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Best Offshore Rod & Reel Combos

Caribbean Trolling Guide — 2026

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Caribbean Offshore Fishing

Wahoo, mahi-mahi, and tuna are the primary targets in Caribbean blue water. Wahoo specifically are the acid test of any offshore combo — 60mph runs, sudden direction changes, and the ability to expose every weakness in your gear within seconds of the hookup.

What Matters Most

- Drag system quality — smooth, consistent, calibrated resistance is everything
 - Rod power — match to your target: 30lb class for wahoo/mahi, 50lb for large tuna
 - Gear ratio — 5:1 to 5.5:1 for trolling torque
 - Line capacity — enough braid to handle a long first run without running out
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Recommended Combos

Combo	Class	Max Drag	Price Range
Penn Squall II 30LW + Carnage II	30lb	25 lb	\$250–\$350
Shimano Talica 20II + Terez	30–50lb	33 lb	\$550–\$750
Daiwa Saltist 30 + Proteus	30lb	22 lb	\$300–\$420
Okuma Cedros + Makaira	30lb	22 lb	\$220–\$300
Ugly Stik + Penn Battle III	20lb	17 lb	\$120–\$180

Trolling Speed by Species

- Mahi-mahi / general: 7–9 knots
 - Wahoo: 12–15 knots with high-speed lures
 - Tuna: 6–8 knots with smaller skirted lures or feathers
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Final Recommendation

Penn Squall II 30LW + Carnage II for most Caribbean offshore fishing. Shimano Talica 20II + Terez for serious offshore or tournament use. The drag system quality is the most important factor in any combo choice for Caribbean conditions.

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