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LOWRANCE ANNOUNCES OUTBOARD PILOT
Industry Leader Releases Innovative Outboard Autopilot,
Featuring Integrated Control From The HDS Fishfinder/Chartplotter

Tulsa, Okla. – Lowrance, a world-leading brand in fishing electronics since 1957 — announced today its all-new Outboard Pilot for use with the Lowrance High Definition System (HDS) series. This easy-to-use autopilot system allows fingertip steering of the outboard engine — giving anglers an “extra hand,” so they can focus more on their fishing activity. Featuring integrated control from an HDS Gen2 or HDS Gen2 Touch, the Outboard Pilot can be installed with hydraulic — or cable-steered outboard systems – all with commands coming directly from the HDS display.

Designed for single outboard set-ups on boats 30 feet or less in length, the Lowrance Outboard Pilot can steer to a selected heading, waypoint or along a route, as well as execute a selected turn pattern. Additionally, the Outboard Pilot allows users to create routes from saved trails with the touch of a button, giving anglers the ability to retrace previous tracks from a fishing area back to the dock. The new and innovative Lowrance HDS SmartSteer™ interface provides outboard control as well as the ability to control a MotorGuide Xi5 Pinpoint electric-steer trolling motor. This new steering interface — available with the free HDS 3.5 software update — allows anglers to easily switch between the Xi5 trolling motor and the outboard motor with the push of a button.

“The Outboard Pilot is a game-changer for our inland and coastal Lowrance customers,” said Leif Ottosson, CEO, Navico. “It’s like giving anglers an extra pair of hands, just when they are needed most, and the HDS SmartSteer interface simplifies installation and saves considerable dash space.”
The Outboard Pilot is easy to install and configure -- right out of the box -- featuring all the required parts for a do-it-yourself solution. Other key features that simplify the Outboard Pilot installation include: a Virtual Rudder Feedback (VRF), which eliminates the need for a rudder position sensor, as well as plug-and-socket connections with no complex terminal wiring and a straightforward first-time installation guide. The complete system includes a Point-1 GPS antenna with heading sensor for extremely accurate and rapid boat position and heading updates, at any speed, as well as a dash-mountable Auto/Standby button that changes the autopilot from STBY to AUTO mode with one press.

The Lowrance Outboard Pilot will be available in November from authorized Lowrance dealers and distributors throughout the United States and Canada. Offered in hydraulic- or cable-steer versions, the Outboard Pilot is priced at a considerable value versus competitive solutions -- at $999 and $1,499, respectively. Both include the NAC-1 Autopilot Computer, Point-1 Heading and GPS Sensors and either the HELM-1 or PUMP-1 drive units. The free Lowrance HDS 3.5 software upgrade, featuring the SmartSteer interface is scheduled for release in August. For more information on the Lowrance Outboard Pilot, the entire Lowrance line of marine electronics, or to locate an authorized Lowrance dealer, please visit www.lowrance.com.

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