LOCAL FISHING GUIDE – CAIRNS REGION



SPECIES	BEST TIMES	RECOMMENDED BAIT/LURE	TACKLE WORLD TIP
Barramundi	February to May September/October (Closed season 1st Nov	Baitcast/Spin Tackle 20lb/30lb Braid (Fins, Nitlon or Rovex Viros) 50lb to 60lb Mono Leader	When casting lures put plenty of tip action twitches in a slow retrieve for you hard body lure letting them suspend or slowly float in the target area.
	to 1st Feb midday each year)	Lures: Strada (Various), Bolt Omega, Barra Classics, RMG Scorpions, Lead's Hi- Jackers/shads, Lance's Lures, Soft Plastics (Squidgys, Gulp & DOA Prawns) Live bait: Prawns, mullet & mud herring.	Target areas include the flats, oyster rocks, snags and gutters. Trolling is also very effective with lures capable of bumping the bottom of the water depth fishing, also use plenty of tip action working the lure. Ideal trolling structure includes snags, rock bars, creek mouths and drop off edges. Many lures need treble upgrades and must be kept sharp. Live Baiting: target structure holding fish. Owner Mutu light Circle or Instinct Octopus hooks are very effective. Prawns can be
			fished under a float when fishing structure while mullet and herring are best fished on the bottom. Ask your local Tackle World store for the hot locations & best tides.
Fingermark	Headlands: October to February Estuary Creeks: February to May	Baitcast/Spin/Jig Braid/Jigging Braid or Mono live baiting (as stated previous/ Mono Instinct Lexis/Asari Pearl 40-80lb Mono Leader (dependant on location and fish size) Lures: While can be caught on hard bodied lures both trolled and cast more commonly caught on jigged soft plastics than hard bodies.(Gulp New Squid Vicious)/Squidgys Live Bait: (Best Method)	When fishing the Estuary Creeks fish the deep holes with rubble particularly if bait is marking. On the Headlands look for isolated rocks in deep water and the drop area of a rock plateau where bait is marking. Live baiting vary hook to bait and target fish size 3/0-8/0 (Instinct Octopus/ Owner Mutu Circle Light/ Gamakatsu SL12S). Jigging soft scented plastic lures very effective and exciting on spin Tackle.

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		Headlands: Squid(fresh caught), large sardines & mud herring Creek: Prawns, sardines & mud herring.	
Coral Trout	March to November Prime Time Aug to Oct	Overhead/Spin Tackle/Handline 50lb Braid (As previous) 80LB Mono Leader 60-80lb Handline Best Bait: Pilchard & Squid combination. Strip fillet bait also good with pilchard.	Coral trout are predominately caught bottom fishing the reef bommies in depths ranging from 10-40m. A running sinker on top of the hook is the preferred rig to help dislodge if snagged on the reef. Hook sizes from 6/0-8/0 with Instinct Octopus/ Gamakatsu SL12S/ Mustad 540 all suitable models. Burley is recommended & a floater out the back to target Mackerel. Coral trout will also take poppers & minnows cast over the shallow bommies & jigged soft plastics.
Mangrove Jack	March/April September to December	Baitcast/Spin Tackle 20lb/30lb Braid (Fins/Nitlon/Rovex Viros) 40/50lb Mono Leader (Instinct XTS plus) Lures: Strada(various), Bolt Omega, Lead's Hi Jackers/Shads, Mann's Stretch, Soft Plastics (Squidgy's, Gulp, DOA Prawns. Live Bait: Prawns, mullet & fresh mullet fillet also effective	Look to target heavy timber and often way at the back of structure is their preferred ambush position. Rock Bars are another popular home for these strong fighting fish. Quick reflexes and strong drag require to prevent being bricked into the snag & structure. Diving lures usually most effective but will take shallow lures such as Lead's Hi-Jackers. Lure action similar to barramundi technique. Live Baiting: Instinct Octopus hooks with size dependent on bait size Ask our expert staff for the hot locations & best tides.
Large Mouth Nannygai	May to September	Overhead Tackle/Quality Spin/Handlines 50-80lb Braid/80lb Mono Leader (Instinct) 80-100lb Handlines Best Bait: Pilchard & Squid Combination	Large Mouth Nannygai are usually caught fishing deep water from 30-60m with a rubble bottom, isolated rocks and gutters away from the hard reef. Hooks from 7/0-10/0 are recommended with Instinct Octopus/Gamakatsu SL12S/Mustad 540 patterns all suitable. Generally a paternoster rig is used with a snapper sinker ranging from 40z-12oz dependent on depth and current. Braided line with less drag & little stretch are an advantage.

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Spanish	May to Nov	Overhead/Spin Tackle	Troll the reef edges and pinnicles
Mackerel			holding bait schools. Ensure you
		10-15kg Mono Trolling 30-	float out a pilchard or live bait out
		50lb Braid Jigging (As	while bottom fishing and use
		previous)	burley. Jigging the wrecks with a
			high speed retrieve very effective. Big Mackerel love a slow trolled
		60-100lb Mono Leader	rigged Wolf Herring.
		(dependant on method)	rigged won rierring.
		Instinct XTS plus	
		Lures (Trolling)	
		Strada Tracka 160/140, Bolt	
		Mystique, Dog Tooth Wolf	
		Herring, Halco Laser Pro	
		Lures (Jigging)	
		Dog Tooth Saxon, Arma	
		Anchovy, Bumpa-Bars,	
		Spanyid Raiders and large	
		soft plastics	
		Trolling Baits: Garfish & Wolf	
		Herring	
		Floating: Pilchards, Garfish &	
		Slimy Mackerel	
		Live baits also effective	
		under a balloon.	