



Bream

One of Australia's most popular bread and butter fish species are bream. There are multiple species of bream that are found right the way round Australia's coastline, however it is the Southern Black Bream and to a lesser extent, Eastern Yellowfin Bream that are the most local to us.

Southern Black Bream are found from Adelaide, SA right through Victoria and up to mid northern NSW, where numbers of Yellowfin Bream take over. Yellowfin bream are found from about Gippsland lakes in Eastern Victoria, right the way up through NSW into QLD.

Some people find it hard to tell the difference between the 2 species, but generally Yellowfin Bream will have a bright yellow tinge on most of the fins, where as a Black Bream will have a darker colour through the fins. 90% or more Bream caught throughout Victoria will be Black Bream.

Where to find them

Although there are multiple species of Bream, they will all be found by looking in similar locations and will be caught by using similar techniques. Bream are a structure-orientated fish, preferring to live in and

around any type of structure, and this can be quite varied.

Both natural or man-made structure including piers, pontoons, moored boats, bridges, rockwalls, fallen timber, mangrove stands, oyster racks, deeper holes or depressions, and even colour changes in an estuary can all be an area to concentrate on. If there is some sort of structure in an estuary throughout southern Australia, you can bet there will be Bream nearby.

Bream will use this structure for different reasons, but they will normally hang out somewhere that provides shelter from predators, and also an ideal spot to ambush prey items such as shrimp or baitfish.

Another reason Bream are so widespread is because they are able to feed on a wide variety of food sources. In some estuaries in certain areas, Bream will feed almost solely on baitfish species, whereas in more urban habitat they will feed on molluscs such as mussels, and soft shell or shrimp. Depending on the area you choose to fish will also determine the bait or lure that will be most effective for you.

Bait fishing for Bream

Bait fishing for Bream normally requires a finesse approach if you want to maximise your results. Whether you are fishing from a boat or the shore you can still follow the same basic principles. Using a slightly longer than average graphite rod, something up to 8

or 9ft in length will allow you to keep your line off the boat's edge or away from bankside obstacles. The advantage of a graphite rod over a fibreglass rod is the increased sensitivity that the graphite rod will have. It will allow you to pick up on the tiniest of bites due to the 'crispness' of the material.

In terms of rigging up for bream, a good quality 2500 sized spinning reel is ample and perfect if spooled up with a quality soft touch monofilament in the 6-10lb range. The current or wind will determine the sinker size being used on the rig, but the best results will always come with as little weight as possible.

A simple running sinker rig with fluorocarbon used as the hook leader is generally the best. Hook size and pattern will also vary from bait to bait, with soft baits such as worm and mussel requiring a wide-gap style hook, and baits of fish fillets or crab better presented on octopus or suicide type hooks.

A fine grit berley is excellent for bream, for as large pellets or pieces of bait will simply fill the fish up and they won't take your bait. Prawn and aniseed scents are effective when added to your mix. Using this style of berley when help drag fish out into more open water for you.

Bream as a lure target

Lure fishing for Bream is a mixture of finesse and power, for any old lure thrown in the water will simply not catch bream, and not with any consistency. The ideal outfit for catching Bream on lures would consist of a

high-quality graphite rod around 7ft in length, matched up with a 2000 size spin reel. The best quality rod will enable the angler to feel the slightest enquiry from a following fish, while also giving feedback on whether your lure is working correctly – which is paramount.

High performance reels will have much better components in them, and will stay smoother for much longer. Having a quality, low-inertia drag system is also critical, as light gauge hooks can easily be torn out on inconsistent drags.

Fishing a smooth casting braided line between 4-10lb will ensure both distance and feel. A fluorocarbon leader of at least a rod length should be used in conjunction. Leader strength should be chosen in relation to the sort of terrain you're fishing. Generally starting with the lightest leader will give you the best chance at tricking the fish.

The different lures

Lots of different styles of lures will catch Bream, however knowing which lures to use in different locations is the tricky bit.

Whichever lure is being used they should all be fished as slowly as possible. Slow retrieves maximise time in front of the fish, while not spooking them.

'Vibes' are a popular type of lure for catching Bream, mainly because they are quite easy to use and can cover lots of water quicker.

There are different types of vibes, and each one has a slightly different action; Metal vibes or 'blades' are a fast sinking lure with a fairly

tight shimmying action, whereas a polycarbonate vibe will have a slower sink rate and a wider action.

By knowing the differences in these lures you will be able to choose the right lure for your location. Fishing a vibe can be fairly easy; a long cast out to cover lots of water, letting the lure sink down to the bottom and then working the lure back in a series of short but sharp 'hops'.

Hardbodied lures are also a popular style of lure to target Bream with. The best hardbodies to use for Bream are finely balanced and tuned to work effectively on slow retrieves, while imparting maximum action. Normally a suspending lure will work best, as it will 'hang' in front of the fish for longer and induce a strike. Working a hardbodied lure for Bream is a bit of trial and error in terms of which retrieve to use, but generally a few downward sweeps of the rod early in the retrieve will get the lure swimming at its operating depth, where it can be gently twitched and retrieved to gain the interest of a nearby fish.

Soft plastics are also a very good way of catching Bream and can work when other hardbodied styles of lures don't. The best thing about a soft plastic is the fact that they feel natural in the mouth of the bream.

Probably the most popular soft plastic patterns for bream would be small curl tail grubs and paddle tail minnows up to 3 inches

long. The curl tail plastic will impart a subtle waving action in the water, while the paddle style will produce a vibrant 'frantic bait' kicking action.

Colours are a personal preference, but giving yourself a mixture of passive, natural and aggressive tones will give you options to try on the fish on any given day.

For any additional information or specifics talk to us in-store.

Good Luck & Happy Fishing!

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