LUHR·JENSEN
OF HOOD RIVER, OREGON

X·TREME

KWIKFISH® TECH SHEET

EXTREME ACTION, VIBRATION AND DEEPER DIVING

The Kwikfish is the most popular freshwater salmon lure on the West Coast - dominating fisheries from the Kenai River in Alaska to California's Sacramento. There is two models the standard Kwikfish and the Kwikfish X-treme or "X" series.

The Kwikfish "X-treme" features side-to-side body construction, fixed eyelets (not screw eyes) which do not require tuning. The X-tremes are deeper diving, extreme action and extreme vibration models.

They can be plunked, trolled or backtrolled from a boat and fished on a flatline (without a weight), in combination with a Jet Diver™ or with a sinker depending on river size, water depth or current speed.
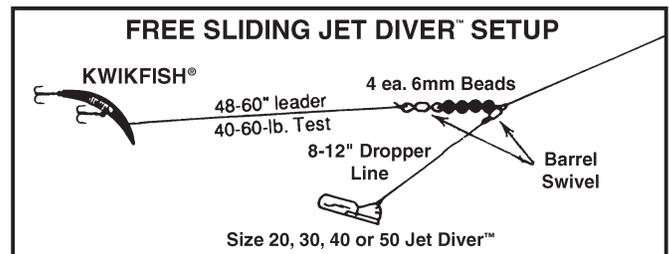
FLATLINING

When trolling or backtrolling, for example, the K13X and K15X models will dive from 8 to 17 feet, depending on current speed, line diameter, and how far you run the lure behind your boat. Given the right water conditions, this may eliminate the need to add additional weight or a diver to get down. Depending on how deep and fast the water, try running your lure 30 to 90 feet behind your boat.

You can determine that your lure is working near bottom, and not rubbing into it by watching the action of your rod tip. A steady pulsating action means your lure is working properly; if your Kwikfish is imparting an erratic, stop-and-go rod tip action, it's likely that your lure is digging into the bottom which is not good. Try shortening the amount of line you have out by reeling up 10 feet of line at a time, until the tip of your rod develops a steady action.

With a baitcasting reel style, you can correctly gauge the amount of line out by counting how many times the levelwind line-guide travels across the face of your reel. For example, one pass of the line-guide on an average reel will equal about 10 feet of line.

USING A JET DIVER

If the water is especially deep or current too slow to push your Kwikfish X-treme near bottom, try rigging a Jet Diver 4 to 5 feet ahead of your lure. The Jet Diver can be used instead of a sinker when trolling, backtrolling, or plunking a salmon size Kwikfish.

FREE SLIDING JET DIVER™ SETUP

KWIKFISH®
48-60" leader
40-60-lb. Test
4 ea. 6mm Beads
8-12" Dropper Line
Barrel Swivel
Size 20, 30, 40 or 50 Jet Diver™
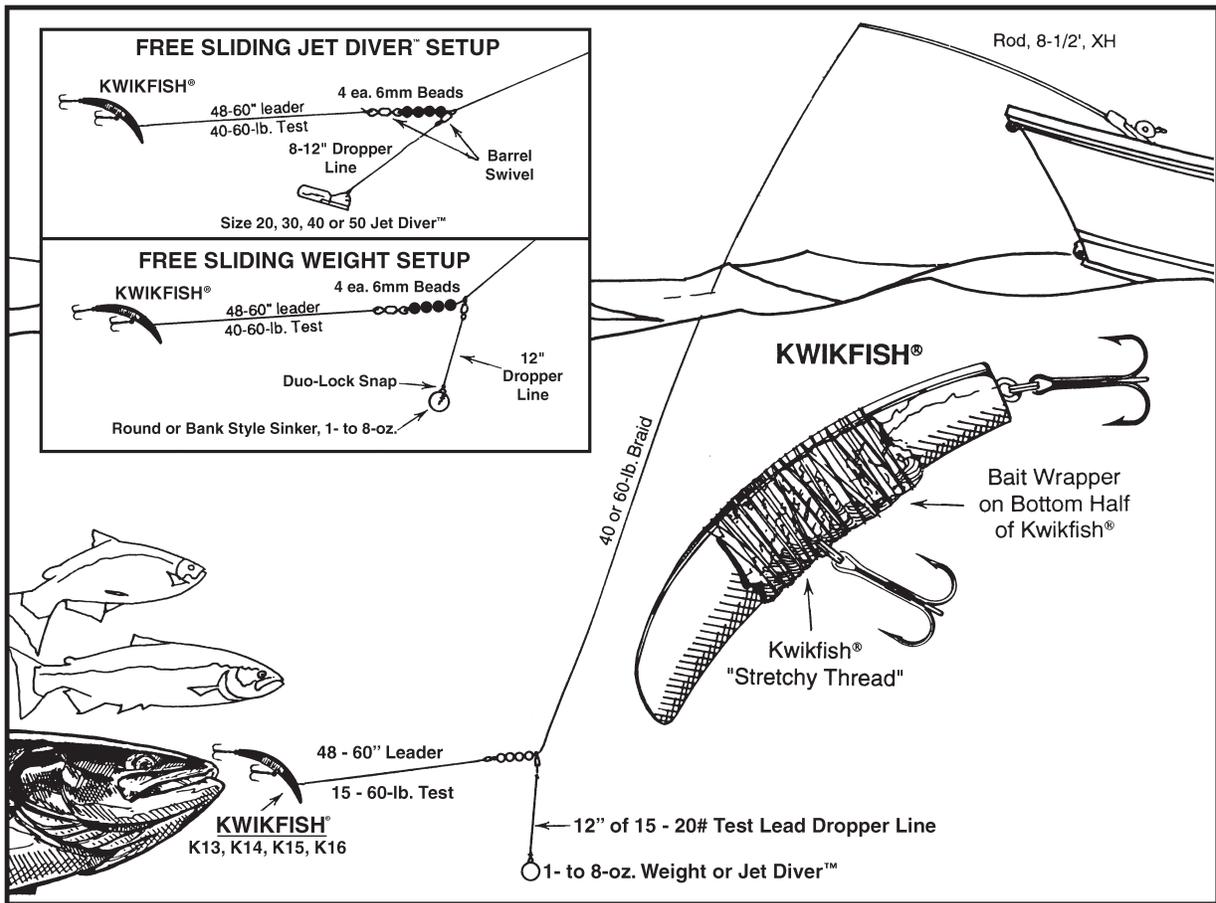
BACKBOUNCING KWIKFISH

