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Product Manual



The Team from Seahorse would like to thank you for purchasing your Seahorse fishing System. We know you will enjoy a lot of success. The Seahorse system has an excellent reputation for reliability and performance, and below are a few helpful tips to get the best out of your equipment. We recommend you study and fully understand the manual and instructional DVD prior to using your Seahorse.

If you have any queries or questions, or your Seahorse equipment is not performing as you expected, please contact us at Seahorse. We will be happy to answer any queries, and provide advice. We are also happy to listen to your fishing stories.

Safety

Fishing is a dangerous sport. Hooks are dangerous to the unwary, therefore be sensible about where and when you use your Seahorse system.

- Read and study the manual and instructional DVD/video prior to using your Seahorse system.
- Keep children and animals clear of the fishing equipment, including the kontiki, line, hooks, and the winch (or reel).
- Ensure all users and helpers are instructed or trained in using the Seahorse products.
- Warn onlookers or passer-bys of any hooks or the location of the mainline.
- Operate your Seahorse system in a responsible manner, and be considerate of other beach users.
- Do not operate your Seahorse system on a crowded beach, or among swimmers.
- Take extreme care of fouled hooks. Seahorse recommends letting fouled hooks go, as trying to clear fouled hooks is likely to cause injuries.
- Unplug the batteries when not in use.
- Use the strobe-light at night.
- Always know where your Seahorse kontiki is - use binoculars.
- Be aware of the ocean or tidal currents, and where they could carry or drag your Seahorse kontiki or line.
- Retrieve the Seahorse kontiki, if it presents a danger to other Beach users.
- Keep Clear of the Propeller at all times
- Follow the safety instructions in the battery charger instructional booklet when handling and charging batteries.
- Keep hands and loose clothing clear of the moving parts of the electric winch, as they could get caught and cause serious injury.



Using the Seahorse

The Seahorse System is designed to be used off sandy beaches, with a seabed clear of foul ground, obstructions or obstacles. These could hinder retrieval of your Seahorse kontiki.

- Do not use your Seahorse where it could endanger other beach users.
- Do not use your Seahorse kontiki where it could be a hazard to navigation of boats and ships.
- Do not use your Seahorse kontiki near underwater cables or pipes.
- Seahorse recommends having a minimum separation of 400 metres between kontiki users.
- Check for other kontiki users before launching your Seahorse kontiki. If there are other users already on the beach, find out where their units are, and set your Seahorse kontiki accordingly.
- Be aware of the local fishing regulations, including size and bag limits. Do not break them, as penalties, could include loss of your Seahorse equipment.



Before launching your Seahorse kontiki:

- Always ensure the hatch is properly closed, or the latch safety pin is inserted.
- Ensure the Strobe light is done up correctly.
- Always ensure your winch retrieval line is securely attached to the Seahorse kontiki.
- Always check the Winch or Hand Reel is operating properly.

Contact Details

Ensure your name and contact details (phone number) are noted on your Seahorse products. It is recommended to also name the minor components, such as the batteries and hatch cover, as they can be left on the beach.

It is a fisheries requirement that the fisher is identified with their name (initials and surname) on the float (your Seahorse kontiki) which is attached to the longline. They also recommend a phone number is included.

We recommend you have these details engraved on to the aluminium hatch and/or the prop guard. You can use permanent marker pen on the plastic body, but this will wear off with time, and will need to be redone.

Note the unique serial number of your Seahorse products. It is on the right or starboard of the Seahorse kontiki, and on the motor or

side cover of the Seahorse winches. The motorised trolley has the number punched onto the frame beside the on/off switch. Your insurance company may require these serial numbers. Use these serial numbers when completing the warranty card that should be returned to Seahorse.

The Seahorse system is generally insured as a recreational item under your household contents insurance policies. Seahorse recommends checking with your insurance company as to the extent of cover your policy provides, and confirming the inclusion of the Seahorse products by writing or email.

Also record your kontiki and winch serial numbers (take a photo with your phone) and keep them in a safe place in case you ever need them.

Maintenance

The Seahorse system requires a good wash with fresh water after every use. This will remove the salt and sand, and will extend the life of the Seahorse products and their components. We recommend using a salt removal product like Salt-Away or hot soapy water to clean your Seahorse equipment.

Keep your traces and hooks clean and free from old bait, and in good condition. This will improve your catch rates. Clean sharp hooks and fresh baits catch more fish.

Periodically (6 months) clean the battery and control unit connectors, to remove any sand or foreign matter from the connectors. Then place the connectors into liquefied (hot and melted) Vaseline or petroleum grease. This will allow the grease to get into and protect the connectors. Take care and wear suitable

protective clothing as the container and the liquefied Vaseline is very hot and can cause burns.

Keep the hatch seal clean and clear of sand etc. Periodically check your mainline for any nicks, cuts or other damage, and replace if necessary. Also check around the stoppers and joints for wear.

Contact Seahorse on phone 07 543 0266 regarding repairs.

Clean any sand from the hatch screw - use hot soapy water if required.

Warranty

Check the Seahorse website (www.seahorse.net.nz) for the latest wording of the warranty. Below is a summary of the warranty, terms and conditions.

- Only use Seahorse supplied products and components in the Seahorse system.
- Using batteries or chargers not supplied by Seahorse will invalidate your warranty.
- Modifications to the Seahorse products will invalidate your warranty.
- Repairs by unauthorised persons will invalidate your warranty.
- All parts of the Seahorse products are serviceable either by repair or replacement and they carry a manufacturers warranty to replace or repair defective parts within 24 months (12 months on batteries) of purchase. This is a normal "Return to base" warranty, therefore freight back to the factory is not covered - see the website www.seahorse.net.nz for details.
- The warranty does not cover damage caused by accident, misuse, unauthorised repairs, or not taking reasonable care. Seahorse maintains the right to determine whether to

repair or replace any parts subject to a warranty claim.

Batteries

Battery Care and Maintenance

Your batteries should arrive fully charged, but we recommend you charge your batteries on the charger provided prior to the first use of your Seahorse system. This will ensure the batteries are fully charged and will maximise their future life.

- Follow the operating instructions supplied with your battery charger.
- Recharge the batteries as soon as possible after each use to ensure they maintain their capacity.
- Batteries will self discharge approximately up to 5% every month, so top up your batteries every three months if you are not using your system.
- Do not leave the batteries in a discharged state, this will cause them to fail.
- Do not consistently over or under charge the batteries, as this will cause them to fail.
- Overcharging batteries may cause them to explode.

