

To continually examine our processes to provide greater value to our customers without waste.



# The Lean **FISHING** Line

## Lean Applied to Personal Life

Before being introduced to Lean and 5S, Bill from our fire protection division developed a way to organize and easily retrieve things on board his boat; he just never had a name for it. Since he enjoys fishing so much, he likes to share the experience with different people. For the most part, people want to help, so he needed a quick & easy way for people to locate items on board his boat.

Shoebox-style containers are used to hold a variety of equipment used on board the boat. In addition to being labeled, colored boxes make identification even easier. Safety Equipment = Red, Tools = Black, Cleaning Supplies = White, Tackle = Blue, and "Miscellaneous" = Orange. Anyone who's worked with Grunau on a Lean event knows "miscellaneous" is a hazardous word, but Bill uses this as a holding area for things that need to be dried or repaired before being returned to their appropriate location.



Fishing lures are divided into 4 containers: 1 for small spoons, 1 for large spoons, 1 small duffel bag for night-crawler harnesses, and 1 large duffel bag for crank-baits. The small duffel contains 3 sets of colored-coded Ziploc bags. Red holds red and orange baits, Yellow holds yellow and green baits, and Purple holds purple, blue and black baits. The large duffel bag contains 10 compartmented boxes that are arranged by lure type/size and diving depth. In each of the compartmented boxes, the lures are arranged by color.

Rod holders are identified by number to quickly let someone know which rod has a fish or needs attention. Rail-mounted rod holders are labeled "port" and "starboard" to easily identify which side they are to be mounted on since they are configured for a specific side of the boat and they're removed when the boat is trailered.



Besides a 5S'd boat, there is some process planning if you go fishing with Bill. Each rod/reel combination is identified by number. The reels that Bill use have line counters to identify how many feet of line is out on a given rod. Knowing this enables the fishermen to reproduce a given setup on a different rod once a pattern is established for taking fish. There are a number of variables that can cause the line counter reel readings to vary. To compensate for this variation, a large field measure is marked off with 25' increments to 300'. Bill takes each combination and pull off line stopping at each 25' increment, then radios the data to a helper that notes the reading for that reel. These numbers are transferred to an Excel spreadsheet and printed out. For example, at the 150' marker, he may have readings on 4 different reels of 152', 147', 141' and 159'; a span of 18'. Knowing this difference enables him to make compensations. For a given lure type, that difference may make a 5' difference in depth resulting in catching (or not catching) fish.

If you didn't catch the moral of this fish story: Bill is one SERIOUS fisherman and Lean can be applied anywhere, anytime to make your life more efficient and eliminate all waste.