

Tackle Recommendations: Local Inshore Trips

Spring inshore trips require a little planning to ensure your geared up for multiple species. I prefer to go light, as in light tackle and carry on equipment. Preparing to fish inshore can be a lot of fun. It's a good chance to break out your equipment, check your rods, reels, line and terminal tackle. Keep in mind we will have an opportunity to target *White Sea Bass*, *Yellowtail*, *Reds*, *Lings*, *Sheephead*, *Halibut* and of course *Calico's* and maybe even *Baracuda*.

Hot Sticks

Three or four sticks are adequate for local trips. I recommend a 40lb outfit for WSB and YT. A 25-30lb outfit for Halibut/Shallow Rockfish and a 15-20lb outfit for Calico's in the kelp lines. Throw in a suitable 4/0 outfit if your 40lb gear isn't set up for depths to 200ft. (On the 2011 SCI trip we hit a couple deep spots looking for reds/lings).

Mono & Braid

If you haven't fished in a while, spend the few bucks to replace your mono topshot or upgrade to braid backing. If we get a shot at some local YT, fresh line and good knots could make the difference between cussing and bragging.

Drag Management

We've all heard the slogan, "**Loose Lips Sink Ships**". Your new slogan should be "**Manage the Drag, Bring One Home to Brag**". Last trip to SCI proves my point, Multiple YT hook-ups, zero landed. Primary cause of loss, Drags too tight, old line and inferior knots.

We may be able to flyline in tight on the boilers and kelp, but for sure you will need a few weights. Bring a couple of each, 5oz, 8oz, 10oz, 12oz and 1lb. Also throw in some sliding eggs sinkers. (1/2 to 1oz) Sliders will come in handy if we float some squid. Just remember to fish the "candy" off the bottom and slowly work the whole water column. Bring a range of J-hooks ranging from size 2 to 6/0. No need for designer hooks on this trip.



Iron

This time of year, yo-yoing iron is a good way to entice a big local YT into a reaction bite. Bring a few such as Tady 9, Salas 6X and 6X JR. Bring a white iron if you have one. Loaded with a live squid and fished slow off the bottom can be the ticket for WSB and YT. Throw in a couple mega baits, just in case the "Cudda's" swim by.



Swim Baits

Swimbaiting is not only very versatile, but also a lot of fun to fish. I've caught every fish mentioned in this article on swimbaits. There are many brands on the market. I prefer a dark body for low light conditions and a light color for bright sun. Water clarity will play a part also. Mix it up with a few large, medium and small baits.



Custom Baits

I'm always messing around with new home made designs and have one that continues to catch a variety of inshore species. These can be tipped with squid and fished fast or slow and even bounced along rocky or sandy bottoms. Sand bass seem to love them. I call them Hoochie Coochies.



I hope this article helps you prepare for the species we may encounter on OSA's local inshore trips and down into Baja.

Remember, practice CPR on Breeder Calico's (Catch - Photograph - Release)