

Last weekend was a mixed bag, weatherwise, with a mild Saturday and wind, rain and freezing cold on Sunday. I managed to get out on Sunday morning for a few hours before the weather got really bad and landed a Murray Cod of 94cm and 19.0kg (42lb in the old scale). This fish ate a 90mm AC Invader trolled in six metres of water.

With fish of this size it's important that they are handled carefully to ensure that they have the best possible chance of survival when released. I use a 'lip-gripper' tool to hold the fish's jaw whilst photo's are taken and the hooks removed. Lip-grippers give you complete control over the fish and stop them injuring themselves (or you) and breaking things (rod tips usually) if they flap about.

If you want to weigh a fish such as this, make sure that you weigh it whilst still in the net. Large fish are unable to support their own weight when hung up by the jaw. Simply subtract the weight of the net from the total weight of fish plus net.

Once the weather got too extreme, Dave Longmore and I pulled the boat out as it was too difficult to troll. We then spent a couple hours casting from the bank at Berembled Weir. The wind and rain must have been making things uncomfortable for the fish as the only one interested was a 50cm Trout Cod. A nice fish in itself, but not the power and bulk of the cod caught earlier that morning.

As we walked the bank casting, I spotted several pairs of white claws sticking out from under logs and rocks. With the start of the lobster season on May 1 and the icy weather chilling the water down, the lobsters have become active. So active in fact, that one small lobster repeatedly tried to grab Dave's spinnerbait as it passed overhead!

If you haven't done so already, you should grab a couple of kids (borrow some if you don't have any) and take them carp fishing in the Tarcutta Creek. The Tarcutta Creek is one of the last strongholds of carp locally. Carp make perfect lobster bait as it's tough and smelly. Kids love catching carp as they bite well, pull hard when hooked, and you don't throw any of them back. A few hours fishing will normally give you enough bait for several lobstering trips.

This weekend should fish well if the weather settles with lure fishing being the best option. The Murrumbidgee, Old Man Creek and Bundigerry Creek will have active fish with the rain & unsettled weather stirring up some food. The best locations to try are where feeder creeks enter the main body of water. Large fish wait in the deeper water adjacent to any structure in these areas.

We have at least another ten weeks before the fishing shuts-down completely. Don't be put off by the cold as you won't be the only one trolling up river through the lobster pots.