

# GREENSTICK FISHING SYSTEM

*The Hawaiian Hybrid Greenstick*

**STANDARD (CS) & LIGHT (CL) MODELS**

**POP** FISHING  
& MARINE



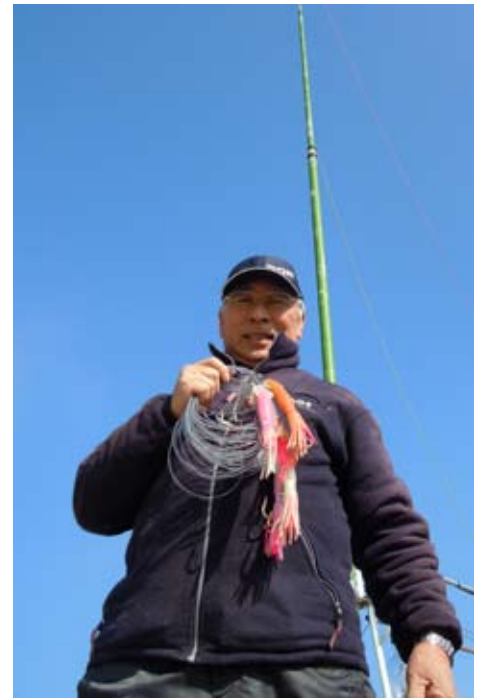
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**G**reenstick fishing has been known to Hawaiian fishermen since the early 70's. Primarily used for ahi (tuna) fishing, stick users know that anything can bite the rig. A 500-1200# test mainline up to 150-300 yards long is towed from an oversized outrigger or "greenstick". Greensticks range from 25' to 50' tall and suspend a mainline that is kept taut by a specially designed wood "bird" on the end. From this mainline, 4-8 baits are suspended from leaders or "branchlines". When set up properly and towed at the optimum speed, the baits dance in and out of the water in a "dipping" motion by tugging an "action" line. Like an outrigger, the mainline breaks away from the greenstick during a strike, leaving the angler to haul in the mainline using hydraulic or electric reels, a modified 130lb class trolling rod and reel or even by hand. The strikes are often dynamic and explosive with large ahi leaping out of the water at the dancing baits. Double and triple-strikes on this rig are not unheard of. The origins of greenstick fishing however, remained

muddled for years as stick fishing was utilized by only a handful with some keeping the technique secretive to say the least.

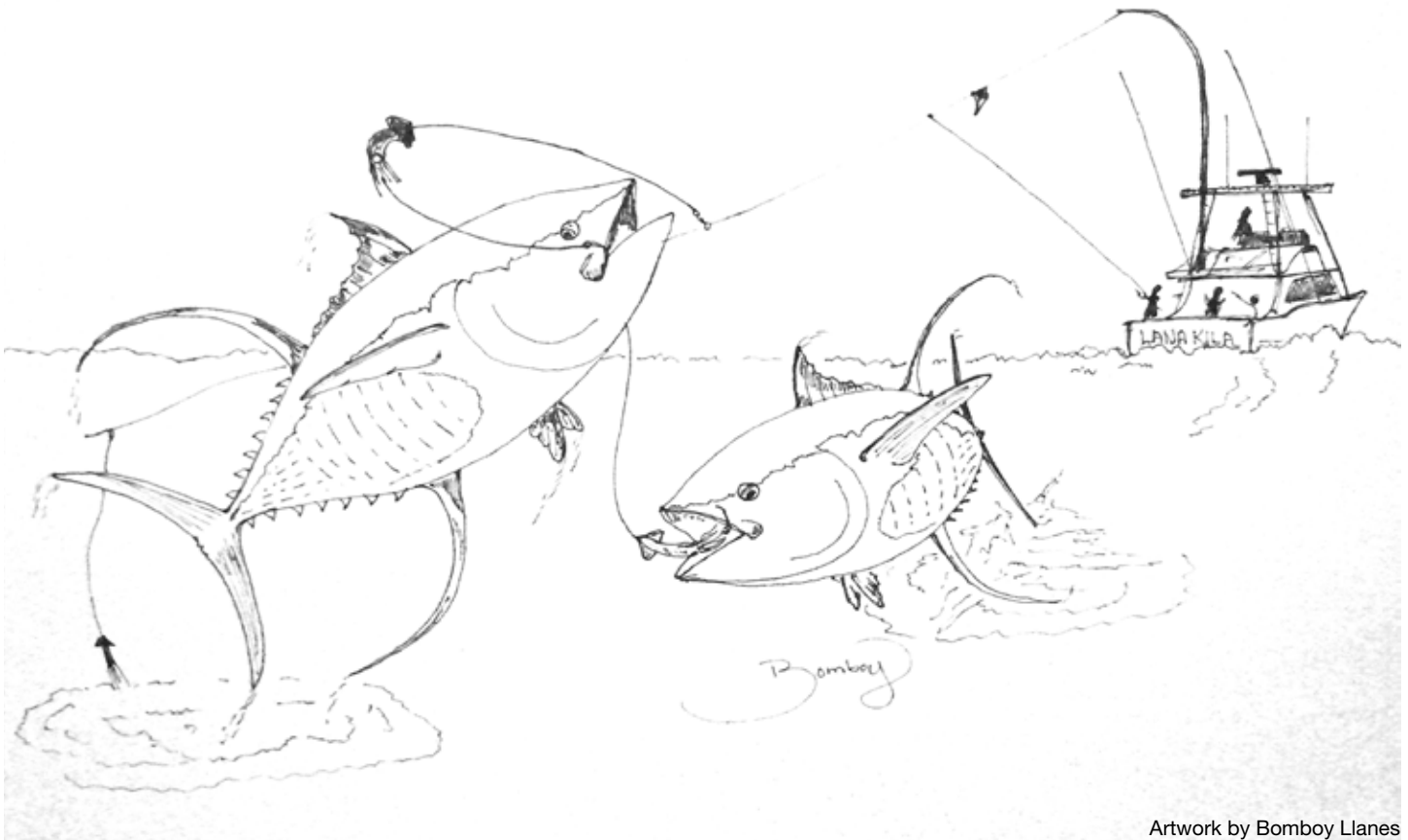
The history of the greenstick goes back to the 1960s, in the Shikoku area of Japan. The Shikoku fishermen were searching for a method to troll as many baits as they could around the bait balls that attracted buri (yellowtail) and other species. These innovative fishermen were said to have developed the greenstick technique by attempting to mimic the New Guinea kite fishermen which allowed their baits to dance in and out of the water with incredible results. The Shikoku fishermen successfully replicated this technique utilizing long green bamboo poles (hence the name greenstick) instead of kites, and in doing so were overly-successful. The rig worked so well in fact, that large hon-maguro (bluefin tuna) would strike the baits with such force and weight they would frequently break the natural bamboo poles.

