

# SAMSON



**“Get down to the gym or pop some steroids. You’re gonna need some muscle”**

Due to its amazing strength, legend has it that this fish got its name from the ancient biblical character. The samson fish is regularly confused with amberjack and yellowtail kingfish, which are also caught in our area and are good enough to be of equal value as sports and food fish. These 3 fish are easily distinguished, as the name implies, yellowtail kingfish have bright yellow tails, amberjack are purple brown above and whitish below, with a golden band separating the two colours, while samson fish are blue green above, white below and have a deep blue dorsal fin. “You shouldn’t have any trouble remembering that.” Some sources have samson fish achieving a weight of 50kg approx., although in this area they’ll probably pull up around 30kg. It is generally agreed that smaller examples of these fish make for the finest eating as the larger ones get a bit tasteless and rough in the flesh.

Suitable skies will range from clear to overcast, with winds up to 15 knots from

the south east making for ideal conditions. Check them out between summer and autumn, in the early morning, when the tide is rising from low to high. Suitable baits will include fresh fish strips, squid and live baits such as yakkas and small legal sized tailor.

## RODS, REELS AND RIGS

You’re going to need an offshore rod, to suit the individual, with big heaps of grunt. Lash an offshore or overhead reel to the stick.

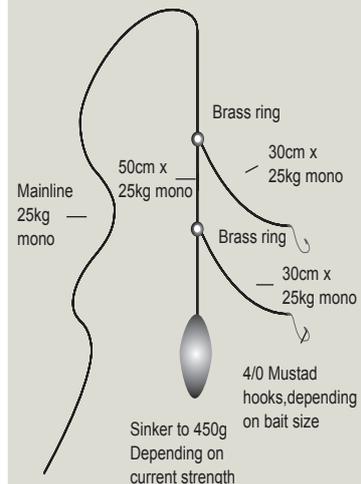
## HOW TO CATCH SAMSON

O.K., with the paternoster rig “sound familiar” lower sinker and bait over the side until the line goes slack, sinker has hit bottom. Retrieve slack line until weight of sinker is felt, then raise and lower rod tip so as the sinker bounces on the bottom. Have a firm drag setting.

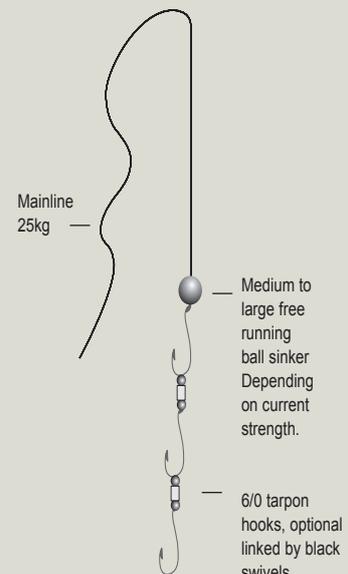
For the floater rig, hold onto the bait and lower the sinker over the side. Throw over a bit of chopped up fish flesh or W.A. pilchard to form a berley trail. When about 10 to 15m of line has left the

reel throw the bait and rig over and let it sink with the berley trail. Samson will hit a bait harder than Mike Tyson and faster than Muhammed Ali. The ensuing fight will have you thinking you’re in the ring with Mike, as this fish will get up to all sorts of dirty tricks to get off the hook. With the incredible power it’s got, it’s important to stay relaxed and make sure you can go the distance. Employ a lift and wind motion to retrieve and use a gaff to land. Keep alert when gaffing this fella as he’ll still be capable of delivering the knock out blow at battles end.

## PATERNOSTER RIG



## FLOATER RIG



**BAIT:** W.A. Pilchards, Fresh Fish Strips, Squid, Live Baits eg. Yakkas

## WHOLE BAKED SAMSON ON OPEN CHARCOAL OR FIRE

### Ingredients

1 cleaned whole samson  
Sliced garlic cloves  
Sliced fresh ginger

1 tin pineapple slices  
1/2 cup butter  
1/2 cup lemon juice

Alfoil to wrap fish  
2 stubbies of beer  
4 glasses of wine.

### Method

Cut small holes in fish and stuff garlic and ginger into holes. Grease alfoil with 1/2 of the butter and place fish on alfoil. Spread pineapple slices on top of fish, sprinkle with lemon juice, rub on rest of butter, wrap in alfoil, and toss onto coals. Rip the top off a stubby, sit back relax, have a drink and providing you’re not too thirsty after this work out, the fish should be ready to turn when you’ve finished the stubby. Turn fish, open up the other stubby, have a well earned drink. When enough stubbies have been knocked down to ensure the fish is ready, open up alfoil, serve yourselves a good portion of fish. Have with wine “bon appétit”