

# CHIN GUARDS

*The Chin Guard is a Classic  
It'll work well at the Palms!*



## THE RIGGING



Step One: Break the bill off the gar, measure where the first hook should enter the gar so the pins will pass through the head.



Step Two: Insert the hook, pin the head and wrap the rubber band around the head pins.



Step Three: Complete the rig by separating the flesh off the backbone using your thumb and forefinger. Work the gar back and forwards a few times to ensure the bait is supple.

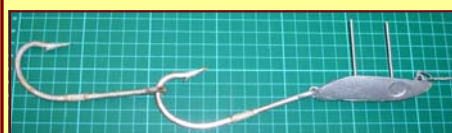


Step Four: Once the bait has had it's eyes removed and been worked along the backbone test swim it beside the boat. What you want to see is a bait working, tail wagging, and bait upright

## TWO METHODS FOR BIG BAITS



↑ Not IGFA approved ↑



## ABOUT CHIN GUARDS

- A Chin Guard is bait keel, they've been in use for over 30 years
- What makes them popular?
  - the simplicity and speed of rigging,
  - a high catch rate
  - and the ability to fish the rig at mostly any depth
- Anglers can easily target mackerel that are hanging deep by simply
  - stopping the boat,
  - allow the rig to sink through or near the school of fish,
  - re-engage the motor and move off.
 This method can be effective during the middle of the day when the mackerel tend to prefer to hunt in deeper waters.
- A Chin Guard rigged bait rarely needs tuning as the keel on the rig ensures the bait remains upright and swimming.
- Troll speed should be approximately 6 knots, the rig should be towed just slow enough so that the bait fish doesn't break the surface.
- The rule of thumb is leave the spike wires long on 12/0 chin guards, tie or rubber band the bait on. Break its back, throw it over and see if it swims.
- Big dogtooth, wahoo, big eye, yellow fin tuna and mackerel love big baits, and the chin guard allows YOU to swim baits like a professional. You may have to increase the number and size of hook to get your bait completely covered.
- Chinguards also work on the downrigger. As a rule of thumb, check bait every half hour or any time you see the rod buck but not break free of downrigger. Downrigger catch rate is usually at least 3 to 1 against other livers.
- When using bigger baits with hooks or even as a teaser, don't be frightened to sew your baits. It's essential that hooks cover the whole bait.
- Small chin guards are set up on 4/0, 5/0, and 6/0 hooks recommended for 3,4, and 6 kg line.
- Big chin guards are usually set up on 9/0 and 10/0 hooks for 10, 15, 24 kg line class for trolling gar and wolf herring.
- use 8/0 and 9/0 hooks on the chin guard. The bigger hooks seem to give you a better chance to hang onto larger fish and other pelagic species that are mixed up with the mackerel

## MINI CHINGUARDS

### Why did we use them?

- To troll Pilchards—rig it upside down
- To troll Mullet—Only push one pin through the head of the mullet. Try a split tail too
- Can use smaller hooks 4/0, 5/0. This reduces the drag required to set the hooks, an excellent light tackle option
- To match bait size to target species



Mullet



Pilchards

## LARGE CHINGUARDS

### What will the BIG ones swim?



Wolf Herring

↑ Not IGFA legal ↑



Scad

- \* Big chin guards set up on 11/0 and 12/0 hooks. Use to swim scad, small mackerel, small queen fish, tarpon and very big yakka etc.  
Yes anything can be swum.
- \* The larger chin guard is limited to about 45cm baits on a pair of 12/0 Oshannasse hooks.

At Russell's insistence we've pulled out the Chin Guard. He says can't go past a Chin Guard and a Split Tail Mullet for the Palms. You'll note the Split Tail Mullet on the other cover of this edition.

I've 're-hashed' two articles written by Eddie Riddle and Mick Meiers and here it is. Eddie is the editor.

### IMPORTANT

Check out the rules. When you rig a Chin Guard, being 'legal' is GOOD. You need to bury the second hook into the flesh of the fish. Don't get caught with a free swinging hook.

Alison