Enter Yukinobu Shibata. He and fellow fisherman Tokuda-san, recognizing the problem, teamed up



***Yukinobu Shibata  
Pioneer of Modern  
Greensticking***

with an acquaintance Hamaguchi-san who manufactured specialty fiberglass products that included katsuo (aku) poles and outriggers. Together, they developed a heavy-duty sectional



Artwork by Bomboy Llanes

fiberglass pole that to this day is still known as a greenstick.

Shibata and Tokuda brought the first greenstick to Oahu in 1973. Their initial fishing expeditions were so successful that 10 more greensticks were soon shipped to Hawaii. A couple years later in 1975, Shibata and Tokuda brought 3 sticks to Kailua-Kona and developed partnerships to import more greensticks into Hawaii. Over the years, Shibata and Tokuda developed relationships with many Hawaii anglers and charter captains, not only teaching the technique, but learning of other fishermen's stick-fishing innovations along the way.

The technique did not stay hidden in Japan and Hawaii for long. In the 1980's, the first greenstick made its way across the U.S. to North Carolina where it found great success. The technique even caught the attention of the Portuguese Government who invited Shibata to consult on this unique fishing method. Since then greenstick use has spread from the East Coast of the United States to Mexico's Baja Peninsula



Photos courtesy Kotaro Kurosawa



and as far as Central America.

Questions were raised on why the greenstick hasn't taken over traditional offshore trolling given its high success rate. Shibata simply explains "Not many did it right. And no one really wanted to teach the style."

The greenstick has endured several design variations over the years. The color changed from the original green to a purple (lavender) color. Other manufacturers attempted to replicate the greenstick but to date, no one has been successful. "Total balance" is what Shibata claims to make greenstick

fishing work. Everything from the composition of the stick, down to the design of the bird has to be in complete balance for the baits to "dance" properly.

Just prior to 2000, Shibata began work again with manufacturer Hamaguchi-san to incorporate new carbon-fiber and composite materials in what he now calls the Hawaiian Hybrid. This new carbon-fiber/composite stick he says is "the one". The name "Hawaiian Hybrid" may in retrospect, actually be a tribute to Hawaii, given his fondness and aloha for the islands and ahi fishing in Hawaii.

# GENERAL SETUP

**The Hawaiian Hybrid Greenstick** standard model (CS) is a combination up of interlocking and telescoping sections. The 24' model uses the top three sections; the 32' has four sections; the 40' has five sections; and the 46' (coming soon) has six sections. The "Light" Stick (CL) is a slimmer version of the standard CS designed for smaller vessels or large vessels that have higher mounting options. The CL has two sizes 24' (3 sections) and the 32' (4 sections)



## The base and support clamp

Our multi-position base comes in 3 different cup sizes (3", 4", 5"). A 6" model to accommodate the 46' is currently still in development. Unless you are able to mount your greenstick into a rigid sleeve-style base that supports the entire stick upright, it is necessary to provide additional support in the form of a clamp at some mid-level point, between the halfway point and bottom third portion of the stick. This clamp could range from a sturdy U-bolt to a specially fabricated stainless steel bracket.



