

# Australian Lure Fishing Podcast [Episode 618](#)



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## Josh Carpenter

Tournament Angler And Fishing Personality

Josh is a keen tournament angler and former fishing writer who continues to have carved out a career in the tackle industry, allowing him to work at what he enjoys best. The Georges River/Port Hacking area is his back yard and one of his favourite places to fish.

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## Josh's Georges River Bream Fishing Tips

- Bream transition and move around a system more than most anglers might suspect. When the tide is flowing fast it can pay to target the back of bridge pylons where fish go to shelter from the current. As the flow slows the fish will often move to the sides of pylons or onto the flat section between pylons.
- Sometimes as the tide slows the fish will move up even from deep water around bridges and move to the sides of the pylons and the flat wall areas. Sometimes even in 25 feet of water they will sometimes come well off the bottom and be receptive to a small crank worked parallel with the bridge, with the current.
- Josh is a visual addict and tends to fish the structures where he can see fish. However, he reckons it pays to become a well rounded angler and know how to fish the flats and other areas too.
- When fishing boat hulls and pontoons, Josh tunes cranks to swim a little to the left or right to help keep the lure tight against the structure during the retrieve. Marking the bib helps keep track of how you've tuned them.

- Yellowfin bream spawn around headlands on a full moon in winter, so they tend to form loose schools and start to gather lower in the system during May and early June. For comps, a new moon seems to keep fish within the fishable areas and makes finding them and targeting them easier. Usually it's the bigger, mature fish that form these groups.
- Josh is a great fan of the advances in sonar, particularly the panoptics that allow him to forward scan and find fish to target.

## Josh's Bream Fishing Tackle

- A standard 7', fast taper rod in the 1-3 kg range is a perfect general purpose bream rod for throwing a range of lures, particularly those with single hooks, such as soft plastics.
- A shorter, softer rod is good for working crankbaits around bridge pylons as it's not necessary to make massive casts, and the softness reduces the rate of treble hooks getting pulled. 4-5lb straight through fluorocarbon is a good choice for this, but braid can work too.
- Josh used to have most of his reels spooled with straight through fluorocarbon, but in recent years has been reverting back towards braid and leader. This largely reflects his changes in lure preference from fishing lots of Atomic Cranks to more recently when he's been fishing crabs and soft plastics more often.

## Josh's "Big Fish" Bream Lures For Georges River

- 100mm Squidgies Wiggler in Wasabi or Bloodworm colours. A size 1 or 1/0 hook is perfect – the 1/0 being a little longer can sometimes hook a few more fish. The head weight varies from 1/16 or 1/12 oz in slower flowing areas around pontoons and the like to around 1/8 or even 1/6 in areas around bridges and faster flowing water. A 1/4 oz head may sometimes be necessary in high flow areas at the peak of the flow. Switch back as the flow slows down though. The squidgies wiggler is a great choice when fish are not necessarily in a positive feeding mode. Josh usually starts with a lift and hop retrieve, but when it's snaggy or fast flowing he'll switch techniques, even dead sticking the lure at times. Generally speaking, sharp, aggressive twitches are not necessary.
- 38mm Atomic Crank in either mid- or deep-diving and Ghost Gill Brown colour is a big bream confidence lure for Josh. This is a great lure to work parallel with bridge pylons on a slowing current. Often it gets taken towards the end of the retrieve as the lure is about to get away from the fish. The deep diving version is perfect for running beneath docks, pontoons and moored boats.
- Cranka Crab in Olive colour is Josh's #1 big bream lure. Often using this lure is a matter of casting to mooring blocks, bridge pylons and other structure and simply "dead sticking" the

lure. The idea is to imitate a crab that has fallen from its perch and is just drifting or wafting around the bottom. Let the lure sit for 10-20 seconds and then lift it gently and move it just a short distance. Often you'll find the bream has picked it up and you'll hook up. A little S Factor helps, too. The crab also fishes well in the oyster racks.

- The Muss, mussel imitation would be the fourth lure that Josh would use.