The batteries supplied with the Seahorse system are designed to handle the high current loads that happen under normal operating conditions. Using non standard batteries will invalidate your warranty, and may not provide the same level of performance.

Seahorse recommends the battery connectors are cleaned and re-greased periodically (every six months). See the Maintenance Section for instructions.

The lightweight lithium batteries need to be charged using their own specialised charger. Using a different charger will damage these

batteries. These batteries have their own built in battery management system.

Charging the Batteries

Use the battery charger supplied. We recommend removing the batteries from the Seahorse kontiki when charging. It will normally take three to four hours per battery. Plug the charger into the mains power, and connect the batteries to be charged. Follow the operating instructions received with the charger. If the charger does not seem to be operating properly, unplug the charger from the mains power, wait 30 seconds and then plug back into the mains power.

If your charger does not perform as expected, please contact Seahorse to discuss the problem. A fully charged battery should read 12.9 to 13.4 volts on a volt meter, or at the "OK" point on the Seahorse Battery Status scale.

Most people get two to three years life from their batteries before their performance drops to a point where they feel they need replacing. The lithium batteries should last up to 2000 cycles before they drop to 60% of their original capacity.

The SLA battery charger is set up with 3 battery connectors to allow you to charge 3 batteries at a time. It will normally take approximately 8 hours to charge all 3 batteries.

The Lithium battery chargers can only charge one battery at a time. The charge time is directly related to the power of the charger.

We recommend you read any instructions that come with your charger and follow any safety instructions they advise.

Do not leave your batteries connected to the charger once they are charged.

Strobe Light

The strobe light is for use during night fishing. If fishing during the day, the strobe light can be removed from the kontiki by sliding the complete strobe light out of its hole.



Before launching the Seahorse, unscrew the top of the light and insert a "D" cell battery (+ terminal up) into the strobe light. Replace the top of the light and ensure it is screwed on securely. The strobe light is light sensitive, and will automatically switch on when it is dark. The light can be covered to test. It flashes brightly at one second intervals.

It is recommended the battery is removed and stored in the Seahorse body whenever it is not required. Always re-screw the top of the light on fully when not in use, to ensure the strobe light is closed and will not let water in (i.e., when washing the Seahorse Kontiki). The strobe light will fail if water enters the strobe light unit.

Aluminium Hatch

Removing the hatch

Loosen the hatch screw until the hatch lid will lift clear of the hatch seal and slide forward, towards the bow. This will release the stern locating arms, and will allow the hatch to be removed. Never place the hatch screw-side or bottom into the sand.



Removing the hatch without releasing it correctly will displace the hatch seal, which will allow water to enter the Seahorse. If the hatch seal becomes displaced, please contact Seahorse.

Fitting the hatch

Ensure the hatch screw is sufficiently unscrewed to allow the hatch to fit into place without displacing the hatch rubber seal.

When refitting the hatch, ensure the spider arms are clear of and does not pass under any of the battery wires. Then slide the forward locating arms into the body of the Seahorse kontiki, then lower and slide the hatch back to fit the stern locating arms. Tighten the hatch screw, while ensuring the hatch cover fits correctly onto the rubber seal, and continue to tighten the hatch secure. This will give a watertight seal. If water is getting into your Seahorse kontiki, please contact Seahorse.

If the hatch spider is removed, please ensure the replaced the correct way up, with the embedded brass nut facing away from the hatch lid. If it is placed on upside down, the Seahorse kontiki will leak and is likely to sink. If the hatch screw becomes stiff, and is hard to turn, it is likely the screw will need to be re-greased. This can be done by tapping the screw part way out of the hatch lid (use wood or a soft hammer), re-grease the screw around the "O"

rings, with good quality marine grease, and then re-insert the hatch screw. Remove any excess grease.

Seahorse GPS Autopilot Kontiki



The Seahorse autopilot system uses a patented unique combination of GPS and compass technology to allow you to simply point the unit in the direction you wish your Seahorse kontiki to travel and that's where it will go. It will automatically adjust for side currents and correct itself if knocked off course by a wave.

The Seahorse GPS autopilot system is available with either the 46 or 30lb thrust motor.

Fitting and Connecting the Batteries

The Seahorse GPS kontiki can operate with either two larger 14ah batteries (GPS 46 only), or 1*14ah battery (larger), and 1*8ah battery (smaller). The Seahorse GPS kontiki requires the small battery to be placed in first on its side, with terminals or wires on the right hand side followed by the larger battery last, with the terminals or wires on the top. Ensure the wires are kept clear of the spider when fitting the hatch.

Both batteries must be used to ensure performance and battery is maintained. Plug

either battery into either connector and tuck the leads down so they are clear of the hatch retaining arms. Secure the hatch into place.

Setting the Course

Simply point the Seahorse GPS kontiki in the direction you want, wait for the two lights to show, swipe with the magnet and launch. A more detailed description is below.

The autopilot works by setting a waypoint to which the unit will then steer itself towards. Once the batteries are connected, the autopilot unit will go through several stages where it gets a GPS and direction lock. If moved during this process, the Seahorse GPS kontiki will re-set itself to the new course.

When ready, with the magnet well clear (two metres) of the kontiki unit, place the Seahorse GPS kontiki unit on the ground two metres

clear of the winch and five metres clear of any vehicles, pointing in the direction you wish it to travel, and plug in the batteries. With this, the line of lights of the autopilot come on, followed by a single flashing light. This is indicating the unit is getting a lock on the GPS satellites.

Once the unit has a GPS satellite lock, you will get a single solid light indicating the unit is getting a direction lock. The system requires a steady course for three seconds to gain a directional lock.

Once the unit has a directional lock, a second light will show, indicating the system is ready for you to confirm the course.

If the kontiki is moved before confirming the course, the autopilot will step back to a single light as it re-establishes a directional lock.



Also, keep the magnet two or more metres clear of the GPS kontiki as it will either stop the Seahorse GPS kontiki getting a directional lock, or it will effect the compass and you will get a wrong directional lock.

If the kontiki is not pointing in the correct direction, prior to confirming the course, the unit can be moved and pointed in the correct direction. The autopilot will indicate the selection of the new course by showing the single light as it gets a directional lock, followed by the double lights when selected and ready to be confirmed.

The double (two) solid lights indicate the kontiki now has a directional lock, and has calculated a waypoint three km's in front of the kontiki. You can now safely bring the magnet close and swipe it over the top light (nearest the strobe light) to confirm the course, and all four lights will show the course is set, and the kontiki unit is ready to launch.

