

Boat Tech



The Power-Pole allows for instant anchoring at the flip of a switch.

a quick, quiet and secure way of staying put. Many who use this technique drill a hole in the foot of the pole, and then use a locking snap on a short length of dockline to attach boat to pole.

Otherwise, take two full turns around the pole and secure the line with a couple of loose half-hitches or a clove hitch, anything that won't jam—here again, if you need to take off quickly after a fish, you can leave the pole in the bottom and come back for it later. And to take the strain off that expensive graphite pushpole, you might also consider using a heavy-duty bungee rather than a rope. It will stretch when the skiff is bucking up and down in a heavy chop.

If you're not going to be wade fishing and leaving the boat behind, you can make use of the lower unit of your motor as a temporary anchor—just trim it down until it sticks in the mud and presto, you're anchored. You don't want to do this if you're going wade fishing on a rising tide, though, because it's a shallow "anchor" and the rising water will soon float it off. For gadget nuts, the Pow-

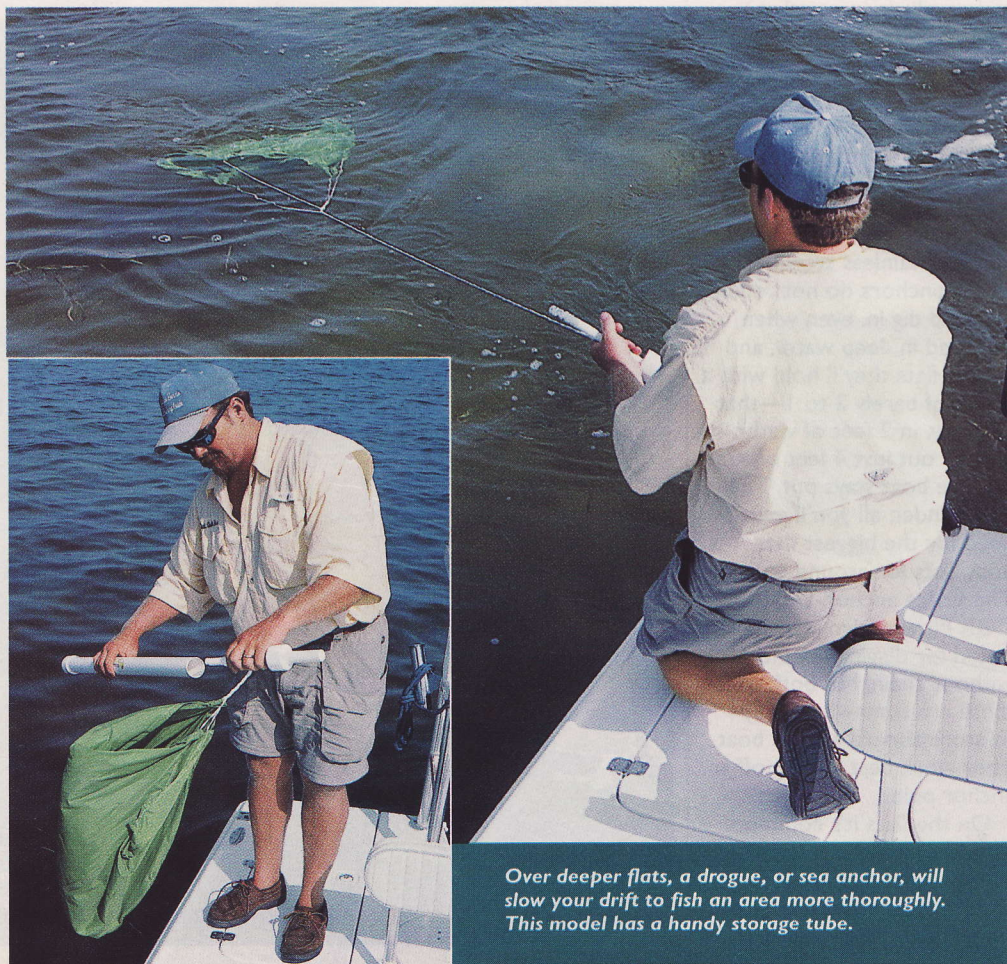
er-Pole is the motor trim idea taken to its logical conclusion. The unit mounts on

the transom and a hydraulic arm forces a stout fiber rod deep into the bottom when you hit a remote control button. It's quick, silent and very secure—those who fish a boat with the gadget quickly become addicted because it's far easier than using an anchor or sticking and tying off to a pushpole. And, it makes you much more inclined to stop and fish out a hole when otherwise you'd just drift on by because you're too lazy to drop anchor for five minutes. The unit works in depths to six feet. The price is high at around \$1,000, but for those who can swing it, they're a great addition.

Some useful flats anchors don't touch bottom at all. Sea anchors or drogues are really just drift-control devices, sort of like a parachute that functions in the water.

You put them out during a drift to slow and control your movement. They're particularly helpful when you're drifting a deep grassflat for trout on a windy day; without the sea anchor, you zip across the likely spots too fast to let your jig hit bottom, but the drogue slows you enough to fish the way you'd like to. It's deployed on the upwind side of the boat, and you fish downwind. Some anglers rig a rope bridle, allowing the attachment for the drift anchor to be adjusted fore and aft until the boat drifts sideways.

Whatever anchoring system you choose for the flats, use it often. Anytime you come upon a spot that seems to deserve a little extra attention, drop the hook or sink the pole. You'll be surprised at how many "extra" fish you hook in a day. [SWA](#)



Over deeper flats, a drogue, or sea anchor, will slow your drift to fish an area more thoroughly. This model has a handy storage tube.