



Jet Diver 101

Jet Divers are used as a depth control device for trolling a wide range of lures. The most common application is open water trolling with small spoons for walleye on the Great Lakes. Walleye 101 and Walleye Kid have lots of great information and videos to help you use Jet Divers to catch more fish.

Product Overview

- **What:** great tool for depth control while fishing for open water walleyes
- **Depth:** used to target fish anywhere from 10 ft to 50 ft below the surface
- **Baits:** work best for spoons but can be used for other baits like crawler harness and minnow baits
- **Leader / Line:** best leader is 4'-8' – longer causes fish netting issues. Mainline of 12-14 lbs is best.
- **Speed:** effective at speeds from 1.2 to 2.5 MPH. They are not really speed dependent but will take longer to reach the desired depth at slower speeds. Jet diver floats at rest.
- **Sizes:** wide range of sizes including number 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50. The higher the number the deeper they dive. The manufacturer claims a #10 dives 10 feet, a #20 dives 20 feet, etc.
- **Colors:** available in a wide range of colors. There can be a difference in how fish respond to different colors. Our favorite colors are green and clear for most applications.
- **Cost:** they range in price from \$6-\$10 depending on size and where you purchase them
- **Setup:** barrel swivel to connect lure to the jet diver and a snap swivel to connect main line to the jet diver. Generally used with planer boards but can be run as a flat line if fish are deep in the water column
- **Rule of Thumb:** the more line you let out the deeper the jet diver will run. Select one jet diver size (#30 or #40) and stick with it. The *Big Water Precision Trolling* book has dive curves for most jet divers

Getting Set Up on the Water

- **Step One:** you need to see fish on your sonar BEFORE you put jet divers in the water.
- **Step Two:** determine the primary depth of the fish you are targeting. Fish in the middle of the water column are easy to spot on the sonar. Get your bait to the right depth (2-6' above the fish) with a jet diver.
- **Step Three:** choose one size jet diver to start out and run a consistent speed based on lure type
- **Step Four:** make sure your lure is running above the fish NOT below them. Know how deep your jet divers run – a #40 jet runs 20' down with 80' of line out (10lb mono) according to the *Precision Trolling* book
- **Step Five:** select the appropriate lure type (spoon, harness, minnow bait) and color for conditions
- **Common Mistakes:**
 1. Fishing where there are no fish showing up on the sonar anywhere in the water column
 2. Letting out too much line and fishing below the fish – they will come up a long way to hit a bait
 3. Not changing depth (line out) and speed frequently enough while trying to find the right combination

Fish On!

- **Recognizing a Bite:** bites on a jet diver and planer board will range from twitching of the tattletale flag to a planer board that disappears in the water. Jet diver tension releases when a fish hits the bait
- **Wait for the right time:** don't grab the rod at the first sign of a bite. Wait 10-15 seconds on average from the first indication of a bite. Let the fish pull the board back and take the slack out of the line.
- **Set the hook:** not necessary. Once the rod is out of the rod holder give the reel a couple quick cranks.