At this stage the rudder will start moving, left and right, and it could also move and stay pointing to one side. The reason for this is the Seahorse GPS kontiki uses a GPS (not a compass) to control the autopilot system. A GPS has no sense of direction, and only knows where it is. So when the kontiki is stationary, the GPS unit is searching for some direction. Once the kontiki is moving, the GPS will look at where it was, and where it is now to work out the direction it is travelling in and the autopilot will then adjust the rudder to head the kontiki in the correct direction.

A swipe of the magnet when all four lights are showing, will clear the course allowing it to be reset.

Please note the magnet has a strong side and a weak side. The strong side of the magnet is the

side where the string comes out of the magnet case. Always use the strong side.

Checking the Course and the operation of the Autopilot system

The course can be checked by walking the GPS kontiki unit in the direction of the course, and checking the rudder steers the correct course. For example, after setting the course out to sea, as you walk the kontiki towards the water, you should see the rudder centre itself as you walk in the direction of the course you have just set. If by the time you reach the water and the rudder is still hard over to one side, this is a clear indication the course set is not the one you intended, and if you launched your kontiki, it will turn in the direction the rudder is pointing and head off in the wrong direction.

If you find the rudder is still pointing in the wrong direction once you reach the water edge, this is an indication the course selected could be different to the intended course, Seahorse recommends taking the kontiki back up the beach, and clear and reset the course.

Now set the timer and start the motor and launch the Seahorse kontiki into the surf. See the section below – Operating your STD or GPS Seahorse Kontiki.

Warning

As the autopilot relies on a electronic compass to gain the compass bearing as to where the Seahorse GPS kontiki is pointing, there may be local magnetic abnormalities that could effect the accuracy of the course setting. For example, iron sand beaches may create a small error of a few degrees between the desired course and the actual course, and will need to be allowed for once known.

Seahorse STD Kontiki

The Seahorse STD kontiki has over 10 years of development, to ensure it performs as you expect. Without the complexity of the GPS autopilot system the Seahorse STD kontiki is simple and effective to use and, with a bit of practice, you will get very good at setting the course. A little more care is needed to ensure the kontiki goes where you want it to go.



Before launching you need to assess where the currents are flowing, if any, and then launch at an angle into the current to help the Seahorse STD kontiki have a good set. The adjustable trim tab can also be used.

The Seahorse STD kontiki is supplied with 1*14ah (larger) battery and 1*8ah (smaller) battery. The Seahorse STD kontiki requires the larger battery to be placed in first, with the terminals or wires on the top. And the smaller battery to be placed in second on it's side, with terminals or wires on the right hand side. Ensure the wires are kept clear of the spider when fitting the hatch. The Seahorse GPS kontiki has it's batteries in the opposite way.

Both batteries must be used to ensure performance and battery life is maintained. Plug either battery into either connector and tuck the leads down so they are clear of the

hatch retaining arms. Secure the hatch into place.

Operating the timer - Seahorse GPS or STD Kontiki

Battery Status Light

When the batteries are connected, a single red LED light will indicate the charge level in the batteries. Either of the lights at the "OK" on the battery status indicates fully charged batteries, and you should get a full run. If the light is near the "Recharge" on the Battery Status, the batteries are not fully charged. You will only get a partial run, and the batteries need to be recharged as soon as possible.

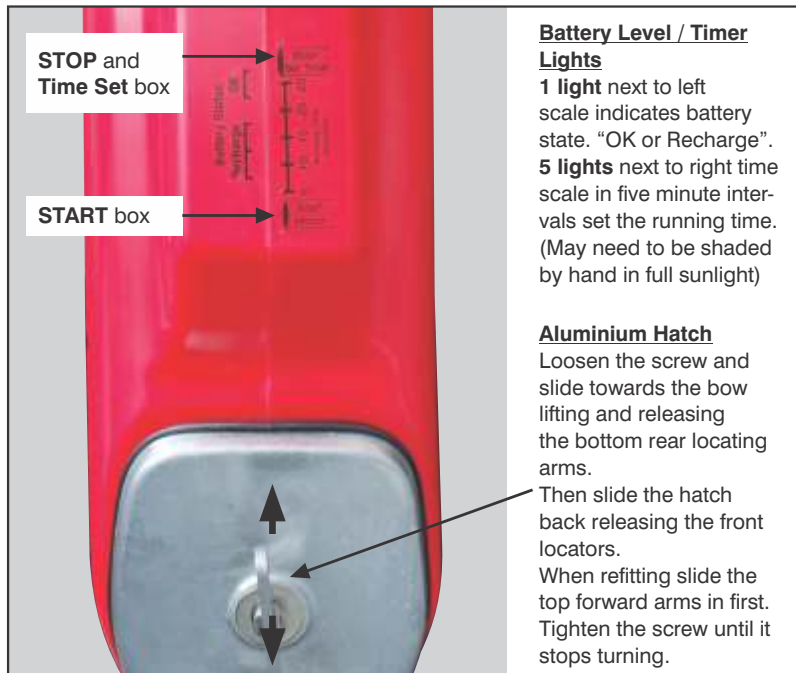
Setting timer and starting the GPS 46 and STD 46

The electronic control unit manages the operations of the Seahorse kontiki. The control unit is operated by the magnet provided. The magnetic sensors are positioned on the centreline of the kontiki unit, at each end of the lights near the "Start Motor" and "Stop/Set Timer" labels.

Once the batteries are connected, and the battery status light is showing, you can start the Seahorse kontiki, or set the timer and then start the motor. On the GPS 46, this is done after the course has been set and locked into place, and you have four lights showing on the autopilot.

Place the magnet over the "Start Motor" label and slide the magnet across the kontiki unit. This will start the motor, and it will run until the control unit stops the motor due to low batteries giving maximum distance from the set of batteries.

By setting the timer, you can control the distance the Seahorse kontiki will travel. This is



Battery Level / Timer Lights

1 light next to left scale indicates battery state. "OK or Recharge".
5 lights next to right time scale in five minute intervals set the running time. (May need to be shaded by hand in full sunlight)

Aluminium Hatch

Loosen the screw and slide towards the bow lifting and releasing the bottom rear locating arms.
 Then slide the hatch back releasing the front locators.
 When refitting slide the top forward arms in first. Tighten the screw until it stops turning.

done by placing and swiping (sideways) the magnet from the "Stop/Set Timer" label across the kontiki. This will count down the timer so you can select 25, 20, 15, 10 or 5 minutes. Once the time is selected, then place the magnet over the "Start Motor" label and swipe sideways across the kontiki to start the motor. The motor will run for the time selected, or less if the low battery cut-out operates. It may be necessary to shade the control panel in bright sunlight.

