

Squid Fishing

Squid fishing around Melbourne has really jumped into a specialty of its own in the past few years, and why not – it can be done virtually 24/7, 365 days a year and doesn't need to be done from a \$300,000 boat.

The squid that we catch around Melbourne are 99% mostly southern calamari which can grow to around 4kg and live for roughly 18 months. Being that they generally don't live very long they are a very active predator, which try to make the most of available food as feed as much as possible. Knowing that they are an aggressive feeder means that they can normally be caught in almost any condition, with some technique fine-tuning.

Squid fishing around Melbourne is readily accessible for anglers of any skill level, with plenty of areas to choose from be it a pier or rock groyne, or from the kayak or boat. Regardless of where you are thinking of going squid fishing – identifying key habitat and terrain is the number one thing to do.



Satellite imagery from most mapping applications on smartphones is an excellent tool for finding appropriate areas to start your squid fishing.

Some areas of interest here are highlighted by stars, whether it's reef, grass and weed, small ledges or channels.

Squid habitat

The great thing about our Southern Calamari is that they are very widespread in the locations they can be found and caught in within Melbourne and its surrounds. Apart from estuary rivers and creeks or areas of higher brackish concentration most of both our bays have plenty of suitable habitat.

Breaking this habitat down, there are many factors that can make squid fishing successful. Some ideal starting points are as follows:

Clean, salty water

The higher the salinity generally the larger squid population, as they don't survive well with too much fresh

Live reef

This can comprise of any 'living' reef including coral and rock, with growth on it. Dead reef will generally hold very little of the food chain and in turn predators

Grass/kelp beds

Grass and kelp is needed for squid to spawn around, and also gives them excellent cover and provides plenty of food

There are other good areas to start searching for squid, as they can turn up in open water or not near any reef or structure, but this is generally when they are actively hunting and a lot more common during the night.

If you are targeting them during the day it pays to start around known terrain, while at night their active predatory mode will find them out searching for food over much more barren ground. Targeting these areas that have scattered reef and grass nearby is a good idea.

Specialized squid tackle

Having a specialized 'squid outfit' will make your fishing much enjoyable and a heap more successful – with a few main factors in your outfit choices to consider, whether you are fishing from the shore or boat.

Rod – 7'6" – 9ft graphite blank with specialist parabolic or multi-taper

***Longer rods helps work jig more efficiently while parabolic taper keeps squid hooked**

Reel – 2500 – 3000 size spin reel, with tuned drag and high quality gearing system

***Ultra-smooth drag is needed to keep squid hooked, while heavy-duty gear set minimizes wear during aggressive jig movements**

Line – 10 - 20lb 'slick' braided line

***Braid gives you the longest cast possible, with the 'slicker' the better. Braid lets your jigs to depth much easier and lets them work the most effectively in the water**

Fluorocarbon leader 10 – 25lb

***Ultra-invisible means the squid are watching your jig not the line, and shock absorbing nature reduces pulled hooks on soft squid flesh**

Quick – change squid clips

***Let you change squid jig colour or size in a second, while also letting the jigs 'dart' better than a fixed knot**

Squid jigs

There are thousands and thousands of squid jigs on the market these days, and some work better than others. The main thing is to pick a variety of jigs in sizes, 'sink rates' and colour tones. Some jigs sink quite fast while others sink very slowly. Picking the sink rate to suit the area you're fishing is critical, as a fast sinking jig will snag you up first cast in a shallow reef spot, and so on!

One main way to optimize your colour choices for jigs is to pick a mixture of Passive, Natural & Aggressive colour tones, so that you are covering all bases. Certain colours show up differently in different light conditions and could attract or otherwise not interest the squid.

We would suggest talking to us in-store for jig specifics to get you started on picking the correct jigs.

Squid-jigging 101

There are lots of ways you can catch squid on your jigs. Some anglers 'whip' their rods and jigs violently which can be effective, while

others give a subtle 'flick' or even leave it static. These techniques all work but it is imperative that you mix things up to see what the squid want on the day.

The easiest starting technique would be to cast your jig out and let it sink to the bottom on a 'tight' line. Once your line 'relaxes' or falls a touch limp this means your jig is on the bottom. Wind 2 or 3 times then give the rod 2 swift upwards 'flicks' and let the jig sink to the bottom again. **Keeping the jig near the bottom is one of the main keys in catching squid!**

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

Good Luck & Happy Fishing!

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This handout is for use as information only, and the suggestions are based on our experiences for fishing this particular location and or species.