

## Mackie Head Dangle

As write this article we are moving out of the summer months and heading into autumn but there are still a lot of flat fish around till the end of March leading into April. This particular bait is perfect for most non edible species especially Natal sandy's, diamonds, bronzies, grey sharks and raggies and any shark species that would prey on Mackerel. This is a clean bait giving the predator fish a good visual on the bait fishes eye and exposing a good amount of flesh for maximum smell to attract the targeted fish onto the bait. Often with a readymade dangle it is difficult to get the wire through the bait with the foam already attached to present it properly so by using a piece of 12 strand thickness piano wire you can insert the wire through the makkies mouth and secure the hook by putting it through the eye of the wire as shown in the pictures below. Using your bait knife to make an insertion through the gut particularly when the bait is frozen will help to push the wire through the mouth to the opposite side. You can then push a piece of high density foam into the mackerels mouth to make the bait float in midwater. Floating your bait is very important as it keeps the bait away from your main line and often avoids you being bitten off whilst the shark circles your bait before he eventually swallow's it . It also makes it easier for the shark or ray to pick the bait up in the water. Diamonds especially swim in midwater when feeding and prefer floated bait. This is why Sliding for Diamonds works so well because the bait is on the surface where Diamonds are chasing bait fish. I have far more success floating baits when targeting any species and it also helps to avoid your hooks getting stuck when fishing rocky areas. The way this dangle is rigged also stops the bait being forced up the hook line when the sinker impacts the water when casting your bait because the hook is secured through the eye of the dangle through the lips of the mackerel when pinning the bait.



To make this rig you will need some 12 strand piano wire. Some 0.90mm Berkley Fluorocarbon line and a 8/0 Fusion slickest Berkley circle hook, a piece of hi density foam cut into a triangle shape to insert into the mouth of the mackerel. Bend two round eyes on each side of the wire.



Cut the mackerel head at an angle cutting into the heart section exposing a good amount of the flesh at the same time. Using your bait knife make a hole to allow the wire to pass through the head. Push the wire through and place the foam into the mouth.



Once the wire is in, place hook the circle through the bottom lip of the mackerel and through the eye of the dangle then through the top lip of the mackerel. Using latex cotton the mouth closed to finish the bait. It is now ready to clip.



You can now clip the bait clip on the sinker through the bottom eye of the dangle and you are good to cast. When the bait impacts the water the clip will break loose and the bait will float giving you the perfect presentation in the water.

Fishing tip: When using circle hooks wind into the fish and tighten up don't strike or you will more than often miss the bite. When fishing for Diamonds it is better to use fluorocarbon rather than nylon coated wire to get more pulls.