

SPLIT TAIL MULLET ON WIRE

For OTHER GAMEFISH



STEP ONE: With a sharp thin bladed knife, insert at the anal vent and back towards the tail along the backbone



STEP TWO: Tilt the knife at 45 degrees



STEP THREE: Cut a little further forward along the backbone towards the head approx 25mm.



STEP FOUR: With a bait needle push a hole through the middle of the head slightly behind the eyes.



STEP FIVE: Insert 2 hook rig through the gut cavity so eye of the first hook lines up with the hole.



STEP SIX: Insert from the top your wire leader through the hook eye and out the gills place on sinker.



STEP SEVEN: Leaving a loop finish off with a haywire twist.

ABOUT THE SPLIT TAIL MULLET

This was a very popular and successful bait has over time been forgotten.

- With a little organization, the Split Tail can be very quick to rig and they work.
- Have a selection of hooks ganged in your tackle box to accommodate different sized mullets and line class.
- Have some lengths of wire pre cut to length with a loop twisted in one end.

HOOKS

- I like to use mustard tarpon 7766.
- At home put the hook shank in a vice and with a pair pliers open the gap up a little. [not essential]
- Gang a selection of 6/0, 7/0, 8/0 for different mullet sizes
- The most common sized mullet say 150mm, 2 * 7/0 are fine.
- These hooks must be sharpened before use.
- If using light tackle 4 and 6 kg, it a great idea to gang a 8/0 gamagatsu big game hook S112 on the back of the 7/0 Tarpon. This increases your hook ups with the back hook being of small gauge and chemically sharpened.

SINKERS

- Match the sinker size to the bait size.
- The average mullet say 150 mm, a size 4 or 5 is fine.
- For a mullet around 30cm long, a size 8 ball.

WIRE SIZE.

- Again it depends on tackle.
- 69 lb for 4 and 6 kg
- 88 lb for 10
- 105 lb for 15kg but try to use as light as possible.
- when rigging the bait try to keep the length of the wire to a minimum, say 30cm from the nose of the bait to the snap swivel.

THE PATTERN

- No rules, here are some suggestions
- If you have a downrigger try to run the bigger baits on the 10 or 15 kg tackle.
- They work great on the flatline say 15 metres out the back.
- They work really well out of the rigger, with a gar on the other rigger.
- Experiment, but remember lures catch fish sure, but if the fish aren't really on the bite you will outfish lures with baits and the quality will be there also.

BILLFISH

- Fishing for mackerel in an area where billfish can turn up don't panic!
- This spit tail mullet has caught many billfish in the past...the swimming gar rig would then be a better option to hook a billfish.



A MUST for the PALMS

- If your Split Tail doesn't swim first up
 - break the backbone in 2 places, and with your thumb and forefinger
 - squash down just behind the head

to remove the flesh from the backbone.

- When trolled the 2nd hook moves up between the 2 fillets

Russell

