

RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR

Setline - Dropline

Gear Description

A **dropline** is a setline which is set vertically in the water column. It consists of four main parts; the main line, branch lines (or snoods), hooks and bait. Other components are marker buoys, dhan poles, the anchor weights, swivels and clips.

A weight or anchor is attached to the bottom end and **branch lines** clipped at regular intervals up the **main line**. The branch lines are made up of a shark clip attached to a short length of braided line tied to a sharp, heavy gauge circle or double hooks size 6/0 plus. The distance between each branch line is generally less than two metres.

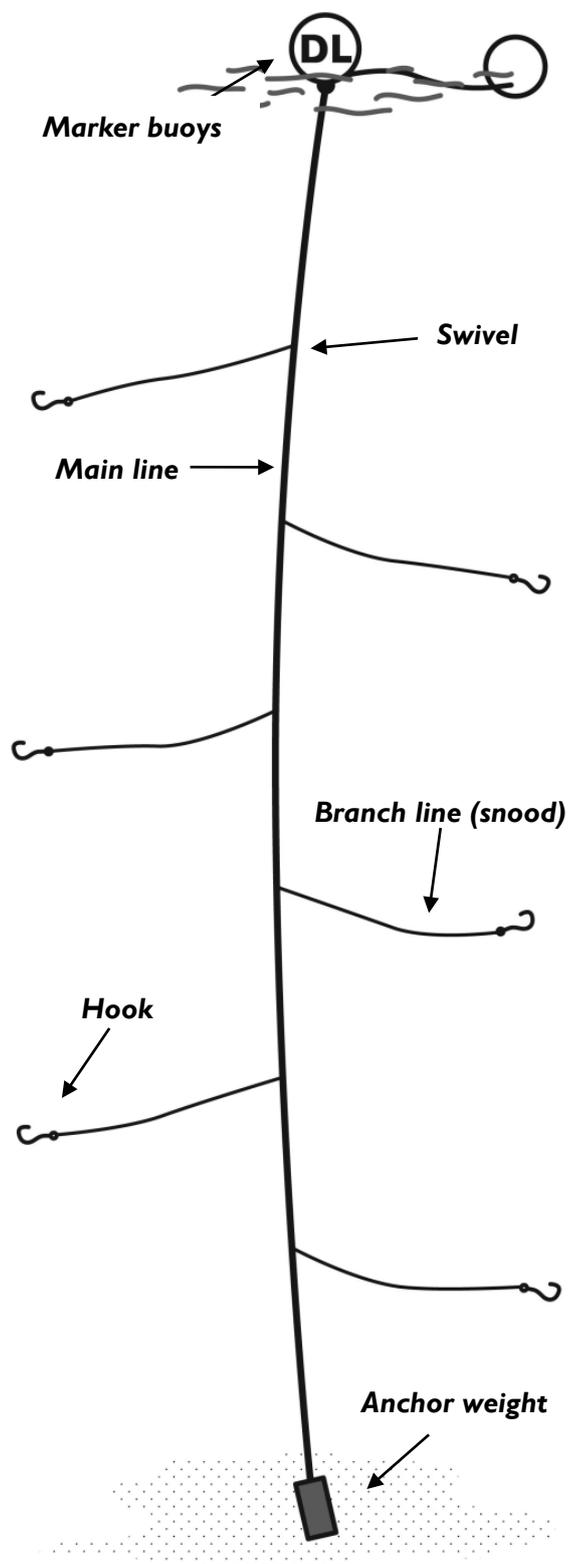
A surface **marker buoy** is used to identify where the line is set, and additional buoys or a dhan pole and flag can be used to improve visibility. A GPS fix may also assist when locating gear.

How it works

Droplines are set by attaching snoods to the main line while the boat is stationary so that the line with the **hooks** drops vertically from the surface to the sea floor.

The baits hanging off the line provide a scent in the water that attracts fish to the bait and become hooked. Movement of the baits due to currents further entices fish to take the bait.

Squid or octopus tends to be the **preferred bait** because the leathery texture increases the ability of the bait to stay on the hooks. Fresh scalefish such as jack mackerel and Australian salmon are popular alternative baits.

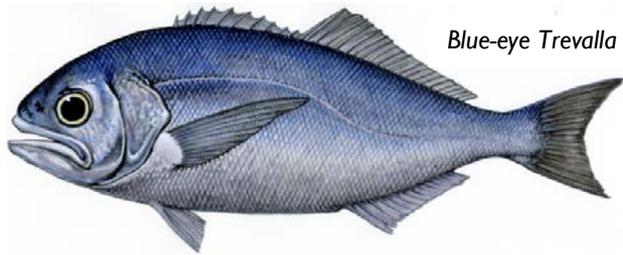


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Dropline

Target Fish

Droplines are used to target species that inhabit areas of the seabed at depths up to 300 metres. The two most popular are **striped trumpeter** which are found in shallow coastal waters out to 100 metres and **blue-eye trevalla** which is in deeper waters of the continental slope between 100 – 300 metres. Other fish species caught depends on the depth range and can include gurnards, perch, ling, hapuka, cod and shark.



Responsible Fishing Tips

- Remain close to or **in attendance** to the dropline whenever possible.
- Regularly retrieve and check the gear.
- Use sharp, heavy gauge **circle hooks** (size 6/0 plus) to assist hooking fish in the jaw. This increases the survival of released fish.
- Use **fewer hooks** than the 15 allowed to reduce the chance of exceeding **bag limits** and wasting fish.
- Lower your soak times to increase the **survival** of released fish – remember: fresh is best.
- Treat unwanted fish for decompression by venting the swim bladder or using a release weight to return the fish to the sea floor.
- Ensure the **marker buoy** is large enough to stay afloat in strong currents and not be pulled under by the weighted line. Make sure the buoy line length is greater than the depth of water being fished.
- Setlines can move a considerable distance from where they were originally set if not properly anchored. The anchors on the mainline should be **heavy enough** to prevent the line dragging in strong tides or if large fish take the baits.
- Check the weather forecast and don't set your dropline **in rough weather** as lost setlines can continue to 'ghost fish' in the marine environment.
- Avoid interactions with marine mammals by not having **excess loose line** on the surface which may cause a hazard to wildlife or other boats. Don't set lines if seals or migrating whales are in the area.

For licensing, seasons and area rules for dropline fishing, get a copy of the *Recreational Sea Fishing Guide*.

CONTACT DETAILS

Recreational Fisheries Section

Phone: 1300 720 647

Email: fishing.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Web: www.fishing.tas.gov.au



Tasmania

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