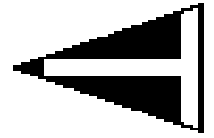


SKIPPING GAR FOR BILL FISH



With an run of Black Marlin being caught and tagged at Cape Bowling Green, I thought we would look at a very simple rig for Skipping Gar.

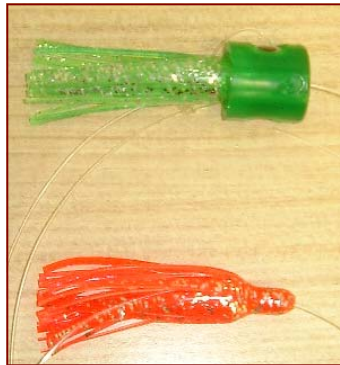
With so many chasing their first bill, I need to tell you that this rig is the one which produces most bites first of all - I think so anyway.

STEP ONE:

- Take around 800 mm of 100lb to 120 lb mono leader.
- In one end tie a loop with a perfection knot or crimp it.

STEP TWO:

- Thread a red or green squid onto the mono.
- Pictured is a little pusher which would be great in rougher water—as it helps keep the gar in the water and creates a good bubble trail.
- Its also good for the anglers to help keep it in their sights.
- Someone should be watching the skipping gar all the times.
- You will increase your hook up rate if you see a billfish before it bites.
- At the very least the skipper should say, get ready when he sees a compact school of bait on the sounder
- Gannets wheeling and diving are another indication of a bite about to happen.



STEP THREE:

- Tie on your hook or crimp it.
- Make up a few rigs—some with 8/0 gamakatsu big game hooks and some with 10/0, these are for the different sized gar.

STEP FOUR:

- Cut yourself around 300 mm of soft copper wire. Thread wire down through the top of the hook about 50mm.
- Now wind the 50mm end down the shank of the hook tightly.
- The rig is now finished and ready for a gar.
- Just give your gar the usual back massage and remove the eyes.



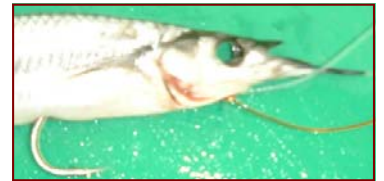
STEP FIVE:

- Put your hook into the throat latch and bring the barb out through the middle of the gar as far back as the gape allows.



STEP SIX:

- Bring the eye of the hook up into the gill cage, be careful not to break the throat latch - the eye of the hook should not be visible.



STEP SEVEN:

- Wrap the copper wire 3 times through the eye socket and under the gills - this helps keep the eye of the hook hidden in the gill cage.
- Now wrap the wire over the gars mouth and down the beak



STEP EIGHT:

GOOD LUCK • Slide the squid
down and your bait is ready to go.



**MAY YOUR
TAG FLAGS FLY!**

Russell