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minn kota i pilot vs i pilot linkPicking the perfect trolling motor can be quite a challenging task for beginners. There are just so many options available in the market, and you have to consider everything from the price point to every little feature. So, if you dont know much about trolling motors, it is best to rely on expert opinion and try talking to local anglers. That way, you can find out many options that work perfectly in your region. Many anglers have recently come forward with questions about the Minn Kota I Pilot vs I Pilot Link. If youre also confused between these two options, the following details should help you pick the perfect motor for your fishing boat. Minn Kota i-Pilot vs i-Pilot Link Wireless Remote Comparisoni-Pilot RemoteYou can control this variant of trolling motor directly from a wireless remote that helps anglers manage the activity of the system underwater. The Minn Kota I-Pilot can be considered as the standard version of GPS trolling motors that help anglers maneuver through many regions. As compared to the I-Pilot Link, this version of trolling motor is lacking in a few features, including the Humminbird integration and circle mode. So, if you need something that is equipped with the latest features, then I-Pilot Link is the perfect fit for you.Even though I-Pilot presents a phenomenal value to the customers, it isnt comparable with the exceptional features of I-Pilot Link. The only major drawback of this unit is Humminbird integration. Other than that, you also get a basic wireless remove that doesnt allow many customizations according to your local water conditions. So, make sure to keep this information in mind while making a purchase decision. With that said, this trolling motor does bring all the basic features that you can expect in a standard GPS motor. So, if youre just looking for spot lock and cruise control, then I-Pilot is the perfect choice for you. It is somewhat cheaper than the I-pilot link. Plus, it presents a better value to customers that are just looking to save some money.All in all, the basic I-pilot version is better for users that dont have any interest in Humminbird integration and need a GPS trolling motor with good spot lock features. So, if your requirements match this description, then there is no point in going out of your way to purchase an I-Pilot link for your fishing setup. The standard version of this trolling motor will serve you just perfectly, and you will be saving a lot of money. i-Pilot Link RemoteIf youre only looking for top-tier equipment for your boat, then this trolling motor is the perfect choice for you. There are not many motors on the market that can keep up with the exceptional performance of this unit. As long as youre comparing I-Pilot and I-Pilot Link, the I-Pilot Link will consistently outperform the basic version of this trolling motor. Aside from the improved spot lock and the iTracks features, you will be able to access Humminbird integration and follow features on this unit.The only downside to this unit is that you will have to extend your budget. So, if youre working with a minimal amount of budget, it might be a good idea to wait until you have enough money for this unit. With that said, the touch-screen removal for the I-Pilot Link makes configuration effortless for the anglers. On top of that, you can further customize the quick actions from the home screen to personalize the unit. This trolling motor is the only viable option for customers that are not too concerned with the price point. So, if you want a trolling motor that brings top-tier performance along with a ton of extra features, then I-Pilot Link is the way to go. There is no need to waste your money on the standard version when you can get so much more with the Link version.On the other hand, if youre working with a tight budget, then choosing the I-Pilot standard version is also an acceptable option. Even though you wont be able to access all the exclusive features, at least you can still enjoy spot lock and advanced autopilot systems through this trolling motor. So, the only thing you have to consider is the price point and your budget. In October of 2023 Minn Kota introduced a significant number of new bow mounted trolling motors. The new product lineup included updated versions of existing models (such as the Riptide Terrova) as well as entirely new models such as the Riptide Instinct as well as their new QUEST Series brushless motors.In addition to the new and updated models, Minn Kota has discontinued i-Pilot and the optional i-Pilot Link GPS technologies consolidated them into one system called "Advanced GPS".Advanced GPS includes some new GPS auto-navigation features, a redesigned wireless remote, an updated mobile app and Humminbird Virtual Remote integration (Requires a Humminbird of course).There has been some confusion as to the differences between the i-Pilot/i-Pilot Link and the new Advanced GPS technologies, so hopefully this will shed some light on what's new and what remains the same.Advanced GPS Is Now The Only OptionThe previous generation Minn Kota motors came with a choice between two GPS systems, i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link. Motors with i-Pilot came with all of the popular auto-navigation functions such as Spot Lock, Auto-Pilot etc. operated via a wireless remote with a small black and white screen.Motors with the optional i-Pilot Link system added networking functionality with compatible Humminbird