With the GPS and STD 46, once the motor is running you can change from high to slow speed and back by holding the magnet over the 5 minute flashing light for three seconds. The motor speed is shown by the rate of light flashes. Fast for fast speed, and slow for slow speed.

Keep the magnet safely around your neck, and tuck it inside your clothing to ensure it doesn't get caught on anything.

Stall Protection

The Seahorse kontiki electronic control unit, now come standard with advance stall protection. If the propeller is fouled, the control unit will stop and re-start the motor three times to try and free the obstruction. Each stop is for approximately 0.5 seconds. If the propeller remains fouled, the control unit will turn the motor off after the third attempt. Shingle or stony beaches are the main cause of stalled motors.

Seahorse S30 Kontiki

The Seahorse S30 kontiki is our newest, lightest, and most compact Seahorse Kontiki to date. By using the latest technology, Seahorse has created an easy to use, easy to carry, and easy to store or transport kontiki fishing system that will still perform and catch fish.



The Seahorse S30 kontiki has a new built-in GPS autopilot system that will steer the S30 in the direction you want. It is powered by a lithium battery and is operated by a hand-held programmer.

The Seahorse S30 is recommended for people looking for a lightweight kontiki system, or where storage or transport space is limited. With the 30lb thrust motor, the S30 be better suited to the calmer conditions, with less rip.

Assembling and closing the Seahorse S30

The S30 will arrive in two parts, the body and the tail. At the back of the body there is an opening where the Lithium Battery is inserted. The tail is connected to the body by joining the tail to the body by the hinge. After the battery is connected and inserted, close the body by lifting the tail up and fastening the latch. Once



the latch is closed, place the locking safety pin into place to ensure the positive action latch cannot come open.

Starting the Seahorse S30

When the battery is connected, the servo will turn the rudder to right. This is the signal that the Kontiki is getting a GPS lock. The motor will not start unless the S30 has a GPS lock. Once the S30 has a GPS lock, the rudder will move and point to the left, and the motor will now start.

The Seahorse S30 Kontiki is operated by a hand held programmer. The programmer is started by pressing the **On/Off** button. Once it's operating, the time of your last run will be displayed in the display. The run time can be adjusted by using the up (+) and down (-) arrow



buttons. The 10ah Lithium battery will run the S30 up to 20 minutes, and it can travel up to 1500 metres in that time.

Once the time is set, and with the rudder on the S30 is pointing to the left, the motor can be started by pressing the **start** button. Please note the motor may stop sooner if the battery becomes discharged. Once the motor is started, the hand held programmer will count down and display (MM:SS) the remaining run time. If the motor doesn't start, press start a second time.

Please note, the motor will only start with the rudder pointing to the left, and the run time displayed in the programmer display.

Stopping the Seahorse S30

Press the **stop** button, and this will stop the motor if the kontiki is within range of the programmer. The range is generally up to 100 metres.

Once the stop button is pressed, the timer will show the fishing time, and will count up from 0:00 (H:MM). If you press Stop again, the fishing time counter is stopped and the run time is displayed once again.

Setting the Course on the Seahorse S30

The Seahorse S30 autopilot only uses a GPS module, and therefore required movement to set it's course.

Once the motor is started, the S30 needs to be carried 10 to 20 metres in a straight line in the direction you wish the S30 to travel in. Once the S30 can calculate a steady direction, it will set a waypoint 3km's in that direction. Once the course and waypoint is set, the rudder will swing to the centre. You can now launch the S30 and it will steer itself towards the waypoint.

The best way to walk in a straight line is to have a target or mark to aim for. Walk positively towards the target, only glancing, as you get near the water, at the rudder to see if it has centred itself.

If you walk looking at the rudder, you will not walk in a straight line and the course will not be set. If this happens, stop the motor, go back to the start, and follow the course setting procedure again.

Checking the course and the operation of the Autopilot

Once the S30 has set it's course, it is possible to check the operation of the autopilot system. This can be done by walking the S30 kontiki unit in the direction of the course, and checking the rudder steers the correct course. For example, after setting the course out to sea, as you walk the kontiki towards the water, you should see the rudder centre itself as you walk in the direction of the course you have just set. If you walk to the left, the rudder will turn to the right, and if you walk to the right, the rudder should turn to the left. The rudder is adjusted once every second.

If by the time you reach the water and the rudder is still hard over to left side, this is a clear indication the course has not been set, and if you launched your kontiki, it will turn in the direction the rudder is pointing and head off in the wrong direction. If this happens, return back up the beach, stop and restart the motor to restart the course setting procedure.

Stall Protection

The S30 have an over-current protection. If the motor stalls, or pulls a current higher than the over-current level, the motor will be turned off.

Launching the Seahorse Kontiki

Ensure you are organised prior to launching the Seahorse kontiki. All the hooks are baited, and the traceboard and weights are close by. Also check the winch or hand reel is operating correctly, and ready for launching, and the line is attached to the kontiki.

The Seahorse kontiki's are designed to travel in a straight line, and this feature can be used to tackle any conditions you are likely to meet. The design of the Seahorse Kontiki allows it to be launched in knee-deep water. With the motor running, launch it smoothly into the water. Keep a little tension on the line for the first 50 to 100 meters to ensure the Seahorse kontiki is set running in the direction required. The direction can be changed by moving along the beach pulling the stern of the Seahorse kontiki with you.



For side currents, launch the Seahorse STD Kontiki several metres up the beach, from where the current is coming from and launch at an angle into the current. A loop will develop in the line behind the Seahorse STD kontiki

steering it into and compensating for the current.

On the Seahorse STD kontiki, the steering trim-tab on the front of the Seahorse kontiki is generally left straight, unless you need a permanent bias to compensate for an offshore current. The trim tab can be used in conjunction with the angled launching to achieve a straight set.

The Seahorse GPS and S30 kontiki will automatically steer towards the waypoint it has calculated three km's off shore. With stronger side currents, you will get a better set by setting a course at a slight angle (5 to 15 degrees) into the current.

Until there is drag or tension on the line, your Seahorse Kontiki may want to nosedive under the water. If this happens, simply pull on the line and the Seahorse Kontiki will pop back to the surface.