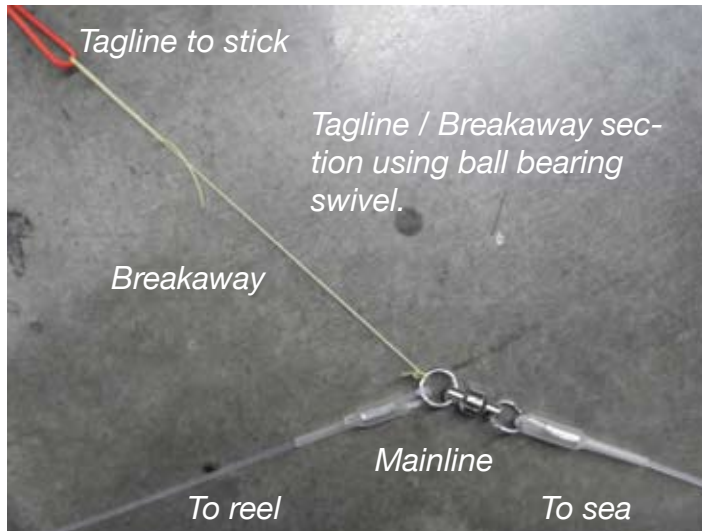
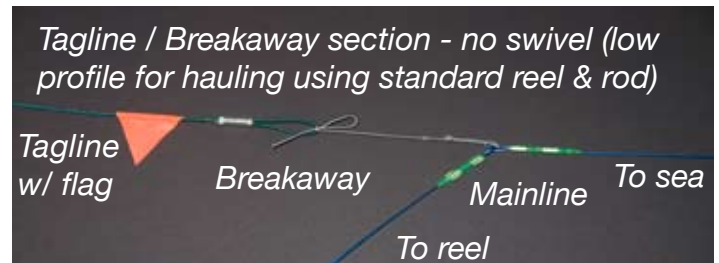
Support clamps/U-bolts

*A 32' stick base-mounted to the deck of the fly bridge and supported through the bridge hard top.*



## Tagline

A line that connects the greenstick to the mainline, via a break away string. You may attach an “action line” (see layout on page 8) on the tagline end of the break away. A steady tug or jerk of the action line produces the dipping action of the surface lures, a major factor in more hookups.



## Branchlines (aka Leaders, Droplines)

Branchlines have a longline snap on the end that usually connects to your mainline into a 2-way ring swivel or via a high-test nylon, Vectran or Spectra bridle that is affixed to the mainline. Branchline lengths are determined by the apex height of your stick, mainline-branchline link locations, and distance to your bird. Typical lengths range from 6” to 48”. At rest position, your baits should be on or just above the water surface, and not submerged. For first time setups, there may be an adjustment period as you find optimum branchline lengths for desired lure presentation.

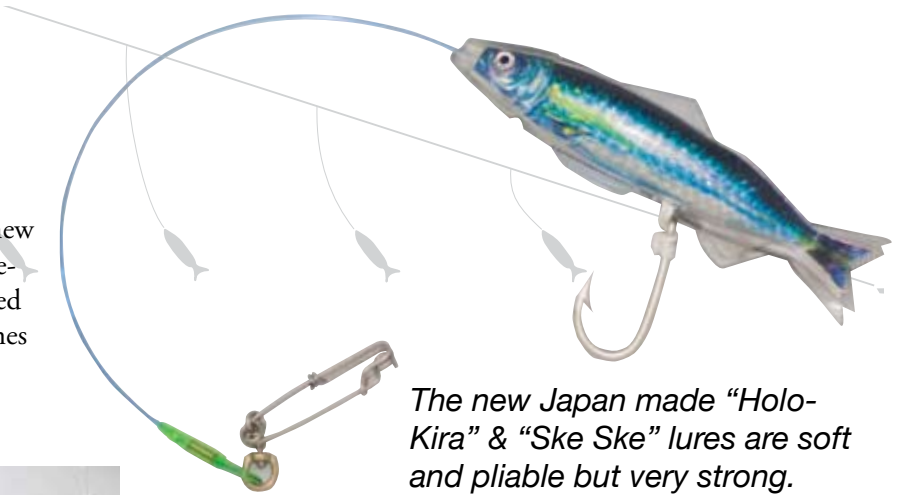
The photo on the bottom left is the new light rigging style that is growing in popularity because it does not weigh the mainline down and is said to allow better lure action.

The photo on the bottom right shows the original “heavy duty” branchline link rig, with bullet and ring swivels.



## Baits/Lures

The most commonly used baits or lures are from Moldcraft, Yamashita and Yozuri – 6" to 12" "squid" baits rigged with galvanized stick hooks (recommended). Dead baits (mackerel, ballyhoo, etc.) can also be used. New lures introduced into the market recently resemble flying fish and the new high-impact resistant Japanese Holo-Kira and Ske-ske (clear) skin lures. The Ske-ske's were developed as protective sleeve for natural baits such as sardines or ballyhoo but innovative fishermen have also designed their own inserts.



*The new Japan made "Holo-Kira" & "Ske Ske" lures are soft and pliable but very strong.*

