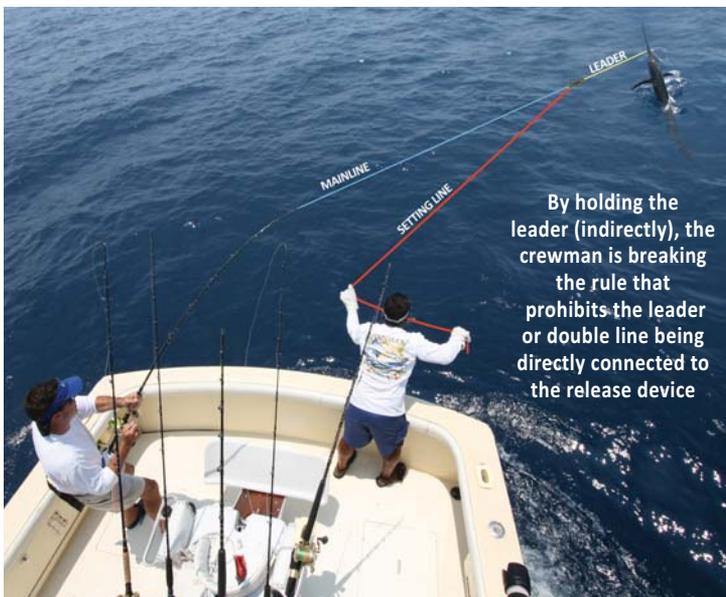


SETTING THE HOOK WITH THE LEADER

Can I use an auxiliary length of line attached to the leader to set the hook when chasing extremely light line records?



Question: *When bait-and-switching with very light tackle, we occasionally break the mainline during the initial strike, when trying to set the hook. To reduce the frequency of these break-offs we have started attaching a heavier piece of line (approximately 20-30 meters) to the swivel that connects the double line to the leader. This heavier line is held by a crewman during the switch, and when the angler free-spools the bait to the fish, the crewman then pulls the separate line tight, setting the hook. Once the fish is hooked, the crewman releases it while the angler engages the drag. Because the crewman is indirectly touching the leader, which is legal, is this method okay by the IGFA rules?*

Answer: While you are correct that the crewman is able to touch the leader, either directly or indirectly, this method is still not legal by IGFA rules. The rules state that “outriggers, downriggers, spreader bars and kites are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device.”

In the situation described above, the crewman would be considered “a device”, similar to an outrigger, downrigger, spreader bar, or kite. By holding the leader (indirectly), the crewman is breaking the rule that prohibits the leader or double line being directly connected to the release device. The intent of this rule is that the angler strikes, hooks and plays the fish on the mainline, not on the leader or double line.

POST CATCH BROKEN TIPPETS

If my tippet broke when the fish was inside the boat or when the fish was already in the net, does it still count for a world record?



Question: *I would like to submit a tippet class record application for a fish I caught on fly rod, but I am not sure if the condition of my leader will be OK. When the fish was brought inside the boat, it immediately started to thrash violently on the deck, and my class tippet broke before we could subdue the fish and remove the hook. I still have both sections of my leader, but will my record be disqualified because the tippet is broken?*

Answer: The short answer to this is no. While we prefer to have your entire leader submitted intact, your record is not automatically disqualified if your class or shock tippet is broken after the fish is landed. As long as we have all sections of either the class or shock tippet (whichever broke), we can still verify that the tippets meet the IGFA's length requirements, as well as the breaking strength of the class tippet. Should you encounter a situation like this, simply collect all the pieces of your broken leader and include a short testimony when submitting your record application, stating what happened.