positioned fishing line with a rubber band.

Okay, you say, 'that's terrific - but how do I get the tag line in from the tip of the outrigger when it's just dangling in the ocean at the end of the strike?'

That's where the tag line weight comes in.

This is nothing more than a hollow weight that runs up and down the original outrigger halyard, with the tag line running inside it too. The tag line weight is held right up to the tip of the outrigger by the pull of the fishing line going through the water.

The weight just goes up and down the regular outrigger halyard, but because it contains the tag line, every time the pressure is released on the tag line (through a strike, or the angler breaking the rubber band) the weight simply runs back down to the bottom of the outrigger, bringing the tag line back with it.

In practice, the tag line is very easy to use, once you've got the knack of tying the rubber band around the fishing line. And remember, wrap the rubber band around the fishing line at least 5 times, or it will slide down the line.

To run the tag line, the angler positions the lure or bait back behind the boat at the desired distance, then walks down the cockpit to grab a section of fishing line off the tip of the rod, and with the other hand, attaches that piece of fishing line to the tag line clip.

This done, the momentum of the boat moving forward will force the line back up to the tip