fishfinders enabling motor control directly from the fishfinder screen, enhanced auto-navigation features and a full color touch screen remote.Advanced GPS is now the only option and includes all of the features of i-Pilot Link and more. Although Minn Kota may not like the sound of it, Advanced GPS is essentially i-Pilot Link 2.0.Advanced GPS Offers More GPS Auto-Navigation FunctionsAdvanced GPS retains all of themost popular GPS navigation features from i-Pilot (Spot Lock etc.) and adds a few more such as Drift Mode, Circle Mode,Dodge Mode, i-Track Offset and Routes. The new features listed below do not require networking with a Humminbird.Drift Mode:Drift Mode works just like a drift sock. It keeps the bow of your boat on a set path while also allowing you to control the speed regardless of current or wind. Kind of like a combination of auto-pilot and cruise control.Circle Mode: One of our favorite new features.Choose a spot (perhaps a brush pile) and circle it at a set distance. This allows you to cast right into the middle of that circle and carpet bomb it.Dodge Mode: Lets say you're fishing in Drift Mode and fighting something big; you're likely not paying much attention to that huge branch sticking out of the water. When you do notice that huge branch, Dodge Mode enables you operate the motor manually, avoid catastrophe and then resume your pre-set heading.Routes: String together multiple waypoints or your favorite Spot Lock locations to save a route that has served you well before.New, Improved Advanced GPS Wireless Remote Larger, Higher Resolution Screen:The new screen is easier to read and it appears to have much higher contrast. Even with polarized sunglasses in high-glare we could even see the smaller icons pretty clearly.More Intuitive Button Layout:The Spot Lock Button is in a much more comfortable spot right below the screen as opposed to the i-Pilot remote which placed the anchor button all the way at the bottom. When you put one of the most important buttons in an awkward spot, it can lead to a bad case of the dropsies.The menu buttons make more sense in the new remote; left, right, up and down whereas the i-Pilot remote menu buttons seemed to be littered all over the place with no real rhyme or reasonProgrammable buttons: Three buttons on the bottom of the key pad and one button on the side of the remote are pre-programmed for popular functions such engaging/disengaging cruise control and recording an i-track. However, you can re-program them to enable whichever features you use the most. Better Screen Layout and Menu Navigation:A heading direction indicator allows you to determine where the motor's steering angle. If you're in the back of the boat and can't see the motor, this gives you an accurate read of where it's pointed.Larger, easier to read function icons for general operation, menu and auto-navigation functionsWith the standard i-Pilot remote, it was pretty easy to get into the weeds when trying to pull up memory functions and access settings. The new menus are more similar to a TV remote which allows you to find what you need a lot easier and get back to the home screen faster. Advanced GPS Is Compatible With The One Boat Network Integration All motors with Advanced GPS have networking compatibility with select Humminbird fishfinders. This would be similar to the previous generation's i-Pilot Link.Control your motor, sync up waypoints, enable auto-navigation features and more using the Virtual Remote feature directly from the Humminbird's screenMotors equipped with Advanced GPS include all necessary ethernet, transducer cables and adapter cables required to hook up the motor to a compatible Humminbird for networking functionality or to view imaging from a motor equipped with an integrated sonar transducer Everything for Humminbird Integration Is IncludedThe new motors equipped with Advanced GPS now include an ethernet and sonar adapter cables required to connect your motor to select Humminbird fishfinders. This ensures that you have everything you need to set up your One Boat Network and integrated sonar without having to figure out which cables you need and spending more cash. Final ThoughtsMinn Kota's new Advanced GPS is certainly better than i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link. Of course, Johnson Outdoors (owner of Minn Kota and Humminbird) would be delighted for folks to purchase a Humminbird and tap into their One Boat Network as well as other Minn Kota products.Just like Apple or Amazon, you can benefit from buying products that work with one another; like a mini ecosystem. You may not care about all of these bells and whistles which is fine because you don't have to if you don't want to.Garmin and Lowrance are doing the same thing with their trolling motors and fish finders so welcome to the future everyone. Be that as it may, Advanced GPS on its own is a significant upgrade over the previous i-Pilot GPS technology. The new auto-navigation features like Drift and Dodge Mode are awesome, the redesigned remote is a big improvement over the previous i-Pilot remote and the updated smartphone app is fantastic...no Humminbird required.We do prefer the name "i-Pilot" however; if they get rid of the term "Spot Lock" then we're going to have a real problem. Humminbird or not, we think you'll agree Advanced GPS is better than i-Pilot in almost every way...except for the name. Tight Lines-George Fisherman with specially outfitted skiffstend to choose smaller 55lbs thrust motors. These motors provide the maximum thrust