Backbouncing with a weight is the most productive way to fish Kwikfish or Kwikfish X-treme in deep (even roily) salmon holes that lack the right current to take your lure down on a flat line or in combination with a Jet Diver. The technique is much like backbouncing bait, except that once your Kwikfish is in position, it's important to hold your rod steady and let your lure work in the current.

BAITWRAPPER

Like the standard salmon-size Kwikfish, the best way to make your Kwikfish X-treme even more deadly is to add a fillet of sardine to its belly. A pair of scissors work great for cutting your fillet to size and notching the center so it will fit around the belly hook hanger. Make sure to center your fillet around the belly eyelet, which is the balance point of the lure, with the skin side next to the lure body. You will notice that we have extended the belly eyelet away from the body to make it easier to tuck your fillet under the split ring.

Realize that the smaller sizes will not carry a very large bait wrapper. Make sure to keep it small (about a half inch square) and center it toward the tail of the lure from the belly eyelet. Another option is to smear the belly with a strong fish attractant like.

An off-centered fillet, wrapped to the belly of your lure can throw it out of balance. Rather than try to tune a lure that doesn't require tuning, to match a crooked fillet, try tuning the fillet. Most of the time you can flatten an off-centered fillet with your thumb and bring the lure back into balance. However, with a little practice you should be able to get your fillet centered perfectly every time. TIP: Wrap several lures the night before or (better yet) the morning of your trip and keep them fresh in a small bait cooler.

FREE SLIDING JET DIVER™ SETUP

KWIKFISH®

48-60" leader
40-60-lb. Test

4 ea. 6mm Beads

8-12" Dropper Line

Barrel Swivel

Size 20, 30, 40 or 50 Jet Diver™

FREE SLIDING WEIGHT SETUP

KWIKFISH®

48-60" leader
40-60-lb. Test

4 ea. 6mm Beads

Duo-Lock Snap

12" Dropper Line

Round or Bank Style Sinker, 1- to 8-oz.

Rod, 8-1/2', XH

KWIKFISH®

40 or 60-lb. Braid

Bait Wrapper on Bottom Half of Kwikfish®

Kwikfish® "Stretchy Thread"

48 - 60" Leader
15 - 60-lb. Test

KWIKFISH®
K13, K14, K15, K16

12" of 15 - 20# Test Lead Dropper Line

1- to 8-oz. Weight or Jet Diver™

WAIT BEFORE "SETTING THE HOOK"

The strike of a salmon taking a large Kwikfish will likely be the hardest you'll ever feel, however, don't set the hook until the fish has pulled your rod tip down at least three times. Waiting on the bite will increase your chance of a solid hook up, while yanking too soon can result in a clean miss or poor hook-up that may result in a lost fish. If you're using a baitcasting reel, make sure your thumb is firmly planted on the reel spool when you do finally set the hook. The only places where Kwikfish anglers don't wait to set the hook are the salmon rivers located in Northern California.

ROD, REEL, AND LINE

Salmon rods with soft tip sections and powerful butt sections are preferred for fishing Kwikfish. Light tips allow maximum lure action while a powerful butt section assists in setting the hook and controlling large fish. Reels require stout drag systems and should be loaded with 50- to 80-pound braided mainlines Braid or 20- to 30-pound monofilament. Don't be shy about using powerful leaders in 40-pound test or stronger as the extra strength does not deter strikes and assures more fish are landed. Generally speaking, lighter lines and leaders can be used when fishing the K11X and K13X size Kwikfish or when chasing steelhead or spring chinook, but for larger fall chinook, a powerful rod, reel, line and leader combination is encouraged.

Sufix®
FISHING LINE RECOMMENDED

TUNING

Checking the action is simple just by pulling it through the water next to the boat. If it dives to the left or right some tuning is needed. Before making corrections to the lure check the bait wrapper. A lopsided sardine fillet can throw your Kwikfish out of tune. You can re-wrap a crooked fillet or try tuning your bait wrapper by flattening any lopsidedness with your thumb. X-treme models are equipped with fixed eyelets and should not require tuning. It should yield an even side-to-side wobbling motion. Only if need be, they can be tuned by gently bending (not turning) the line-attachment eyelet. Check the action after any bait or lure adjustments. For tuning plugs, as well as changing hooks when necessary, a pair of Rapala® Fisherman's Pliers with a split ring tool prove invaluable.