LOCAL FISHING GUIDE – FORSTER TUNCURRY



SPECIES	BEST TIMES	RECOMMENDED BAIT/LURE	TACKLE WORLD TIP
Bream	All year round. But the better fishing is Oct - March	Bait - Live Nippers are the gun bait, but prawns, mullet strips and whitebait work well too. Lures – Minnow grub and creature bait plastics are a great way to catch a bag of bream, as are small cranks or jerkbaits, and the old faithful Cranka Crab. Topwater lures during summer will be the most fun, using either small poppers or "walk the dog" style lures.	For bait fishing, lightly weighted baits drifted down along oyster racks is a gun way to pull in some fish, keeping a very close eye on your line for those sometimes delicate bites. Casting plastics or hardbodies along and between oyster racks is an extremely effective but sometimes expensive way of fishing. During the warmer months though, you can fish the shallower flats, using ultralight line and leaders to get the big ones, just mix it up with retrieves to find out what retrieve is working on the day. Sometimes a slow roll works well, other days lots of twitches and long pauses.
Whiting	November – February	Bait – Nippers and worms are hard to go past. Lures – Poppers and "walk the dog" style surface lures. But the gun lure is the Jackson Ebi-Panic.	Use a fair amount of weight when baiting, get those worms and nippers running along the bottom with the current. Fish out on sand flats using light line to get long casts and cover more area with your surface lures. For your retrieve, you want a constant, fast retrieve, working your rod tip the entire time to keep that lures action working. If you see fish chasing after the lure, don't stop winding, keeping working that lure nice and fast.
Flathead	October - April	Bait – Live poddy mullet and nippers. Prawns and mullet fillets. Lures – Paddle tail plastics and hardbody jerkbaits work great. For big trophy size Flatties, don't be afraid to use larger plastics from 6" to 10".	Drift your baits off of drop offs and along weed edges where the Flatties will be waiting to ambush any prey. A nice slow twitch and pause retrieve works best for lure fishing, don't be afraid to "deadstick" your plastics for much longer than you're used to, that pause will have the fish keeping a close eye on the lure, waiting for any kind of movement before striking.
Snapper	Year round, but best times are September - April	Bait - Fresh/Live Slimy Mackerel, Yakkas and Squid. Pilchards, squid and salted Slimy. Lures – 5" to 7" inch soft plastic jerk shads or wriggler tails are most effective. Micro jigging is also a gun way to get a few in the boat.	During the warmer months for bait fishing in shallow water, get a burley trail going and float your bait out with as little weight as you can get away with. During winter you'll need to head out wider with much more weight as they leave the inshore reefs during this time of year. The most effective way for fishing plastics is the lazy mans way. Light weighted plastic, cast out and put in the rod holder, letting the boats movement with the swell work

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Kingfish	All year round	Bait - Fresh/Live Slimy Mackerel, Yakkas, Pike and Squid. Pilchards, squid and salted Slimy. Stick baits, poppers, metal spinners and jigs.	the lure. If there's not much swell, then you'll need to work the lure with erratic whips of your rod. Micro jigging can be done the same way when there is swell, let it sink down, then wind it up off the bottom by a few meters before popping it in the rod holder. Otherwise a nice slow lift and drop method is the way to work them. Ballooning livebaits in shallower waters is a great way to target Kingies. Deeper bites may require a down rigger or heavy lead. Poppers and stickbaits will require different retrieves depending on the fishes mood, sometimes a fast constant retrieve is best, other days long pauses work best. Just mix up your retrieves till you work out which is most effective on the day. Deeper water jigging is a great way to target deep water Kingie bites, but is a lot of work, so make sure you've been hitting the gym.
Year round, but best times are September - April	Bait - Fresh/Live Slimy Mackerel, Yakkas and Squid. Pilchards, squid and salted Slimy. Lures – 5" to 7" inch soft plastic jerk shads or wriggler tails are most effective. Micro jigging is also a gun way to get a few in the boat.	During the warmer months for bait fishing in shallow water, get a burley trail going and float your bait out with as little weight as you can get away with. During winter you'll need to head out wider with much more weight as they leave the inshore reefs during this time of year. The most effective way for fishing plastics is the lazy mans way. Light weighted plastic, cast out and put in the rod holder, letting the boats movement with the swell work the lure. If there's not much swell, then you'll need to work the lure with erratic whips of your rod. Micro jigging can be done the same way when there is swell, let it sink down, then wind it up off the bottom by a few meters before popping it in the rod holder. Otherwise a nice slow lift and drop method is the way to work them.	Year round, but best times are September - April