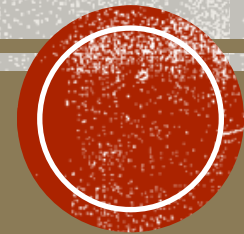


FLY FISHING THE LAKES AND ESTUARIES ON THE COFFS COAST



PRESENTED BY **DAYNE TAYLOR**



THE 1ST THING YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF IS...

WHY DO I WANT TO GO FISHING ?

99% of the time we go fishing for a reason, for some its to relax and unwind, for others it's a way to put food on the table and bring out our inner hunter and gatherer, then there is the more modern day anglers whom chase the challenge and sport that fishing has become.



Which ever category you fit into always try and have a reason for your fishing trip, it helps in the greater planning in the long run.

AND MOST OF ALL MAKE SURE ITS FUN...



THE NEXT QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF...

WHAT SPECIES DO I WANT TO TARGET ?

Always remember that saltwater fishing is a lot different to freshwater trout. Whilst trout fly fishing you could expect to come across a couple of fish species in a day.

In the salt you could come across ten or more species in a morning, and you will need a setup that can change quickly to suit the conditions and species you may encounter.

We are spoilt for choice here on the Coffs Coast, our location and climate provide us with the best of both worlds when it comes to fish species.

Our tidal estuaries are full of bread and butter names such as Bream, Whiting, Flathead, Luderick, Tailor, and Mullet.

But we are also lucky enough to have Trevally, Mangrove Jack, Mulloway, and Australian Bass call our rivers home. Making it a special location to fish...



HERE ARE SOME POINTERS THAT MAY INFLUENCE WHICH ESTUARINE SPECIES YOU TARGET

- Have I got the right gear to successfully catch this fish – rod/reel/lines/flies/net/tools
- Do I need a boat/kayak or can this species be targeted from foot
- Once I catch this fish what are my intentions ? Am I going to take a photo and release it, or take it home for dinner ?

THE NEXT FEW SLIDES SHOW A FEW SPECIES AND SOME TIPS TO TARGETING THEM HERE ON THE COFFS COAST...



EVERYONE'S FAVORITE...

DUSKY FLATHEAD *(Platycephalus fuscus)*

Flathead inhabit our estuaries and lakes from the river mouths right up to brackish water between depths just covering their body right up to 20+metres. They prefer a soft sand or mud substrate but quite often hang around patchy sand, rock and weed. Focus your activity along the edges of channels, drop-offs & around weed beds on sandbanks. They are the ultimate ambush predator, and an opportunist feeder, making them one of the easiest target species on lure and fly.



Rod, Reel & Line – Med/Light, 4wt-8wt, Full Floating/Sinking Tip/Full Sink Line's, 4lb-12lb Leader

Flies – Being an opportunist feeder makes the Flathead susceptible to taking a large variety of Flies. I recommend a weighted pattern to get close to and drag along the bottom where they usually are awaiting an ambush.



Patterns Dayne Recommends – Clousers, Gotchas's, Crazy Charlies, Deceivers, & Crustaceans



SOMETHING FINICKY...

YELLOWFIN BREAM

(Acanthopagrus Australis)



Bream inhabit estuarine environments such as sand flats and areas of structure like fallen trees (snags), rock bars, pylons, oyster leases, breakwalls and boat ramps. They will feed on the surface, right down to depths greater than 20+metres.

They can be an aggressive predator that will readily take a lure, however, sometimes targeting them with lures or fly provides a great challenge. Bream can be finicky and like a slow-sinking lure or fly, allow 3-5 seconds between twitching, hopping or stripping/slow rolling.



Rod, Reel & Line – Med/Light, 4wt-6wt, Full Floating/Sinking Tip/Full Sink Line's, 4lb-10lb Leader

Flies – Bream are scavengers, a large variety of flies mimicking bread right down to weighted crabs will work fine.