possible for 12 volt systems.2,0002,5003,000Boat Length14-16'17'18'19'20'+Minimum Thrust5555558080Performance Thrust*5555808080Motor Voltage12v12/24v24v24v24v*Thrust recommended for best performance in strong conditions (strong wind, waves, etc) and to ensure longer run-times.We would love to earn your business. Feel free to call us with any questions at 800-472-3509and we'll go out of our way to make sure you have a good shopping experience.See Our Favorite Skiff Trolling Motors Jon Boat RecommendationsBecause they're so light, Jon boats don't need excessive amounts of power. You'll find 30 lbs to 50 lbs motor most common on these lightweight vessels. If using a bow mount motor for the additional control and feature set, a smaller 45 lbs or 50 lbs motor should be plenty of thrust. For details on specific motors, you can browse our top jon boat trolling motor recommendations.1,0001,2501,5001,7502,0002,500Boat LengthTo 12'13-14'14'15'16'17'18'20'People Onboard12-344+4+4+4+4+Common Jon Thrust3040505050506060Motor Voltage12v12v12v12v12v12v24v24vWe would love to earn your business. Feel free to call us with any questions at 800-472-3509and we'll go out of our way to make sure you have a good shopping experience.See Our Favorite Jon Boat Trolling Motors i-Pilot is like magic. Like a magician in a black cape standing next to me in my boat sprinkling pixie dust and saying, Abracadabra! More fish! Thanks TrollingMotors.net for making this magical purchase so easy and fun. You guys are the best. Phil in Arcadia, FL Why buy from Bass Pro or Cabelas when you can buy from these guys? From start to finish this was one of the best, if not the best, online shopping experiences Ive ever had. The owner answered all my questions, the prices were great, and the motor arrived in two days. Dont buy anywhere else. Jason in Lake Charles, TX "The personal service provided was fantastic. They responded very quickly to my emails and phone calls. The order was delivered faster than expected. I will definitely (and already have) told others that this is the only place to go for trolling motors. Alan in Metairie, LA "My $1,700 Terrova 80 i-Pilot purchase was a big investment so I was a little nervous ordering my motor online, but I'm sure glad I chose TrollingMotors.net! Not only did they have the motor I was looking for, but I also saved a lot of money. Oh, and the motor arrived the next day. Keep up the great work, guys! David in Okeechobee, FL Are you trying to decide on a new i-Pilot motor but dont quite clearly understand the differences between i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link? Read onMinn Kotas i-Pilot system is a self-contained GPS navigation system that enables a set of advanced features beyond simplesteering and speed. i-Pilot itself does not need to be integrated with anything and works right out of the box. In other words, you do not need a separate GPS receiver or fish finder to make it work; the GPS receiver is installed in the actual motor.Here are the features included in i-Pilot:Speed and Steering:Control speed and steering directly from the i-Pilot remote or foot pedal.Spot Lock:Virtually anchor your boat in place by pressing a button on your remote or foot pedal. The motor will automatically engage to keep you within a few feet of that position at all times, compensating for any wind and/or current. Store up to 16 different spot lock positions.Jog:Move your spot lock position five feet in any direction by pressing one of the arrow buttons on the remoteAutoPilot:Allows you to travel automatically on a compass heading or fixed navigational course.Go To:Enables you to direct your motor to travel to one of your stored spot lock positions.iTracks:Also known as "record-a-track", this features allows you to record and retrace up to 16 different different routes, each up to two miles in length.Smartphone App: Control basic remote functions on your smartphone via a new app and bluetooth connectivity.Also allows you to download software updates.The i-Pilot Remote:i-Pilot Link includes all of the above features, but also integrates with your compatible Humminbird fish finder to enable an additional set of features. i-Pilot Link connects from your motor to your fish finder via an included 25 ethernet cable and with a separately purchased adapter cable.Here are the additional features included in i-Pilot Link:Spot Lock:Same as i-Pilot but you can store up to 2500 different spot lock positions.iTracks:Same as i-Pilot but you can store up to 66 different tracks.iTrack Offset:Set a predetermined distance from your prerecorded route and your motor will follow the same route at that distance.Backtrack:Retrace your route in reverse.Follow The Contour:Follow underwater contour lines. For example, you can direct your motor to follow a route at a 25 depth.Contour Offset:Set a predetermined distance from your contour and your motor will follow the contour at that distance.Circle Mode:Program your motor to circle a spot lock position from a fixed distance.The i-Pilot Link Remote:Feature Comparison Chart: i-Pilot and i-Pilot LinkDownload our i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link comparison chartor view video overviews below: The Minn Kota i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link are advanced trolling motor systems that provide anglers with unmatched boat control.The i-Pilot makes boat control and navigation easier, while the i-Pilot Link enhances trolling motor tech with more advanced features and integration. Compare the i-Pilot Link