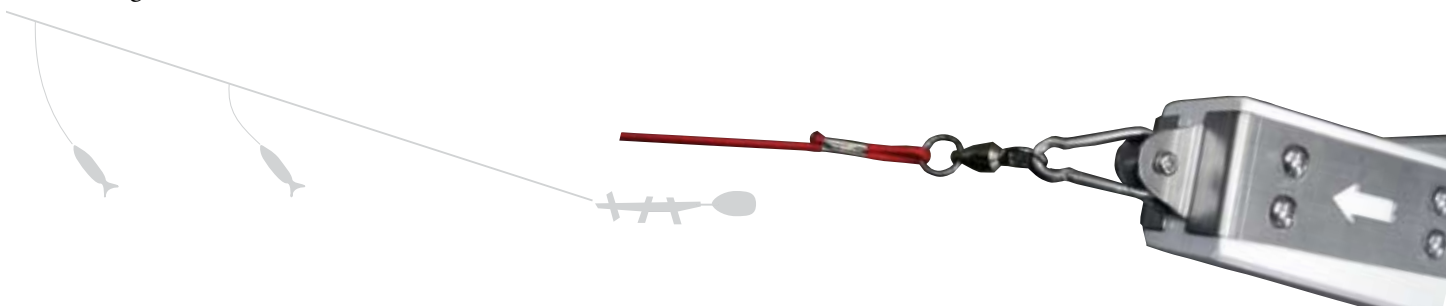
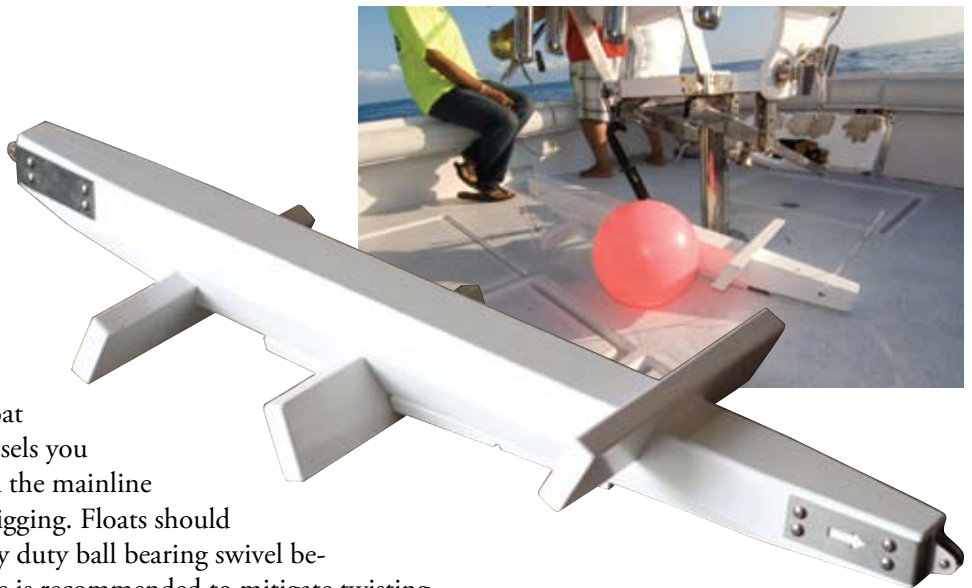


*Squid Lures: Moldcraft 12" (left) and Yo-zuri 6" (right)*



## Bird and Float

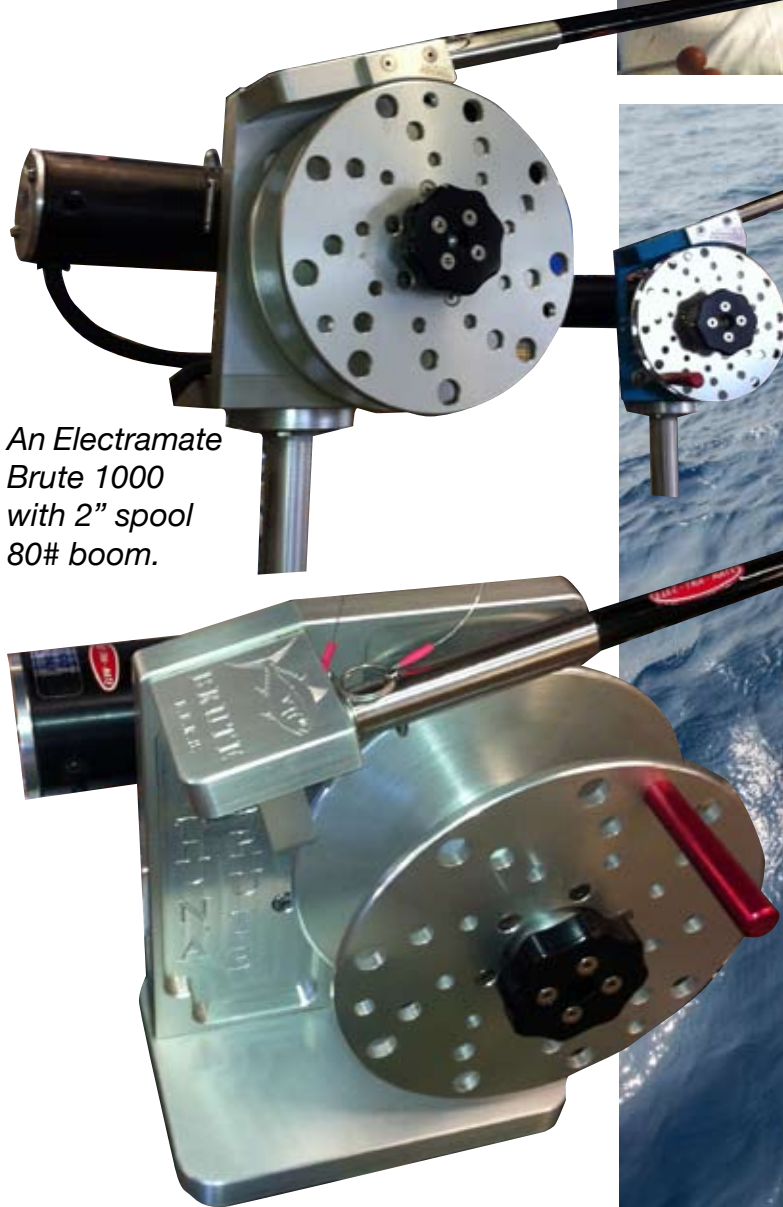
The role of the bird is to keep the mainline constantly taught during fishing. Birds have gone through various design changes throughout the years. They are specially designed to remain submerged and keep constant pressure on the mainline. Improperly designed and unbalanced birds can flop or lose its 'grip' on the water surface causing your mainline and baits to sag. The float serves 2 purposes – 1) to notify nearby vessels you have a greenstick rig in tow, and 2) should the mainline break, you can retrieve the mainline and rigging. Floats should have a minimum 30lbs. buoyancy. A heavy duty ball bearing swivel between the bird's nose end and the mainline is recommended to mitigate twisting and kinking.



