

## Sully's Spincast Bowfishing Reels Buyers Guide

2006 is turning out to be an exciting year with 3 new spincast reels on the market that will work for bowfishing ! To help you the potential buyer make a informed choice we at Sully's have put together this side by side comparison hopefully to answer in advance some of your questions !

### **Introducing the MUZZY SPINCAST REEL , The PROTON model 40 , and the newly redesigned ZEBCO 808 BOWFISHER**



#### The new [Zebco 808 Bowfisher](#)

The first thing that I noticed about the new 808 Bowfisher was all the external components seemed to be bigger IE: the push button , drag knob , handle screw {to switch handle from right to left handed } and the handle itself is the most heavy duty I've seen on a spincast reel . While anything is possible in bowfishing after seeing the extra heavy duty handle on the new 808 Bowfisher I would venture to say that this would be the last thing you would ever break on this reel .

As far as internal features go the 808 Bowfisher boast [dual ceramic pick up pins](#) however we all know that ceramic pick up pins have somewhat of a dubious history , of course two pins are definitely better than one and in the case that one pin breaks the reel will still function . The pick up pins are fair size and in Zebcos defense they have not had the pick up pin problems on the last few models of bowfishing reels that they had in the early 90's models. I actually believe that the pick up pin **arms** are weaker then the pin material but this is just my opinion and have no fact to back up that statement .

The [drag system](#) on the new Zebco is without a doubt the best I've seen in a spincast reel . The large geared compression disk is super heavy duty and in a drag test delivered over 50 lbs of drag before slipping plus the questioned pick up pins held up fine.

Line capacity with 200 lbs fast flite was 98feet . The 808 Bowfisher comes pre-spooled with what Zebco calls a 80 lbs multifilament and this is what Zebco recommends to be shot from this reel however for the purpose of a standardized line size I respooled in the fast flite.

The [gear design](#) on the New 808 has changed some what and mostly for the better . The first and most obvious is the ambidextrous capability . While the gears are still vertical drive gear and horizontal center gear which is standard for most all spincast reels UNLIKE other Zebco models the drive gear shaft runs across the body of the reels and is held in place in by two bearing retainers one on either side of the gear . This helps hold square the main drive gear and helps align the gears to mesh properly and prevent striping . However the gear are still made of brass .

The anti reverse is built in and automatic so no manual buttons or switches to worry about .

The steel foot has been reinforced .

All in all Zebco has looked at some of their competitor and has actually made some real and significant changes to the 808 Bowfisher .

The new [Muzzy & Proton](#) Bowfishing Spincast reel

The Muzzy reel and the Proton spincast are defiantly brothers where their family tree splits is unsure to us but there is no doubt they are related at first sight the thing you notice first is a bit of a bevel to the back half of the Muzzy reel and there is a bit of a different hole pattern in the front covers of the two however the covers will interchange . With the exception of color and a few cosmetic holes the handles are exactly the same. The Proton has a bit larger push button then the Muzzy reel .

Internally the basic gear lay out of the Muzzy and Proton are all but identical , the Proton is not ambidextrous capable but the Muzzy is. The two major differences between the two is the anti reverse systems and a bit of extra body material in the Muzzy. I am assuming that the extra material is solid and used to reinforce the entire body . The [anti reverse system](#) of the Muzzy reel is about as heavy duty and complicated as I have seen on a spincast reel. I'm sure that many readers will remember that the popular Shakespeare model 4002 had some problems with anti reverse springs but the truth is that spincast reels that are used for bowfishing have no real uses for a manual select anti reverse. The [anti reverse system on the Proton](#) reel is much less complicated but again for a bowfishing reel manual select systems are a waste.

The [gear system](#) on both reels are impressive and the drive gears on both look to be Stainless but we have not confirmed that yet . The pinion or center gear is still brass on both however this gear seldom needs replacing even on the older style spincast reels .

The Muzzy reel does have two ball bearing that the center shaft goes through compared to one on the Proton . Both reels are very smooth right out of the box only extended use will tell the tale on the extra bearing . However the quality of the bearings look to be very high .

Drag systems are identical and while looks to be adequate the pressure on the spool from drag disk is applied on only one side , tilting the line spool in place. In our test both reels pulled over 30 lbs of pressure before slipping .

There is a significant difference between [spinner hoods](#) on the Proton and Muzzy reels. While the Proton reel uses a traditional metal hood with a single pick up pin { metal pin which looks to be stainless on plastic arm } the Muzzy reel uses a impact plastic or perhaps carbon fiber { we have not been able to confirm the material } with a over size [unique roller type pick up pin](#) . This pick up pin system { assuming the strength of the plastic arm is adequate } in my opinion is the best I've seen on a spincast reel . This pick up pin system was obviously designed for use with fast flite lines . I do however have some reservations about the plastic hood it's self . It may turn out to be more then strong enough only time will tell. One thing is sure the plastic spinner hood is much lighter { mass weight } then it's all metal cousin .

Line capacity with 200 lbs fast flite was 96 feet for both

We hope that this review of the new bowfishing spincast reels of 2006 helps answer any questions you may have had , if not please feel free to call 1-800-447-2759 Mon -Fri 9am -

5pm CST

Lance Sullentrop { aka Sully )

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