vs. i-Pilot to see which one meets your fishing requirements and angling aspirations better.What is the Minn Kota i-Pilot Link? Minn Kotas i-Pilot Link takes trolling motor technology to the next level. With a redesigned compact remote and Bluetooth connectivity for easy smartphone updates, the i-Pilot Link offers advanced features through seamless integration with your compatible Humminbird fish finder. These upgrades include: Expanded spot lock: Thanks to the i-Pilot Link, Minn Kota has expanded the capacity for saving spot lock positions, now allowing you to store 2,500 of them. This means you have an extensive library of your favorite fishing locations at your fingertips, ensuring you never miss out on the perfect spot for your next angling adventure. Create custom routes: Using the spot lock feature, you can link together multiple spot locks or pre-saved waypoints. This means you can design your own navigation roadmap tailored to your specific needs and preferences, all with the convenience of the spot lock feature. Advanced iTracks: The i-Pilot Link records 66 different tracks. This expanded capacity offers anglers a more versatile and thorough record of their fishing routes. CoPilot and Cruise Control: The i-Pilot Links CoPilot feature provides comprehensive boat control from any onboard location. Its cruise control consistently manages trolling speed, adjusting for waves and weather conditions and ensuringoptimal bait presentation. iTrack offset: You can instruct your motor to travel slightly to the side of your original path by the set distance, allowing for precise and controlled navigation while staying close to your desired route. Backtrack feature: If you want to follow your route in reverse, the Backtrack feature guarantees that you wont get lost. This means you can easily navigate back along the same path you came from, providing peace of mind and simplifying your return journey. Follow the contour: The i-Pilot Link offers the capability tonavigate along underwater contour lines while keeping your boat at a specific depth. This means you can follow the natural contours of the underwater terrain while ensuring your boat stays at the desired depth level. Contour offset: You can navigate along the contour lines of the underwater terrain while maintaining a specified offset distance, allowing for precise control and navigation. What is the Minn Kota i-Pilot? TheMinn Kota i-Pilot system is a standalone GPS solution that works right out of the box without additional integration. Featuring a 33% larger LCD screen compared to the original i-Pilot model, it enhances visibility. The i-Pilot system is crafted to enhance your fishing expeditions, offering essential features like: Speed and steering control: With your i-Pilot remote or foot pedal, you have complete control over your boats speed and direction. This means you can effortlessly and precisely adjust both the speed at which your boat is moving and the direction in which it is heading. Whether you want to cruise smoothly at a specific pace or make quick and precise maneuvers, your i-Pilot system allows you to do so easily and conveniently. Spot lock functionality: Have you ever wished for an anchor that doesnt involve dropping an actual anchor? Well, with the i-Pilots Spot Lock feature, you can achieve just that. You can keep your boat close to a specific spot, making real-time adjustments to account for wind and current. Jog feature: Do you find yourself needing to make subtle changes to your boats position? With the Jog feature, you can shift your spot lock position in precise five-foot increments. This means you can fine-tune your boats location with ease, ensuring its exactly where you want it to be. AutoPilot mode: With the AutoPilot feature, you can enjoy the convenience of keeping your boat automatically on course, eliminating the need for constant steering. This is especially useful when you want to consistently follow a specific path, such as a weed line, shoreline, or outcropping. iTracks navigation: You can easily record and retrace up to 16 different routes, with each route capable of spanning a length of up to two miles. This means you have the flexibility to save and recreate your favorite journeys or fishing paths effortlessly. Whether for navigation, exploration, or revisiting your most productive fishing spots, the system allows you to conveniently store and follow these routes. Smartphone integration: You can manage vital functions via your smartphone by using a dedicated app with Bluetooth connectivity. This allows you to control your device using your mobile device. Plus, you can download software updates in real time, ensuring your system is always up-to-date with the latest features and enhancements. Differences Between i-Pilot and i-Pilot LinkWhile these systems have some similar features and functions, there are differences between them that can impact your choice based on your boat and fishing style. When choosing between Minn Kotas i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link, its essential to understand the differences in their technology, pricing, and compatibility to ensure you get the right tool for your fishing expeditions. Technological DifferencesDesigned as a self-sufficient system, the i-Pilot operates autonomously with no extra equipment needed. It offers essential GPS-based control over your trolling motor and is user-friendly, making it an attractive choice for a simpler navigation experience.While preserving the core features, the i-Pilot Link is