### Hauling options

Custom Sea Gear (Bandit-style) reels or Electramates configured with the 1380GH motor (i.e. Brute series) are the most common in Hawaii. Bandit-style reels have hydraulic options also. Your rigging (light, medium or heavy) and mainline length will be determining factors in choosing your hauling method. Systems with 300+ yards of 1000lb. test and more than 5 baits, will need a larger capacity reel/hauler.

Pinch pullers are also an option if you are using line other than monofilament or “superbraids” (Spectra).

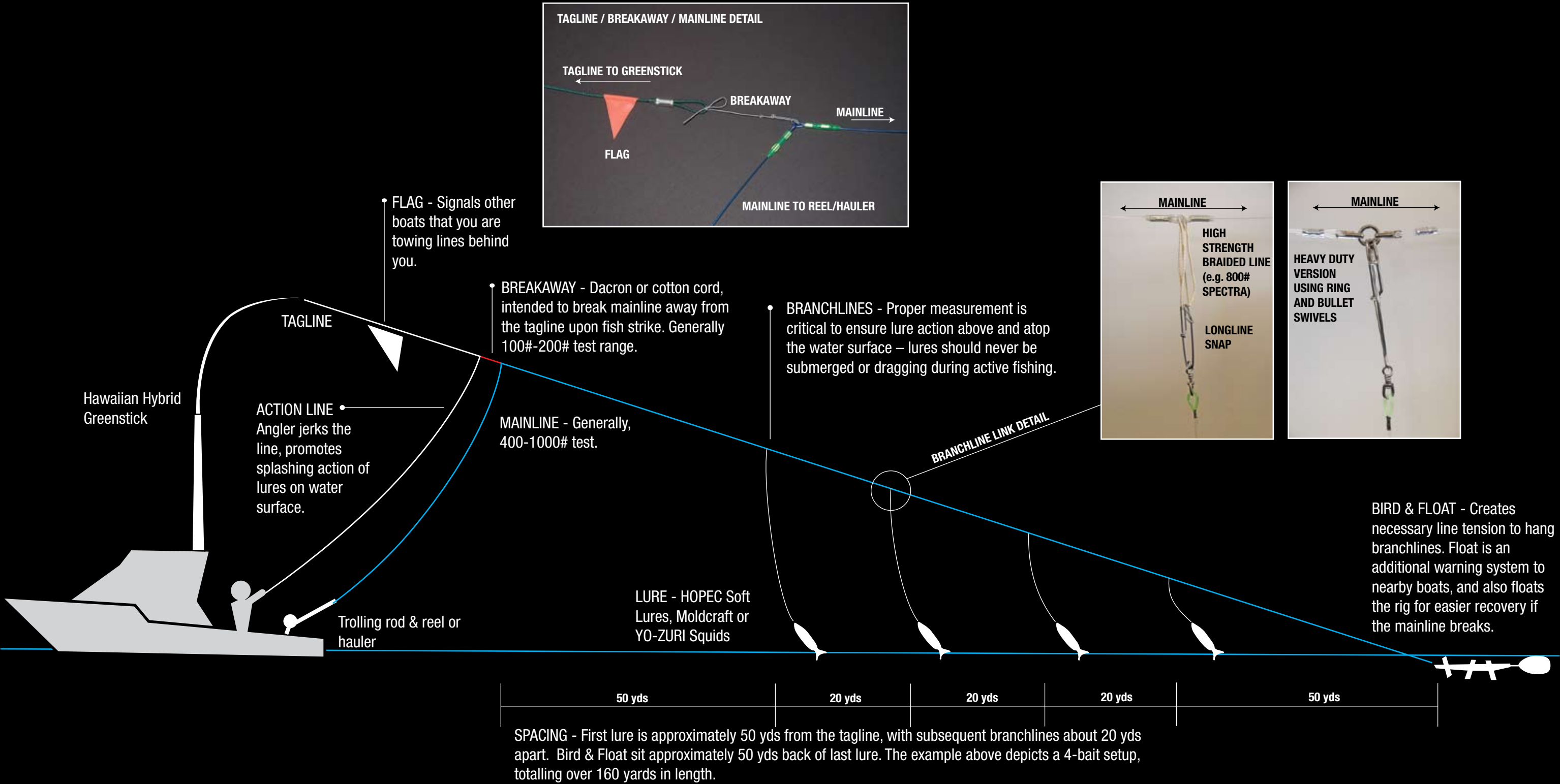


*An Electramate Brute 1000 with 2" spool 80# boom.*



*More power: The new Tuna Brute from Electramate features a beefier Brute 1000, a 4" spool and a 130# boom upgrade.*

# The Greenstick Fishing System



# Greenstick FAQ

## **Why should I use a greenstick?**

It works. Higher catch ratios and a more engaging experience than traditional offshore trolling.

