

BLACKFISH OR LUDERICK

They will take you on an emotional journey from ecstasy to sheer frustration.

You will locate them around rock headwalls and mangrove lined banks having sharp drop offs from 2.4m to 5m approx. Also try around jetties, submerged logs and wherever green weed or moss is likely to grow. Green weed and sea cabbage are the preferred baits, but worms and nippers used at night have produced results. Care must be taken when handling, as this species have sharp gills. Best fished for in the daytime, they show no preference for clear, cloudy, overcast or raining conditions. Wind strengths up to 10 knots from any direction are ideal and make for comfortable angling conditions. The first 3 hours of the run in and the last 3 hours of the run out tides, between May and September are most productive.

RODS, REELS AND RIGS

The recommended rod will be a classic slow taper blackfish rod with sloppy action (up to 3.5m), married with your choice of a 100mm side cast reel, a centre pin reel and although not highly recommended a medium egg-beater reel capable of 130m by 4 to 5kg mono.

HOW TO CATCH

Angle around selected fishing spot until fish are located. When fish are in a feeding frenzy a bite will be indicated by the float sharply disappearing underwater. It is essential to strike fast and firm when this action occurs. Float action may be vastly different from the above when fish are in a quieter mood. Points to watch for are: a.) Float top suddenly leaning differently. b.) Lifting of float. c.) Float top partially submerging i.e. 10mm.

If any of these actions occur strike fast and firm as a fish could be the result. Due to the nature of areas blackfish are commonly caught in, the art of reading your float when points A, B and C occur will only be learnt by experience and a sound knowledge of the area. Example - Float top

suddenly leaning. Is it a fish or a snag?

NOTE

Opinion varies on when is the right time to strike for a blackfish. Some say the float must totally submerge, other opinion is to strike on any sudden variation of float action. After observing blackfish feeding at the aquarium, the recommendation is to strike on variation of float action. It is highly recommended to use a landing net when attempting to land blackfish. A reasonable size to expect will be between 300 and 450g with a 1.4kg fish being a real bonus.

Float

Colour calibration on float tip is strictly for visual purposes. It makes detection of a bite much easier to see.

Set float low in water to minimise water resistance.

Woolstopper

Wrap twice around mainline and tie two knots. Knots should be large enough so as not to go through float guide holes.

Increase or decrease amount of splitshot until float is set to correct level. Splitshots other purpose is to hold the line vertical when fishing.

N.B. Lighter trace designed to break first to minimise chance of float loss.

HOW TO BERLEY

Quite often berley is used to attract and hold blackfish to and in the area being fished. An acceptable berley will contain a mix of one eighth green weed, one eighth bran and three quarters of damp sand. Finely chop or mince the greenweed and together with the bran, mix thoroughly and evenly through the damp sand. The berley should be damp enough so as to allow the mix to be formed into tennis ball shape and size. The idea is for the berley to sink as deep as possible prior to breaking up. Place the berley into the water in the vicinity you are fishing. Try fishing



“Excellent table fare with renowned fighting ability”

around your selected spot for 20 to 30 minutes prior to using berley. If no results are being achieved place four handfuls of berley into the water and repeat every 10 minutes thereafter until fish have been attracted to the area. This is only a general guide to the use of berley. Only with experience will you gain the knowledge of when and how much berley is required on any particular day to hopefully attract fish to and hold in your selected fishing spot.

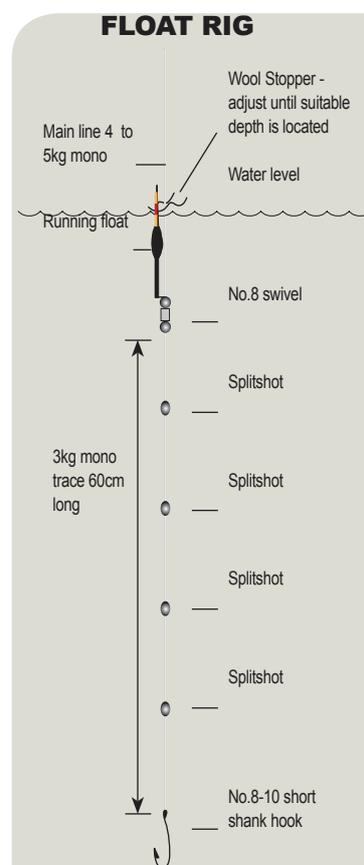
CLEANING YOUR BLACKFISH

Keep alive in a swim bag until ready to clean. Cut fishes throat and allow to bleed. If to be cooked whole, scale the fish and remove the gut. Inside the gut cavity you will see a black membrane. This membrane has a bitter taste, so therefore it is very important to remove it. A nail brush is ideal for this task. If fillets are required simply scale and fillet the fish. For skinless fillets which are considered to be superior eating, leave the scales on, fillet and skin, making sure no black membrane is left intact. Rinse twice in clean salt water, drain of excess water before refrigeration. This process will ensure good eating quality.

WHERE TO CATCH BLACKFISH

Refer to Map downloads.

BLACKFISH-LUDERICK = L



BAIT: Green Weed, Sea Cabbage.