

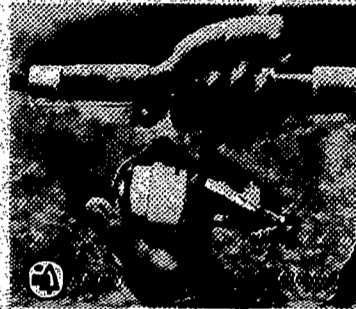


Watching a skilled water skier, it's easy to forget the importance of the boat driver. Here are some tips on how to competently (and safely) pilot a ski boat, from Mike Osborn, president of Osborn Marine in Winter Haven, Florida, a former water ski champion, boat driver in many water ski racing contests, and longtime member of the Johnson Outboards Sports Advisory Board.

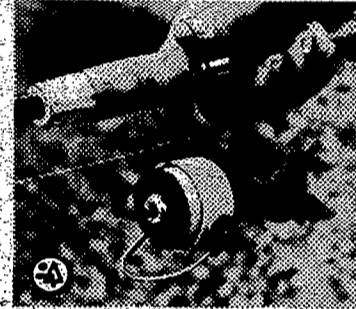
- You should have (and most states require) an observer in the boat.
- When approaching a

skier floating in the water, always approach on the driver's side for better visibility. Always bring the boat in downwind of the skier, so the boat will not drift into him.

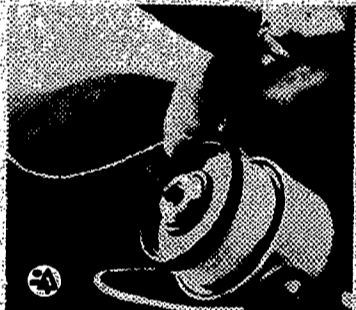
- Use a strong rope, free of knots. Attach a float ball near harness to prevent entanglement with propeller.
- Accelerate smoothly, with sufficient power. Keep it smooth. Comfort range for skier with two skis is 15 to 25 mph. Slalom skiing is faster, depending on weight of skier and width of ski.



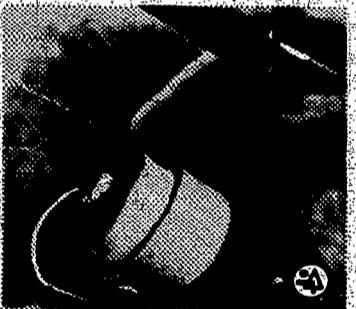
(A) ALWAYS start cast with reel stem between third and fourth finger (the thumb is #1)



(B) BEGIN cast with index finger holding line from spool.



(C) CONTROL cast by letting index finger "feather" line.



(S) STOP cast by touching spool with index finger.

Got Him!



How to be Competent Water Skiing Pilot



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