Do not use the Seahorse kontiki when there is excessive weed or driftwood in the sea (following a storm). This fouls the line and can jam the propeller. If the propeller is fouled, and the motor stalled, the advance stall protection will stop and start the motor two times, trying to free the obstruction. If unsuccessful, the control unit will stop the motor.

While all Seahorse kontiki systems has excellent performance, there is a limit to their abilities, and the user must assess the suitability of the conditions prior to launching. If the launch is not successful, the Seahorse kontiki can be retrieved with it's motor running. Read the launching sections in either the electric winch or the manual hand reel sections.

Seahorse Clip & Go Traceboard



The Seahorse Clip & Go traceboard comes with 26 traces, and spare traces. Use only what is allowed under the local fishing regulations. Seahorse recommends removing traces not required. Keep your traces and hooks in "tip top" condition, replace as required, as this will improve the quantity of fish caught. The aluminium traceboard (if cleaned) does not pick up the smell of the bait. The aluminium traceboard holds the traces with only a small amount of tension, making the attaching of traces easier and safer than other boards. Seahorse does not recommend laying baited traces on the beach for launching as this is dangerous to you and other beach users.

Baiting the Hooks

Seahorse recommends using strip baits. Hook the end of the bait, once through the flesh and then the skin. This allows the bait to swim behind the hooks. Cube baits or baits hooked across the hook will propeller and spin, thus twisting the traces.

It is recommended to tie your baits onto the hooks, as this will help secure the baits, and reduce the chances of them coming off during the set.

Seahorse users have reported success using fresh kahawai, mullet, pawns or squid as bait.

Attaching the Traces to the Mainline

The stoppered section of the Electric Winch mainline is 250 metres long, containing 120 stoppers. For the Braid Winch, there is 80 stoppers. The weights and traces are attached to this section of the line with a minimum of two stoppers between each trace or weight. This is to stop the traces coming together and tangling.

The Seahorse aluminium traceboard is designed to hold the traces securely, and is generally easier to use when the board is situated on the right hand side of the mainline. Prior to launching, check the traces to ensure there are no hooks crossing over each other or tangles among the traces.

With the stoppered section passing to the left side of the operator, the operator clips a baited trace onto each second (or more) stopper. Once the trace is clipped onto the mainline, release the trace, as the trace and baited hook is then pulled by the stopper from the far end of the traceboard.

To remove the traces from the traceboard, hold the swivel between your fingers and pull the traces, stretching them nylon until the clip comes clear of the clip holder. Once clear, the trace can be lifted up and clipped on the line. Release the trace immediately after they have been attached to the main line.

Do not just pull the clip upwards, as all this does is pull the clips open, resulting in lost traces.

Most people place up to three weights at the start of the stoppered section, followed by the

traces off one side of the traceboard. A small weight can be placed on the line before you flip the traceboard over and attach the remaining traces. The final weight can be added after the last traces have been attached. These weights will help to hold the traces on the bottom where the fish are.

Study the DVD carefully to see how this is done. Do not attempt to attach the traces to the mainline unless you have watched the instructional DVD, and fully understand how the procedure is done, as it is possible to get a hook caught in your hand and cause serious injury.

Take extreme care of fouled hooks. Seahorse recommends letting fouled hooks go, as trying to clear fouled hooks is the major cause of injuries. Seahorse recommends keeping a knife handy such as wearing it on your hip, to use if necessary.

When replacing the traces onto the traceboard, place the hooks in place first, and then stretch the trace to allow the clip to be placed cleanly into the Clip-bar slots. Wash and clean your traces after use to keep them in top condition.

Seahorse Autofeed Traceboard

The Seahorse Autofeed traceboard has the traces already tied to the backbone, and they dispense automatically off the traceboard as the line is pulled off the board.

The Autofeed traceboard comes with 25 hooks attached and a pack of spare traces. Use only what is allowed under the local fishing regulations. Seahorse recommends removing traces not required. Keep your traces and hooks in "tip top" condition, replace as required, as this will improve the quantity of fish caught. The auto-feed traceboard and case



(if cleaned) does not pick up the smell of the bait.

Baiting the Hooks

Seahorse recommends using strip baits. Hook the end of the bait, once through the flesh and then the skin. This allows the bait to swim behind the hooks. Cube baits or baits hooked across the hook will propeller and spin, thus twisting the traces. It is recommended to tie your baits onto the hooks, as this will help secure the baits, and reduce the chances of them coming off during the set.

Seahorse users have reported success using fresh kahawai, mullet, pawns or squid as bait.

When baiting up the hooks, it is possible to stand the autofeed traceboard up on an angle to give better access to the hooks stored on the bottom side of the traceboard.

Attaching the Backbone to the line (kontiki method)

The auto-feed traceboard has a 50 metre leader, followed by 25 hooks spread over 55 metres of trace backbone.

The traditional method is to position the trace backbone between the kontiki and the retrieval line. This is done by attached the leader to the tail of the kontiki with the carabina supplied, and attach the other end of the trace backbone to the winch retrieval line. This will provide a continuous line from the kontiki to the winch. Check your connections and ensure the trace backbone line is connected at both ends. If not, you could lose your kontiki.

Use the “H” goal post stand to anchor your traceboard to the beach. Also remove the start and the end of the line from their retaining slots to ensure the line dispenses freely.

Follow the launch procedure for your kontiki, and as the kontiki powers itself out to sea, the leader, followed by the traces will dispense automatically from the board. Do not attempt to resolve any tangles during the dispensing of hooks as it could lead to personal injury, such as a hook in the finger.

Dropper Rig method

The second method the Seahorse auto-feed traceboard can be used is as a dropper rig. A Dropper rig system has the traces on a separate line to you retrieval line. The advantage of the system is your hooks are on a separate line, reducing the risk to your retrieval line and kontiki. The disadvantage is the system involves pulling out two lines and there is a very small chance that they could get tangled.

Use the “H” goal post stand to anchor your traceboard to the beach. Also remove the ends of the line from their retaining slots to ensure the line dispenses freely.

Firstly attach your winch retrieval line to the tail of the kontiki, and secondly attach the dropper rig to the retrieval line carabina or the attachment point at the tail of the kontiki.

Ensure a 10 metre gap between the winch and auto-feed traceboard, with the winch line down current from the traceboard, as this will aid in keeping the lines separated.

Retrieval of the trace backbone – Kontiki method

On retrieval, once the winch retrieval line is recovered, you will arrive the the trace backbone. As the traces and hooks are attached, the trace backbone and leader needs to be retrieved by hand, either laying it on the beach, or laying it directly back into the auto-feed traceboard, removing any fish as required.

