

G 5.3 FISHING AND AQUACULTURE



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Notes explaining how fishing for 'lampuki' is done.

Research: Etienne Vella / Thanks: Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture

Fishing for *lampuki*.



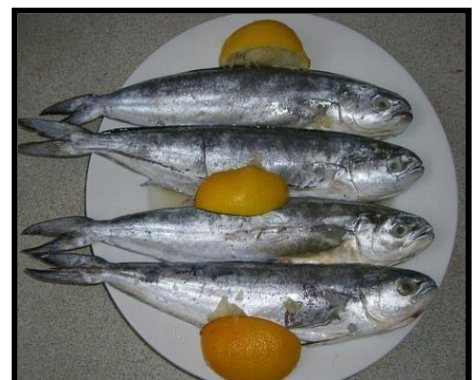
Lampuki are not caught throughout the whole year, and they can be caught with nets or feathers (*rixa*) but not with fishing rods.

Fishermen have to go very far out to sea in order to catch the *lampuki*. Sometimes they have to remain for 3 to 4 days between 'sky and sea'.

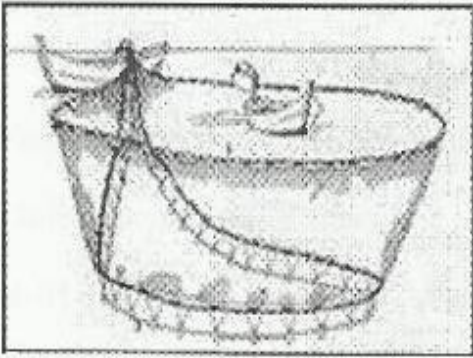
The *lampuki* season starts on the 15th of August, but the fishermen usually start preparing and placing their '*kannizzati*' from July.

The '*Kannizzata*' is like a big raft made up of corks, sacks, palm leaves, cane stems and other things that float over water. These are tied together to form a kind of roof over the surface of the sea. The fish then go under it to shelter from the sun.

To prevent it from being dragged away by the sea current, they tie the '*kannizzata*' with ropes to blocks of stone thrown down to the bottom of the sea.



On the top of the 'kannizzata' they put a buoy or a cork so each fisherman can recognise which one is his 'kannizzata'. This is called a peak (*'cima'*).



The fishermen go out to sea with their boats and when they arrive near their 'kannizati' they **use** the feather to bring the fish closer to them. Then they **surround the 'kannizzata' with the net** and the *lampuki* or pilot-fish are caught in the net.

The fish caught is then sorted into special boxes (*kavetti*) used to store the fish to be taken to the fish market. On the *luzzu* there will usually be the patron, who is the owner, and he usually has about four other fishermen helping him.

It is worth mentioning that *lampuki* are also caught using the feather. The feather is a very long thin rope with a lot of hooks. These hooks are hidden by feathers or other items.

The types of fish also caught in the *lampuki* season are **pilot-fish**, **lesser amberjack** and **tuna**.



Lampuki (dolphinfish or dorado)