## **What kind of greensticks are there?**

The Hybrid is a fiberglass carbon fiber composite model and the latest evolution from Hamaguchi, the original manufacturer. This replaces the original fiberglass and carbon fiber models which have been discontinued by the manufacturer.

## **Why are they called greensticks? I've seen them in various colors?**

Before fishing pioneer Yukinobu Shibata modernized the fishing method back in the late 1960's, the original stick was large sections of green bamboo, hence the name "greenstick". Since then it has been reproduced and painted in different colors.

## **What size stick should I be using?**

The stick may affect your vessel's stability as your center of gravity will be elevated. Larger vessels over 24' with a tuna tower or fly bridge allow for a smaller stick mounted at a higher point. The new light stick (CL) model gives vessels in the 18'-24' range opportunity to install a greenstick.

## **What style of greenstick fishing should I use? Heavy, medium or light rigging?**

The "heavy-rigging" style was originally utilized in Hawaii and the East Coast, but in recent years more vessels use medium or light rigging styles. East coast fishermen was said to extend their rigs out 250+ yards whereas some Hawaiian fishermen downsized their rigs to 150 yards or less.

## **Why should I go with a Japanese-manufactured greenstick vs. other brands or materials that may be out there?**

The Hamaguchi sticks are by far the best choice for greenstick fishing. Not only have these sticks had a success rate dating back to the 1970's, but the manufacturer has been involved in making fiberglass products for decades and even produces their own fiberglass materials used in the production of greensticks so they have absolute 100% quality control. Replacement tips and other parts are now available. Hamaguchi sets the standard in premium quality greensticks.

## **What is the breaking strength of a greenstick?**

The greenstick is a fishing pole and fishing poles in general have a line test rating but no breaking strength rating. Current fishing systems in the field are using 250# - 1200# test mono mainlines.

## **Why do some have pins and some telescoping?**

The greenstick have been through several design changes over the years. In the near future all sticks will be the pin style.

## **I have an older telescoping greenstick. How do I secure it to prevent it from collapsing back into itself?**

A piece of rubber bicycle tire tubing and a couple stainless clamps work well here. We have heard of a few individuals who have drilled into the stick and secured it with a bolt or pin.

## **How should I mount my greenstick?**

Forward of the cabin, tuna tower/fly bridge, gunwale and even on the swimstep/transom. Overall, mount the stick wherever your vessel is best able to safely accommodate it. Keep in mind the vessel stability, deck mobility, access to engine covers/hatches, etc. and avoid mounting your stick in a potentially weak or unreinforced area.

## **What is the tagline and how should I set up my tagline?**

The tagline connects the tip of the greenstick to the mainline via a breakaway line. It is recommended a loop be used at the end of the tagline instead of a snap or swivel to prevent damage or injury from "snap back" during a strike. The length of the tagline is determined by your ability to access the line when you need to retrieve the line to re-set, adjust or break down your gear. The strength of the tagline needs to be greater than the breakaway line but not so heavy so that it affects the action of your baits. Polyester line from 650# or up to 4.0mm in most set-ups are sufficient.

## **What should I use as my breakaway line?**

Monofilament, Dacron and cotton cord ranging from 100# -200# breaking strength. It is important that the mainline is able to



breakaway from the tip upon strike to mitigate the chances of breaking or collapsing any of your greenstick sections which may lead to vessel equipment damage or injury.

#### **How do I connect my breakaway line to the tagline and mainline?**

Have an adequate supply of pre-rigged break-aways on hand. A loop is made on one end. The looped end of the breakaway can then be looped into the swivel or connected loops on the mainline on one end and secured to the tagline via a slip knot. Those using a snap on the end of the tagline can make loops on both ends of the breakaway and just snap the tagline snap onto the loop. For safety reasons we recommend a loop on the end of the tagline and securing to the breakaway via slip knot.

#### **What kind of baits should I use?**

Standard baits are Moldcraft, Yozuri or Yamashita squids ranging from 4" – 12" and the new HOPEC Soft Lures. Dead baits also have been used.

#### **How many baits should I use?**

Current systems range between 2-10 baits with most between 4-7 baits. It may be a good idea to start off with a lower number of baits and increase if you feel comfortable and/or the need to.

#### **How should my baits be fished?**

Your baits should be dipping in and out of the water as much as possible in an up and down motion and not trolling/dragging the surface or swinging side to side.

#### **What kind of hooks should I be using?**

The impact of the strike can exert tremendous pressure on the stick and we've seen stainless hooks open up. This being said we recommend and sell the specially designed Tossa galvanized stick hook.