Starting from the winch end (being the end that arrived at the beach first) of the trace backbone, place this end into it’s retaining slot, and then lay the trace backbone into the trace in a figure of 8 pattern, slotting the hooks and traces into their slots on the front of the auto-feed traceboard. Ensure the traces are not crossed over each other as this will cause tangles on the next set. If you need to remove a trace, either replace it with a new trace, or slide that trace’s loop into the trace slot on the front of the board. This will allow you to replace the trace at a later time without having to remove the trace backbone from the tray.

As the trace backbone builds up in the tray, it can be pressed down using the retaining bar.

Place the weight into it’s tray on the auto-feed traceboard, followed by laying the leader into the tray in a figure of 8 patten.

Retrieval of the trace backbone – Dropper Rig method

On retrieval, once the winch retrieval line is recovered the kontiki will arrive at the beach, with your dropper rig following it. The dropper rig needs to be recovered by hand laying it on the beach, removing any fish as required.

Starting from the end (being the end that arrived at the beach last) of the trace backbone, place the end into it’s retaining slot, and then lay the trace backbone into the trace in a figure of 8 pattern, slotting the hooks and traces into their slots on the front of the auto-feed traceboard. Ensure the traces are not crossed over each other as this will cause tangles on the next set. If you need to remove a trace, either replace it with a new trace, or slide that trace’s loop into the trace slot on the front of the board. This will allow you to replace the trace at a later time without having to remove the trace backbone from the tray.

As the trace backbone builds up in the tray, it can be pressed down using the retaining bar.

Place the weight into it’s tray on the auto-feed traceboard, followed by laying the leader into the tray in a figure of 8 patten.

Seahorse Electric Winch



The Electric Winch Control Unit

The winch control unit operates and protects the winch and it components. There is a 30-amp automotive blade fuse inside the waterproof switch box. This fuse will blow if the winch is stalled. This is to protect the motor.

A spare fuse is supplied allowing swapping on the beach. The top of the control unit is removed by undoing the four slot head plastic screws on the box cover. 30 amp fuses are colour coded green, and are available at any automotive shop (Repco/Super Cheap).

In the lower two speeds, the main switching transistor will shut off to protect the electronics if allowed to overheat, due to an extended period of high motor load. This is evident by shuddering. It cools enough in a few seconds and will operate normally again.

Keep your hands and any loose clothing clear of the moving parts of the electric winch as they could get caught and this could cause serious injuries.

On/Off/Pulse Switch

The switch has three positions. Left is ON, centre is OFF, and right is PULSE ON, which is spring loaded for use as the traces come in. The switch returns to the off position once released.

Seahorse recommends using slow speed with the PULSE when removing the traces and weights.

Fast/Medium/Slow Switch

The rear switch allows the selection of speed. Fast or full speed connects the battery direct to the motor via the internal fuse. Medium and slow speeds are switched through the electronic speed control.

The faster the winch is operated, the more tension the line is under, and the more it will stretch. Over-stretching the line due to hauling too fast or under heavy loads may damage the line. The fast speed can be used when the drum diameter is low or if there is little drag on the line. As the load increases, drop the speed to

medium and then slow, to reduce the tension and stretching of the line.

Slow speed can also be used to slowly troll the hooks towards the beach.

Electric Winch Battery

The winch is supplied with a 14ah 12 volt battery. This battery gives sufficient power to retrieve two complete sets in normal conditions. You can also use any other Seahorse supplied battery to power the winch.

A number of users connect the winch to their own power supply. Incorrect wiring or reversed polarity will damage or destroy the control unit. Seahorse can provide leads for linking to your own power supply. Damage caused by incorrect wiring is not covered by warranty.

Setting up the Electric Winch on the Beach

When readying the winch for use, rock the winch into the sand until the edge of the drum is touching the sand. This helps to stop the line looping off the side of the drum, and also locks the winch into the sand, to prevent movement.

Test and ensure the winch is working properly prior to launching.

Attach the line to the Seahorse kontiki prior to launching.

Launching – Electric Winch preparation

Remove the drum (D shaped) pin and attach it to the frame so it's not lost in the sand. This will allow the drum to spin freely on the shaft. Roll the drag rubber ring onto the aluminium drum. This will provide a level of drag, which will help by keeping tension on the line by slowing the drum.

Once the traces are attached, the drag rubber can be shifted back to the white bearing, as the drag of the drag rubber will reduce the setting distance.

Placing a hand or foot on the drum will slow the drum and line. Holding the drum firmly will stop the line. This is the best way to control the speed of the line. Take care when releasing the drum.

Replace the drum pin once the kontiki has stopped to stop any current from pulling out excess line.

Retrieving the line

Do not leave the winch unattended when hauling line.

Keep the winch so it is square to the line, so the line does not rub against the side of the drum.

Use the three speeds to ensure the line is not retrieved and stored (on the drum) under undue tension. If there is extreme tension on the line, stop and allow the line to relax before resuming hauling.

The line will last longer if sand is kept off as it winds in under tension. Try to arrange so the line does not run on the sand when hauling. Watch the line winding onto the drum and distribute it evenly over the drum.

Use the pulse function when removing the traces and fish.

Using the Emergency Handle for Hand Winching

It is possible to plug the battery direct to the motor. This bypasses the control unit, and removes your normal operating controls. Take extreme care if you do this as you will have no controls.

The winch is supplied with a manual handle that fits over the end of the stainless steel shaft and pin.

To use, remove the drum pin and pull the shaft about 20 mm out to disengage the motor. The hole in the drum should now align with the second hole in the shaft. Refit the drum pin into this second hole and the drum is pinned to the shaft and can be hand wound with the motor disconnected. Reverse this procedure to re-insert the shaft to use the motor drive.

Drum Removal and replacement

To remove the drum from the electric winch, first remove the D clip and attach it to the winch frame. Secondly pull the winch shaft out of the winch frame. The drum can now be lifted out of the frame.

To fit the drum into the frame, hold the drum in place, and insert the winch shaft into the frame and through the drum. Adjust and rotate the winch shaft until it slots home against the motor and the drive pin. Replace the D pin into the outer of the two holes in the winch shaft. Test by trying to rotate the drum. If it rotates freely, remove the D pin and rotate the winch shaft until it slides another 10mm home and locks against the motor and drive pin. Replace the D pin and re-test.

Seahorse Braid Winch

The Braid Winch Control Unit

The new Seahorse braid winch uses braid in the place of mono-filament line. It's new design is focused on light weight and ease of use.

