

# HOW TO READ THE BEACH

If one is to fish the beach successfully, it's handy to have a bit of knowledge on how to read it.

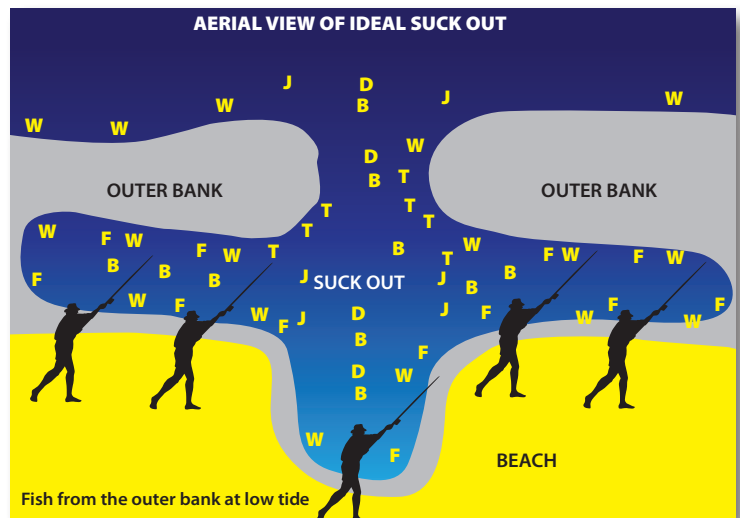
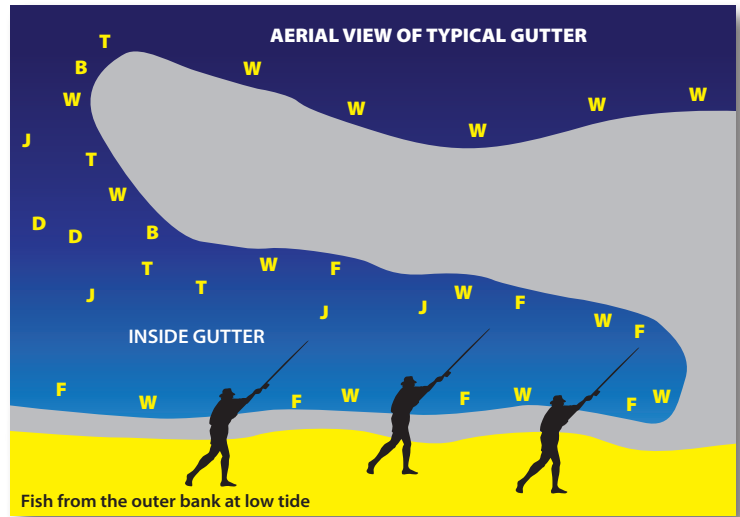
For instance there is little sense in aimlessly wandering to the waters edge and simply casting out, if your spot is devoid of any formation or interesting features.

Start, by stopping on a high sand dune or any elevated vantage point and look for the inshore gutters, suck outs, sand bars and reef formations. Rock walls and groynes also fall into the productive locations category.

Rather than humping your fishing gear around looking for these spots it's wise to visit the beach the day before the planned fishing trip and locate the likely spots. Provided the elements have not altered greatly overnight, you will be able to go straight to your spot the next day.

Be prepared to travel along the beach to locate the likely spots. Although nothing can compare with the serenity of being at the beach on a balmy night, with a soothing breeze gently massaging your skin, don't ever forget that the same place can be your worst nightmare. In the suck outs, gutters, channel's, etc. that you will be fishing, the power of the rips and currents can take you out to sea quicker than Mike Tyson can chew off Evander Holyfield's ear. Don't do anything stupid, (Mike sure did) like wading out too far or letting little Johnny go swimming in these conditions. It will be at its worst on the run out tide.

When fishing the beach a swell of about 1.5m. is ideal. Fish don't appear to be highly responsive to a calm flat sea. Turbulent waters holding suspended sand are not good places in the gutters, suck outs etc. to cast your bait. It would appear that the fish are not fond of the sand particles passing through their gills. These suspended sand environments hold about as much appeal to a fish as what the David Letterman show holds to me "Good God he's woeful". Look for the cleaner, more sand free water.



You will have to get used to the difference between a fish bite and the feel of a wave bump on your line, only experience will teach you this. Make sure you retrieve your line as it goes slack. It's hard to detect a bite and prepare yourself to strike with a slack line. When you have a hook up, and the backforce of a wave is taking your fish out to sea, don't be frightened to give it a bit of line. This is much smarter than trying to pull the fish straight in, the extra force of the backwash will more than likely snap your line. Stay calm, keep steady pressure on your fish and retrieve it slowly. Shown, are diagrams of the type of environments that you will be looking for, and the most likely spots fish will feed in these environments.

