

Fishing from your kayak - Getting started.

Fishing is great fun and simple to get started.

By John Morgan



All you need is a 200 mm hand line, a sack, a towel and some bait.

Fit some fairly heavy nylon to your hand line. Add a weight, a swivel and then two metres of trace (lighter nylon) with one hook loose on the trace, and another tied to the end of the trace.

Hook up a pilchard, or any other bait, and drop it in the water.

When you catch a fish, wind the line onto the reel and then place the fish on the towel over your lap or spray skirt. The soft towel stops the fish flapping around and allows you to wrap it up, remove your hook and stow in the old sack.

Tip. When winding in; use the hand line to lift the weight of the fish and then wind the slack nylon onto the hand line as you bring the

hand line back down to the water.

You might be asking yourself 'What about the anchor?' I recommend Drift fishing so you won't be anchoring. Having reached the area you are going to fish, paddle upwind or uptide, then drift back over the fishing area. Keep working where the fish are biting.

When you are bitten by the fishing bug you'll probably want to kit up with all the bells and whistles. You'll see fishing kayaks with everything from rod holders to fish finders and heaps in between. It is not uncommon to see kayaks with two, three or more rods and some of the fish these guys catch turn the guys and gals on their \$100,000 fishing launches green with envy.

So this summer spend \$10 and go fishing. You'll have a ball and a feed to boot.

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Baiting up

Keeping those pillies on the hook.



Left and right: Laura and Dave catch a couple of pannies in the first hour off Arkles Bay.



Right: A 200 mm hand line is all you need to get started.

1. Start by feeding the end hook beside the back bone.
2. Lay the hook flat in-line on the body.
3. Wrap the trace around the bait securing the hook.
4. Taking the second loose hook, lodge this one in the rear of the fish.
5. & 6. Tie two half hitches around the tail and pull taught.
7. One pillie ready for deployment.

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