

Use a shallow water anchor to stay on fish

Power Pole anchoring system lets you keep your boat in place while you fish

There's a new product out in the freshwater industry that's really making life a lot easier for tournament professionals and guides. It's called a Power Pole, and it's a hydraulic shallow water anchoring system for your boat.

The Power Pole has been around in the saltwater industry for about five years, and a lot of you saltwater anglers reading this are familiar with the product. But for the freshwater guys, the Power Pole is just making its way into the market, and it's really improving the ability of anglers to stay on fish.

I've been using one on my boat for over a year now, and have really put it to some use. The Power Pole bolts into the transom or jackplate of your boat, and is an all-hydraulic system that is very durable.

Unlike your normal lead anchor, the Power Pole is a two-part shaft and extension that basically scissors backwards and stabs the shaft into the bottom to hold your boat in place. It's a really fast way to anchor your boat or stop it in place.

I have a remote control for mine that I wear around my neck whenever I'm fishing shallow water. If I'm poking through an area and see a bass bed, I can instantly push the button on the remote and deploy the Power Pole to hold my boat away from the bed so I can make an accurate cast to the area without drifting down on the fish or

spooking it by making a bunch of noise lowering an anchor into the water.

I really notice how valuable a tool the Power Pole is on windy days when I'm trying to use my trolling motor to hold in place or to stay off a certain spot that I want to fish. With a push of a button, I can stop on a dime, and thoroughly fish an area without having to fight the wind the entire time with my trolling motor.

I use it a lot when fishing in Florida lakes which tend to be shallow. When pulling up to a big grass bed for example, I can position my boat on the upwind side of the grass, put my Power Pole down and remain in one place while I methodically go over that grass bed.

What I've found is that I'm catching a lot more fish, because in the past, I would have to fight my trolling motor and get my boat into position so

I didn't spook the fish, and then when I'd hook one, I'd be busy landing the fish, getting it into the net and then putting it into the livewell. During all that action, my boat would be drifting, and it would eventually drift right in on my sweet spot and spook the fish.

I'm listing the Power Pole as one of my Top 10 Tournament necessities, because you're able to stop your boat in a certain spot, catch a fish, cull, go back into your livewell, retie, put new lures on, whatever you need to do, and your boat has not lost its position. And in tournament fishing, that's super important.

The Power Pole I have on my boat is very effective in water up to eight feet deep, so anything eight feet or less,

I can stop my boat instantly. The Power Pole comes with a rocker-style switch you mount on the console, or you can get the optional remote, which you can use to operate the boat from any location on board. I

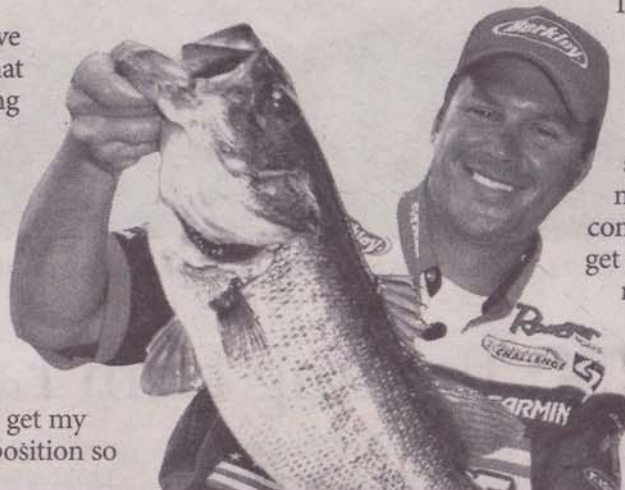
like the remote, because I don't want to have to move back to the console to deploy the Power Pole.

It takes a few seconds for the Power Pole to go from the secured position to fully deployed, so what I like to do if I get into a particular area I think might hold fish is to lower the Power Pole to the point that it's only a few inches off the bottom. Then if I see a bed and want to stop the boat, I hit the button and the Power Pole only has to go a short distance before we're anchored in place.

Of course, that's only an option when fishing open areas without a lot of grass. When I'm fishing the heavy grass, I just deploy it naturally and use the trolling motor to hold in place.

Because the Power Pole is mounted on the stern of the boat, I can also use it to pivot my boat using the trolling motor. If I'm fishing an area where I see multiple beds or on the edge of a grass mat, I can anchor with the Power Pole, make a few casts, and then use the trolling motor to move right or left in a semi-circle and make more casts, so I can cover a lot more ground without ever moving the stern of the boat.

It's a great durable product, and you can check it out for yourself at www.powerpole.com.



BY SCOTT MARTIN

ON THE PRO TRAIL

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