



FINGERMARK (& OTHER FORAGERS)

WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE ON YOUR SOUNDER

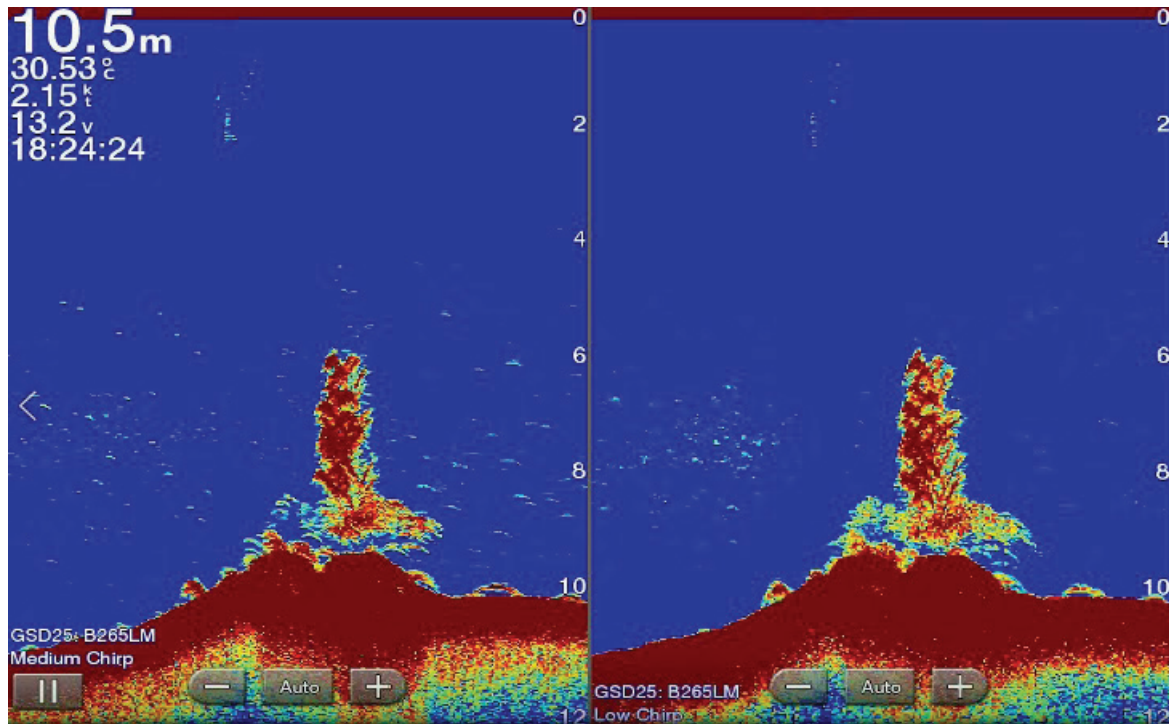
(TAKEN ON GARMIN 95SV, 1222 AND 7412XSV)

FINGERMARK, AND FORAGERS LIKE SNAPPER & PEARL PERCH, HAVE A SIMILAR HABITS...