technologically superior, featuring Bluetooth connectivity. Its seamless integration with Humminbird fish finders enables access to advanced navigation tools and fish-finding data.Price DifferencesKnown for its affordability, the i-Pilot is the ideal choice for budget-conscious anglers. It provides essential trolling motor control features without breaking the bank, making it an excellent option for those who need basic functionality.The i-Pilot Link typically comes at a higher price point because of its advanced capabilities and compatibility with Humminbird units. This investment is worthwhile if you need premium trolling motor control and access to advanced fish-finding tech.Compatibility DifferencesAs a standalone system, the i-Pilot requires no compatible devices. Its ready to be used with your Minn Kota trolling motor straight out of the box.The i-Pilot Link needs to connect with a compatible Humminbird fish finder to unleash its full potential. If you already have or plan to invest in a Humminbird unit, the i-Pilot Link is the perfect option to enhance your angling experience.The Minn Kota i-Pilot vs i-Pilot Link: Which to Choose?Your decision between the i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link should match your fishing preferences, experience, and gear. To make this choice easier, keep these guidelines in mind:Choose i-Pilot if: On a budget or new to trolling motor technology Require basic navigation features Dont own a compatible Humminbird fish finder Desire reliable GPS-assisted navigationChoose i-Pilot Link if: Youre an experienced angler looking for advanced fishing and navigation tools Own a compatible Humminbird fish finder Prepared to invest in a more feature-rich and technologically advanced system Want access to a wider range of fishing spots and analytic insights to elevate your angling gameChoosing the Right Trolling Motor System: i-Pilot Link vs. i-PilotNavigational tech can transform your fishing experience, providing a more convenient way to find fish and control your watercraft. The choice between i-Pilot Link vs. i-Pilot can make a difference to your time on the water and your chances of landing a fish. Explore our range of navigational tools andtrolling motor accessories to equip your boat with the best gear available. You can also find professional tips and advice on everything from knot tying to fishing techniques to modifying your boat onour tech tips page.If you want more information about our product selection,contact us today by phone, email, or our convenient online form. Our experienced staff can help you find the right trolling motor, downrigger, and navigational tools for an unforgettable fishing adventure. Launched in 2010, the i-Pilot burst onto the trolling motor and fishing scene with its fair share of doubters. Here, eight years later, the i-Pilot has become a staple and an invaluable piece of technology to a lot of anglers with thousands more becoming more aware of its usefulness every day. Since 2010, Minn Kota has updated much of the software that is used in its i-Pilot system and warrants a more recent look into the technology. With that, we want to dive into the details of the Minn Kota i-Pilot in this short review. We will look at the various features, discuss the trolling motors that are compatible with i-Pilot, and finally take a look at how these features can change your fishing game for the better. If you have done any searching for Minn Kota trolling motors that are i-Pilot compatible, then you have probably come across the terms i-Pilot and i-Pilot link. These are two separate options with a major difference between the two. If a trolling motor comes with i-Pilot, it is controlled with a wireless GPS enabled remote that controls all of the i-Pilot features. While on the other hand, if a trolling motor comes with the i-Pilot link, it is Bluetooth capable and can be controlled with compatible GPS devices including your Apple or Android device. The i-Pilot mobile app delivers quick control of speed, steering, Spot-Lock, and AutoPilot.Unfortunately, not any GPS fish finder is compatible with Minn Kotas i-Pilot link. You are restricted to Humminbird devices in this case. With the newer i-Pilot link models, you will also receive a much larger remote with a larger LCD screen that can integrate with your Humminbird device. Below is an in-depth look at the i-Pilot link control. With the amount you can do with the i-Pilot link remote, we want to direct you to the video below for a more in-depth look. Just about all models that are integrated with the i-Pilot system has the option for either the i-Pilot or the i-Pilot Link for most of the thrust options. Price does not differ much between the two, but if you have a GPS fish finder that you like, you might enjoy the link more. The plus side to the i-Pilot and its remote is that it is easy to carry around and use at any position on the boat and has been designed to give you optimal control over the trolling motor and the various i-Pilot features. While we like how the Minn Kota i-Pilot link integrates with a GPS, the separate remote that comes with i-Pilot models is also a cool and self-intuitive device. The remote is smaller and is a pro or a con depending on your preference. A lot of people are going to like the size because you can easily keep it in your pocket or hang from a lanyard. It is water resistant and floats which makes sense for a device used on the water. We love the redesigned LCD screen which is much wider than older models. The on-screen menu is