The winch control unit is situated under the winch side cover, and it has built in over-current protection. This will protect the motor. If activated, dis-connect and re-connect the battery to reset the system.



The Seahorse Braid winch will come with either 1500 metres of Dyneema Braid for use with the Autofeed Traceboard, or with an 80 stoppered, 100m leader section for use with the Clip & Go Traceboard.

The Dyneema braid changes colour every 100 metres, and there is a 20 gram weight attached to the line at each colour change. The weight helps to hold the braid line on the bottom, reducing sideways drift.

Be careful with the Dyneema braid, as it is more likely to cause injury such as a cut than mono-filament line.

Keep your hands and any loose clothing clear of the moving parts of the electric winch as they could get caught and this could cause serious injuries.

On/Off/Pulse Switch

The switch has three positions. forward is ON, centre is OFF, and back is PULSE ON, which is spring loaded for use to give more control of the line on retrieval. The switch returns to the off position once released.

Fast/Medium/Slow Switch

The rear switch allows the selection of speed. The faster the winch is operated, the more

tension the line is under, and greater the load is placed on the winch drum. The fast speed can be used when the drum diameter is low or if there is little drag on the line. As the load increases, drop the speed to medium and then slow, to reduce the tension of the line.

Braid Winch Battery

The winch is supplied with a 10ah 12 volt Lithium battery. This battery gives sufficient power to retrieve two complete sets in normal conditions. If using a SLA battery, an adapter will be required due to the different plugs, and these are available from Seahorse.

A number of users connect the winch to their own power supply or battery. Incorrect wiring or reversed polarity will damage or destroy the control unit. Damage caused by incorrect wiring is not covered by warranty.

Setting up the Braid Winch on the Beach

When readying the winch for use, rock the winch into the sand to help anchor it into place.

Test and ensure the winch is working properly prior to launching. Attach the line to the kontiki or the auto-feed traceboard trace backbone prior to launching.

Launching – Braid Winch preparation

Ensure the winch retrieval line is connected to either the kontiki or the trace backbone depending on the method you are using.

Pull the pull pin out and rotate to lock into the open position, and pull the clutch knob out to dis-engage the motor. This will allow the drum to spin freely on the shaft. The braid winch does not have a drag rubber or brake as the dyneema braid does not stretch, reducing the chance of an overrun, but care is still needed to ensure there are no overruns on the winch.

If the drum needs to be controlled, carefully place a gloved hand on the drum will slow the drum and line, adding pressure will slow and stop the line. This is the best way to control the speed of the line. Take care when releasing the drum.

Once the line has stopped pulling out, rotate and push the clutch knob back in to re-engage the motor, and this will stop line pulling off the winch.

Retrieving the line with the Braid Winch

Do not leave the winch unattended when hauling line. Due to the light weight of the Braid Winch, it can be moved by the retrieving line sooner than the larger Seahorse electric Winch. Users can either sit on the winch guiding the line in by their hand, or they can pin the winch to the beach. The H goal post stand from the auto-feed traceboard can be used.

Keep the winch so it is square to the retrieving line, so the line does not rub against the side of the drum.

The line will last longer if sand is kept off as it winds in under tension. Try to arrange so the line does not run on the sand when hauling. Watch the line winding onto the drum and distribute it evenly over the drum.

Use the pulse function when removing the traces and fish from the stoppered section of line.

Using the Emergency Handle for Hand Winching

The braid winch is supplied with a manual handle that is cable tied into the battery area.

To use the handle:

- Remove the clutch knob by unscrewing it from the winch and don't lose it.
- Pull up the release pin to place the winch into free wheel.
- Screw the emergency handle into the winch. This will dis-engage the clutch and start winding the line.
- To remove the handle, hold the drum and wind the handle in a backwards (i.e. to wind line off the reel) direction. This will unscrew the handle.
- Replace the clutch knob.

Aluminium Hand Reel

The Seahorse aluminium hand reel is a line storage device and is not designed to be used to haul or winch the line under any tension. The best and easiest way to recover your line is to walk it up the beach and wind it onto the reel for storage.

Feeding Out Line

Push the hand reel securely into the sand. Feed the line out by first going down under the bar at the base of the mounting post and then down the beach to the water. This helps reduce reel tangles and keeps the line low so its easier to attach the traces. Remove the handle, and ensure the hand reel is spinning freely. It is recommended an experienced person attends the hand reel. It is advisable they are ready to use their hand to brake the reel to prevent over runs. Use either a rag or a glove to protect your hands.

To lock the reel, place the handle on backwards, so it locks onto the frame.

Retrieving the line

The hand reel is designed for storing the line, after it has been manually hauled in. The

recommended and easiest method is to place the mainline over your shoulder and walk up the beach, thus haul the line in manually. Wind the loose line directly onto the reel guiding it evenly over the reel.

Seahorse Trolley's

Seahorse Motorised Trolley

The Seahorse collapsible motorised trolley will carry your Seahorse kontiki system and all your fishing gear to your favourite fishing spot. The Seahorse beach trolley is made from strong lightweight aluminium tube and comes with a plywood top.

The Seahorse electric winch fits neatly into the base of the trolley, while the Seahorse kontiki and the traceboard can be secured on top along with any other gear. It is easily pushed or pulled and well balanced so the front wheel can be lifted if required.

The motorised trolley frame unclips into five small parts to stow in your vehicle. The three wheels and the axles of the motorised trolley can be removed easily to stow in a small space.

The motorised trolley is powered by two 350w, 24volt electric motors operated via a finger throttle positioned on the handle. Ensure the on/off switch is off when connecting the batteries. Take care when engaging the finger throttle to ensure smooth acceleration.

The second switch allows the selection of either forward or reverse. Take care when engaging the throttle while in reverse as the trolley will drive back towards you.

The battery box has room for a second set of batteries. The motorised trolley will travel approximately 7km's (5 Miles) on the road, and

up to 2km's (1.5 miles) in the soft sand. On average, you will get approx four to 5km's along a beach.

The drive wheels can be changed to free wheeling by removing the pin, pushing the tyres in and re-inserting the pins into the axles outside the hub. The trolley can be cleaned with fresh water to remove sand and salt, but be careful around the motor and control units.

The pressure in the rear tyre's can be decreased to improve the performance in the soft sand, or increased to run easier on the road surfaces.

If the winch is operated on the trolley, ensure the trolley is secure and cannot move.

