

# Australian Lure Fishing Podcast Episode 266



## Greg Vinall Gets To The Point: Hooks....



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### Greg "Doc Lures" Vinall

ALF Podcast Host & Mad Scientist.

As a lure maker, Greg has spent a fair bit of time pondering and researching the various design aspects of fishing hooks. How much is there to really know about a simple piece of bent wire with a point at one end and an eye at the other? Well, it turns out that there's actually a fair bit more to hook design than first meets the eye!

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## Greg's Tips On Hooks For Lures

- The bend shape of a hook tends to determine the percentage of strikes that convert into hookups. Round-bend hooks align the point parallel with the shank of the hook and have a higher conversion rate than extra wide gape (EWG) hooks. But EWG hooks are less likely to come out of a fish and are harder to straighten than round bend hooks.
- Long, fine, conical hook points penetrate easily into fish mouths, but they blunt very easily when they strike hard structure. Short, strongly tapered points are more durable but also take more force to drive in, which can cost fish at times.

- Hooks with large barbs tend to take a bit more force to penetrate into a fish, are less likely to come out during the fight but removing them also does a bit more damage to fish! Smaller barbs penetrate more easily but also come out more easily. Greg likes barbless hooks, or ones on which the barb has been partially flattened using pliers.
- Long shank hooks are more likely to get interlinked when they're on the front and rear of a lure and have more impact on lure action than short shanked hooks, but they can help if the fish are nipping at the tail of the lure. Short shanked hooks tend to be more balanced on a lure and are less prone to fouling with each other.
- Fine wire hooks are lighter and less likely to upset lure action than thicker heavier wire. Quality hooks use wire that is very strong for its diameter. Heavy hooks can upset the action of delicately balanced lures.
- The finish plays a big role in corrosion resistance. Bronzed hooks are ok for freshwater but don't last long in the salt. Tinned hooks are economical and corrosion resistant. Black or chrome nickel hooks have the best corrosion resistance and their shiny smooth surface aids hook penetration.
- Treble hooks have plenty of points but are also the easiest hooks for fish to dislodge. They typically maximise the hook sets and snag ups.
- Inline single hooks align properly with the lure when fitted with a single split ring. They allow the angler to use a larger, stronger hook without overpowering the action of the lure. They are extremely difficult for fish to dislodge.
- Double hooks are lighter than trebles through having one less point and because no split ring is required to connect them to the lure. They are super fast to switch out, can be oriented to make them more snag and weed resistant, have good hook set rates, are quieter and stronger than trebles. Yet they are under used!