#### **What other resources are out there to learn about stick fishing?**

There are currently 2 segments on the locally-produced "Let's Go Fishing" TV show which might give you better insight into the fishing techniques. They can be viewed online at Youtube or [benwongtv.com](http://benwongtv.com)

#### **What is the importance of the bird design?**

The bird keeps the line constantly taut so the baits hang properly. If the bird skips or rolls over because of poor design, it will

cause the line to sag and the baits to drag, thus negating the effectiveness of the rig.

### **What speed should I be trolling my greenstick rig at?**

Between 5-7 knots is the standard. Keep in mind the faster you push the vessel, the more tension you create on the rig. Too much tension may break the breakaway and will need to re-set the line. As you learn your system, there may be need for adjustment in the breakaway line's rating to suit your gear and speed.

### **What is the flag for?**

The flag notifies other vessels in the area that you have up to 250+ yards of line in tow.

### **What is the float for?**

The float lessens the fight time and allows easier retrieval of your gear should the mainline part at some point.

### **How do I connect my branchline to the mainline?**

Traditionally a snap would be snapped onto the welded ring of a 2-way swivel. The light rigging style uses a smaller Japanese snap with an SBL swivel affixed to nylon, Spectra or Vectron bridles that are looped through the joined sections in the mainline as no swivels are used in the mainline of the light rigging style.

### **How do I prevent my mainline from tangling?**

For the medium-heavy rigging styles, swivels are incorporated throughout the rig to mitigate kinks and tangles. A heavy duty ball bearing swivel at the end of the line near the bird might also be a good idea. For the light rigging style, unless modified, there are no swivels in the rigging as the mainline sections are connected together via loops so the only swivel would be at the end of the line connecting to or near the bird.

### **What kind of safety measures should I consider?**

Routinely inspect your greenstick, its mounting base and brackets and mounting areas for wear.

A greenstick is an oversized outrigger – make sure you have a proper platform to safely mount an greenstick that can weigh as much as 85 lbs. Keep this in mind as you are shifting your vessels center of gravity.

Any object on the end of a line under strain will become a projectile if it suddenly becomes unsecured so always keep in mind that the tagline may ricochet back upon a strike just as if you were fishing with standard outriggers utilizing taglines or when leadering a fish should the hook pull out. We recommend using a loop instead of a snap at the end of the tagline and secure the breakaway with a slip not. Safety eyewear is also recommended.

It is recommended to run a flag on the tagline in addition to the float after the bird to indicate to other vessels that you have a greenstick line in tow.

Remove the branchlines/dropline snap before removing the lure from the water and into the boat, just in case a fish strikes the other connected lures still in the water.

Avoid using a line size or material that will restrict a proper breakaway between the stick and the mainline when it gets stressed.

### **Can I re-paint my greenstick?**

Yes. The manufacturer recommends a high quality 2-part polyurethane coating.

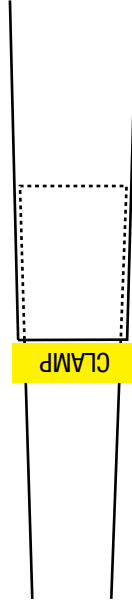
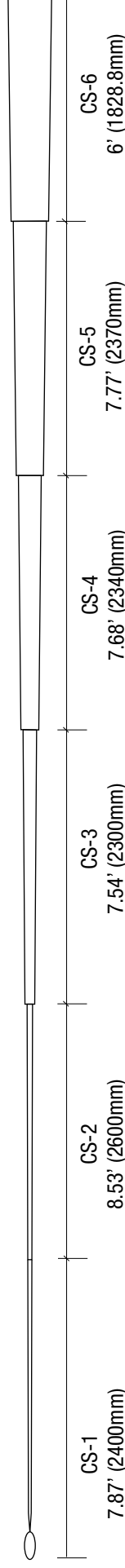
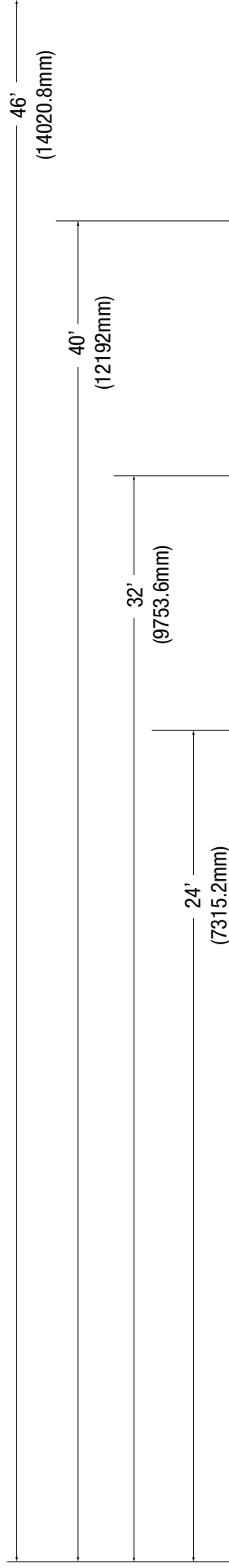


