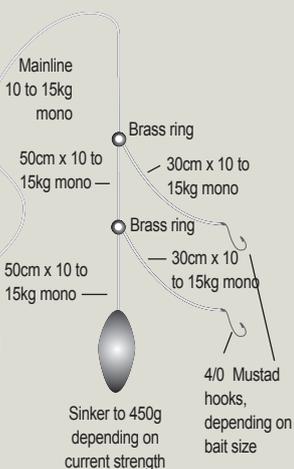


TERAGLIN - TRAG JEW



“This fella won’t disappoint too many”

PATERNOSTER/ REEF RIG



FLOATER RIG



Admittedly trag aren't up there with a lot of other reef fish when it comes to the fight, but it is generally conceded that it makes for a better feed than the mullet or jewfish, a species it has a resemblance to.

Trag are easily identified by their golden cheeks and the bright yellow colour inside the mouth and gills. Word has it that in a good paddock, they fatten up to around 20kg, but possibly the average size to expect locally will be 4kg. Unlike the mullet, they are not very fond of travelling close inshore, and are normally seen about the offshore reefs at night. The autumn months appear to yield a more superior strike rate, with winds from any direction up to 10 knots being O.K., although it's probably best with none. Chances are you'll catch trag through the day, especially if the sky's overcast, but without a shadow of doubt, after dusk on the change of tides is the best.

Trag must like a bit of a party, because if you land one, usually more follow. Sometimes these fish must not be real keen on the ocean floor, as they will form shoals over the peaks of reefs and rise closer to the surface to feed. The challenge is to find the depth they are feeding at and use the appropriate rig

for that depth. Eg. Paternoster rig for the bottom, floater rigs for fish rising off the reef and if near the surface and the current isn't running too hard, take the sinker off the floater rig and simply play out line, letting the bait float away from you towards the fish.

Like most of our reef fish these fellas are extremely partial to a belly full of squid, fresh fish strips and whole or cut pilchards and gar. They are pretty safe to handle, but show a bit of respect to the gill area.

RODS, REELS AND RIGS.

Get your hands onto a good quality reef rod to your liking and slap an egg-beater reel on it.

Note: Swivels between gang hooks give greater flexibility when placing hooks into bait. For whole fish baits, place hooks from underbelly and the last one through the jaws.

HOW TO CATCH TERAGLIN

With the paternoster rig, lower sinker and bait to the bottom until line goes slack, sinker has hit bottom. Reel in slack line until weight of sinker is felt, then raise and lower the rod tip letting the sinker bounce on the bottom. Try this for a while and if no luck is to be had retrieve a few metres of line, at a time, until you have located the depth the fish are at.

When this depth has been found, tie a bit of line or wool around the mainline near the reel, after re-baiting and going

back down this will appear, letting you know you're at the correct depth.

When the floater rig has been decided upon, hold onto the bait and lower the sinker over the side letting it take some line with it. In the meantime, throw over some chopped up fish flesh or pilchard to create a berley trail. When 10 to 15m of line has been taken, throw the baited rig over and let it submerge with the berley. Settle in and wait for a hit.

As mentioned before, if the current is not too hard and you feel the trag are nearer the surface, discard the floater rig sinker and play the line out the back of the boat.

Unfortunately, teraglin are not in the Jeff Fenech class when it comes to a blue, usually they will indicate they're about by giving the line a slight pull and then following this up with a short run. Strike when the run starts and keep the rod upright during retrieval.



Tips on trag:

1. Best eaten as fillets.
2. Make for excellent eating when smoked.
3. Bleed and place into ice slurry as soon as possible.