

To be successful in fishing you need a reasonable knowledge of the species you are targeting and what techniques are best to tempt these fish into biting at a particular time. In addition you also need luck.

I have had my fair share of luck when it comes to fishing, and my good fortune emerged again through a series of events in the past couple of weeks.

I was fishing downstream of Wagga and gambled unsuccessfully that my boat would cross over a sandbar on the plane, rather than idle through a narrow, snag-filled channel. With the boat stuck, I jumped in the icy water and dragged the boat across the sand bar. The water dropped off sharply into four metres at the end of the sand and I climbed back in the boat as the current swept us downstream.

The back of the boat swung around and the rear rod holder (holding my favourite rod) clipped a log, snapping off the holder and dropping my rod into the swirling, log-infested depths.

We unsuccessfully tried to retrieve the rod with what we had in the boat so I returned a week later armed with a metal rake and an extendable pole. After ten minutes of scraping amongst the snags I picked up the lure which was still attached to the end of my rod. The reel still worked so I decided to have a troll on the way home. I got snagged straight away and the lure inexplicably broke off. Using my rake, I scraped the snags near where I thought my lure would be and up popped my favourite hammerhead. I didn't want to push my luck any further and drove home.

As I pulled my boat out, I spoke to a group from Grenfell who were having little luck with the lobsters. The rain in the past couple of days should change this around and really get the lobsters moving.

On the fishing side of things, the river is very clear and the fishing is difficult, but not impossible. Shayne Graham and I took four bites in four hours of trolling and dropped one decent fish that Shayne had halfway to the boat. Further downstream at Hay, Tony Curtis landed five cod between 50 & 60cm. The river above Hay toward Carrathool is also fishing well with a group of Rules Club Angler's catching over seventy cod in a weekend (on bait), however only a handful were legal length.

With the river being extremely low, the fish and lobsters congregate into the deeper holes. Work these holes with your pots or lures (or both) and you will have more success than randomly fishing shallower water.

Jamin Forbes