



Surf Secrets

Anglers flock to the beach to lock horns with the humble Australian Salmon, which can be caught up 4kg from the beaches around the state. Surf fishing is by nature a fairly simple form of fishing, but attention to detail will greatly improve your results and enjoyment.

Autumn and winter are traditionally the best time on the surf beaches to catch salmon; however there are still plenty of salmon out there to be caught during the warmer months of the year.

Milder weather conditions between early April and mid-May are best as cool water temperatures bring the bait and the fish in close. Many beaches around the state produce salmon from this time of year through until around September, with a few closer to the home worth a visit.

Some notable beaches not too far from the South-Eastern suburbs worth a look are as follows:

Gunnamatta, Woolamai, Kilcunda, Powlett mouth, Williamsons, Inverloch main beach,

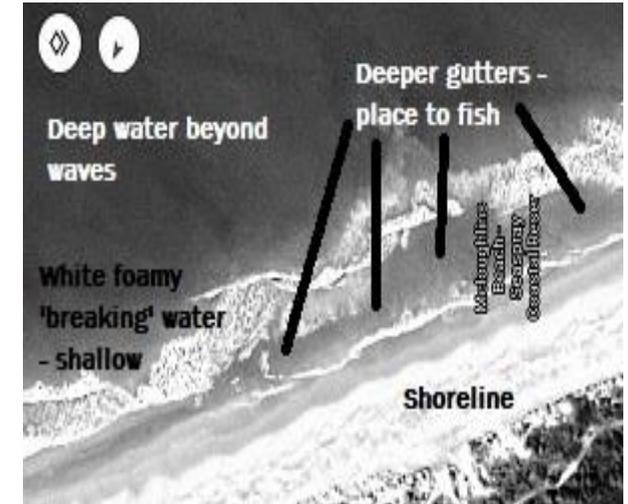
Venus Bay beaches 1-5, Sandy Point, McLaughlins, McGaurans, Woodside, Golden Beach, Eastern Beach Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyers main beach, Pettmans beach. The list goes on! Most of these beaches are within 3.5hrs of the store, with plenty more as far as you can be bothered driving!

Talk to us in-store for up to date location reports and information.

Reading the beach

A high vantage point is your best friend here. A lot of beaches will have a walking track or lookout at the top of the dune, and this is where you can work out where to fish. Very plainly, the 'darker' blue water is the deeper water and generally a good place to start. Watching the wave activity around this deeper water will tell you where the shallow banks and bars are – pointed out by 'foamy' or breaking waves. Normally a good place to fish is along the edges of where these areas meet, as the fish will try to avoid shallow breaking water as they don't want their gills full of sand.

Keeping an eye on which way the outgoing water is moving can also point out where the fish may be stationing. If you can position yourself off the edge into a deeper gutter with some undertow movement running past your baits you are in a good position to find some fish.



Using aerial mapping can also provide you with insightful starting points on a new beach

Times and tides can play a part in successful surf fishing. Ideally the stage around the top of the tide is the best time to be fishing – as the fish push the bait into the shoreline gutters and much closer to you.

Time of day can vary, but if you could line up a high tide within an hour of dawn or dusk that would be the best scenario. The salmon use the low light period to hunt the gutters when small baitfish are caught off guard.

In saying this there are days when the fish will be actively feeding on the 'wrong' conditions – so never write off a session on the beach just because conditions aren't 'perfect'!

Tackling the beach

The use of proper gear is paramount on the beach. Trying to get away with short rods or the wrong style of reel will result in disappointing and potentially frustrating fishing. There are many different ways of gearing up for the surf, but our basic recommendations are as follows:

Rod – 12-13ft graphite rated 6-15kg line class with soft tip and powerful butt section.

***Graphite provides extra casting power and distance, with rigidity to hold sinkers in place**

Reel – 8000 – 14000 sized spin reel with specialized distance casting spool

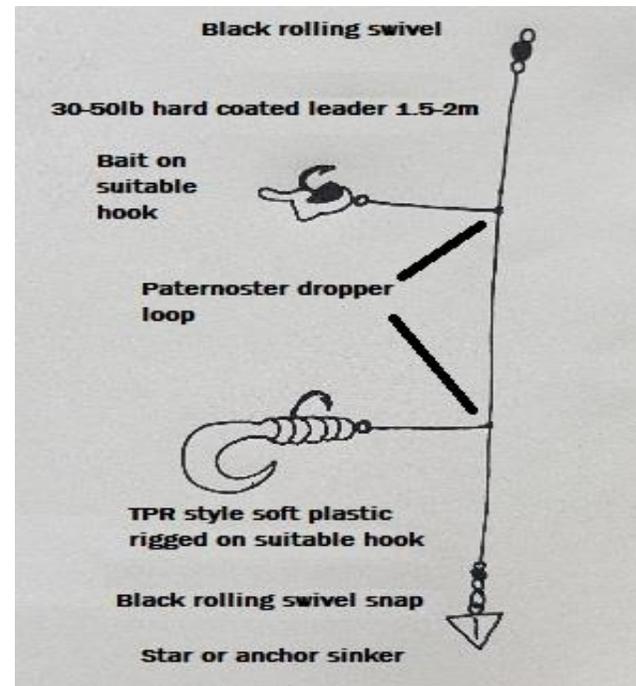
***Long cast spool will outcast any other reel style on the beach**

Line-30-50lb thin diameter braided line

***Thinner diameter for extra casting distance and less drag in wash and waves. Higher strength for diameter lets angler muscle fish out of shore break**

A simple 2 dropper paternoster rig is often the deadliest rig for the beaches, especially when used in conjunction with a surf popper or tear-resistant 'TPR' soft plastic rigged on the bottom hook. Hook styles are many and should reflect bait type and size. Star or 'anchor' sinkers are the most effective in the surf - while making sure your rig holds and doesn't tumble back to the shoreline is critical.

Talk to us in-store for specific tackle choices and rigging information



A typical 'cover all bases' surf fishing rig. Tangle free and ready to catch fish.

Bait and berley

There are many popular baits for the beach, but keeping the list shorter helps in not carrying too much down the beach. Bluebait, whitebait, pipi, baby bottle squid and squid strips are excellent choices and work well. The use of a 'cocktail' of multiple baits on one hook can also be very effective when the fish are picky.

Berleying on the beach is a MUST. Berley attracts baitfish and their predators, but it

keeps them around, that's the key. Your berley should be a solid mix of scent and chunks but fine enough so that the fish cannot 'eat' it and not your baits. The best general mix is to make up 20L or so compromising of a base pellet – but NOT chicken pellets. Chicken pellets can contain ammonia which fish don't like. Your base pellet can be large and scented and should have a pilchard block or bucket mix layered in. Once you have filled your bucket up, a top off with 1L of tuna oil will soak through the mix and break it down somewhat. Leave it overnight or even longer if you need and it will soak in more. A constant application of a few handfuls every 20 minutes or so will help in keeping the fish nearby and hungry.

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

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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.