very easy to navigate after a few hours and a couple of cups of coffee. The home screen gives you full view of all motor functions currently in use as well as battery power, speed, and GPS signal strength among other things. The control buttons below the screen are very self-intuitive and the users manual that comes with the remote outlines everything in a very detailed manner. The layout of the controls is organized into four different categories including manual controls, tracks controls, cruise/autopilot controls, and spot lock controls. With your Minn Kota i-Pilot remote you can utilize the manual Copilot features that allow you to control speed, steering, prop power, and high-speed bypass from anywhere on the boat. Even with other automated featured engaged, control is never really out of your hands. Perhaps the most used feature and the most marketed feature of the i-Pilot GPS system is Spot-Lock. Spot-Lock is the GPS anchoring feature on i-Pilot that keeps your vessel located within a set of GPS points that forms a circle. When the GPS recognizes that the boat is within this set of points the motor is turned off. You can store up to six individual Spot-Lock locations on your device and reactivate these spots when you are within a quarter mile distance from the area with the Go-TO feature. Also, within the Spot-Lock function is Jog. Jog allows you to adjust the positioning of the boat relative the Spot-Lock coordinated by five feet in any direction. This is a cool feature that is useful in a lot of fishing situations and allows quick movement without having to manually adjust the positioning of the boat. Another feature with i-Pilot is the i-Tracks function. With i-Tracks, you can record specific trolls you have had success with and store in your remote or i-Pilot link platform. Once you are within a quarter mile of the start of the troll, your trolling motor can bring you to the start point and follow that same path. You can save up to six individual tracks with each being two miles in length at maximum. As you record a track, the remote stores several GPS locations along the path between the start and endpoint. When you are replaying a saved track, you are also able to move the boat towards the end of the of the track or the beginning of the track. This allows you to stay on sections of the troll that are being more productive from trip to trip. There may be issues with the accuracy of the playback so be sure to read on through our accuracy section. All i-Pilot and i-Pilot link trolling motors also have a cruise control function to maintain speed on a specific heading. The speed can be adjusted by 0.1MPH increments with a single push of a button. Cruise control can be used in conjunction with several other i-Pilot features such as i-Tracks (both recording and playback), Autopilot, and Advanced Autopilot. It is also important that you note the speed you have set as well as the environmental conditions when recording a track so that you can adjust settings during playback to get the most accurate results. Your trolling motor will also come with an Autopilot and an Advanced Autopilot function. Both of these features will allow you to put the boat on a set heading and allow the trolling motor to stay on that heading without any more corrections from you. There are some differences in the two features. Regular Autopilot simply uses a heading from a compass and does not compensate for current or wind which means you might have to manually correct the direction from time to time. Advanced Autopilot uses a set of GPS coordinates along a straight path from the motor direction when turned on and also compensates for environmental influences such as wind and currents. Now that you have a better idea of all of the features available on the Minn Kota i-Pilot, lets discuss how accurate these features are. In general, the i-Pilot system is one of the most accurate GPS control systems available to the public. With that, the accuracy is going to depend on a lot of other outside factors as well. We dont want you to think that its going to be dead on every time you head out onto the water because there are going to be situations where you have to fight it more. One of the biggest influences on accuracy is the motor thrust to boat weight ratio. If you have a high thrust motor on little dinghy or Jon boat, its going to be overpowering and overcorrecting continuously. Not enough thrust on a larger vessel is going to cause a lot of lag in the trolling motor. Even when you have the correct thrust to boat weight ratio, you might still have issues with staying on course using anchoring or i-track functions. IF you do not compensate motor speed with environmental conditions, you might find the boat wandering off course when trying to follow a recorded track. The GPS signal is also going to affect the accuracy of the various i-Pilot features. The low signal is going to hurt the accuracy which is unfortunate for a lot of users who like to tackle more remote waters. The water you are on is also going to impact accuracy. Very choppy waters (high winds) and heavy currents are going to make it more difficult for the motor to stay in line with a saved course or keep the boat within several feet of an anchor point. Its not going to put you on the other side of the lake, but it might put you off several feet from where you want to be. For the most part, thats nothing, and no one of are going to be concerned with several feet, but if youre trying to use the system in tight quarters, you are