

# SAND FLATHEAD



Regularly taken around 330mm they seemingly reach their peak around 450mm. Submerged sandbanks and drop offs in the bays and estuaries make for excellent fishing locations, as well as the gutters and suck outs at the beach.

Leaning towards a family format they group together in small schools. This is good news for the angler, as, if you land one, more usually follow. Yabbies, white pilchards, fresh and live prawns, blood and beach worms, pipis or eugaries and fresh fish strips are useful baits, while a small minnow lure with deep or shallow swimming action is quite effective. Although present all year round their numbers increase between November and April.

In the bays and estuaries, good fishing can be had for the complete run in tide and is best in the early morning or late evening. A 10 knot wind from either the south, south-east, south-west or north is suitable. No preference is given to either drift fishing or fishing at anchor. At the beach, include a west wind and fish 3 hours either side of the low tide.

## TIP

Fresh and live baits will return the best results.

## RODS, REELS AND RIGS

For the bays and estuaries get yourself a medium to fast taper boat rod to 3m and saddle it up with either a 125mm or 150mm side cast reel or a medium size egg-beater reel capable of

130m of 4kg to 5kg mono. At the beach use a good quality surf rod, to suit the individual, balanced to a 150mm to 175mm side cast reel.

## HOW TO CATCH SAND FLATHEAD

When fishing the bays and estuaries, anchor dinghy on or near submerged sandbanks. Cast over sand bank and let sit, or retrieve slowly and repeat, or cast towards the direction the current is coming from and allow the bait to wash around with the current into the drop offs. Strike when extra weight is felt on line. This method can also be used at the beach. When drift fishing let the bait travel about 10m behind your dinghy. If weed is encountered the bait should be checked at regular intervals, as the weed can tend to drag the bait off the hook. Experience will teach you the difference between a fish and the drag of weed. Strike when a fish is detected. Retrieve fish with a landing net.

## LURES

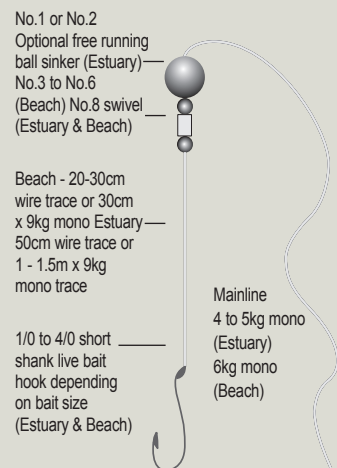
Cast around selected spot and retrieve at various speeds. Repeat action.

## HANDLING

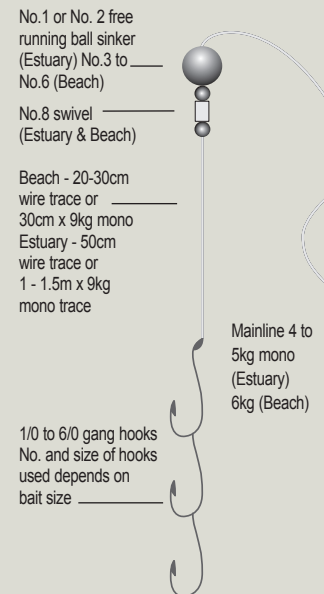
Take care. Sharp barbs are located near the gill covers. Use a thick cloth such as an old tee-shirt or heavier and grip firmly around the body.

## “Valuable table fish”

### BAIT RIG



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## N.B.

It is not recommended to drift fish in areas of heavy weed growth.

## WHERE TO CATCH FLATHEAD

### ESTUARIES

Refer to Map downloads.

### BEACH

Refer to How to Read the Beach Diagram.

### FLATHEAD = F

### LURE RIG



**BAIT:** Yabbies, White Pilchards, Prawns, Blood & Beach Worms.