

AUSTRALIAN BASS

*“Fighting ability...
Chuck on the gloves, this
fella will go the distance”*



The aussie bass can be taken all year round, but seem to show a bit more interest in baits and lures from mid afternoon (2pm approx.) to sunset and from sunrise to mid morning (10am approx.)

Bass are quite partial to a belly full of fresh or live shrimp, earth worms, grubs, mud eye crickets and will take a lure like a prize fighter going for a first round knockout. Lures appear to have a higher strike rate when used in the summer, spring period. From late afternoon to early morning, go for the darker colour lures such as red and black or orange and black and for the brighter daylight hours, lighter colours such as green and yellow or white and pink appear to have the edge. Or as the old saying goes “bright day, bright lure - dull day, dull lure”. The preferred lures will be a shallow diving lure to around 2m. and deep diving lure to 6m. plus. Possibly a colour combination of dark gold and bright yellow will suffice for any time of the day, if your budget is like mine “a bit tight”. Keep in mind that the colours given are only a general rule of thumb.

In the early morning and late afternoon when the water temperature drops, or on dull overcast days, they seem to move into the shallow areas

and forage for food amongst the cover of weeds. Conversely, in the heat of the day when the water temperature is approx. 22 degree's or above at surface level, they move into the deeper, cooler water (6m and over approx.) and appear to look for areas of cover such as submerged trees and weed beds. Wind direction seems to have little or no relevance on the strike rate, and they tend to favour clear to discoloured water over heavily discoloured water. All sky conditions and rain (if you don't mind getting wet) are suited to this species. A popular theory with some anglers is that they will come on the bite prior to an approaching storm, but any major change in barometric pressure, say a drop of three points, will see them disappear.

HOW TO CATCH AUSTRALIAN BASS

BAITS

When fishing out of a boat, drop the bait over the side until the sinker hits the bottom and take up the slack line. Have your drag set lightly and gently bounce the sinker on the bottom by lifting the rod tip up and down about 300mm at a time. On most occasions the first indication of a bass being present will be

a light tap on the line closely followed by a rapid run as the fish picks up the bait and gathers speed making a bee line for cover. As soon as the run starts gently lift the rod tip to imbed the hook. Don't strike too heavy, as bass have soft mouths and the hook will tear out. After hook up adjust drag a little heavier to halt fishes run to areas of cover. Keep rod tip upright and slowly retrieve fish, being prepared for the fish to make another strong run as it nears the boat. At the end of the fight the fish will usually lay on it's side and can be brought onto the boat with a plastic lined landing net. Take care not to damage the fish, (you might want to release it). Another way to land fish is by spreading your fingers and sliding your hand under the stomach area. This is quite safe providing you keep clear of the sharp gill spikes and covers. To remove the hook, place your thumb in the fishes mouth (bass have no teeth) and your index finger under the bottom lip. This will give you a good hold of the fish, without damaging the scales and allow you to remove the hook with the other hand.

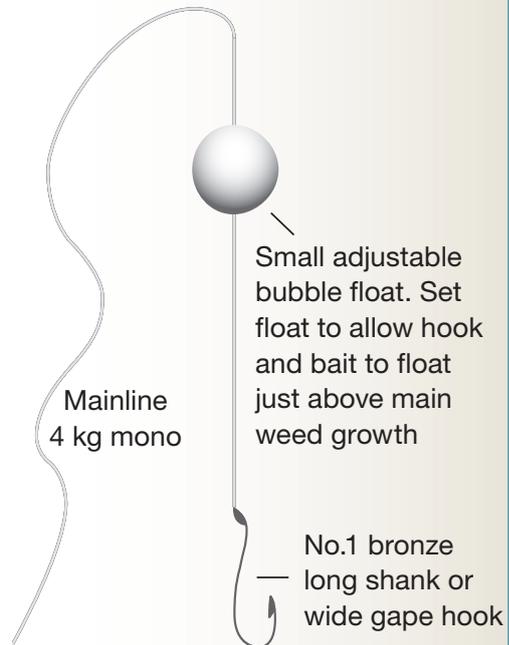
AUSTRALIAN BASS

LURE



Quick snap swivel allows for easy knot free change of lure.

LAND RIG - HEAVY WEED

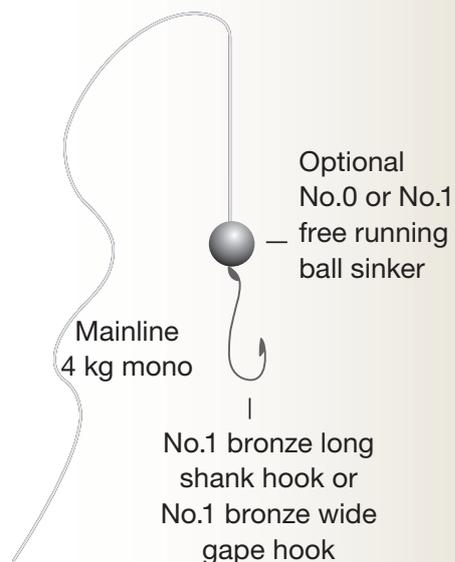


The bubble float will submerge when a hook up occurs.

LAND RIG - LIGHT WEED



BOAT RIG BAITS



Try a barbless hook. They're easy to get out of a fish mouth and do less damage to the fish.