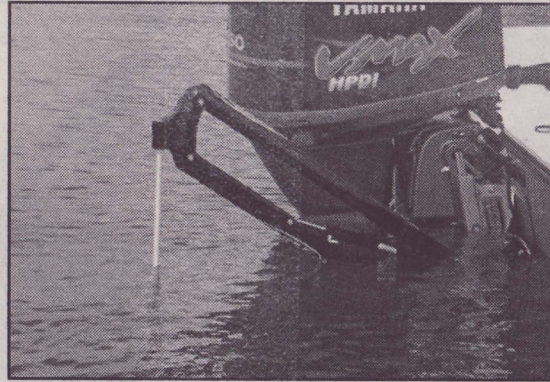


Power Pole

The biggest advantage to this hydraulic shallow water anchor is that it will stop a boat at the touch of a button



A powerpole holds this boat in place. FF Weekly photo by Mike Holliday

The Power Pole is the greatest invention for the flats boat angler since Curtis developed the first poling form.

What makes this shallow water anchoring system so important for a boat is that it can stop a boat on any type of bottom—hard sand, coral, grass flats or even mud.

As long as you're fishing in eight feet of water or less, the Power Pole will be able to reach the bottom, and can be deployed in a few seconds.

The alternative to the Power Pole is the push pole, which requires soft bot-

tom, and for the poler to get down off the poling platform to un-cup the pole to the stake out rope and attach it using a variety of knots. All this requires time, and often for the person tying-off the pole to take their eyes off the fish. The same goes for deploying an anchor.

A Power Pole with a remote is really a hands-free anchoring device that allows the person anchor-

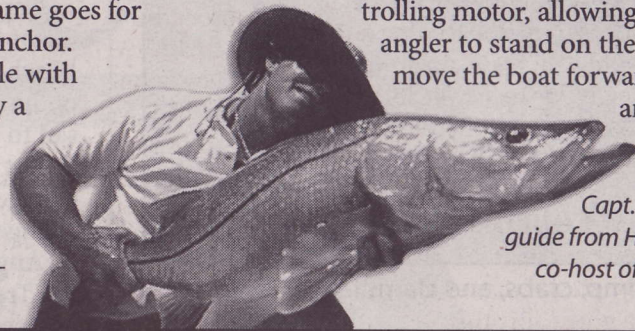
ing the boat to keep their eyes focused on approaching fish, while grabbing a rod and getting ready to make a quick cast.

The Power Pole can also be used in conjunction with a bow mounted trolling motor, allowing a single angler to stand on the bow and move the boat forward until fish are located.

Then with the

simple push of a button, the boat can be stopped in place, and the angler can work the fish.

Anyone who fishes the flats on a regular basis should have one of these remote anchoring devices on their boat. They're simple to use, and will allow you to fan cast to a school of fish without worrying about the boat moving out of place or spooking the fish.



Capt. Rick Murphy is a professional tournament angler and fishing guide from Homestead. He is also the host of Sportsman's Adventures and co-host of the Chevy Florida Fishing Report on the Sun Sports Network.

CAPTAIN RICK MURPHY

TIP OF THE WEEK

ALBANERA:

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nobody had any idea that the waters off the Florida Keys suffered one of the worst time disasters in U.S. his-

the following day, however,

By the following day, 160 bodies had been recovered, but the official death toll was expected to surpass 300: "The food situation, serious from the outset, took a more acute turn today with the arrival of several hundred refugees from the surrounding country. The fear was expressed tonight

tugboat looking for a barge that had broken loose during the storm picked up some survivors from another ship that had run aground.

The spot was Rebecca Shoals, a shallow area 46 miles due west of Key West, that had claimed hundreds of ships since the 1500s.

It is at this point that the story of the *Valbanera* and the 488 people who were aboard takes a supernatural turn. On Sept. 21, *The New York Times* carried another story confirming the identity of the wreck and adding to its lore. Roberts, the captain of the sub chaser, "had a narrow escape

Valbanera Is Afloat."

According to *The Times*, members of the Dr. Antonio Valetti Society, an organization of spiritualists, rented a tugboat to search for the ship, even though the U.S. Navy said that it had been found.

"These spiritualists assert they have received a commu-