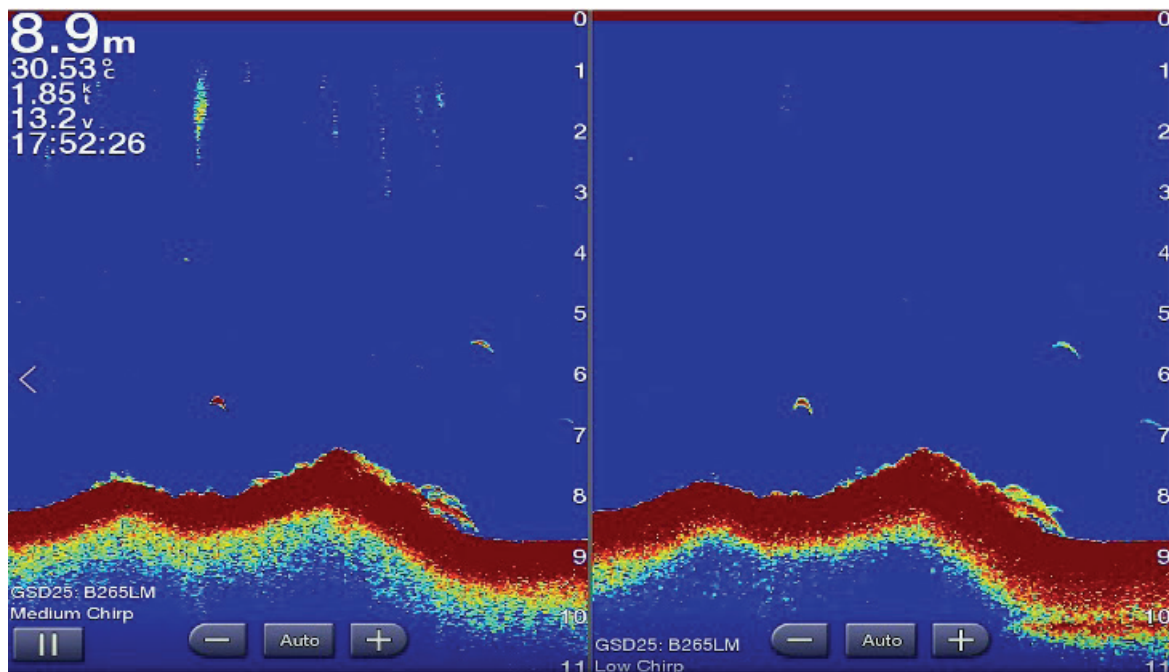
Using the exact sounder and transducer I use is not necessary. This sheet is only a guide and any equivalent brands and gear will suffice. We use GARMIN as they represent good value for money and have stood the test of time on my charters. I have not received money to endorse GARMIN products however as a brand Ambassador I do receive in-kind support from them by way of free or discounted products for testing purposes. The models used in these pics are GARMIN units 95SV, 1222xsv, 7412xsv and are for illustrative purposes. The later model echoMAP PLUS and gpsMAP series coupled with the new UHD transducer will provide more clarity in inshore waters.

WATCH YOUR INBOX FOR OUR EMAIL SERIES ON HOW TO CATCH THEM!

