



**A farm dam Australian Bass
snared in a gill net**



**A farm dam Yellowbelly
(Golden Perch) snared
in a gill net**

Catching your Fish with a Gill Net

Many of you will stock your farm dams with fish but never see them again and wonder just how they went and what's in there. The first thing you should do is just get a fishing line and go fishing. Most people are very surprised as to just how well native fish like Silver Perch, Yellowbelly, Australian Bass and Murray Cod go in their farm dams.

When you don't have the time, energy or inclination to go fishing with a bait or lure then get yourself a gill net. You won't believe the results a gill net will give you. They are cheap to buy, simple to use and last forever.

Nets are a brown nylon material that comes in various mesh sizes from 4" to 6". They are all 8' deep and 25 yards long. All imperial measurements as that's traditional for nets. They are slung meaning that they have a rope along the top of the net. These are nothing fancy and not for use in public waters just your own farm dams.

They are incredibly easy to use, just string them out across your dam and wait for a fish to swim into it and get caught. Just tie the rope to one side of the dam and drag the other end across the dam and tie off. If it's a big dam then a boat or canoe would be handy. If you don't have enough rope to reach the other side then just add a bit more.

The rope and net when wet will sink, so depending on the depth of your dam you can tighten the rope to keep it near the surface or slacken it to let it sink deeper into the depths.

We mostly fish the surface 8' of the dam and we ensure the net stays on the surface. We just use half a dozen pieces of foam. Just a lid of a foam box broken up into 150 mm pieces or a bit of foam packaging from a TV set, etc. We get these pieces and cram them into the net along the rope so that the top of the net will float. We just set the net with the 6 or so pieces of foam along the top, tie it off and retire to the

shore with our deck chairs and esky. We just sit there and watch the floats. When you catch one, usually within 10 minutes the floats start to bob up and down so we know we've got one. We just row out and take it out of the net. Very simple and very easy, a great afternoons entertainment.