

# fishing **TAG**

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## Tips & Tricks



***“Cockroaches  
love the grips on  
fishing rods”***

### GEAR MAINTENANCE

There's nothing worse than going fishing and finding your gear is failing you.

A jerky drag, seized handle or handle knob and stiff to wind are symptoms of a reel that has suffered from exposure to the elements and lack of maintenance.

Salt water in particular is very hard on fishing reels, which makes it very important to do a few simple things after every fishing trip.

Firstly, you should take the reel off the rod and give it a good rinse in fresh water, but this shouldn't be from a fast flowing garden hose or tap. If you use water under pressure to rinse reels, you risk the chance of forcing sand and grit into the finer parts of the reel.

Fill a bucket or the sink and give the reels a gentle rinse.

The idea is simple to remove and salt spray or residue which if left on the reel it

would cause metal parts to rust or oxidize.

There are some great liquid additive salt inhibitors on the market these days that can be put in the water and help neutralize and remove the salt.

Once the rinsing is finished, you should give all moving parts a light squirt with a lubricant.

I like lanolin based sprays but almost any lubricant will do. Avoid getting it on the line itself as some products can have a detrimental effect on fishing line.

After you have given it a squirt, wind the handle, spin the knob and flip the bail over and back a few times so the lubricant gets into the moving parts.

You can now pack the reel away knowing it will be in pristine condition next time you pull it out to go fishing.

It is a good idea to follow the same procedure with the rod, rinsing it in fresh water and spraying the reel seat with a lubricant.

I also give the guides a light spray to protect the metal parts from corrosion.'

If you have Duralon, Hypalon or similar spongy grips, it is a good idea to give them a wipe with an insect surface spray, especially in the tropics.

Cockroaches love the grips on fishing rods, they generally chew the surface material giving it a motley rough look.

### WIND

You wouldn't think wind would have much to do with a fish's behavior or feeding habits.

After all wind is above the water and fish are below.

Years of keeping notes and taking notice of what I have caught in different conditions have helped piece together a few guidelines. Not hard and fast rules but simple patterns that increased my chances of catching the target species.

In SE Qld, mulloway are a winter species, preferring the cooler water temperatures.

Before winter, usually in May, in amongst the mix of weather conditions, it is not uncommon to get a few days of westerly winds.

To me, this is a signpost that is hard to ignore. Westerly winds in Qld in May brings colder than the normal conditions. A few days of westerlies and the Queenslanders are looking for their woolly socks and jackets. These colder winds also lower the surface water temperature which fires a good run of mulloway, especially in the shallower rivers and creeks. After three days of westerly winds in SE Qld you can bet you'll find me in my favorite deep hole in a local river swimming a live bait. Something I wouldn't bother doing in

May without a few days of colder weather.

Freshwater species in larger impoundments are also effected by winds.

On a dam, the wind whips up surface chop which in turn aerates the water. Impoundment barra fishing guides in Qld fish the windy foreshores, the area of the dam that is most affected by the wind not because the fish move there when it is windy but because the fish in that area are more energetic as a result of higher oxygen levels.

The same situation affects bass in impoundments further south.

An experienced angler will take careful note of the environmental conditions and use them to his or her advantage. It is not a hard and fast rule but it can swing the odds in your favor by considering the current dominant weather condition when you go fishing and think how that will affect the fish's behavior.