HINCHINBROOK FINGERMARK/GOLDEN SNAPPER

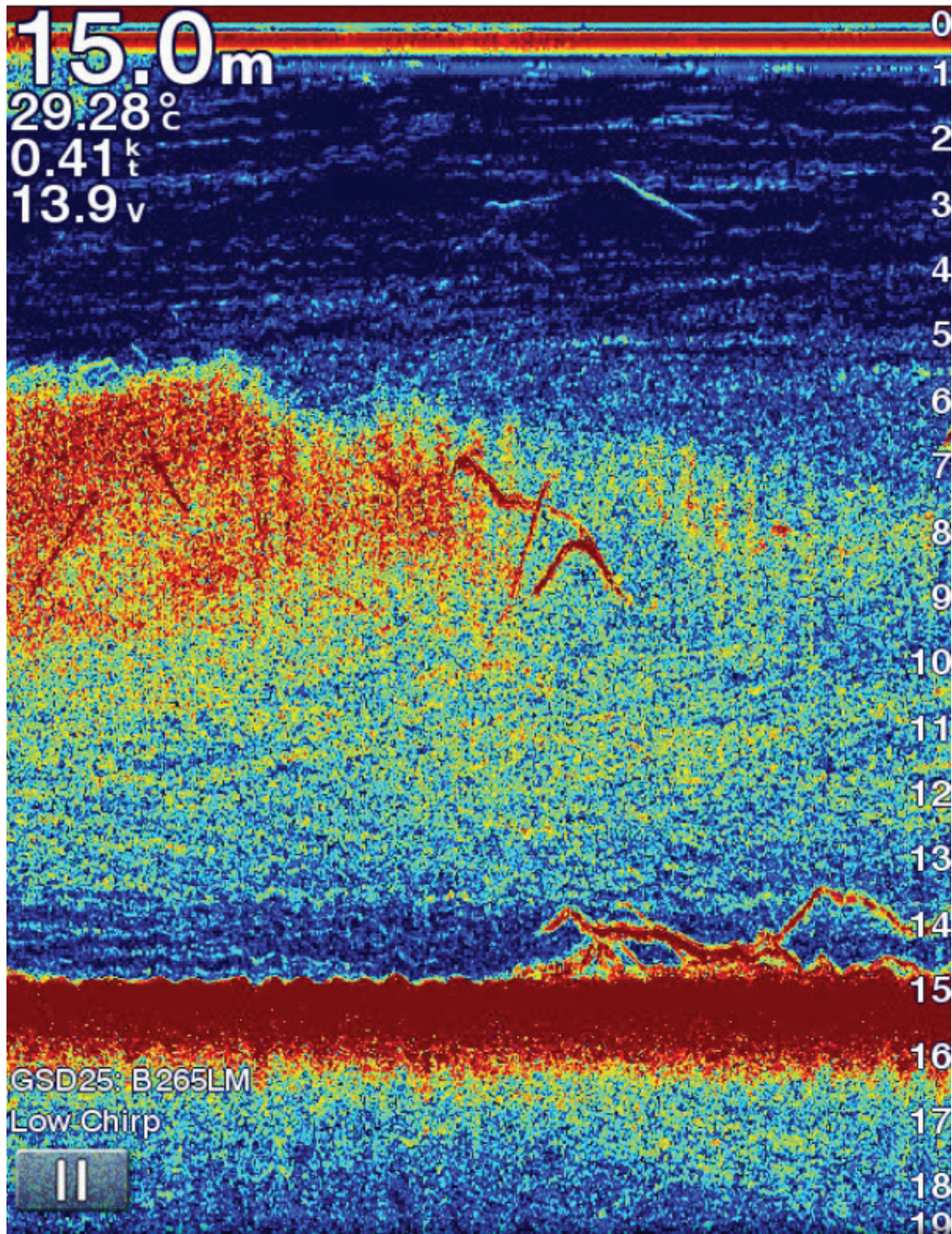


A SPLIT FREQUENCY 2D sonar shot of a school of 5kg Fingermark that have stacked up when the tidal movement starts to slow in the main river. A bit of structure has created a holding point. The transducer used here is an AIRMAR B265LM. Primarily a deep water transducer but multiple elements create a much better picture than a single element transducer.



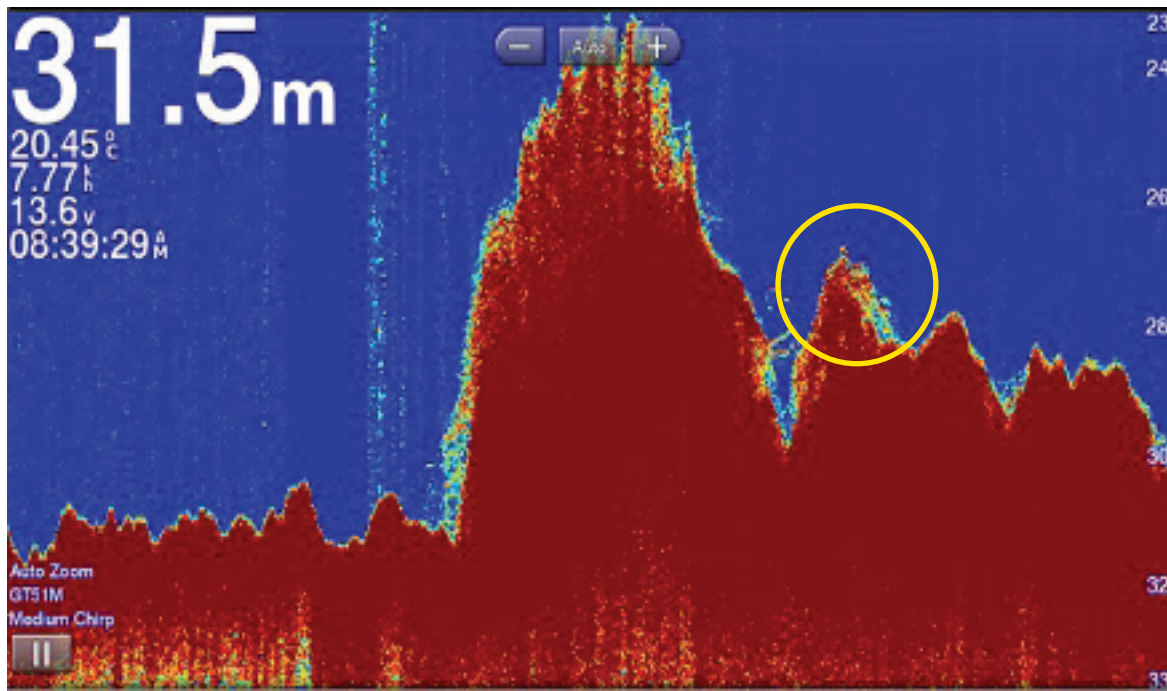
A SPLIT FREQUENCY 2D sonar shot of Fingermark laying low in the less responsive position. They are a versatile species that can feed in 2 different manners. Predatory when there is bait schools present and forage when baitfish are scarce. Snapper do the same thing, typically in deeper water, but on the same kind of landscape.

