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The Great Barrier Reef
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Suggested fishing tackle

Guideline for suggested fishing tackle when preparing for your Swains Reef Charter Fishing Trip

TERMINAL TACKLE

This includes hooks, leaders, swivels, sinkers, floats, split rings and wire, snaps, beads, spoons, blades, spinner's, and clevises. Clevises are used to attach a spinner blade to the wire shaft of your lure and are commonly used on inline spinning lures, crawler harnesses and spinnerbaits. Wire clevises are the freest spinning of all clevises to attach spinner blades to fishing lures, and tools that make it easy to tie knots.

Group bookings: Help cut the cost for everyone by buying in bulk, especially hooks and sinkers.

- [ ] **Hooks:** Sizes 6/0, 7/0 and 8/0 are good for just about all reef species. Anything less can result in losing too many fish.
  - Big Trebles e.g. 8-o to 9-o, thick gauge with big trebles as stingers, single strand wire around 124lb as stingers, 10-o hooks for live baiting for Mackerel
- [ ] **Piano Wire:** Single Strand (80 – 150 lb)
- [ ] **Swivels:** 80 – 100 lb, 180lb plus swivels for wire trace & lures
- [ ] **Sinkers:** For usage under 60m ball sinkers can have great success and highly recommended.
  - Sizes- 12, 10, 8, 6, 4 & pea for the shallows
  - Snapper sinkers (only for deeper water over 60m) ½ & Lb sinkers
- [ ] **Lures:** Rapala, Halco, Blades, River to sea & skirts [bibbless for mother ship bibb minnow for tenders]
  - Suggested Colours: There are lots of colours to choose from but Red & White, Gold & Blue are extremely popular colours used
- [ ] **Plastics:** Gulp 7" & 5" jerk shads, Squidgies – shads & Slick rigs, Hollow Bodies, Power Bait-Pro Shad & Pro Flick Baits, snap backs - Terminator Snap Backs –Soft jerk bait
- [ ] **Jigs:** Live bait & jig heads [all different sizes] squid. (Different weight sizes for use in varying depths)
  - Different size live bait jigs are handy to have in your kit
- [ ] **Line:** **Braid** - 30- 80lb Good all-round usage, a must for deep-water fishing and suggest nothing less than 30lb [can lead to losing too many fish]
  - **Mono** - 30- 50lb Shallow water fishing.
  - **Leader** - 30- 80 lb especially when using braid!

ALONG WITH THE ABOVE ITEMS, YOU SHOULD ALSO HAVE:

- [ ] **Knives, pliers, side cutters, lip grippers & balloons for Mackerel fishing with live bait. Hat, sunscreen, long sleeve shirt and sunglasses.**

Depending on weather and area of fishing you can lose a fair bit of tackle, suggest extra hooks and sinkers (100 hooks & sinkers of different sizes should be ok)

Your style of fishing will change a lot from the mother ship to the tenders.

- **Tenders:** The lighter the better for the tenders and depth. You can fish as light as possible from the tenders with no sinker. Most popular is minimum 6/0 single hook.
- **Mother Ship:** Drift and weather conditions dictate sinker sizes on the mother ship, usually ¼ to ½ pound snapper leads, pater nosta rigs.

Tip: when drifting if everyone uses same line and sinker size it can stop entanglements. Cut bait usually has the most success from mother ship and pilchards from dories.

- It is always a good idea to take a spinning rod for feeding surface fish.

- [ ] **Rods / reels:** A heavy spinning / casting reel, rod and handline, and a good quality overhead are a must for these types of trips.
  - Rods and reels are a personal choice as we all fish differently. Penn, Shimano, Ugly Stick, Diawa are just a few to mention

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