



SAILEE'S GUIDE TO REDCLAW FISHING THE WHITSUNDAYS



Sailee's Redclaw Adventure!

A REEFIES Guide to Catching Redclaw at Lake Proserpine

G'day, REEFIES! Sailee here! 🐟👋

Did you know there's a freshwater adventure hiding right here in our own backyard?

Just up the road from Airlie Beach, you'll find **Peter Faust Dam – also known as Lake Proserpine** – and it's home to one of my favourite little creatures to catch: **REDCLAW!** 🦀

Redclaw are like mini freshwater lobsters, and catching them is a fantastic activity for kids, families and anyone who loves getting outdoors. You don't even need a big boat or fancy fishing gear. With the right equipment, you can set your traps from the bank, enjoy the beautiful Whitsunday scenery and wait for the exciting moment when you pull up your trap and discover what's inside!

And the best bit?

You never know what might be waiting in there!

So grab your family, pack some snacks and let's go redclaw hunting!



So... What Exactly Is a Redclaw?



Redclaw are freshwater crayfish found throughout Queensland. They love hiding around submerged timber, vegetation and other structures in dams and freshwater waterways.

They might look a little bit like tiny lobsters, but don't let those little claws fool you – **they can give you a serious pinch!** 😬

That's why catching redclaw is a great way for REEFIES to learn about:

-  Fishing and trapping
-  Freshwater environments
-  Responsible fishing
-  Handling aquatic animals
-  Getting outdoors with family and mates

And, of course...

Having heaps of fun!

Where Do We Find Them?

One of the great things about Lake Proserpine is that you don't have to travel hours away to find a redclaw adventure.

Look for areas with:

-  Fallen trees and submerged timber
-  Vegetation
-  Suitable water depth
-  Structure where redclaw can hide

Sometimes the best spots aren't the easiest ones to reach.

That little bit of extra effort to find a quiet, tucked-away location can make all the difference.

But remember, REEFIES – **always check where you are allowed to fish or set traps and follow Queensland's current fishing rules.**

Your Redclaw Trap

One of the most popular traps for catching redclaw is the **Opera House-style trap**.

They are handy because many can be collapsed down for transport and storage – perfect when you're loading up the family car with all your fishing gear!

You can find redclaw traps and plenty of other fishing gear through local fishing stores such as **Tackle World Airlie Beach**.



REEFIES Tip!

Before heading out, visit your local tackle shop and ask about the gear you'll need.

Supporting local businesses like **Tackle World Airlie Beach** helps keep our Whitsunday fishing community strong – and the team can also help you make sure you've got the right equipment for your adventure.



Don't Forget Your Float & Label!

A trap isn't much use if you can't find it again!

Depending on how your trap is set, Queensland regulations require specific identification and float requirements.

If you're using a float, make sure your required details are clearly displayed.

Don't guess the rules – check them before you go!

Fishing rules can change, and there are different requirements depending on how and where your gear is being used.

👉 **Always check the latest Queensland Government recreational fishing rules before setting your traps.**

[Queensland recreational fishing equipment rules](#)

What Should We Use for Bait?

Now we're getting to the important stuff...

REDCLAW LOVE FOOD! 🦞 🍷

There are heaps of different baits people swear by, so this is where you can have a little fun experimenting.

Vegetable-based baits can work well, including things like:

- 🥬 Lettuce
- 🍈 Rockmelon
- 🍉 Paw paw
- 🥕 Vegetables
- 🎃 Pumpkin
- 🥔 Potato
- 🥝 Kiwi fruit
- 🍠 Sweet potato

And here's a cool REEFIES trick:

Don't worry if your vegetables are looking a little sad!

That old piece of pumpkin or lettuce sitting at the back of the fridge that you were about to throw away might make excellent redclaw bait.

Just make sure whatever you use is appropriate and permitted.

Some people also use pet food or other bait options, so ask your local tackle shop what is working well in the area.



Getting Your Trap Ready

Put your bait securely into your bait bag or bait clip, then make sure everything is attached properly before sending your trap into the water.