FINGERMARK/GOLDEN SNAPPER AT NIGHT

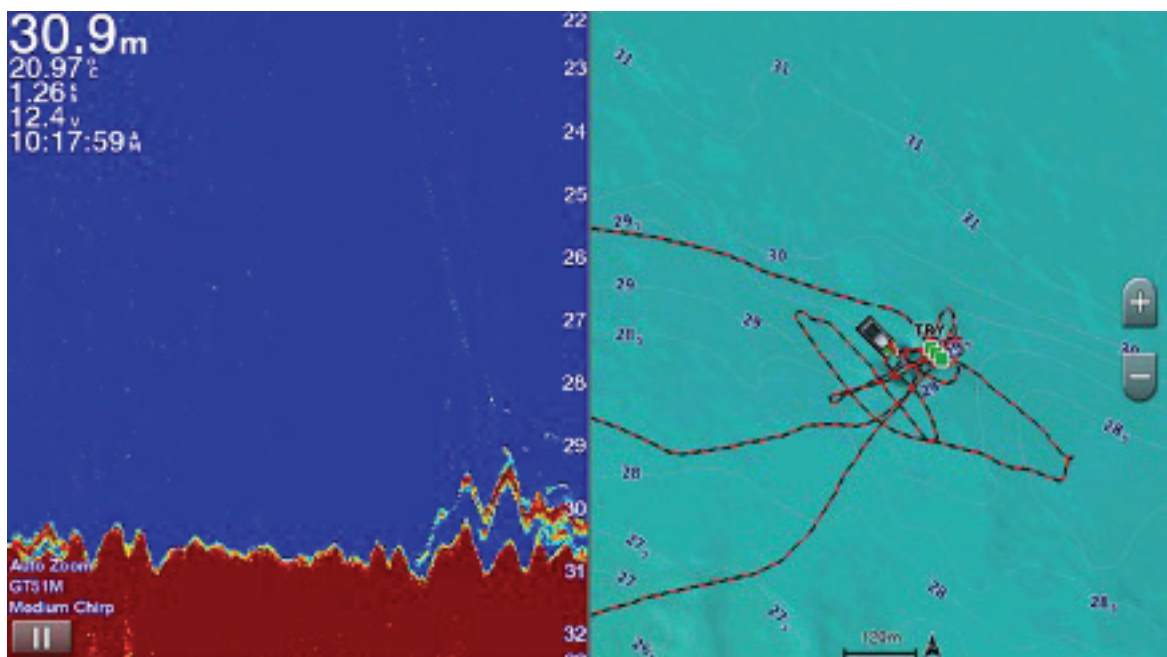


All sorts of organisms and baitfish come to the squid light, and the Fingermark don't mind a bit. I have actually seen them swim up under the light while feeding on our prospective live bait. Some of these fish are 6-7 kilograms in weight and 70-80 cm. Snapper and other such foragers will also leave the bottom and feed pelagically among bait fish at certain times. Because foragers are more active at night, that's when many people target them. But you can catch plenty of trophy foragers in the daytime, if you know where to look.

