

## “A SIMPLE ANCHOR PULLEY”



A simple pulley reduces pulling force 50%

There are **2 ways to present lures: casting and trolling**. Both are recommended to completely cover all bases in your fishing presentation. In **casting** an area, the most thorough way is to **anchor and fan cast**. **Anchoring** requires a **fair amount of effort**, and devices including a **hand cranked unit** (Anchor-Mate), **electric anchor winch**, or a **long rod stuck in the bottom (Talon)** are available to **make things easier**. However, these devices can **add weight, bulk, and cost to your boat**, and **many anglers choose to not use them**. This **results** in many **anglers not using the anchor and possibly missing fish in the process**. Knowing **simple ways to make anchoring easier** can be helpful to improve your fishing.

I use an **18 pound 3-flute river anchor** to position my 14 foot Ultracraft boat when I anchor. This is plenty of weight to hold in just about any wind that the boat can handle. However, **lifting 18 pounds straight up can be a bit of a strain on my hands and muscles**. It is **easier to pull horizontally than to lift vertically**, so I **ran the rope over the smooth gunnel and pulled horizontally to lift the anchor**. To make things easier, I use a **5/8 inch cotton anchor rope for a better grip**, and **put a knot about a foot above the anchor to grab** and help lift the anchor out of the water. This **still required considerable force to raise the anchor** because of the friction of the rope on the gunnel. A **pulley for the rope** seemed to **make sense**. I found a small one around the house and mounted it securely with metal screws and glue on the gunnel so that the rope would hang down straight off the side of the boat. Wow, **what a difference!** I **measured the force required** and it was from **1/3 to 1/2 less needed to pull up the anchor (9 vs. 18 pounds of force)**. This is **especially helpful in deep Lake Michigan perch fishing** where I could easily raise my anchor in about **1/4 of the time needed by an electric anchor winch**.

A few additional tips might be helpful. Although cotton rope needs replacement more often, it gives me the **softest and best grip of the rope**, it is limp, and dries out quickly. If the pulley is too large, it will stick out farther from the boat and be subject to breaking off. **Put the rope on the pulley only when the anchor is directly under the boat. Keep pulling fast and put the rope in a small, tangle free pile on the floor of the boat directly under the pulley. At the end of the day it can be wound between 2 cleats on the side of the boat** to dry out. Happy anchoring!

Chase Klinesteker CSI