

GARY BROWN'S ESSENTIAL BAIT FISHING RIGS

RIGS FOR CATCHING LIVE BAIT

Rigs for catching live bait can be as simple as putting a hook onto the line, putting on a piece of bait and throwing it into the water or alternatively buying a Sabiki or flasher rig that consists of any number (usually between 6 and 10) small hooks, each one on an individual dropper line which is a few inches long.

What does change is the size of the hook or hooks that you use, as this will depend on the size of the live bait that you are trying to catch. For small yellowtail and mullet you could try a number 8 to 12 longshank hook.

The single hook live bait rig is usually the slowest way of catching small bait fish like mullet, hardy heads, yellowtail, whitebait and pilchards. If need be a small split shot sinker is placed about 10cm above the hook to help get the bait down.

The Sabiki rig with its number of individual hooks that are decorated as lures or tied like flies similar to those used in fly fishing can produce quick numbers of baitfish in a short time. They can also be adorned with a small lumo bead or iridescent film attached to them. They too come in a variety of hook sizes. Remember to check your local regulations in terms of both catch limits and rules relating to Sabiki rigs, such as the number of hooks allowed in the location you're fishing.