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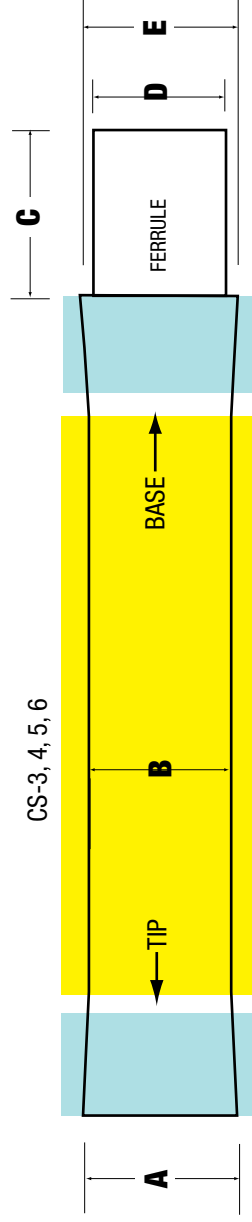
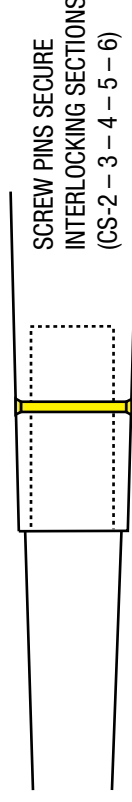


# Hawaiian Hybrid Greenstick CS Specifications

## Standard CS Model 24' - 46'



CS-1 – 2 TELESCOPING TIP MAY BE SECURED WITH A CLAMP

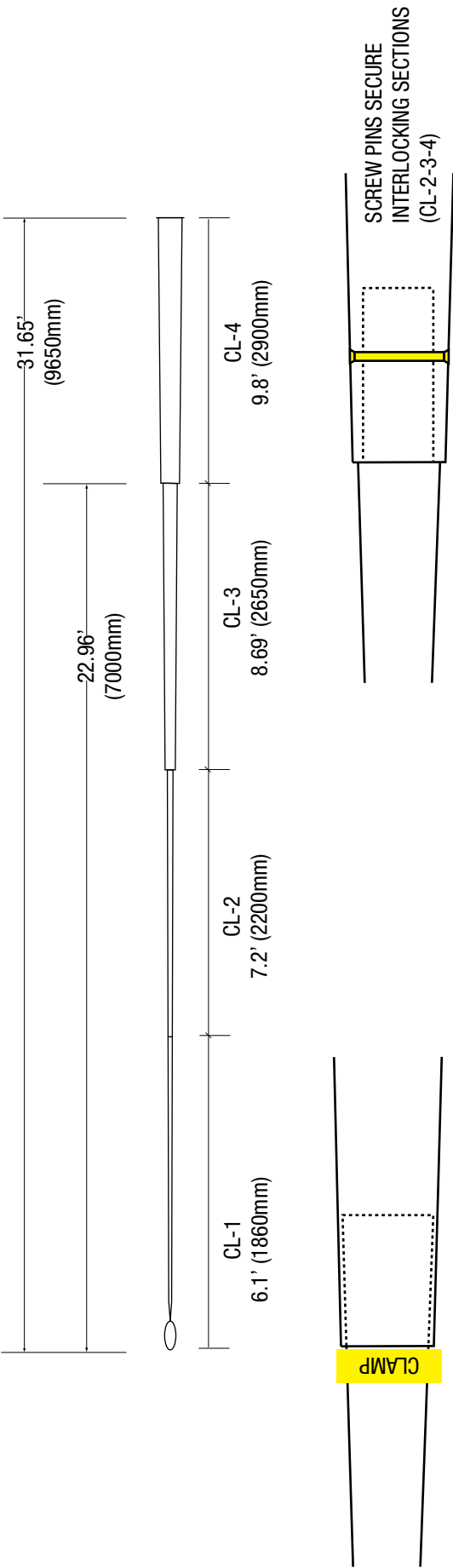


FOR JOINT REINFORCEMENT, EACH SECTION IS SLIGHTLY THICKER (O.D.) AT BOTH ENDS THAN THE MIDDLE REGION.

SECTION	A (O.D.)	B (O.D.)	C	D (O.D.)	E (O.D.)	WT
CS-1	NA	1.3" (33mm)	NA	NA	NA	3.1lb (1.4kg)
CS-2	1.8" (45.5mm)	NA	9.1" (230mm)	NA	2.6" (65mm)	7.7lb (3.5kg)
CS-3	3" (76.5mm)	2.8" (71mm)	10.2" (260mm)	2.9" (75mm)	3.2" (80.5mm)	13.5lb (6.1kg)
CS-4	3.6" (92mm)	3.4" (86.5mm)	11.8" (300mm)	3.5" (90mm)	3.8" (97.5mm)	18.5lb (8.4kg)
CS-5	4.1" (105mm)	4" (101mm)	16.5" (420mm)	4.2" (105.8mm)	4.8" (106mm)	21.2lb (9.6kg)
CS-6						

# Hawaiian Hybrid Greenstick CL Specifications

## Light CL Model 23' and 32'



CS-1 – 2 TELESOPING TIP MAY BE SECURED WITH A CLAMP

SECTION	LENGTH	WEIGHT	O.D (BOTTOM)
CL-32	31.76' (9.61m)	21.4lb (9.7kg)	2.48" (63mm)
CL-23	22.96' (7m)	11.7lb (5.3kg)	1.97" (50mm)



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