

GOLDEN PERCH or YELLOW BELLY



“Bloody Great Eating”

It's a bit hard to describe the fighting ability of this fish as they can go from a “strewth - what have we got here?” initial run, to a feeling similar to the handshake you'd expect from a “gender bender” like Boy George.

They make for excellent eating in the whole form or as skinless fillets. Having a fatty strip which runs along the length of the backbone, we suggest that you make an incision approx. 25mm deep on either side and along the length of the backbone. These cuts will allow the fat to run away from the fish, if whole, during cooking, rather than being contained in the fish, thus turning the flesh a tad oily.

Yellow belly favour locations with standing or submerged timber, rocky outcrops and drop offs, so naturally these will be the places to fish for them. Good results have been achieved in the warmer hours of the day, say from 9am onwards, with a water temperature between 20 and 23 degrees celsius appearing to make them more active. Although present all year round, the warmer months of summer and spring appear to give the best results. In the bait department live shrimp, crickets, mud eyes, worms or

grubs will do the trick, while either a 5 or 10 plus minnow shape lure with colours to match the old adage of “dull day - dull lure, bright day - bright lure” will suffice. Wind direction and sky conditions, seem to matter little to yellow belly, but they do like the clear to slightly discoloured water. “Can't blame 'em really, I'd rather swim in a clean pool than a dirty one”.

On most occasions a drop of 3 points on the barometer will see them go off the bite and disappear to parts unknown.

RODS, REELS AND RIGS

A Bass rod up to 2m, combined with either a small egg-beater or baitcaster reel capable of 200m by 4kg mono is up to the task.

HOW TO CATCH GOLDEN PERCH

BAITS

Position yourself close to standing or submerged timbers, rocky outcrops or drop offs. Lower bait into water until sinker hits the bottom. Allow a little slack line. Yellow belly tend to pick up a bait and mouth it for a while before getting serious with it. It is important not to strike until the fish starts its run. When

the run starts, strike by lifting the rod tip and embedding the hook into the fishes mouth, have the drag set reasonably firm, as the fish will head for areas of cover i.e. snags. Keep the rod tip upright and slowly retrieve the fish. Use a plastic lined landing net or your hand to land fish, as explained in the Australian Bass article. Yellow belly are quite safe to handle but keep clear of the gill spikes and covers.

LURES

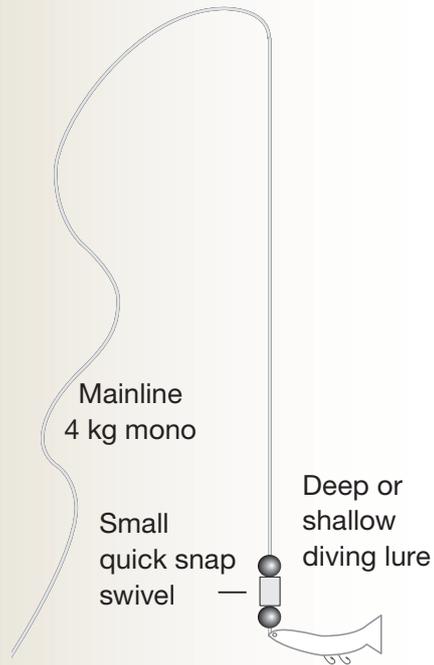
Cast around to various areas in your selected spot. Let lure settle a few seconds and retrieve at varying speeds giving the rod tip the occasional sideways flick. Keep the rod aimed at an approx. angle of 45 degrees towards the water. After hook up keep rod tip upright and retrieve fish.

TROLLING

Try around the deeper water, close to standing or submerged timber or rocks. Use a deep diving lure. Keep the boat speed between 1.5 and 3 knots with the lure travelling about 20 to 30 metres behind.

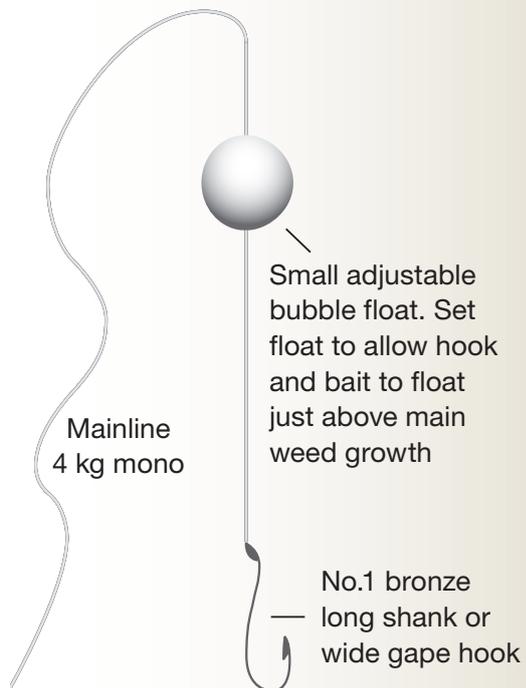
GOLDEN PERCH

LURE



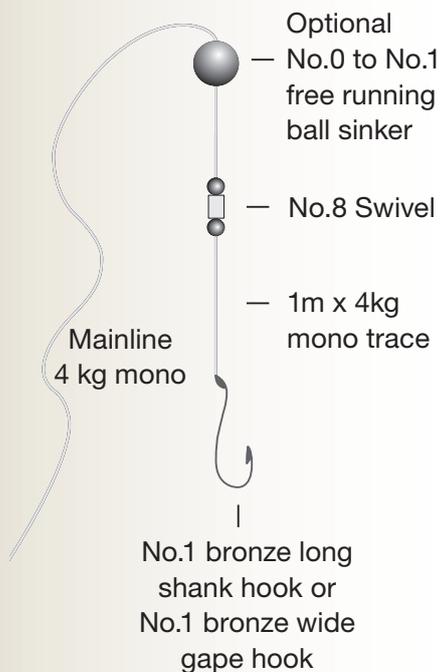
Quick snap swivel allows for easy knot free change of lure.

LAND RIG - HEAVY WEED

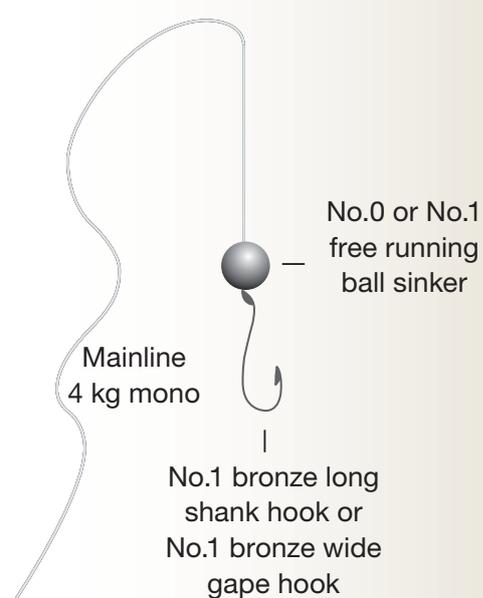


The bubble float will submerge when a hook up occurs.

LAND RIG - LIGHT WEED



BOAT RIG BAITS



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