



K13X & K16X **X-TREME™**

KWIKFISH **TECH SHEET**

The All New Generation of Kwikfish®

By Buzz Ramsey

If you fish for salmon, you have no-doubt had experience fishing a salmon-size **Kwikfish®**. After all, the Kwikfish is the most popular freshwater salmon lure on the West Coast - dominating fisheries from the Kenai River in Alaska to California's Sacramento. What you may not know is the full story about the new Kwikfish, known as the X or "X-treme" series, which is what this report is about.

The Kwikfish "X-treme" represent an all-new generation of Kwikfish that feature side-to-side body construction, fixed eyelets (not screw eyes), do not require tuning, and have extreme action and vibration. Although the K13X size is not duplicated in the standard Kwikfish lineup, the K16X is the same length as the standard K16. Realize that the K16X is not a replacement for the standard 16, but rather an all-new lure that should be added to your tackle arsenal where a deeper dive or a more extreme action and vibration are desired.

Both Kwikfish "X-treme" sizes can be plunked, trolled or back-trolled from a boat and fished on a flatline (without a weight), in combination with a **Jet Diver™** or with a sinker depending on river size, water depth, or current speed.

FLATLINING

When trolling or backtrolling, the "X-treme" models will dive deeper and steeper than the standard versions. The K13X and K16X models will dive from 8 to 18 feet, depending on current speed, line diameter, and how far you run the lure behind your boat. Given the right water conditions, this may eliminate the need to add additional weight or a diver to get down. Depending on how deep and fast the water, try running your lure 30 to 90 feet behind your boat.

You can determine that your lure is working near bottom, and not rubbing into it by watching the action of your rod tip. A steady pulsating action means your lure is working properly; if your Kwikfish is imparting an erratic, stop-and-go rod tip action, it's likely that your lure is digging into the bottom. Not good! Try shortening the amount of line you have out by reeling up 10 feet of line at a time, until the tip of your rod develops a steady action.

With a baitcasting reel style, you can correctly gauge the amount of line out by counting how many times the levelwind line-guide travels across the face of your reel. For example, one pass of the line-guide on an *Ambassadeur® 6500* size reel will equal about 10 feet of line.

USING A JET DIVER

If the water is especially deep or current too slow to push your Kwikfish "X-treme" near bottom, try rigging a Jet Diver 4 to 5 feet ahead of your lure. The Jet Diver can be used instead of a sinker when trolling, backtrolling, or plunking a salmon size Kwikfish.



Oregon angler Hugh Peters with a Wilson River Fall Chinook caught on the K16X "X-treme"

BACK BOUNCING KWIKFISH

Backbouncing with a weight is the most productive way to fish Kwikfish or Kwikfish "X-treme" in deep (even roily) salmon holes that lack the right current to take your lure down on a flat line or in combination with a Jet Diver. The technique is much like back-bouncing bait, except that once your Kwikfish is in position, it's important to hold your rod steady and let your lure work in the current.

BAITWRAPPER

Like the standard salmon-size Kwikfish, the best way to make your Kwikfish "X-treme" even more deadly is to add a fillet of sardine to its belly. The best fillet size for the new K16X measures 1-1/8" x 2". A pair of scissors work great for cutting your fillet to size and notching the center so it will fit around the belly hook hanger. Make sure to center your fillet around the belly eyelet, which is the balance point of the lure, with the skin side next to the lure body. You will notice that we have extended the belly eyelet away from the K16X body to make it easier to tuck your fillet under the split ring.

Realize that the size 13X will not carry a very large bait wrapper. In fact, I often go without a fillet on this lure size and instead smear it with a strong fish attractant like *Berkley® Power Jelly®*. If you do go with a bait wrapper, make sure to keep it small (about a half inch square) and center it toward the tail of the lure from the belly eyelet.

An off-centered fillet, wrapped to the belly of your lure can throw it out of balance. Rather than try to tune a lure that doesn't require tuning, to match a crooked fillet, try tuning the fillet. Most of the time you can flatten an off-centered fillet with your thumb and bring the lure back into balance. However, with a little practice you should be able to get your fillet centered perfectly every time.