going to want to keep an eye on your position. With that, we also wanted to mention battery power here because it interconnects with accuracy to some degree. Rough waters and heavy current are going to put more of a strain on your motor to keep the boat in position and might require pulling a lot more power to do so. So, if you are in those situations, be sure to keep an eye on the battery meter. The Minn Kota i-Pilot and i-Pilot link are available on several of the companys freshwater motors as well as the saltwater Riptide motors. Below, we have listed all of the Minn Kota trolling motor lines that come with the i-Pilot or i-Pilot link. Minn Kota Ulterra / Riptide i-Piloti-Pilot Link Minn Kota Terrova / Riptide i-Piloti-Pilot Link Minn Kota Powerdrive / Riptide i-Pilot Minn Kota Ultrex i-Piloti-Pilot Link Though many were skeptical of the Minn Kota i-Pilot a decade ago, it has become a mainstay on many anglers boats. It provides a lot of advantages to the angler and allows a much more hands off approach to trolling allowing the angler to focus more on what he or she is on the water to do. Its not a perfect system, but we hope that this article has outlined what makes it special and some of the problems you might encounter. Its a fun time to be a fisherman and we are excited to see where i-Pilot goes from here. So youve probably heard of Minn Kotas i-Pilot system. Chances are, youve also heard of the i-Pilot Link, though you may not realize it.Both of these systems are intended to make your life easier while youre out on the water, but what does each one actually do?What are the differences between them?Which Minn Kota trolling motors have the i-Pilot, and which ones have the i-Pilot Link?And is it possible to upgrade from the i-Pilot to the i-Pilot Link?Great questions! Keep readingin this article, well discuss each one in-depth. What is the i-Pilot?The i-Pilot is a wireless control system that comes built into some of Minn Kotas trolling motors. It is also available as an upgrade; this means you can add it to some older Minn Kota models which may have been manufactured before i-Pilot was introduced.The i-Pilot comes with many high-tech features, including:Spot Lock: i-Pilots popular Spot-Lock is basically a virtual anchor; it will keep your boat within 5 feet of a particular spot when the Spot Lock function is activated.iTracks: iTracks will allow you to keep track of your routes and store them for future use.Go To: Go To works together with iTracks by allowing you to retrace your steps while out on the water. Select one of your stored routes, hit Go To, and this function will take you back along that same route.Autopilot: this function lets you pick the direction you want to travel and then stay that course automatically. All you have to do is press a button, and the motor will make the necessary adjustments needed to keep you traveling in the same direction.Speed and Steering: You can dial in your preferred speed and steer your trolling motor at the touch of a button.Wireless Control: The i-Pilot can be connected to a trolling motor with a foot pedal, but it is most commonly controlled via a wireless remote. The remote puts all the controls at your fingertips and includes a large LCD screen so you can monitor various functions.Bluetooth: The newest i-Pilot units include Bluetooth connectivity so that you can connect it to any Android or Apple device. This way, you can make updates to the system and even control your i-Pilot right from your phone with the mobile app.Speaking of which:Mobile App: The mobile app gives you an even more convenient way to operate your trolling motor. It is compatible with iOS 8.0, Android 4.4.2, or newer comparable systems.What is the i-Pilot Link?The i-Pilot Link is basically the i-Pilot, but bigger and better. It comes with all of the features that are included with the i-Pilot and more. The most noteworthy feature of the i-Pilot Link is that it gives you the ability to link it with a Humminbird fish finder.Some of the many features and improvements over the original i-Pilot are as follows:Wireless Humminbird Connectivity: i-Pilot Link connects to your Humminbird and is controlled on the fish finder screen. Operate controls via a virtual remote on the screen so you can make adjustments to your trolling motor while operating your fishfinder.Spot Lock Plus Spot Lock Jog: As mentioned, i-Pilot Link has everything thats included with i-Pilot and more. Spot Lock is a perfect example. The Spot Lock function on i-Pilot Link also allows you to jog in any direction 5 feet at the push of a button.Circle Mode: Circle mode lets you pick a spot to orbit while youre fishing. You decide where you want to cast, how far distant your boat should be from that spot, and let i-Pilot Link do the rest.iTrack Offset: i-Pilot Link includes the iTracks function plus iTrack Offset, which will let you travel a set distance along a previously saved route. This way, you can cast to your previous route while mirroring the direction and distance of that route.Routes: With this feature, you can create a custom route simply by connecting the dots between saved spot lock locations.Follow: The Follow function is like a better version of Autopilot. It allows your trolling motor, fish finder, and AutoChart or LakeMaster maps to work together to navigate automatically.What are the Differences Between Minn Kota i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link?As you can probably tell from the descriptions and features above, i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link