

Taking a look at how to go about long-line

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FOR THE JOURNAL

Long-lining for crappie originated around the clearwater impoundments of the Carolinas by anglers who wanted to catch suspended fish that were easily spooked by a passing boat.

Pre-spawn and post-spawn black crappie are notorious for their propensity to suspend, while white crappie don't need a reason. Needless to say, long-lining has become a terrific way to catch any and all of these fish.

The basics of long-lining center on water temperature, water clarity, depth of presentation and using the right equipment.

So, let's get started.

Generally speaking, long-lining hits its peak when water temperatures get to 50 degrees and start rising in the spring. Depending on the severity of the recent winter, this can be anywhere from late January to the

middle of March. For fall anglers, the reverse also works when temperatures peak after the summer and begin to fall back below 80.

While even black crappie show a propensity to suspend in pre- and post-spawn, the higher in the water column the fish hold, the easier it is to target them by long-lining. Typical late winter and spring rains on clear lakes will cause the backs of many tributaries to become muddy while the main lake remains clear.

Look for color-change zones — areas where muddy water transitions into clear water. It is this olive-colored water that will hold suspended crappie with enough visibility for them to feed.

Volumes could be written on depth of presentation when trolling. In fact, one book, "Precision Trolling," is considered by many to be the troller's bible, though the book was designed as a walleye angler's reference. The



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In the Carolinas, March signals the peak of pre-spawn season for crappie, when many anglers prefer to troll crappie jigs behind the boat to catch them.

book details many facets of trolling that are worth reading for both long-lin-

ing and trolling crankbaits for crappie. The depth of presen-

trolling for

tation when long-line trolling is a function of boat speed, amount of line out, jig weight and line diameter. Each of these factors play a part in how deep jigs will swim and whether you reach the level crappie are suspended at.

The following references trolling a 1/16-ounce jig head pulled on 6-pound test line at an average cast distance (40 to 50 feet) behind the boat. The variable then becomes boat speed.

Boat speed (mph)	Depth
.4	15'-18'
.5	13'-15'
.6	11'-13'
.7	9'-11'
.8	7'-9'
.9	5'-7'
1	4'-5'

Talent to end its four-game losing streak.

Lindley was awarded with the win.

"Absolutely incredible, especially (Gordon). He pitched his butt off," Clemson third baseman Blake Wright said. "It was incredible to see some of the other guys come in after him and really shut the door. It was fun to watch."

South Carolina starter Will Sanders suffered his first loss of the season in three starts. It was also the Gamecocks' first loss of the season, as they dropped to 9-1 overall.

The Tigers tallied nine hits off the South Carolina ace while plating five runs, four of which were earned in his six innings