

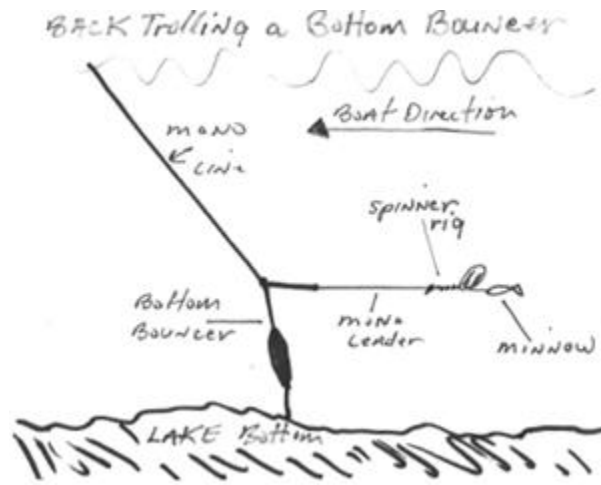


Bottom Bouncing for Walleye

Most walleye anglers in the States are familiar with walleye tactics like: jigging, cranking and planner boarding. But, if you are not an experienced Canadian walleye fisherman you might not be proficient with the easiest, most productive and universal of all Canadian walleye strategies...back-trolling a bottom bouncer with a spinner rig.

There are several key advantages to bottom bouncing for walleye on your Canadian vacation.

- **Covering water** – Back-trolling allows you to cover a lot of ground which is very important on unfamiliar waters.
- **Proper Presentation** – walleye feed off the bottom and the weighted bouncer insures your presentation is in their “feeding zone” without snagging (which is a vital as Canada is full of snags).
- **Varying depths** – depending on weather, and time of year, walleye relate to varying depths. With a bottom bouncer you can quickly change depths without having to change your presentation.
- **Locating schooling fish** – in a short time you’ll find the main walleye holding spots in the lake and then you can try other presentations like jigging which might be more productive.



Bottom Bouncing Basics

Choosing a weighted bottom bouncer – Cabela’s has a complete line-up of Lindy Little Joe bouncers. The All-Canada rule-of-thumb is you want $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce for every ten feet of depth you fish. The most common depths are between 15 and 30 feet, so 1 ounce up to almost 3 ounces will do. It is better to error on the side of heavy as you also get fewer snags the more vertical your line is in the water. Stock up on two ounce and don’t worry about whether they are painted, bare metal is fine.

Choosing a Spinner – Cabela’s also has a complete line of Lindy back trolling spinners. The most universal have just a single hook and can be used with minnows or leeches or imitations of either. Special spinner rigs with multiple hooks are for crawler harnesses. Leader length can be important in clear water – standard 3 ft works fine in stained water – if you are fishing clear water look at least 4 feet. Colors and patterns are mainly preference, but our experience is; do not leave home without florescent orange, green and chartreuse, plus silver, hammered copper and red/white.

Speed – a GPS is helpful in determining back-trolling speed which starts at 1 MPH all the way up to 2 MPH (which is fast). Our recommendation is to start slow which tends to be most effective. At times you may even slow way down by putting the motor in neutral every so often.

Structure – you will mainly be working islands and shoreline trying to find beaks at 10-20 and 30 ft depending on the time of year. The earlier in the year the shallower and working deeper until the end of August, then start working shallower again. Look for areas of water current as that is also key structure. If you get lucky and find any mid-lake humps, or you have a topographical lake map work those as well. If you find fish are bunched up in an area...stop and jig.

If you have never back-trolled for walleye in Canada – try it this year – I am certain this method will become your “most-used” tactic on future trips!