have a lot of similarities, but they also have a fair share of differences. They are both control systems compatible with Minn Kota trolling motors and have many shared features between them.For comparison purposes, lets take a closer look at some of the major differences between i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link.Humminbird CompatibilityAgain, the biggest difference between i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link is that i-Pilot Link can be connected with and controlled through a Humminbird fishfinder.The original i-Pilot doesnt have this same level of compatibility. While you can certainly use an i-Pilot trolling motor with a Humminbird fish finder, the two must be controlled separately. i-Pilot Link eliminates the need for separate controllers.Spot LockWith i-Pilot, you can store up to 16 Spot Lock locations so you can go back and anchor in those same locations. With i-Pilot Link, you can store up to 2,500 locations. You read that right: 2,500!Also, i-Pilot Link comes with Spot Lock Jog while the original i-Pilot does not.iTracksThe iTracks function on i-Pilot will allow you to store and retrace up to 16 previous routes. i-Pilot Link increases that number to 66, so if you do a lot of fishing in a lot of different places, the Link may be more what youre looking for.iTracks Offset is also only included with i-Pilot Link, as the original i-Pilot doesnt have this function.Overall Performance and FeaturesAs noted above, i-Pilot Link is basically a bigger, better, more feature-packed version of i-Pilot. It includes many high-tech features that i-Pilot doesnt have, such as Follow, Circle Mode, and Routes.Usesi-Pilot and i-Pilot Link are both great tools for serious anglers.That said, i-Pilot Link is probably better for professional anglers, competition fishing, and other scenarios where the need to catch a lot of fish in a short amount of time is paramount.On the other hand, the original i-Pilot is a bit more basic and user-friendly. Its the perfect tool for those looking to upgrade from their current cable- or electric-steer trolling motor to something with a few more features.i-Pilot may also be good for older individuals who appreciate being able to move around the boat and not have to expend a lot of physical effort in operating their trolling motor.AffordabilityAs you might imagine, the i-Pilot Link is going to cost quite a bit more than the original i-Pilot. Whether youre buying a new trolling motor or simply buying the upgrade kit, you can expect to pay up to twice as much for i-Pilot Link.i-Piloti-Pilot LinkCannot be linked with Humminbird fish findersCan be linked with Humminbird fish finders and mapsStore up to 16 Spot Lock locationsStore up to 2,500 Spot Lock Locations and use Spot Lock Jog to adjust those locations slightlyStore up to 16 iTracks routesStore up to 66 iTracks routes and use iTrack Offset to mirror these routes at a distanceFeatures include:Go ToAutopilotBluetoothMobile appFeatures include:Everything i-Pilot hasCircle ModeRoutesFollowGreat for:Serious anglersAnyone looking to upgradeOlder individualsGreat for:Professional anglersCompetition anglersAnyone who needs to catch a lot of fishRelatively affordableRelatively expensiveWhich Minn Kota Motors have the i-Pilot Link?i-Pilot systems are available on the following Minn Kota trolling motor models: All of these trolling motors except the PowerDrive and PowerDrive Riptide are also available with i-Pilot Link installed.When shopping for a new trolling motor, choose any of the above models. You will be asked to select whether you want i-Pilot or i-Pilot Link. Again, i-Pilot Link is going to cost more than your basic i-Pilot.Can the i-Pilot be Upgraded to the i-Pilot Link?If you have an i-Pilot system already on your trolling motor, it is relatively easy to upgrade to i-Pilot Link, though it will cost you quite a bit of money. i-Pilot Link upgrade kits are available.Its worth noting that youll need to purchase the proper kit for your model. The product linked above is made specifically for the Legacy Terrova Riptide, so you will need a different upgrade kit for any other Minn Kota model.It is also possible to install i-Pilot on certain older Minn Kota models even if they are not Bluetooth enabled, but youll need to check the year of manufacture and make sure you select the right i-Pilot system for your particular year and model.Youll also want to make sure youre familiar with the process before beginning any i-Pilot or i-Pilot Link installation. Check out the following tutorial video to help you install an i-Pilot system on older models:i-Pilot Installation on a PowerDriveV2or the one below for help with installing i-Pilot Link:How To Install Minn Kota iPilot Link i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link are both convenient, high-tech wireless control systems for Minn Kota trolling motors. They have a few differences, but basically, i-Pilot Link is simply a more feature-packed and Humminbird compatible version of i-Pilot.i-Pilot and i-Pilot Link are available on Minn Kota Ulterra, Ultrex, and Terrova models as well as their Riptide variants, and i-Pilot also comes on PowerDrive and PowerDrive Riptide models.Sarah Hood has been writing for Anchor Travel since 2021. When shes not writing, she enjoys cooking, singing, and spending time in the great outdoors.

What's the difference between i-pilot and i-pilot link. Difference between i-pilot and i-pilot link. Pilot vs co pilot salary. Minn kota i pilot vs i pilot link.