

GARY BROWN'S FRESHWATER BAIT FISHING RIGS

WHITEBAIT / MINNOW RIGS

My preferred size of fish for this rig is about 5 to 7cm long and about 1 to 1.5cm wide. Before you use this rig, you will need to check with your local Fisheries to see if you are allowed to use fin-fish as bait in your state or territory.

In figure 1 you will need to use a circle hook that is then passed through the eyes of the fish. Using one fish is ok, but I prefer to use two, three or even four. This will depend on the size of the gape of the hook. What this allows is that if one does fall off you have extras on the hook.

In figure 2 you need to put the hook through the tail of the fish as close to where the lateral line is as possible. This will avoid the hook from tearing through the flesh.

Bass, estuary, golden and silver perch, Murray cod, trout, Atlantic salmon and many other freshwater fish species can be caught while using whitebait, minnows, galaxids, gudgeons and smelt.

Both of these rigs can be used while using a number of different rigs, including the paternoster, running ball sinker down onto the hook, a running sinker down onto a swivel and a leader of about a metre, suspended under a bubble or stemmed float, a small split shot or just unweighted. You can check these rigs out in Gary Brown's Essential Saltwater Bait Rigs.

If you are into slow trolling your lures, then try slow trolling a nose hooked whitebait, minnow or narrow and slender fish. The trailing hook is then passed up through the anal cavity and comes out just in front of the tail.

When targeting trout, carp and Atlantic salmon I find that #10 to #1 hook will do the job, but when it comes to the other fish species I usually up the size of the hook to #2 to #2/0.