Patterns Dayne Recommends – Clousers, Crazy Charlies, Deceivers, Surf Candy's, Gotcha's, Crustaceans such as Crabs, Prawns and Shrimp, Surface Poppers and Floating Critters.



LIGHT WEIGHT AND FUN...

YELLOWFIN WHITING *(Sillago Schomburgkii)*

Whiting inhabit sandy areas within our estuaries, usually at a depth between 0.2-6+metres. They frequent up onto the sand/mud flats and shallows during the high tide and then head back into the deeper channels during the lower tide.

This particular species require some what of a finesse approach, the use of light line and lightweight outfits will improve you conversion rate greatly. And you will have a ball.

Flies – This fish is typically a bottom feeder, although they also have been known to be caught on the surface in the warmer months. The ideal conditions for fishing the flats are a rising barometer, the sun in your face, wind at your back, casting up current and retrieving with the tide, this approach keeps them from spooking.



Whiting usually dig and sift through the substrate searching for a variety of invertebrates including worms, prawns, crabs, molluscs, shrimp and yabbies.

Rod, Reel & Line –Light/Med, 3wt-6wt, Full Floating/Sinking Tip/Full Sink Line's, 4lb-6lb Leader.

Patterns Dayne Recommends – Weighted Worms, Crazy Charlies, Surf Candy's, Crustaceans such as small Crabs, Prawns, Shrimp and Surface Poppers



THE GENTLEMEN'S CHOICE...

LUDERICK *(Girella Tricuspidata)*

Commonly referred to as Blackfish, the humble Luderick school in rocky areas adjacent to wash, patchy reefs and along rock walls.

Winter is a good time to target Luderick in these areas because they congregate there daily, year after year to spawn.



Fishing for Luderick is typically referred to as an art form. Among the many trade secrets, anglers usually still use fresh weed and sand as berley. Throw in a small hand full regularly.



Position the float/indicator so that your bait sits about 0.5-2metres from the surface. Sometimes small weights can be attached to your rig so that the fly stays down when there is a light current. When the indicator disappears, count to 2 or 3 and lift the rod firmly rather than striking hard. Play your fish out rather than trying to get them to the net quick to avoid straightening or pulling the light hook.

Rod, Reel & Line –Light/Med, 3wt-6wt, Floating Line's, 4lb-8lb Leader.

Patterns Dayne Recommends – Weed, Cabbage, Small Shrimp and Prawns



THE HEART STARTERS...

TREVALLY

Giant Trevally (Caranx Ignobilis) Big Eye Trevally (Caranx Sexfasciatus)

Trevally are known for their immense power and high speed. They are predatory in nature and tend to inhabit areas rich in baitfish within the estuaries such as fallen trees (snags), bridge pylons and sand flats. Other organisms making up their diet include crustaceans such as prawns and shrimp, but herring, mullet and white bait are by far their favourite.

When a fish follows your fly don't change the retrieve. Keep doing what you are doing and only ever throw in a pause if they don't hit the lure multiple times

Always be ready for a strike, you will often get hit as soon as the fly hits the water or when you least expect it.



Rod, Reel & Line – Med, 6wt-8wt, Sinking Tip, Full Floating, Full Sinking Line's, 8lb-20lb Leader.

Flies – When choosing a fly for Trevally shape isn't the be all and end all, as long as it can be retrieved fast and has plenty of flash and eye catching colour.

Patterns Dayne Recommends – Clouser's, Deceivers, Eye's, Gotcha's and Popper Flies



THE RED DEVIL...

MANGROVE JACK *(Lutjanus Argentimaculatus)*

Like Trevally, Mangrove Jacks or Jacks for short are known for their powerful explosive bite and dirty fighting tactics. This is predominantly due to the locations you will often encounter them, they are predatory in nature and tend to inhabit areas of rocky broken reef, bridge pylons, pontoons, rock walls, fallen trees and logs (snags).