SQUIRE HOLDING VS FORAGING

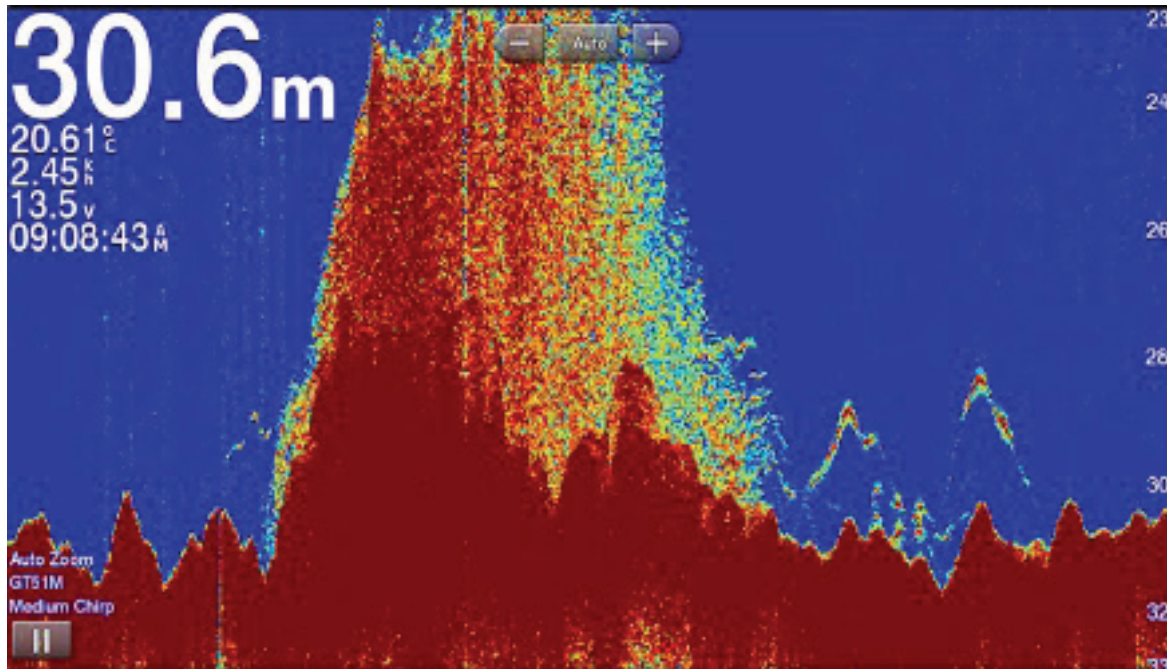


A ZOOM 2D sonar shot of juvenile 1-2 kg Pink Snapper (Squire) schooled up tight. This is great structure and at certain times could hold good fish. BUT (and it's a big but) since it's quite easy to find spots like this, they become common knowledge and tend to get hammered. Leaving only juveniles. I personally would return and see if it holds better fish during a different tidal period/run OR go find them on less obvious spots where they are foraging! A couple have detached from the school, (yellow circle). This is a good example of when to move on if your target is trophy fish.

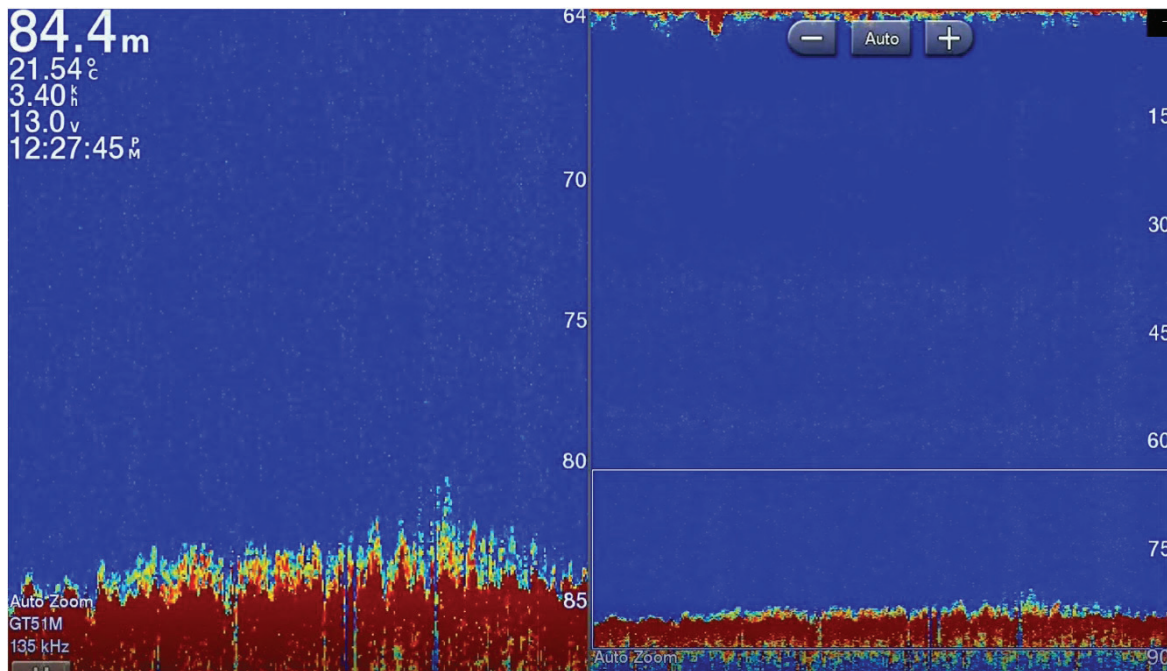


A good example of Snapper foraging away from structure. This is where I like to target them the most. Away from the maddening crowd and known structure covered in boats. There are two decent fish in this shot. One about to move offscreen to the left of picture, one coming into view on the right. Both around 5-6 kg.

