

DA Fishing Column

27th November 2006

The open season for Murray cod begins this Friday and the 1st December has been a much anticipated date for many anglers. With the river lower than usual due to the drought, ideal fishing circumstances are created where we have slow, warm water that is very clear.

In these conditions, lure fishing is the preferred method with spinnerbaits (double & quad colorado blades) and small to medium hard bodies proving deadly. The river fishing is nothing short of spectacular with double figure daily totals commonplace. The trout cod are particularly savage at the moment and will often be the first fish to grab a lure and bury it deep in the snags. Don't be tempted to keep one as they are a protected species and have to be returned to the water unharmed.

To be successful when targeting native fish you need to put your lures in harms way. Natives very rarely live away from structure of some sort, whether it is a rock, log, clay ledge or an eddy out of the current. They are also inherently lazy and don't like to work hard for food. If your lure isn't right in their face (which is right in the snags) it will mostly be ignored and you won't catch too many fish. Look for structure and fish it hard from all angles and your catch rate will increase.

Talking of structure, you will also get more bites if you seek out certain river features. Look for areas where the river narrows significantly, or a creek flows in, or tight horseshoe bends, or log jams. Some of these features are worth travelling many kilometres to fish as they can hold a lot more fish than a standard stretch of river. I work on the principle that if I fish areas that hold a lot of fish than it's likely that there is a higher percentage of hungry ones and sooner or later one of them will make a mistake and eat my lure.

Away from the river, the dams are also fishing well with massive golden perch being caught trolling the rock walls at Blowering. Some of these fish are over 5kg and are true 'trophy' fish. The goldens at Burrinjuck continue to bite well, especially at first and last light. Burrinjuck is also lousy with small cod to 55cm and these fish are generally hungry through the middle of the day which passes the time whilst waiting for the golden's typical afternoon hot bite.

On a different note, I called in to the Lake last Monday to test drive a few of the Stacer/Honda packages that Craig Harris from Wagga Marine had available. I was amazed to see the new 75hp Honda pulling a barefoot skier. Normally this level of skiing requires the power of a big V8 engine. Outboard technology has come a long way in recent years.

Remember to fish responsibly, throw the big ones back and take only what you need for a meal. Happy fishing.

Jamin Forbes