

## **SURF FISHING VICTORIAN BEACHES.**

Australian Salmon. Bag limit 20 per day at 21 cms long.

### ***BAITS AND PRESENTATION.***

- Thaw and shell pipis, separate smaller pipis for mullet baits. Mullet baits may be marinated in tuna oil or a pinch of curry powder, and store in plastic Tupper ware type containers in the refrigerator.
- Break up a block of frozen pilchards on a concrete floor to separate the pilchards. Using a serrated blade knife to cut the frozen pilchards behind the vent, angling up over the stomach of the fish. Place the tail ends of the cut pilchards into a six pack esky and return them to the freezer.
- ***Pipis.*** Use hook sizes #6 to #1, bait keeper or long shank chemically sharpened.
- ***White Bait.*** Use hook sizes #2 to # 1/0 long shank with fuse wire twisted through hook eye and 12 mm longer than the hooks bend.
- ***Blue Bait.*** Use suicide pattern #1 to #3/0 with two half hitches tied to the tail of the bait or use 3 or 4 ganged tarpon #2 ganged hooks to suit the length of the bait.
- ***Glassies.*** As for White Bait.
- ***Cut Pilchards.*** Use hook sizes #1 to #3/0 suicide with two half hitches tied to the tail of the bait.
- ***Pilchards.*** Use 3 ganged #5/0 type 4200 Mustad hooks or 4 # 4/0 type 4200 Mustad hooks. Tarpon type 7766 may be used as alternatives to the 4200's.
- ***Pilchard fillets, Garfish fillets, squid or chicken strips.*** Use 4 ganged #2 7766 or 4200 hooks.

***ARTIFICIAL BAITS.*** Generally used on the top dropper of the Paternoster rig.

- Surf poppers. Blue and white, red and white or green and white, tip the hook with pipi.
- Surf Flies. Tip the hook with pipi.
- Plastic squid, 3" Silver Pisces brand, bar code 9323430 001913. Use #1 long shank hook with squid strip or tipped with pipi.
- Gulp or Sqidgies minnow plastics on a suitable worm type hook.

### ***LURES.***

- 28gm to 70 gm metal lures.
- Sliced hexagonal sliced type.
- 50 gm blue and white Laser (with new glow reflective strips)
- Surf lures must have tail weight and good swimming action.
- Best used at low tide to prospect the holes, gutters and deep water.

### ***RIGS.***

- Paternoster rigs that is 2 droppers above the fixed sinker.
- Prepare spare rigs at home to suit various bait presentations and wrap them onto a foam rubber or plastic rig holder.

***BURLEY. Hand burley on the back wash, little and often or when Salmon are in your area.***

- Chook pellets soaked in tuna oil, hand broadcast as required.
- Bread loaves cut in half lengthwise and soaked with tuna oil the night before and placed in onion bags staked at the wash edge.
- Fish scraps mixed with bread placed in onion bag and staked at the wash edge.
- Pilchards (frozen from previous fishing trip baits) crushed or cubed and hand broadcast as required.
- Pipi shells or stale pipis hand broadcast into receding wave wash.

***PRIME FISHING TIMES.***

- Last 1 to 2 hours of rising tide to the first 1 to 2 hours of the run out tide.
- Last 1 to 2 hours of darkness and the first 30 minutes of sun rise.
- After a storm when the barometer rises.
- Mouth of estuaries when heavy rain flushes the estuary. Fish the boundary line between the dirty and the clean water.

***WHERE TO FISH.***

- Survey the beach from the highest vantage point. Look for structure that is gutters, channels, deep holes, reef, sand bars, sand spits and rips or channels that drain the gutters back to the sea. Look for floating seaweed and the direction of the drift by which way other anglers are fishing the beach. Use binoculars to see if you recognise any of your opposition and if they are catching fish. This action is very important for a successful days fishing because the beach formations and structure can vary daily and definitely following a storm.
- Australian Salmon prefer sudsy broken water with deep access to deep water. Because these areas generally hold food and provide cover. The food chain starts at the edge of the sand banks where waves wash out marine creatures that feed and provide cover for bait fish. The ideal location is the edge of the sand bank where waves and the white foam spill into the gutters, channels or deep water beyond the wave break, deep hole the rip channel back to the sea. Don't fish into the middle of the deep holes, fish around the margins of the hole or channels in the white water, cast towards the end of the sand bank nearest to current drift and allow the baits to be washed into the hole or gutter.

***RODS.***

- Medium taper 4144 or 5144 for smaller salmon. (4144 is 4 wraps of fibreglass 144 inches long)
- Medium taper 7144 or 8144 for the larger salmon.
- FSU4120, FSU5120 or Magsurf for long distance casting or lure spinning.
- Currently I use Sistar GS1302 and GS1503 hi modulus graphite rods.
- For mullet, I use Sistar X-Citer Match 3859 360 modified with fuji guides in place of the original course angling guides.

***REELS.***

- Quality robust front drag long cast spinning reel.
- Quality overhead casting reels with breaking system such as Abu 7000.

## ***LINES.***

- 20lb nylon line for most beginners. Most beginners struggle to cast heavy sinkers and land big salmon on 12 lb line.
- 12 to 15 lb line, use the smallest diameter for the breaking stain for more experienced anglers because the thinner diameter allows for further casting distances and less line drag in the side current. A 20 lb nylon shock leader twice the length of the rod is tied to the reel line to allow the use of heavier sinkers and provides the heavier breaking stain when landing salmon in the shore wash.
- Fused super lines such as Fireline are ideal for surf fishing because of their finer diameter and no stretch features. This line is also tied to a 20 lb nylon shock leader, twice the length of the rod.
- Some braided lines can be prone to twist and fluffing with spinning reels.
- Penn 10X nylon line is also highly recommended, while Maxima, Platypus and Ande are still good options from the older manufactures.
- Lure casting use 10 to 12 lb Fireline with 20 lb shock leader if required.

## ***GEAR & OTHER TACKLE REQUIREMENTS.***

- Ball sinkers size 1 to 7.
- Bomb sinkers size 1 oz to 6 oz.
- Star/Pyramid sinkers 1 oz to 6 oz.
- Breakaway anchor sinkers size 3 oz to 6 oz.
- Swivels, black rolling swivels size 6 to 4.
- Can use snap swivels for attaching sinkers to the Paternoster rig.
- Quality back pack for carrying all your gear while finding the fish.
- 6 pack esky to keep your frozen bait in prime condition.
- Waders with a belt around your waist to keep put water. Long John wet suit is good alternative.
- Lightweight spray jacket over the waders to keep out the water.
- Burley bucket and carries fish back to car.
- Canvas fish shoulder bag.
- Knife and scabbard, bait buckets and a rod bucket on the waist belt
- Surf rod sand spike rod holders.
- Rod wraps or straps to assist in carrying the rods.
- Small clip lock tackle box with hooks swivels to re rig as required.
- Onion bags for berley application.
- Fish ruler.
- Head lamp or waterproof torch.
- Binoculars for beach activity studies.
- Roll of absorbent paper.

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