Choose a suitable location and secure your trap according to the current Queensland rules.

Then comes the hardest part...



WAITING!

Yep.

Waiting.

This is where REEFIES learn one of the most important fishing skills of all:

PATIENCE! 😊

While your redclaw are checking out the dinner menu, there's no reason to sit around staring at the water.

Take in the scenery.

Have a snack.

Tell some terrible jokes.

And maybe...



WET A LINE!

Lake Proserpine is also a fantastic place to enjoy freshwater fishing.

Depending on the area and regulations, you might even have a chance at species such as **sooty grunter**, **barramundi** or **other freshwater fish**.

A redclaw adventure could turn into a whole day of fishing fun!



What Else Should We Pack?

Here's Sailee's REEFIES Redclaw Checklist:

- 🦞 Redclaw traps
- 🟡 Required floats
- 🏷️ Required identification labels
- 🥕 Bait and bait bags/clips
- 🪣 A sturdy bucket or suitable container
- 🧤 Gloves
- 💧 Plenty of drinking water
- 🧢 Hat and sunscreen
- 👟 Suitable footwear
- 🍔 Snacks and lunch
- 🎣 A fishing rod if you're keen to wet a line!

And don't forget the most important piece of equipment...

A big smile! 😊



PULL IT UP!

This is the moment everyone has been waiting for.

Slowly pull up your trap and have a look.

Is there anything inside?

Maybe there's one...

Maybe there's five...

Maybe you've found the redclaw party headquarters! 🦞 🦞 🦞 🦞

This is one of the things that makes redclaw so much fun for kids.

Every trap is a surprise.



Watch Those Claws!

Okay REEFIES, this is important.

Redclaw might look cute, but those claws are **NOT ticklish!**

🧤 Wear gloves where appropriate and always handle them carefully.

If you need to pick one up, keep your fingers well away from the claws and handle the animal gently.

Never let kids put their fingers near the claws.

And remember that responsible fishing means knowing exactly what you are allowed to keep and what must be returned.



Keep, Check & Release

This is where being a REEFIES angler really matters.

Before you keep anything, **know the current rules for the location where you're fishing.**

Rules can include requirements around size, sex, berried females and whether certain redclaw must be released or kept.

Don't rely on what someone told you last year.

Check the current Queensland rules before you go.

[Queensland Government redclaw fishing information](#)



Look After Our Fishing Spots

One of the biggest things we teach through **REEFIES** is that being a great angler isn't just about catching fish.

It's about looking after the places we love to fish.

So when you head to Lake Proserpine:

-  Take your rubbish home
-  Look after the shoreline
-  Handle animals carefully
-  Follow the fishing rules
-  Look after your mates
-  Leave the area better than you found it

Because if we want to keep having awesome fishing adventures, we've got to look after our waterways.



Sailee's Top 5 Redclaw Tips

1 Find the structure

Redclaw love places where they can hide.

2 Use plenty of bait

Experiment and see what works best for you.

3 Be patient

Sometimes the best catches take time.

4 Check the rules

Always know the current Queensland regulations before you start.

5 HAVE FUN!

Fishing isn't just about what you catch.

It's about the adventure, the laughs, the stories and spending time together.



Ready for Your Redclaw Adventure?

So, REEFIES...

What are you waiting for?

Grab Dad.

Grab Mum.

Grab your mates.

Load up the car and head up to **Lake Proserpine** for a freshwater fishing adventure!

Stop in at your local tackle shop, talk to the team at **Tackle World Airlie Beach**, grab your gear and bait, and get ready to discover one of the Whitsundays' coolest freshwater fishing adventures.

You might go home with a bucket full of redclaw...

Or you might go home with nothing but a great story.

And that's fishing! 🎣

Because at REEFIES, we reckon the best fishing memories aren't always about the biggest catch.

They're about **getting outdoors, learning something new, having a laugh and making memories with your family and mates.**

So until next time...

Keep your lines tight, your bait fresh and your claws out of trouble!

Sailee ♥

Official REEFIES Mascot
Whitsunday Game Fish Club

REEFIES – Fishing. Adventure. Memories.