The Mangrove Jack's diet includes crustaceans such as prawns, shrimp, crabs, herring, mullet and many of other fish species that get in its face.



Flies – Choose a profile that matches the hatch, look into the water to see what kind of bait is in the area your intending to fish, a fly on the lighter side is preferred due to its ability to stay in the Jacks face and trigger that bite.

Rod, Reel & Line – Med/Heavy, 6wt-8wt, Sinking Tip, Full Floating, Full Sinking Line's, 10lb-40lb Leader.



Patterns Dayne Recommends – Clouser's, Deceivers, Crustaceans, Gotcha's and Popper Flies



THE MYSTERIOUS...

MULLOWAY *(Argyrosomus Japonicus)*

The Mulloway is an immensely popular and highly sought-after target species amongst Australian anglers. Jew as they are also known as, can exceed 1.5m in length and 30kg in weight. Mulloway are predators and occasional scavengers, feeding primarily on smaller fish, squid, prawns, worms and crabs. They respond well to lure and fly in estuaries during daylight hours, especially in dirty or aerated water and under low light conditions, however night time seems to be much more productive.



Rod, Reel & Line – Med/Heavy, 6wt-10wt, Sinking Tip/Full Sink Line's, 8lb-20lb Leader.



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.

Patterns Dayne Recommends – Clousers, Gotchas's, Deceivers, Minnows & Crustaceans



THE AUSSIE BRAWLER...

AUSTRALIAN BASS (Macquaria Novemaculeata)

When targeting Bass look for areas of structure such as fallen trees (snags), rock bars, thick vegetation generally adjacent to the deeper edge of the river.

Whether targeting Bass by foot or by boat, find a promising piece of structure and approach it with stealth. Get yourself within casting distance and cast towards the structure, working your fly away from it. During daylight hours Bass reside in and around structure so focus your efforts in these areas. At dawn and dusk you will be rewarded for using surface presentation like poppers, floating bugs and critters



Rod, Reel & Line – Light/Med, 4wt-6wt, Sinking Tip, Full Floating, Full Sinking Line's, 4lb-20lb Leader.

Patterns Dayne Recommends – Woolly Buggers, Crazy Charlies, Deceivers, Vampires, Crustaceans such as Prawns and Shrimp, Surface Poppers and Floating Critters.



THE NEXT STEP...

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

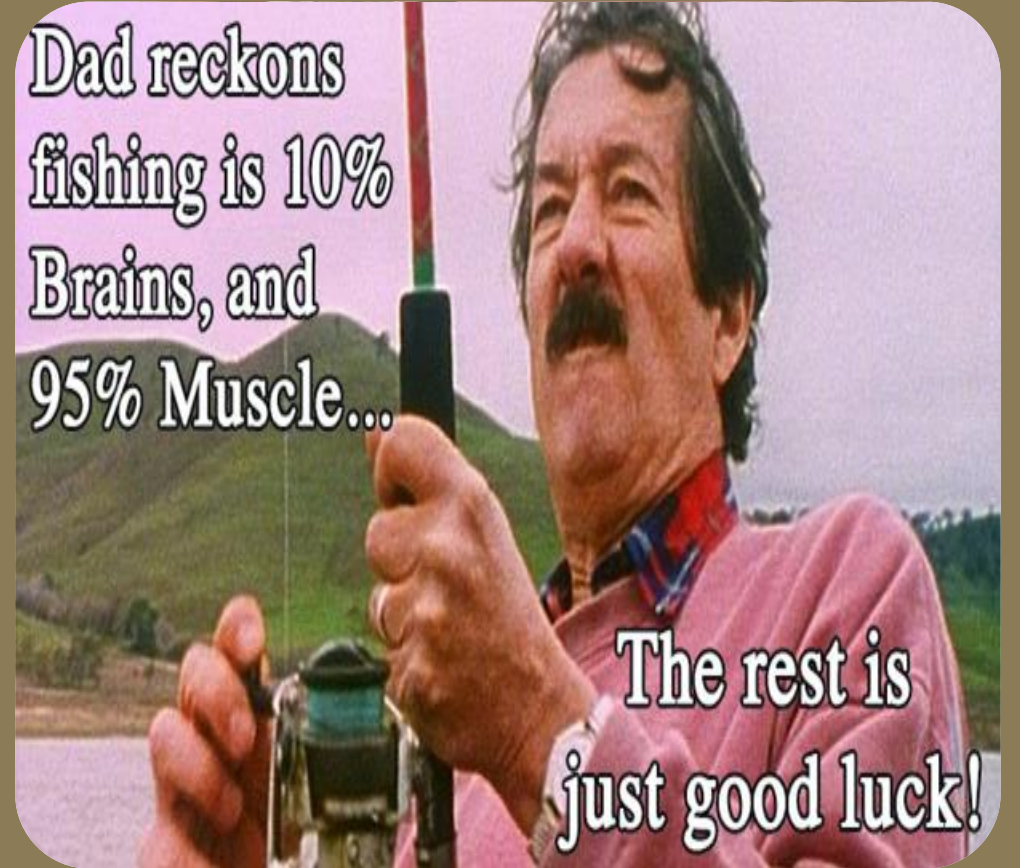
PRACTICE THE 5 P'S RULE...