TUNING

The really great thing about the K13X and K16X Kwikfish is that they don't require tuning. Both sizes have been engineered and assembled to swim right out of the package. In addition, each lure has been water tested to guarantee that they won't leak. However, and only if you are absolutely convinced of the need, these lures can be tuned by bending (not turning) the line-attachment eyelet.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

The K13X measures 4 inches in length and is rigged with two size 2 round bend treble hooks. In addition, each lure is equipped with a Luxon stainless steel size 53 round bend snap, which makes lure changes easy. This intermediate size is popular for both salmon and steelhead. I've plunked, trolled and backtrolled this lure for both species in fresh and saltwater and consider it one of Jensen's best all-around lures.

The K16X measures 5 1/2 inches in length and is rigged with two size 3/0 round bend treble hooks. Like the 13X, each lure is equipped with a Luxon size 53 snap. Due to the slightly thinner body profile of the K16X (as opposed to the standard K16) the 3/0 hooks that come with each lure really nab short striking Chinook.

Both sizes are rigged with stainless-steel split rings. To ensure reliable lure action, remember to always use the round-eyed "Luxon" connector snap provided.

LIGHTED KWIKFISH

Both "X-treme" sizes are available in a blinking LED lighted version that feature a water-activated strobe light. Lighted Kwikfish will outperform unlit models during low light, darkness, or in turbid water. The built in, sealed battery will last 400 fishing hours.

You can check the light by wetting your thumb and index finger

and touching the hook-hanger eyelets. The light may not be visible when the lure is placed in the water behind your boat, since the LED faces the tail of the lure – toward the fish.

Many anglers (particularly salmon anglers in the Northwest) are just waking up to the fact that lighted lures will outperform others during overcast (dark) days, low light or darkness. The lighted size K13X has established itself as a night fishing lure for steelhead on the Columbia River. Because the Lighted K13 is popular for both salmon and steelhead the finishes available are divided equally for each species. The most popular finishes for steelhead are equipped with a "red" LED strobe and include, *#1101 MJ Wired*, *#1105 Flash Fire*, and *#1106 Ghost Man*. Chinook finishes are wired with a "char-treuse" LED and include finishes, *#1102 Kwikfire*, *#1103 Blinky*, and *#1104 Tiger Taxi*. The Lighted K-16X is available in the three salmon finishes mentioned above plus three additional ones: *#1112 Dill Pickle*, *#1115 Prancer* and, *#1128 Bad Banana*.

Night fishing is not allowed in all areas or for all species, so review regulations carefully in advance. However, most states allow fishing to begin an hour before sunrise and end an hour after sunset – try switching to a lighted Kwikfish during these times.

CUSTOM FINISHES

In addition to the many cataloged Kwikfish finishes stocked by Luhr Jensen (most available with or without rattle), you may find Custom Finishes where you shop. A growing number of dealers are ordering Custom Finishes and making them available at the retail level. You can identify Custom Finishes by checking out the finish code located on the back of the product package. If the last set of 4 numbers in the complete 11 digit product code begins with a "5" it is a custom finish, which is not stocked by Luhr Jensen and may only be available from that one retailer and only for a short time.

CATALOGS AVAILABLE

For a catalog showing the complete line of Luhr Jensen's quality lures and accessories, send \$3 (Luhr Jensen's response will include a \$3 certificate redeemable on your first order of \$20 or more) to: Luhr Jensen, P.O. Box 297, Hood River, OR 97031, Attn: Customer Service or check out their web site at www.luhrjensen.com.

THE NEW K16X **X-TREME™**

Luxon #53 Stainless Steel Snap

Heavy duty stainless steel belly eyelet position allows for sardine fillet

Stainless Steel Split Rings

3/0 Round Bend Trebles

THE K16X FEATURES FIXED EYELETS.
NO TUNING REQUIRED.