



SAILEE'S GUIDE TO SQUID FISHING THE WHITSUNDAYS



Sailee's Guide to Squid Fishing!

A REEFIES adventure in the Whitsundays

G'day REEFIES! Sailee here! 🐟👋

Ready for a fishing adventure with a difference?

Forget fins and fish scales for a minute — today we're going **SQUIDDING!** 🐙

Squid fishing is one of my favourite activities because you don't need a giant boat, complicated gear or a huge tackle box. You can have a heap of fun chasing squid around the beautiful Whitsunday coastline with a light rod, a squid jig and a little bit of patience.

And here's the really cool part...

Squid aren't actually fish!

They're **cephalopods**, which means they're invertebrates and are more closely related to molluscs than fish. They have tentacles, amazing camouflage and can disappear in a cloud of ink when they get a little bit cranky!

So grab your REEFIES crew and let's go squidding!





Meet the Whitsunday Squid

There are more than **500 species of squid** around the world, but here in the Whitsundays we're most likely to encounter **Arrow Squid** and **Tiger Squid**.



Arrow Squid

Arrow Squid are generally smaller, around **10–20 cm**, but they're common and can be great fun to catch.

They're also excellent bait for your next fishing adventure and one of my favourite foods as a Sailfish!



Tiger Squid

Tiger Squid can get much bigger — potentially **over a metre long!**

Most of the ones you're likely to encounter are considerably smaller, often around **20–30 cm** and weighing roughly **400–800 grams**.



And yes...

They make fantastic bait AND they can be delicious to eat!

That's what I call a REEFIES win-win! 🐟



Where Can We Find Squid?

The Whitsundays is an awesome place to chase squid.

They can be found around the islands and mainland coastline throughout much of the year, particularly around:

-  Rocky bays
-  Weed beds
-  Reef and structure
-  Boat moorings
-  Protected bays

Squid are **ambush predators**, so they love places where they can hide and wait for their next meal to swim past.

They're hunters too.

Squid use their excellent eyesight and camouflage to sneak up on baitfish and prawns.

That means if you find plenty of structure and bait, there's a good chance a squid might be nearby watching the action!



When Should You Go Squidding?

Squid can be caught throughout the year, but some conditions can make the fishing even better.

Early morning can be a great time, particularly around a rising or suitable tide.

Look for clean, clear water because squid are visual hunters and generally don't like dirty water or extremely strong currents.

And don't forget your favourite Whitsunday trick...

Pink and orange jigs!  

These colours can be excellent choices in local conditions, particularly when chasing the squid species commonly encountered around our islands.

But don't be afraid to experiment!

Sometimes changing colour or size is all it takes to turn:

“Nothing happening...”

into:

“SQUID ON!!!” 🦑 🦑

🌙 Squidding at Night

Here's where things get really cool!

Squid + darkness + lights = an awesome adventure.

At night, squid can be attracted to light around boats and moorings as baitfish and other prey gather in illuminated water.

A bright headlamp or boat light can help you spot squid moving through the shallows or around structure.

And when you're squidding at night...

A DARK NIGHT AND A BRIGHT LIGHT CAN BE YOUR BEST FRIENDS!



Just remember to stay safe, especially around rocks, boats, pontoons and the water's edge.



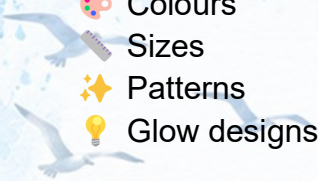
How Do We Catch Them?

There are several ways to catch squid, but these days the most popular method is with a **squid jig**.

A squid jig is a specially designed lure that usually looks like a small prawn or baitfish.

Instead of a normal fishing hook, squid jigs have rows of tiny barbs at the rear designed to grab onto the squid's tentacles when it attacks.

Squid jigs come in heaps of different:

- 
- 🎨 Colours
 - 📏 Sizes
 - 🌟 Patterns
 - 💡 Glow designs

And choosing the right one is half the fun!



The REEFIES Squid Jig Trick

One of the most exciting ways to catch squid is by **sight casting**.

That means you're actually looking for the squid!

During the day, polarised sunglasses can help reduce glare and make it easier to spot squid in clear water.

At night, use a bright headlamp or torch.

Once you spot one, cast the jig nearby.

Then...

Let it sink.

Give it a little flick.

Let it settle.

Then lift and twitch it again.

Sometimes you may need to repeat this a few times before the squid decides:

“Yep... THAT LOOKS DELICIOUS!” 🤩

When a squid moves into attack position, you might see it suddenly grab the jig.

That's your moment!



KEEP THE PRESSURE ON!

Once you've hooked your squid, don't go crazy trying to rip it back to shore.

Squid can be surprisingly good at escaping!

Keep a steady pressure on the line and wind it in smoothly.

No yanking.

No hero moves.

No Olympic squid wrestling! 🤪

Just steady pressure all the way in.

And be prepared...