1. PROPER PREPERATION
2. PREVENTS
3. PISS
4. POOR
5. PERFORMANCES



PREPERATION...

Preparation can take place in many ways, shapes and forms, here are a few tips that may help you plan your next fishing trip a little better...



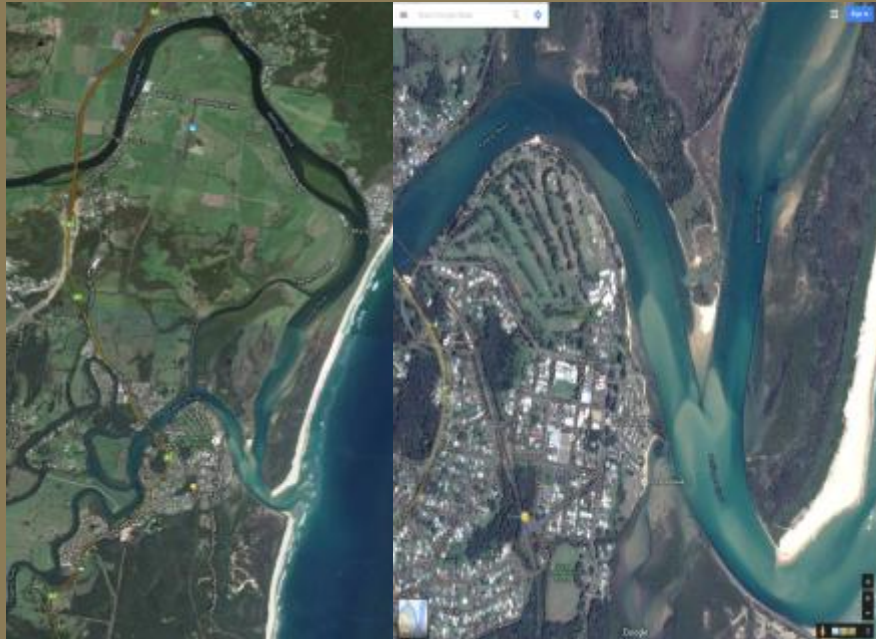
PREPERATION . . . PART 1

Researching the species you plan to catch and the location you intend to fish



Internet -

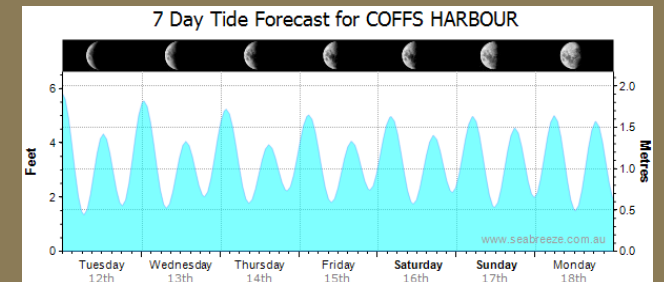
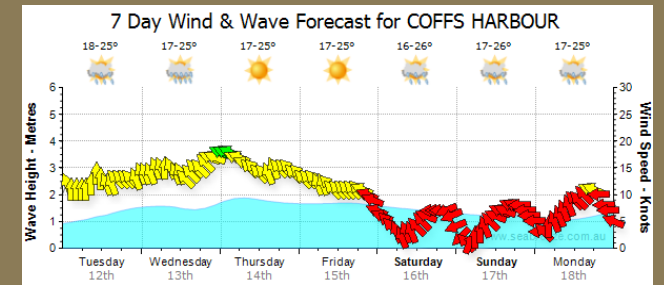
The internet is a vital tool in the modern anglers quiver. Use the internet to find information including but not limited to – Species Information, lures and flies recommended, likely locations to find fish, past success stories and to interact with fellow fisherman.



Google Maps / Google Earth

Dayne's Internet Search Portals –

- Google Search
- Google Maps
- DPI Website
- Forums
- Tournament/Competition results and reports
- Blogs
- Online Fishing Articles
- Facebook Groups