Seahorse Breach Trolley

The Seahorse collapsible manual beach trolley will carry the Seahorse kontiki system and all your fishing gear to your favourite fishing spot. The Seahorse beach trolley is made from strong lightweight aluminium tube and comes with a plywood top.

The Seahorse electric winch fits neatly into the base of the trolley, while the Seahorse kontiki and the traceboard can be secured on top along with any other gear. It is easily pushed or pulled and well balanced so the front wheel can be lifted if required.

The Beach trolley frame unclips into five small parts to stow in your car. The three wheels and the axles of the manual trolley can be removed easily to stow in a small space.

If the winch is operated on the trolley, ensure the trolley is secure and cannot move.

Winch Buggy Trolley

The Seahorse winch buggy trolley will carry

the Seahorse kontiki system to your favourite fishing spot. The Seahorse winch buggy is made from strong lightweight aluminium tube.

The Seahorse electric winch fits neatly into the base of the buggy, while the Seahorse kontiki and the Traceboard can be secured on top of the winch with the motor of the Seahorse kontiki fitting through the handle.

The winch buggy unclips into two small parts to stow in your car. The two wheels and the axle can be removed easily to stow in a small space.

If the winch is operated on the trolley, ensure the trolley is secure and cannot move.

Surf casting with the Seahorse S30 Kontiki

The Seahorse S30 Kontiki is supplied with a tension release clip, and this opens up the possibility of using the Seahorse S30 as a "taxi" or hauler to pull a surf caster or baited line out to where you want to fish. Whether you are targeting dinner or hauling a big bait out to catch sharks, the release clip makes it possible to release your line and bait from the kontiki right in the fishing zone.

Braid is recommended on the fishing line as this makes it easier to pull it free from the release clip.

Set up the Seahorse S30 with the braid winch as detailed previously. Attach the winch retrieval line to the tail. Set up the Seahorse S30 with the winch retrieval line from the braid winch attached to the tail. Attach the release clip to the eye bolt situated on the bottom of the tail. Adjust the tension so it will hold the fishing line, bait and weight, but will still release when the line is pulled.

With a 10 metre gap between the winch and the fishing rod, set the run time and launch the Seahorse S30, ensuring the fishing reel is in free spool. The hand held programmer will beep once with 30 seconds of run time left, and with 10 seconds to go, it will start beeping continuously.

Before the run time is up, lock off the fishing reel, to stop line coming off, and you will feel the line get pulled and then released from the release clip, and fall freely to the sea floor. The S30 kontiki can now be retrieved back to the beach.

Good luck fishing.

Braid Winch two Line System

A two line system is where the kontiki pulls two lines out to sea, one being the winch retrieval line, and the second called the fishing line has the hooks and traces on it. The retrieval line is used to recover the kontiki unit to the beach while leaving the fishing line at sea fishing.

The braid winch and autofeed traceboard has been designed to allow the operation of a two line system. A second drum of braid line, and a forward facing hook is required. The forward facing hook is screwed into the brass insert situated on the bottom side of the tail section of the Seahorse S30. The risk with the two line system is the fishing line can come off the hook prematurely, and there is a very small chance of the two lines tangling.

Connect the winch retrieval line to the tail of the Seahorse S30. Place the second drum on the H stand that comes with the Autofeed traceboard. Connect its line to the trace backbone. Slide the carabina on the trace backbone leader over the forward facing hook.

Launch the Seahorse S30, and the forward motion of the kontiki will keep the carabina pulled on the forward facing hook. Once the kontiki stops, and is retrieved back to the beach, the carabina will slide off the hook and fall to the sea floor.

Keep a 10 metre gap between the Braid winch and the autofeed traceboard to reduce the chance of the lines tangling.

During the deployment, take care with the fishing line, as the second drum is only sitting on the H stand, and if the line fouls and jams, the second drum could be pulled off the stand and out to sea.

Once the Seahorse S30 is recovered back to the beach, remove the winch drum and replace it with the second drum with the fishing line. The fishing line can be recovered with the winch when ready.

This system will work better in calmer conditions than in rough and wild conditions.

Seahorse S30 Kontiki with the Bait Cassette

The bait cassette fits on the bottom of the Seahorse S30 tail section, and is designed to carry and deploy 10 baited hooks out at sea. The ten baited hooks can either be attached to a second reel (see two line system) or a fishing rod and reel.

The bait cassette backbone consists of a weight, 10 traces and hooks, 10 spacers and a knot in the line between the trace and spacer, and the backbone attaches to your fishing line;

1. slide the weight at the end of the line into the cassette with one bead inside and one outside.

2. Slide the knot into the arm on the right-hand side of the cassette.
3. Now slide a spacer into the cassette, with a bead inside and one outside.
4. Slide the knot over the arm on the left-hand side of the cassette.
5. Slide the baited hook into the cassette, with one bead inside and one outside
6. Repeat 2 to 5 until all the hooks and spacers are in the cassette
7. Close the door to ensure the baits are not deployed pre-maturely.
8. Attach the backbone to your fishing line
9. Ensure the fishing reel is in free spool.
10. Have a 5 to 10 metre gap between the winch and the fishing reel

With the winch retrieval line attached to the Seahorse S30, launch the kontiki and the lines will be pulled out. Lock off the fishing reel when the kontiki either reaches the fishing zone of at least 45 seconds prior to the time running out and the kontiki motor stopping. The tension on the line will pull the bait cassette door open and deploy the traces and baits. Once deployed, the Seahorse S30 can be recovered back to the beach. It is very difficult to deploy the traces once the motor on the kontiki stops.

This is an effective method of fishing when there is weed in the water and surf line.

Vehicles on Beach

Quad bikes and 4x4's are a convenient way to access remote beach locations, but with inappropriate use can cause damage to the beach and surrounding environment. When using vehicles on the beach, please be considerate to other beach users and the local wildlife. Where possible use established beach access points and transit the beach below the high water mark.

Also follow any local regulations.

Operating Concerns

We know you have purchased the best kontiki fishing system, and the team at Seahorse is here to help. The Seahorse team has a lot of experience and we can answer most queries either over the phone or via email.

If you have any concerns regarding the operation of your Seahorse products, please contact Seahorse as we are here to assist. We want you fishing, and we will do our best to help get you back on the beach fishing.

If your unit needs to come back to the factory to be tested or repaired. We will do our best to get it back to you as quickly as we can.

Changes of specifications

Seahorse is continually improving the Seahorse Kontiki system. The specifications of the Seahorse products and components may change without notice, and may vary from the photos or description in this manual

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