APPLICATION STORY

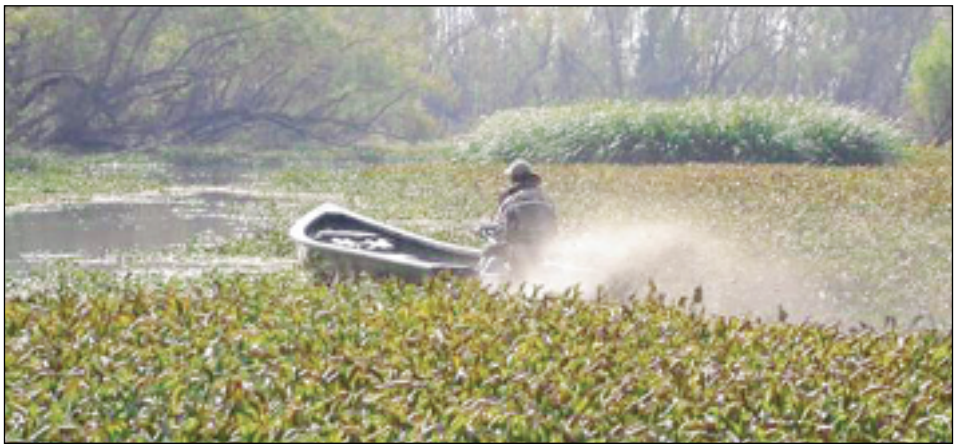
LOW DRAFT BOATS HELP RESCUE EFFORTS AFTER KATRINA

When two brothers came up with the idea for a better outboard motor eight years ago, little did they know their company would be in the middle of the courageous efforts to save lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Pro Drive Outboard, located in Loreauville, Louisiana, designs and manufactures shallow water outboard motors and boats specifically for use in the bayous, swamplands and marshes across the country. The brothers, K.P. and Brian Provost, decided they had to do something to help fellow Louisianans after the hurricane, and sent six boat and motor combinations to New Orleans, along with 6 Pro Drive employees. Amid the confusion, they were turned back. Determined to participate in some capacity, they provided two boats and motors to rescue workers from Arizona. These two boats alone were responsible for rescuing over 100 people from a retirement home. They additionally provided 6 more boats and motors for efforts in Slidell, one of the hardest hit areas in the New Orleans area.

The GT4C provides the convenience of instant forward and neutral through a remotely actuated panel.

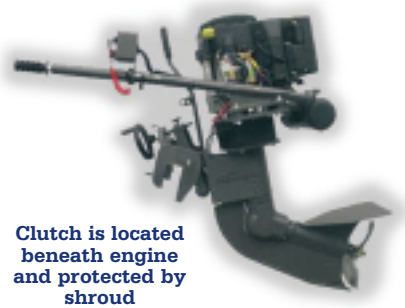
The unique design of the Pro Drive outboard allows the operator to traverse terrain that ordinarily would be inaccessible with a conventional motor/boat combination. At times this can be only a few inches of water. This design features a gas engine which drives a vertical shaft into a gear housing. An output shaft, located at about 120 degrees from vertical, directly drives the propeller. The size of the prop, combined with orientation, not only allows shallow water travel, but sufficient speeds in deep water.



A typical shallow water application

When Pro Drive engineers selected a 32hp engine with a 1" crankshaft as the outboard's power plant, maneuverability and handling were concerns. Turning in tight spaces with a conventional motor many times means leaning out over the side. That's where the Ogura GT4C General Purpose clutch comes in. The clutch is mounted on the engine crankshaft with the driveshaft coupled to the clutch output hub. The GT4C provides the convenience of instant forward and neutral through a remotely actuated panel. Through a simple pushbutton, the clutch engages and disengages the propeller from the engine while allowing the engine to continue to run. In the case of a commercial user, this feature allows the operator to position the boat accurately to set and collect traps or nets on the go, saving time and gasoline. To a duck hunter, it means positioning the boat in their favorite spot without the need to muscle the boat through the mud by standing and "poling". Rated at 250 ft. lb. of torque in a compact size, the GT4C transfers torque to the propeller without slippage, providing power the instant it's required. Additionally, the clutch saves wear and tear on the engine, since it is not being started and stopped as frequently.

Outboard moves through inches of water with ease



Clutch is located beneath engine and protected by shroud

The Ogura line of General Purpose clutches are rated at 110 ft. lb. through 350 ft. lb. and feature bore sizes from 1 1/8" through 1/7/16" diameters. Visit our website at www.ogura-clutch.com.