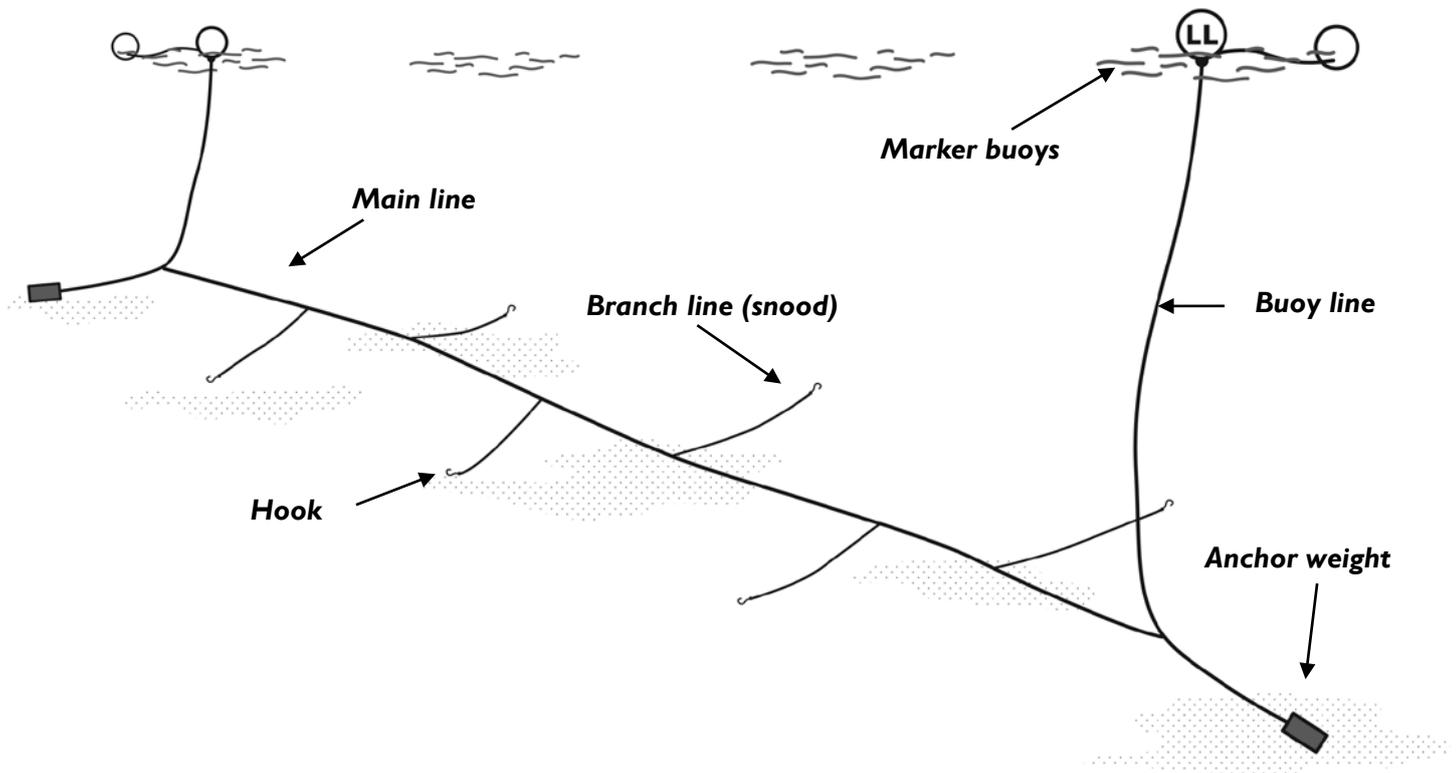


RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR

Setline - Longline



Gear Description

A **longline** is a setline which is set horizontally on the sea floor. It consists of four main parts; the main line, branch lines (or snoods), hooks and bait. Other components are marker buoys or dhan poles, the buoy line, anchor weights, swivels and clips.

The longline is set with an **anchor weight** at each end. The **branch lines** are clipped at regular intervals onto the **main line**. They consist of a shark clip with a short length of braided line tied to a sharp, heavy gauge circle or double hook.

Buoy lines and surface **marker buoys** at each end help the fisher to locate and retrieve the long line. Additional buoys and a dhan pole and flag may also be attached to increase the visibility of the longline for the fisher and other boats. A GPS fix may also assist when locating gear.

How it works

Longlines are set by attaching snoods to a weighted mainline while the boat is moving so that it lies along the sea floor. As the longline settles on the sea floor, scent from the baits attracts shark and fish to the **hooks**. Movement of the baits due to the current further entices fish.

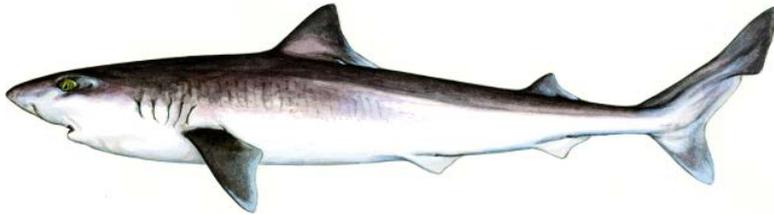
Squid or octopus tend to be the **preferred bait** because the leathery texture increases the ability of the bait to stay on the hooks. Fresh scalefish such as jack mackerel and Australian salmon are popular alternative baits.

Recreational Fishing Gear

Longline

Target Fish

In Tasmania, longlines are primarily used to target **school and gummy shark**. Other fish species may include flathead, gurnard perch, skates, rays and other shark species.



School shark (left) and gummy shark (below) are among the most popular species targeted by recreational fishers in Tasmania using longlines.

Responsible Fishing Tips

- Remain close to or **in attendance** to the longline whenever possible.
- Regularly retrieve and check your 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, especially because sharks have a low bag limit.
- 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.
- Set longlines on **sandy substrate**. Setting on reef habitat can snag your gear, catch non-target reef fish such as wrasse and cause baits to be attacked by small fish and crabs.
- 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 longline 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.



Gummy shark

For licensing, seasons and area rules for longline 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
Explore the possibilities