

Bottle Test Guidelines

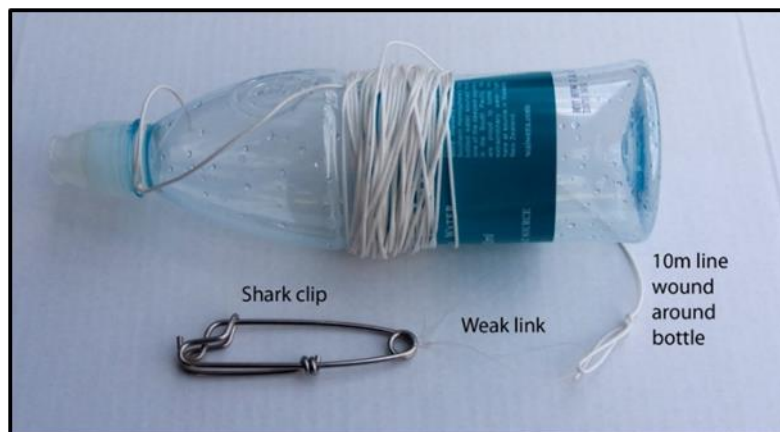
Are you meeting the Mitigation Standards?

Mitigation Standards call for bottom longline hooks to be at **5m depth** at the end of your tori line aerial section or **10m depth** for lines set during high-risk periods. The bottle test is a simple way to immediately measure if this is met.

The idea is to clip a bottle onto the backbone with a 10 m length of line between the bottle and the clip. The line is wound around the bottle, to unwind as the line sinks. **If the bottle gets pulled underwater in front of the where the tori line first touches the water then you are meeting the standard.**

To make up a bottle all you need to do is:

1. Get hold of a small drink bottle (500ml or 750ml water 'pump-bottle' etc)
2. Take the cap off the end, or if it is a screw cap drill at least a 10 mm hole in the cap. This will let the water in. Drill some more holes in the base to let the air out.
3. Tie a light line round the neck of the bottle and mark it at 1 m intervals, out to 10 m.
4. Tie a weak link to the end of this line – for example some light mono, in case the bottle catches on the tori line. Then tie a clip onto the weak link
5. Wind the line around the bottle



To perform a test

- Try to pick a good weather day to help with visibility. If it is dark, put a lightstick in the bottle.
- Set the length of the bottle-line by tying it off around the neck of the bottle at 5m or 10m (or whatever test depth)
- During setting, clip the bottle-line onto the mainline at the slowest sinking part of the line. This is usually just after halfway between weights – the angle of the mainline coming off the back of the boat will give you a good idea, but you will need to find this out by trying different positions.
- See if the bottle sinks in front of the aerial section of the tori line.
- If the bottle sinks behind the aerial section of the tori line repeat the test with a progressively shorter rope on the bottle. Trial and error will give a good idea of your mainline depth at the end of the tori line aerial section.
- If you record the time taken for the bottle to sink you can use the table (on the back) to lookup the distance astern the backbone reaches the set depth.
- Making up several bottles will allow you to try different length ropes and test different weighting setups in the same set.

Not sinking fast enough? - There are only really three options:

1. Sink the gear faster with larger weights, closer weight spacing, or less floatation.
2. Have a longer tori aerial section by lengthening the tori line and adding more drag or running it from a higher pole.
3. Slow down, and your gear will sink closer to the boat, but you need to maintain the aerial extent of your tori line.

In practice you'll probably need to do all of the above, and possibly avoid 'high-risk periods'.