PINK SNAPPER & PEARL PERCH

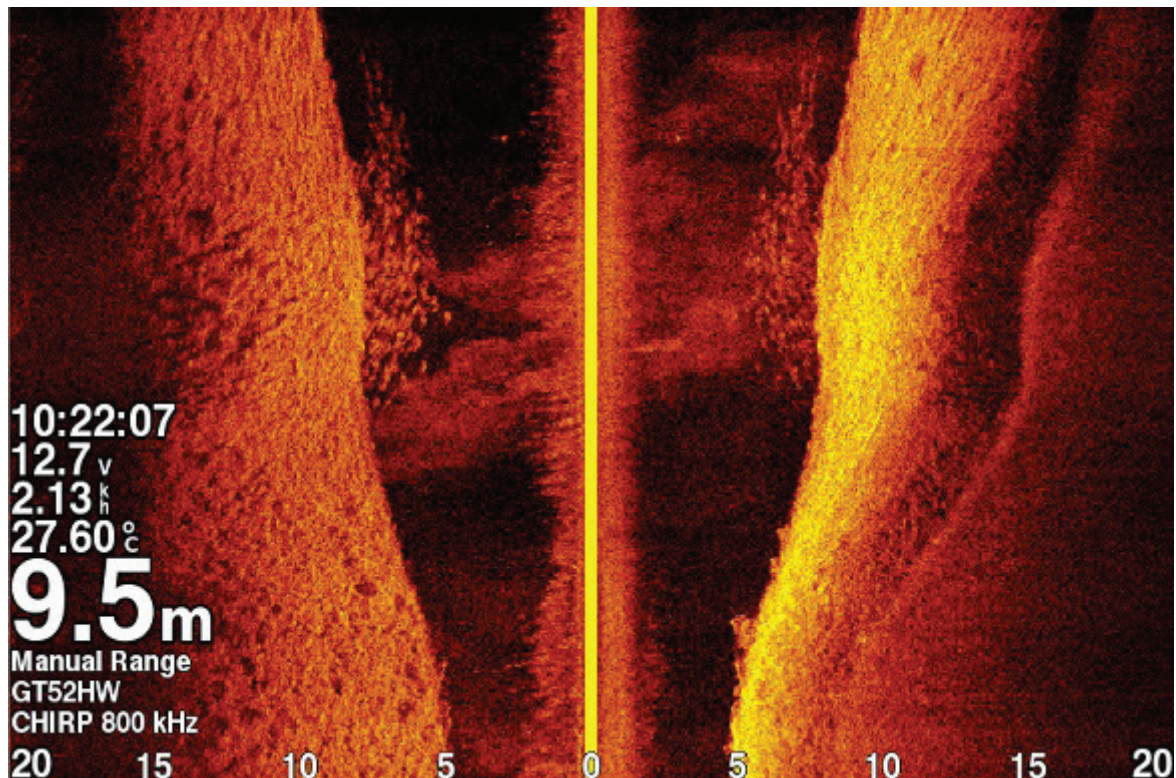


A ZOOM 2D sonder shot of school size 2-3 kg Pink Snapper (known as Squire) hanging near a school of bait fish, most likely rounding them up and feeding opportunistically. Determining fish size is dependant on many variables explained in our [Sonder Skills 1 course](#) (currently on sale for \$20).