SQUID INK! ❤️

They can fire out a cloud of ink when they feel threatened, so don't stand directly over the squid and be careful when bringing it aboard.



Sailee's Squid Fishing Gear

You don't need heaps of equipment to get started.

Here's my REEFIES setup:



Rod or Handline

A small, light and flexible rod is perfect.

Something around **2–4 kg line class** works well for squid fishing.



Reel

A small spinning reel around **1000–2500 size** is ideal.

A simple handline can also be used.



Line

Light braid around **6–8 lb** is a great option.

Pair it with a suitable fluorocarbon leader, particularly when fishing around sharp rocks, oyster shells, barnacles and other structure.



Snap Swivel

A tiny snap swivel makes changing jigs quick and easy.

Because sometimes the squid are saying:

“Pink!”

...and five minutes later they're saying:

“Orange!”



Choosing Your Squid Jig

Squid jigs come in lots of sizes, but popular sizes for Australian squidding include:

1.8 • 2.2 • 2.5 • 3.0

The best size and colour can depend on the conditions, water clarity and the squid you're chasing.

This is where your local tackle shop can be your secret weapon!



REEFIES Local Fishing Tip

Before heading out, drop into **Tackle World Airlie Beach** and have a chat with the team.

Local tackle shops know the Whitsunday waterways, what squid are being caught and what gear is working.

You might walk in thinking:

“I need a squid jig.”

...and walk out with a whole new squidding strategy!

Supporting local fishing businesses also helps keep our Whitsunday fishing community strong. 🧭 ❤️



Don't Forget Your Headlamp!

If you're going squidding at night, a good headlamp is one of the most useful pieces of equipment you can have.

Look for a bright light with an adjustable beam.

Something around **200+ lumens** is a useful starting point.

And remember my favourite squidding rule:

IF YOU CAN SEE THE SQUID, YOU CAN CATCH IT!



Well...

hopefully! 😊

💡 Want to Make Your Jig Glow?

Some squid jigs have glow-in-the-dark properties.

A small **UV torch** can be useful for charging up the glow on suitable jigs and making them really stand out in low-light conditions.

It's not essential, but it's another fun bit of gear to experiment with.



The REEFIES Squid Kit

Here's what I'd pack for a squid adventure:

- 🦑 A selection of squid jigs
- 🎣 Light spinning rod or handline
- 🧵 6–8 lb braid
- 🧵 Fluorocarbon leader
- ⚙️ Small snap swivels
- 🔦 Bright headlamp for night fishing
- 🕶️ Polarised sunglasses for daytime
- 🌟 UV torch (optional)
- ✂️ Braid scissors
- 🎒 Squid bag or tackle bag
- 🗑️ Suitable knife for cleaning your catch
- 🧤 Gloves if preferred
- ☀️ Sunscreen and plenty of water

And most importantly...

BRING YOUR FISHING BUDDIES! 🧐



The Secret to Squidding?

LOOK!

Squid fishing isn't always about casting as far as possible.

Sometimes the best technique is simply slowing down and watching the water.

Look for:

- 🦑 Squid sitting near structure
- 🐟 Baitfish schools
- 🌿 Weed beds
- 💡 Areas illuminated at night
- 🌊 Clean, clear water

You might spot one before it even sees your jig!



Why REEFIES Love Squidding

Squid fishing is perfect for junior anglers because it teaches you to:

- 🎯 Cast accurately
- 👁️ Watch the water
- 🧠 Think about what your target is doing
- 🎨 Experiment with colours and lure sizes
- ⌚ Be patient
- 🌊 Understand the marine environment

And because squid can often be spotted before they're hooked, **kids get to be part of the whole adventure!**

There's nothing quite like hearing:

“I CAN SEE ONE!”

followed a few seconds later by:

“SQUID ON!!!” 🦑 🐟



Look After Our Whitsunday Waters

Being a REEFIES angler isn't just about catching things.

It's about looking after the places we love.

Take your rubbish home.

Look after the shoreline.

Respect other anglers and boat users.

Handle your catch carefully.

Follow Queensland's fishing rules.

And always put safety first around the water.

Because we want our kids, our families and future REEFIES to enjoy the Whitsundays for generations to come.



Ready to Go Squidding?

So, REEFIES...

Grab your rod.

Pick out a couple of colourful squid jigs.

Visit **Tackle World Airlie Beach** for some local advice.

Find a safe spot around our beautiful Whitsunday coastline.

And start looking...

WHERE'S THE SQUID?! 🦑 🐟

Whether you catch one squid or twenty, remember that the best part isn't always what's in the bucket.

It's getting outside.

It's learning.

It's laughing with your mates.

It's exploring our amazing Whitsunday waterways.

And it's making memories with your family.

That's what **REEFIES** is all about.

Fishing. Adventure. Memories. 🧑🏞️ 🌊 ❤️

Until next time, REEFIES...

Keep your jigs colourful, your eyes peeled and watch out for the ink! 😄 🦑

Sailee♥️

Official REEFIES Mascot
Whitsunday Game Fish Club

