

The recent wet, cold and windy conditions made it unpleasant for anglers, however persistence under the adverse conditions has been producing fish.

The river remains clear, low and slow and is still the ideal place to target cod and golden perch. The annual mass hatching of the bardi moths was last week and the fish have been stuffing themselves on these big juicy moths. With the water cooling down, the fish in the river are stacking on weight before winter and are attacking lures freely.

The Old Man Creek has also been producing plenty of fish with Max Perryman and his family landing plenty of fish on bait and also having good success walking the banks casting spinnerbaits. The Creek is generally shallow, but if you make the effort to find deep holes and big snags this is where the resident fish hide.

Blowering Dam is still fishing well for redfin, but patience will be required to locate a hungry school. Keep an eye on your sounder and be prepared to spend a few hours searching. Once you have identified a school on your sounder, you can usually attract a redfins attention by bobbing a small yabby or a big bunch of worms. If no bites are forthcoming within ten or fifteen minutes, move on and find another school and start the process again.

Bobbing yabbies, shrimps and worms is also a killer technique for golden perch and cod in the Old Man Creek and the river. The technique is the same with a short sharp lift of the rod every few seconds, but in the river you won't see schools of fish on your sounder. To locate the fish, bob baits into deep water around snags and work the area around the boat to make sure all angles have been fished. Again, move on after ten or fifteen minutes if you haven't had a bite.

I was in Hay last weekend and whilst there were few fishermen around due to the wet weather, the people we spoke to were getting fish. Marty Asmus and myself squeezed a brief bait fishing session off the bank for a 55cm cod, but with the clear water and very low flows, it looks ideal for lure fishing.

Through winter it is unlikely that the river will increase in depth to any great degree. For those people with bigger boats there are still options within 70 minutes drive. Pipers Reserve, Buckingbong Reserve, Narrandera Town Common, Five Mile Reserve, Lake Talbot and Euroley Bridge still have plenty of water (and plenty of fish) and with the exception of Pipers, all have concrete boat ramps.

The staff at Rod's Compleat Angler can point you in the right direction to find these locations, or if you want a guided fishing tour contact me on 0427 692522 or visit www.riverinasportfishing.com for more information.