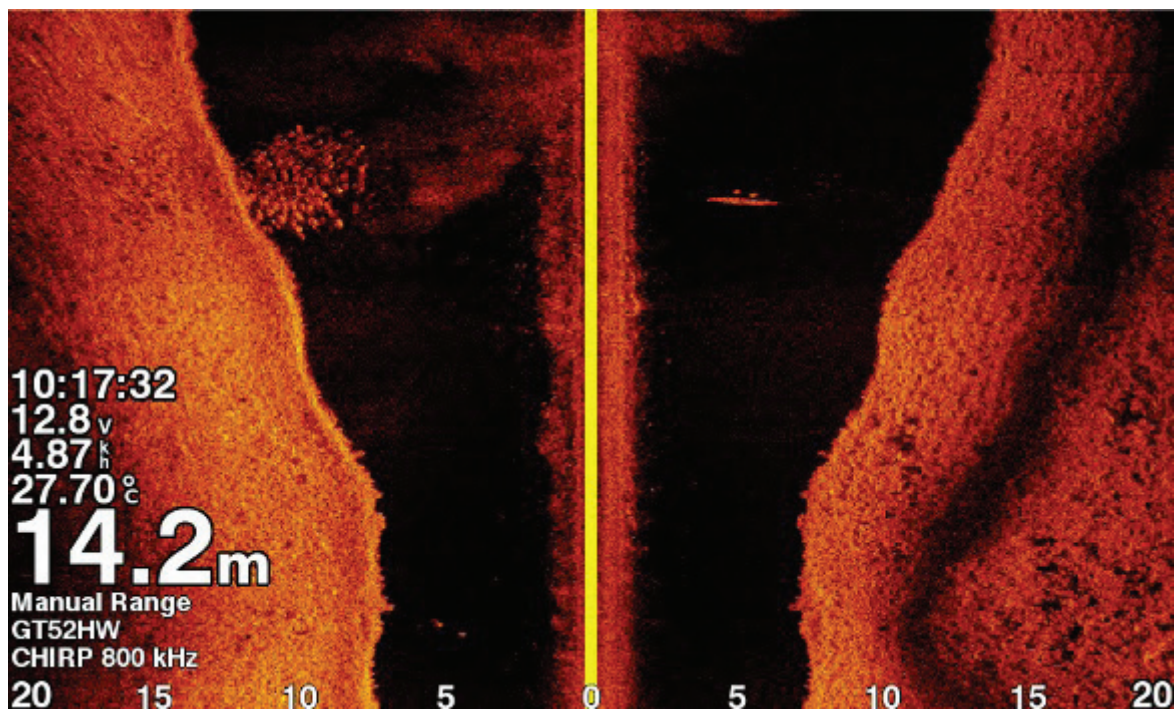


A good example of Pearl Perch foraging away from major structure. The breaks in transmission are due to the choppy day. These are the same size fish (around 2kg) as the screen shot above. The deeper water and faster boat speed makes them look smaller. Interestingly, most people drive over this kind of ground, thinking it's just bait. We pulled 6 nice Pearlies off this spot in 10 minutes. Just one example of the many different types of foraging areas I look for.

SIDE IMAGING

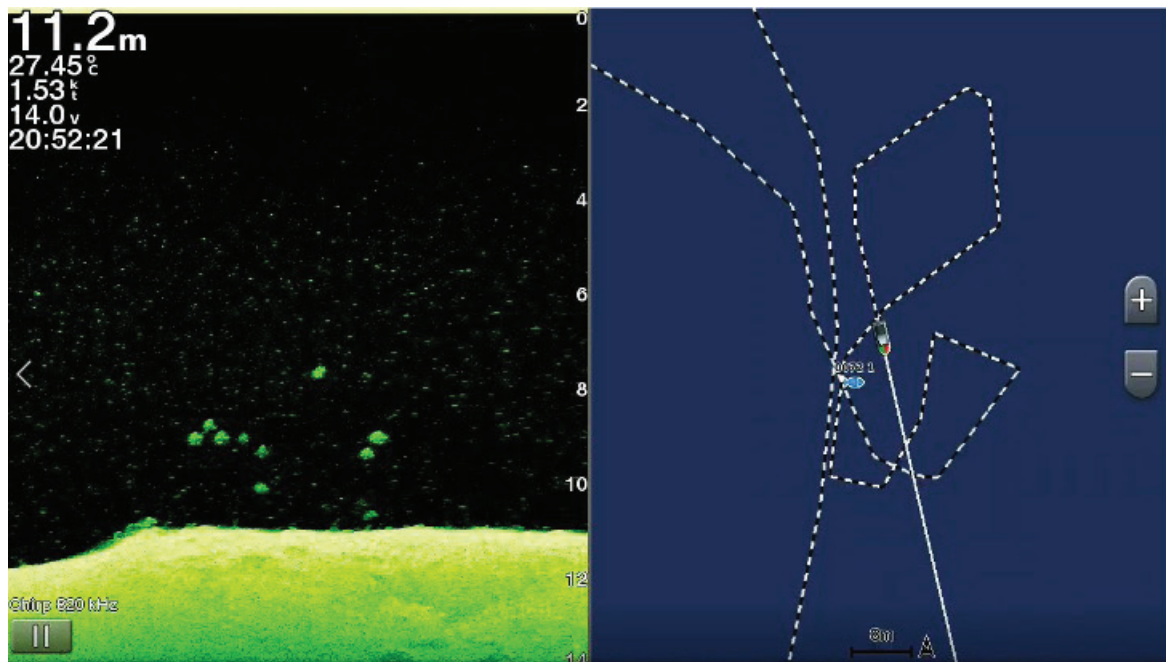


Fingermark hanging on a small rubbly rise. During certain tides they prefer to look around rather than hang on structure.



A smaller school on another rubble drop off. Once you associate a species with the bottom type and understand their schooling arrangements life becomes easier for the angler. Full details in our [Finding Fingermark \(and other foragers\) course](#).

