



Target Species

Brown Trout - *Salmo trutta*

Where to fish

Brown Trout are an introduced species that inhabit the southern states of Australia predominantly. They can be caught in rivers, dams and lakes throughout these areas. Tasmania is the mecca when it comes to trout fishing in Australia due to its colder climate as trout can become quite lethargic in warmer water. Brown trout are well spread in connected waterways within the southern states.



Tony Robertson,
Tasmania

How to target

There are several ways to target trout depending on where you are located. They can be caught using lures, soft plastics, flies and bait. You can fish from a shore or boat using any of these methods. They are a great sporting fish with good fighting ability. It's not uncommon for them to run and jump once hooked. They have soft mouths and it is easy to pull the hooks if you have your drag too tight so a patient approach will see you land more fish. A loose drag is a must and it is important to wear the fish down rather than just try and get them in as quick as you can.



Target with artificials
Brown Trout on soft plastic



Brown Trout



▶▶ Hints & Tips

Brown Trout are generally caught in Australia's cooler southern waterways. They are a predatory fish and this helps us as anglers to catch them. You can use many methods to do this, but remember to try and use what looks natural.

- 1 Brown trout can be caught at night using most methods. Big fish feed at night under the cover of darkness as it gives them plenty of cover.
- 2 It pays to fish around structure such as rocks, logs, trees or anything they can hide under.
- 3 They have soft mouths so it's important to have your drag loose to avoid pulled hooks.
- 4 It's an advantage to use a landing net as this gives you a better chance of landing the fish rather than trying to beach it or pick it up.

Rod & Reel

Trout fishing gear has come a long way over the years from where it began. Most people used bigger rods and reels back in the earlier years, but these days you can use a 1-3kg rod or heavier with either a 1000 or 2500 size reel.

Length of rod would be up to your preference, but anything from 6-7ft would be ideal. Carbon fibre, graphite and nano rods are the way to go and if you use these you can cast comfortably all day due to their light weight.

Line and Leader

- 4lb - 12lb braid, monofilament or fluorocarbon line
- 4lb - 10lb monofilament or fluorocarbon leader

Terminal Tackle

- Jig heads: 1/16th to 1/6th. Hook size to suit the size of your plastic.
- Trebles: Generally size 10 or 12, but match the same size that come off the lure.
- Hooks: Size determined by the size of the bait.
- Clips/snaps: Size 00 are generally ideal.

Best Lures

You can use anything from small hard bodied lures up to six inch plastics with success. They key is matching the bait that inhabits the area.

Best Bait

The best bait for trout is live bait such as Wattle Grubs, Worms and Mudeyes. Trout can also be caught using baitfish but check local regulations.



Weapons of choice
 1-3kg spin rod with 1000-2500 size reel

Brown Trout



RIGGING FOR SURFACE LURING

There is nothing complicated when rigging a lure for a trout. You can simply tie the lure straight on using a half blood knot or loop knot such as a Lefty's Loop. You can also use a snap or clip. Either is fine and the advantage of a clip is it enables you to change lures more quickly rather than retying every time you want to change lures. If you are using braid main line you can attach the braid to the leader with an Albright knot, FG knot or a double uni knot. Either will work fine.



Surface Lure Rig
 Loop knot & Double-Uni

RIGGING FOR BAIT FISHING

When bait fishing you can use a running sinker rig which consists of a sinker above a swivel with a length of line underneath with a hook attached. The key is for the sinker to be as light as possible so that when the fish picks the bait up it does not feel any weight. You can also fish your bait under a float. This method is frequently used when fishing with mudeyes and keeps your bait as close to the surface as possible. These rigs can be found in our Knots and Rigs section and are all very simple to use.



Running Sinker Rig
 Fishing with bait