



Fixed-Spool Spinning Reels

There are three available – the Diablo, Santos and Stratos – with there being at least two versions of each model.

The Diablo is available in the following sizes: the 350S, which features stainless bearings, brass gearing and a retrieve ratio of 4.9:1; the 550S which features stainless bearings, brass gearing and a retrieve ratio of 4.6:1; and the larger 750S, which features stainless bearings, brass gearing and a retrieve ratio of 4.7:1.

Jim's Verdict

I put the full Diablo range through its paces and all I can say is that, if Fox describes the Diablo as its low-priced budget reel, then both the Santos and Stratos will be out of this world. The Diablo is of more or less 'bulletproof' construction, with a thick, sturdy bail arm. It features Fox's own RTS gear system, CDT drag system and a large cranking handle. The Diablo range has been designed to cope with all manner of saltwater species, while handling practically any abuse an angler can throw at it!



The Permit Trek Spin and Diablo 550S.



The EOS 30 has plenty of power and excellent gearing.

Multiplier Reels

The EOS was designed to be paired up with the company's Trek stand-up and conventional boat rods. It's available in two sizes – the 30 and the 50. Both feature a high-quality, lightweight aluminium construction, stainless gears and bearings, Fox's CDT star-drag system that delivers a maximum of 25lb drag pressure, an oversized EVA Powergrip handle, reel clamp and a retrieve ratio of 4.7:1.

Jim's Verdict

In the spring, pairing it with the Fox Trek Boat 20lb to 30lb rod, I tested the EOS 30 while shark and grouper fishing, and would describe it as a powerhouse of a reel. Both the rod and reel together happily coped with fish in excess of 250lb! This reel is solidly built and designed to last; the clutch is smooth and after two months of heavy use, with only the odd rinse under freshwater, it still performed like new. This reel has been built to handle big fish in the most corrosive of tropical environments!

Other Fixed-Spool Spinning Reels

There are two others worth knowing about, the Santos and the Stratos, although I cannot really comment on these because I haven't tested them... yet!

The Santos is constructed entirely out of high-quality, lightweight aluminium and is available in two sizes: the 4500, which features stainless bearings and gearing, Fox's own infinite anti-reverse system and a retrieve ratio of 4.6:1; and the 6500, which again features stainless bearings and gearing, Fox's own infinite anti-reverse system but a retrieve ratio of 4.5:1.

The Stratos is available in one size, the 20000, but in two versions. There's the 20000SS (Single Speed), which features stainless bearings and gearing, a high-quality, lightweight aluminium construction and a retrieve ratio of 6.1:1. The 20000TS (Twin Speed) is composed of the same construction as the SS, but features a staggering high-speed retrieve of 6.1:1 and, at the flick of a switch, a low retrieve of 2:1 to cope with the demands of modern high-speed jigging.



A large speckled trout caught using the Bonefish Trek Spin and Diablo 350S.



The Trek Spin range will cope with fish of any size.

Saltwater Fly Tackle

No brand of purpose-made travel tackle would be complete without some fly gear and, to finish off, Fox has added two models to its range of sportfishing rods – the Bonefish Trek fly and the Tarpon Trek fly. Both rods are 9ft, cork-handled five-pieces and of the same high-quality construction as the rest of the Trek range of rods. However, the Tarpon Trek fly comes with an extra removable fighting grip for battling larger fish.

Jim's Verdict

I'm no fly angler – I can just about throw a bit of fluff and catch the odd species, so I don't feel qualified enough to give a complete review of these rods. However, I do know a nice rod and reel when I see them and, after using the Bonefish Trek fly in Florida this year with several friends who are outstanding in this field, I can confirm that they thought it was nothing short of excellent. The Bonefish Trek fly happily coped with any bonefish... and small tarpon to nearly 50lb! These rods will be happy fighting any fish within their ratings and even bigger – that is if you dare!

Lines And Lures

To complement its extensive list of travel rods and reels, Fox has added a number of lines and lures to its range. Included is Aquos Sports monofilament – a high-quality, modern monofilament – along with Horizon Pro and Sport braid, which are both constructed from top-quality fibres using the most modern manufacturing techniques. And, last but not least, there's a cracking array of lures available under the name of Bellyeye – so keep your eyes open for them! But you can view these and obtain more information about all the products on the company website at www.foxsportfishing.com.



Jim tames a big one with the Bonefish Trek Spin.

FOX SPORT FISHING PRICES

- Trek rods £154.99 to £399.99
- Diablo reels £99.99 to £119.99
- Santos reels £369.99 to £399.99
- Stratos reels £649.99 to £849.99
- Eos reels £325 to £399.99
- Saltwater fly rods £154.99 to £174.99
- Monofilament £7.25 to £20.49
- Braid £24.99 to £35.99
- Bellyeye lures £14.99 to £18.99

AUTHORISED STOCKISTS

- Leslies of Luton www.leslies-luton.co.uk
- Billy Clarke Fishing Tackle www.billyclarke.co.uk
- Big Catch Tackle www.bigcatchtackle.co.uk

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