



# Target Species

**Mulloway** - *Argyrosomus japonicus*

## Where to fish

Mulloway occupy a wide range of habitats between Bundaberg in QLD south around to Exmouth in WA. Their habitat range extends from the upper tidal limits of coastal rivers in near-drinkable water to reefs and offshore gravel beds many kilometres from the coast. They are particularly fond of hunting in river mouths and adjacent coastal areas along rocky foreshores and beaches where baitfish and squid are abundant.



**Steve Starling,**  
A lovely Squidgie-caught mulloway

## How to target

Mulloway are predators and occasional scavengers, feeding primarily on smaller fish and invertebrates. They do a great deal of their hunting at night, but will also feed during daylight hours. These relatively cautious, schooling fish are best targeted using live or very fresh baits and they also respond well to lures and flies at times. Try concentrating your efforts around the change of tide within a few days of the full and new moon phases. Most importantly fish regularly. Persistence pays off when targeting mulloway, stick at it and eventually you'll land the trophy fish you're after.



**Andrew Badullovich,**  
14kg of mulloway on light tackle

Mulloway



## ▶▶ Hints & Tips

The mulloway is an immensely popular and highly sought-after target species amongst Australian anglers. These elusive and hard to catch predators can potentially exceed 2m in length and 70kg in weight, but are more common at weights up to 30kg.

- 1 Mulloway respond well to lure and fly in estuaries during daylight hours, however night time takes preference when targeting them with baits.
- 2 Mulloway experts focus most of their effort around tide changes on the bigger tides of the full or new moon.
- 3 Mulloway don't come easy. Keep employing the methods you learn and fish regularly.
- 4 Adult mulloway are good eating and there's no crime in taking one for a feed. However the benefits to the fishery and the feeling of releasing this species far outweighs the benefits to your taste buds :)

### Rod & Reel

Ideal tackle for targeting mulloway is dependent upon terrain and the size of fish likely to be encountered. In open areas of larger estuaries or bays, a 3000 to 5000-size spinning reel or an overhead (baitcaster) reel with a similar line capacity will do the job when matched to a 2 to 2.5m rod with a relatively fast taper. For heavy rock, surf and breakwater fishing, many angler prefer heavier tackle and, on the east and west coasts, sidecast reels on longer rods (up to 4m in length) remain popular.

### Line and leader

- Line: 10-30lb braid or monofilament.
- Leader: Typically, monofilament twice the breaking strength of the mainline up to 80lb.

### Terminal Tackle

6/0-10/0 Gamakatsu black octopus hooks, quality crane swivels, sinker weighted to suit conditions.

### Best Lures

Soft plastics such as the Squidgy Fish, Shads, Whip Baits and Slick Rigs are a favourite among specialists, however mulloway will take a wide range of lures from fly to hard body minnows.

### Best Bait

Live baits such as fish, squid and beachworms are best. In failing that go as fresh as you can.

### Filleting

See the 'Fillet Mulloway' video for the correct method of filleting Mulloway.



**Mulloway Candy,**  
 Squidgies like this lot are dynamite!

Mulloway



## RIGGING FOR LURING

Targeting mulloway on lure is great sport, can be quite productive, and enables you to be far more mobile in your approach. Braid is the line of choice as it provides direct lure contact and greater cast ability. An ideal leader length is one that sees the joining knot sit just above your reel when casting. Join leader to mainline with an Albright knot or similar. At the business end either a direct knot to the tow-point or a loop knot such as the lefty's Loop for greater lure freedom.



## RIGGING FOR BAIT FISHING

Obviously there are a different rigs to suit different scenarios and bait applications but the following double-snell rig is a good one to get you started and is suitable for presenting both live or large baits in the surf and estuary. Cut 1m of leader line and snell a 10/0 and 6/0 hook to one end and a three-way swivel to the other end. Use a cross-lock snap clip to attach a star sinker to the swivel dropper. Tie your mainline to the top eye of the swivel. Bait up with a live or slab bait and you're in business.