- Weather Websites



Weather Site - www.seabreeze.com.au



PREPERATION . . . PART 2 AND 3

Researching the species you plan to catch and the location you intend to fish

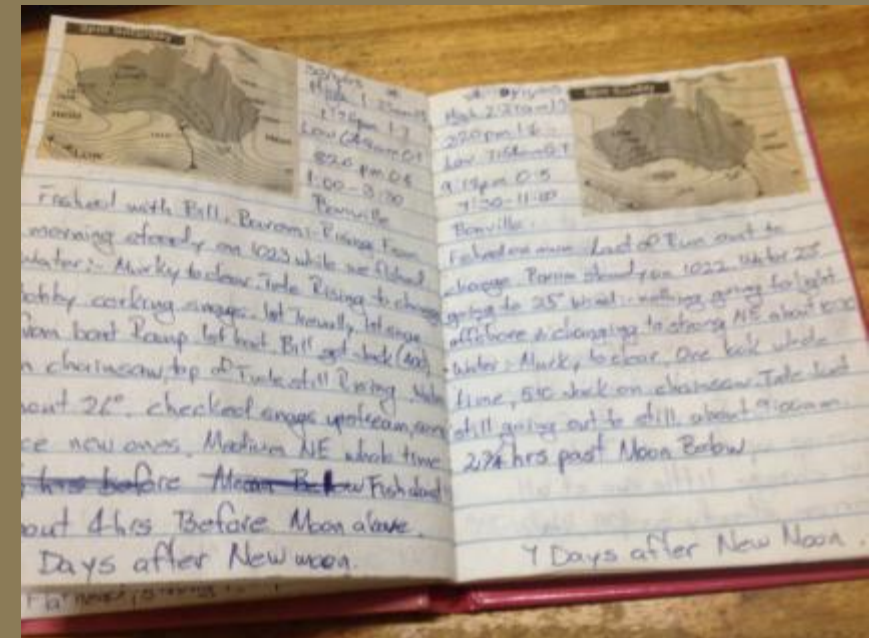


Books and Magazines -

- The original tool used by anglers to keep up to date with the latest and greatest trends and techniques. Reading columns and articles in magazines and newspapers specific to your area gives you a current report on what's happening locally.
- There is literally thousand's of informative books about Fishing on the market... it's a matter of finding one that has the information your looking for.

Diaries & Talking to people in the know -

- Keeping all your knowledge and information you have learned in a diary is a great way to save time when preparing for a outing in the same area at a later date.
- Another great way to gather information is to talk to the people at your local tackle store, and or join your local fishing club...



