

Aaron's Plastic Canal Capers . . .

It all started August last year through a friend I made while working in a tackle shop. I was introduced to the art of jigging soft plastic lures for estuarine species in South East Queensland.

Geoffrey Seeto is a fanatical fisher, in every sense of the word, and if his catch rate was anything to go by, it was a style of lure fishing I was highly motivated to try.

The species he was coming in contact with on a regular basis sounded like he was fishing in Cairns or Exmouth. Not the Gold Coast.

I hadn't succumbed to using soft plastics till then. The amount of media exposure it was getting was absolutely nuts; bream and

Aussie bass were the main targets, although (as I was about to find out) these 2 species, as magic as they are, are certainly not where it all starts and stops.

It is the mix of tropical and sub-tropical species that makes this fishery very interesting.

The other factor that held me back was the vast array of soft plastic lures on offer. That, along with the matching jig heads and hooks, made the task of getting a 'handle' on plastics a bit daunting.

I knew that even if 1% of these lures worked, I'd need a truck just to cart them all around.

Since I have never undertaken a facet of the sport lightly, I knew that if I did try to specialize in it, there would be a need for more rods, reels, line, lures . . . My Visa

card would die, pure and simple! The other main concern was ecologically based.

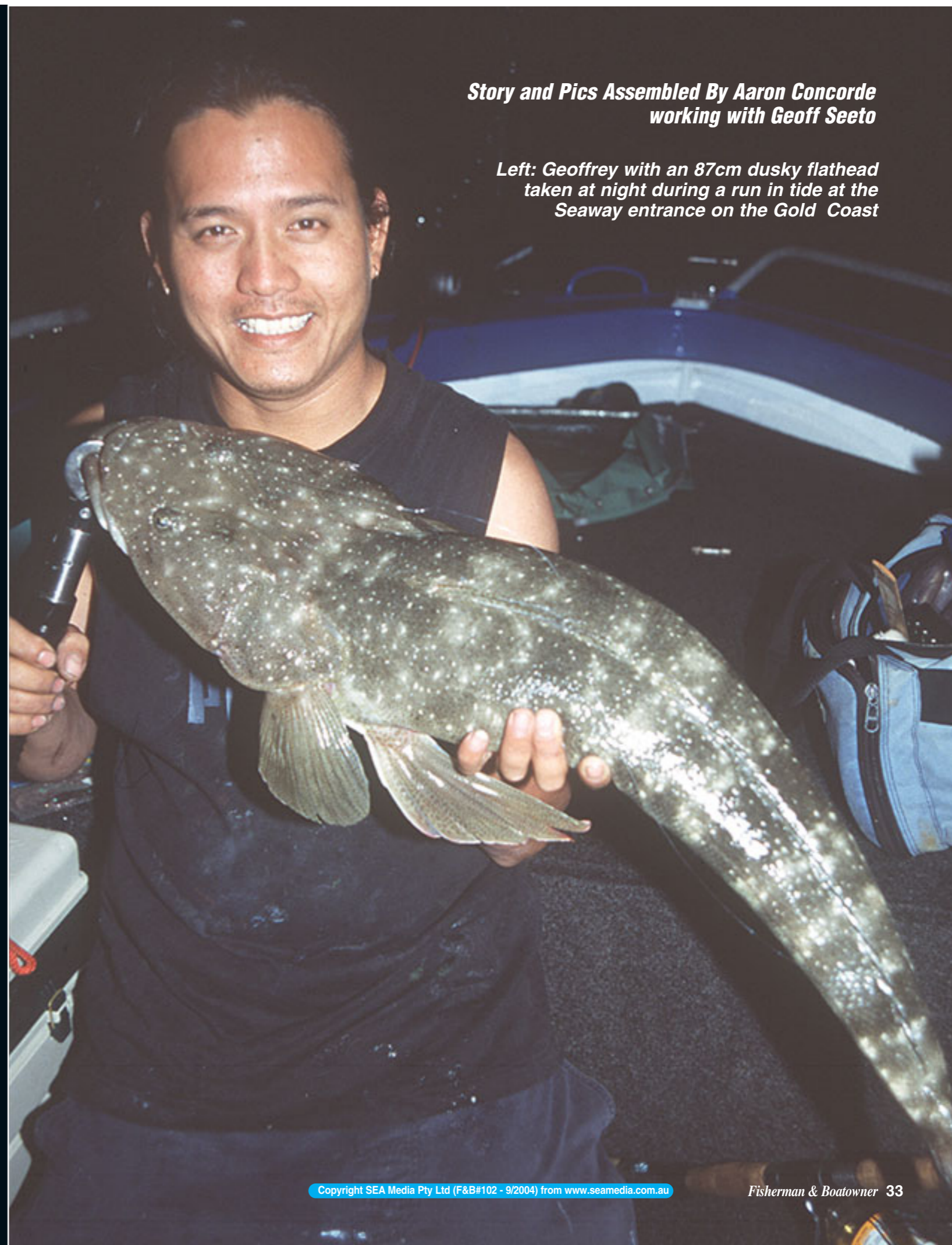
The latest "rubber" lures are, in general very soft and pliable, which, depending on the brand can lend themselves to being one fish wonders. Some brands get torn to pieces. Now, most of the torn up "tail" ends up in the boat, though no doubt, fish may ingest some and the rest ends up in the drink. Some bream tournament anglers I had spoken to have a conversion rate of 1 bream to 3 tails used.

That meant people would buy their favoured tails like packets of prawns!

There had to be a better way... Interestingly, new plasticisers are slowly being used to help

Story and Pics Assembled By Aaron Concorde working with Geoff Seeto

Left: Geoffrey with an 87cm dusky flathead taken at night during a run in tide at the Seaway entrance on the Gold Coast



Profile of a 43cm Jack with the jig gear it was caught on; Shimano Stella 4000, Precision Rods Jig Master, 20lb Fireline.