DOWN IMAGING

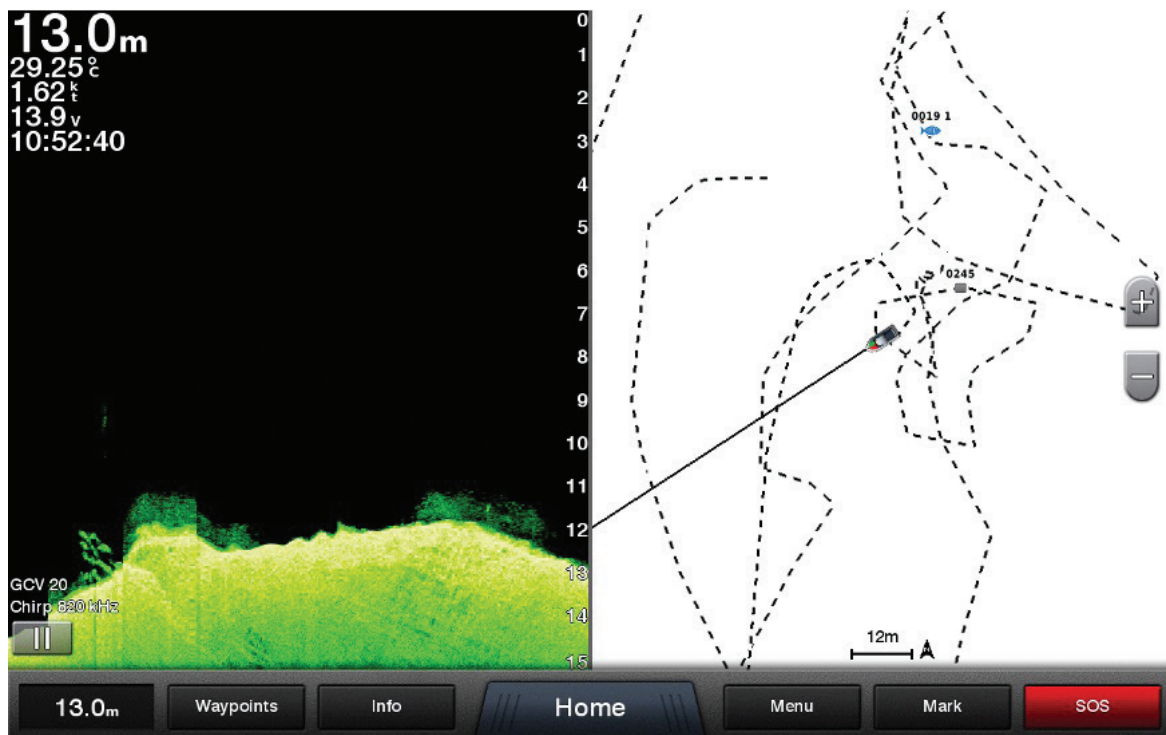


Fingermark on Down image. Learn about when to use down image for species recognition in Sounder Skills 2. You can tell exactly what these are. Once you are confident of species you can start to work out their patterns but it does come with some time on the water. When it comes to identification, Down image is less effective in water over 15 metres.



Observation in many ways can tell you what species like what kind of bottom. What's on your anchor can help when learning bottom type on your sounder.

SEARCH IS VERY IMPORTANT!

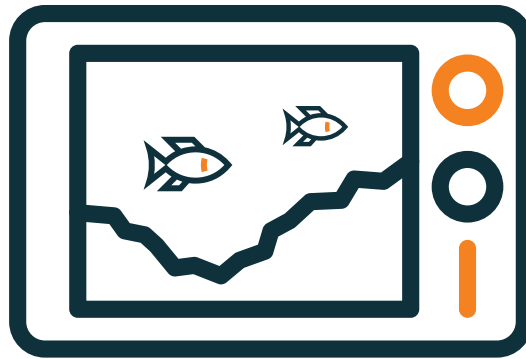


These 2-3 kg Fingermark were away from their usual foraging rubble pad, so I had to go searching, using the wider beam of the Down Image to cover more ground. Once I found them, I realised they had moved away following bait - which you can see in the screenshot. Our [Finding Fingermark course](#) can help by showing you where and when to start looking, not only for Fingermark, but cold water foraging species like Pink Snapper, etc.

WHAT SOME OF OUR STUDENTS SAY...



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SOUNDER IS NOT YOUR
STRONG POINT AND YOU HAVE
TROUBLE IDENTIFYING FISH,
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minutes to watch and **also includes (as a free bonus) our
sounder interpretation presentation.**

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