PREPERATION . . . PART 4

What will I need to take with me ?

**Other than the obvious Rod, Reel, Flies etc...
Here's a look at Dayne's essential take along's**

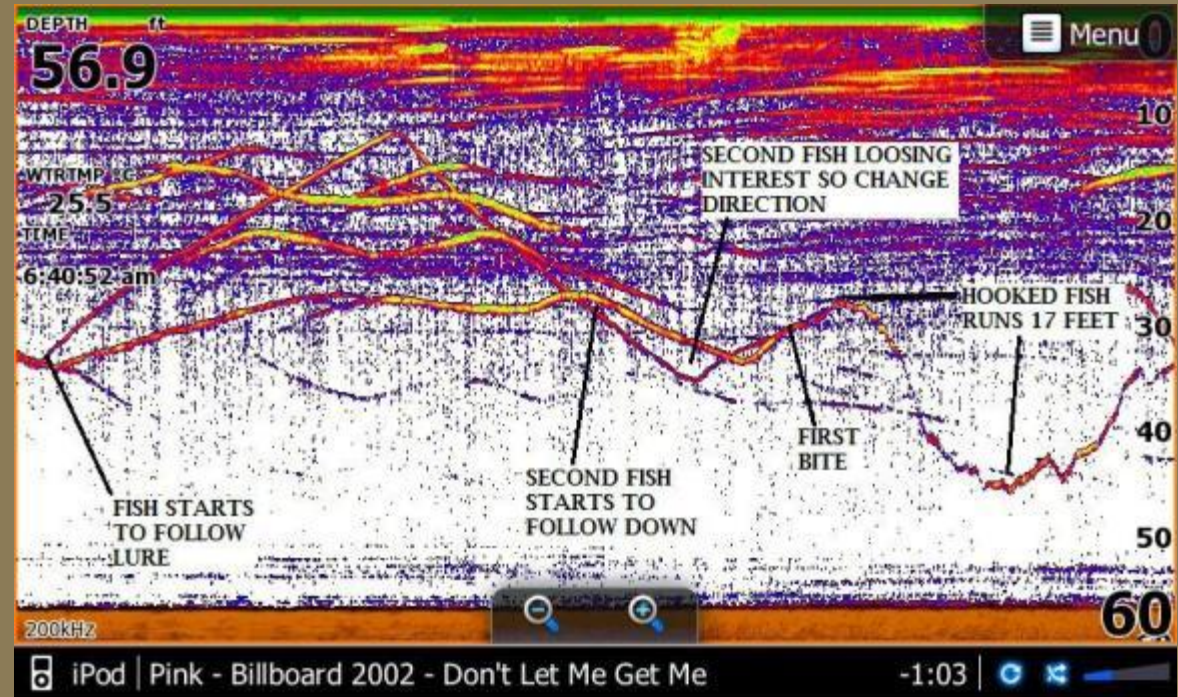
- Scissors and Long Nose Pliers (Capable of cutting hooks)
- Various sizes of leader i.e 4lb, 6lb, 8lb, 10lb, 16lb, 20lb
- Multiple spare lures and flies (At least 2 of everything)
- Landing net capable of fitting your target species
- A rag, cloth or towel to get muddy, wet, slimy etc...
- Either a brag mat and camera or an esky, knife and ice



THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE A LITTLE EASIER...

Here are a few of the things that make life on the water a little easier and will improve your catch rate immensely –

- Fish Finder / Sounder / GPS Unit
- Electric Trolling Motor
- Boat or Kayak



Fishing for me is all about the adventure, the locations it takes me and the mates I share all the experiences with.

Catching a fish is just an added bonus sometimes.

**HOPEFULLY YOU HAVE GAINED SOME USEFUL INFORMATION
TONIGHT ... UNTIL NEXT TIME, GOOD LUCK, AND ONLY TAKE WHAT YOU NEED**

