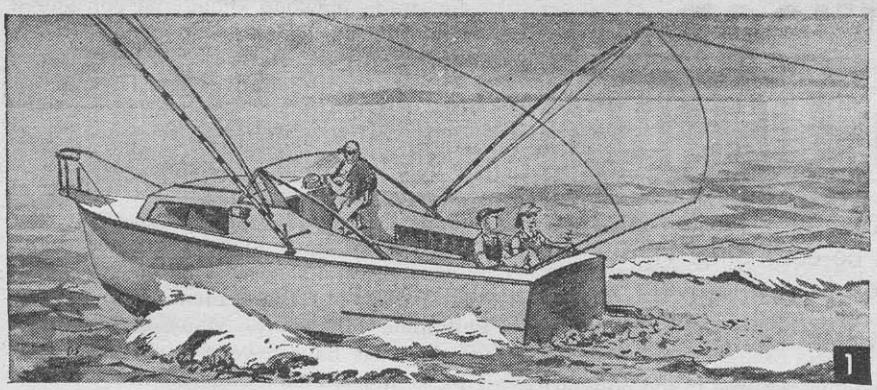


Fishing Outriggers

IN COASTAL or inland waters, cruisers with outriggers skip lures far out to each side of the boat—away from the propeller slipstream. Sailfish, marlin, dolphin, bonita and any number of smaller fish that strike a moving lure may be hooked with the line strung from the outrigger.

The actual fishing line is not attached to the outrigger, but comes from a rod and reel which the fisherman holds from the cockpit. A looped line strung between two glass eyes has a spring-type clothes pin tied on which holds the fishing line. The baited line is clamped in the pin and snaked to the top end of the outrigger. When the fish strikes, it pulls the line from the clothes pin down to the rod, ready for playing from the boat's cockpit.

Rugged outriggers can be purchased like the ones on charter boats sailing from the Florida coast, but you can make your own stationary or movable one. A stern flag pole socket 1½ in. I.D. will hold a bamboo pole, or you can braze a length of bronze tubing to a deck plate and screw the assembly to the side deck.

Better than the fixed type, that must either carry the pole slanted directly back or a removable pole, is the hinged socket that allows the outrigger to range far outboard, yet can be drawn in close when at the dock. Fig. 3 shows how to construct a hinged socket from pipe fittings with the flange screwed to the side deck and rods that hook to screweyes in the extended position.

The outrigger itself is a large diameter (1½-1¾ in.) bamboo pole 16-20-*ft* long fitted with one fair lead near the top and two glass-eye pulleys at top and bottom. The looped ⅛-in. venetian blind line should be fairly tight. Lash a strong springed clothes pin to line.

