

Change in Conditions....Change in Tactics

Jamin Forbes 17th July 2007

Lure fishing for native fish in winter is hard work. Cold water and freezing air temperatures are difficult conditions for both fish and fisherman alike, but with good thermal clothing at least you will be comfortable and can concentrate on annoying the fish.

Our local rivers and creeks until recently had been clean, clear and perfect for lure fishing. Fisherman had no need to worry about stormwater making the river turbid as it hasn't rained much in the past few years.

Clear water for lure fishing isn't a necessity, however if your waterway has been clear for a long period and then stormwater turns it to mud (as the river did in past weeks), you may be better off changing tactics. Bait fishing can be an option under such conditions, however why not go for a change of species and go lobstering? (or crayfishing depending on which part of the world you are from).

The Murray crayfish are fantastic creatures. Commonly weighing up to 1kg, they are armour plated, angry and absolutely delicious. Kids especially love lobstering. To children the lobsters resemble some sort of alien life form and as part of the fun they get dirty, poke at the fire and run free in the outdoors. What more could a kid want?

With the rain running a pulse of water through the Murrumbidgee the lobsters have become very active. I took my family out for the afternoon last Sunday and we easily caught a bag limit. I also received reports from Narrandera and further downstream that the lobsters were biting, so there is plenty of water to explore.

I am offering day trip lobstering tours through until the season closes at the end of August, so if you want a day enjoying our beautiful river, give me a call on 0427 6925 22 or visit www.riverinasportfishing.com for more information.

There are strict rules and closed seasons for Murray crayfish, so check that you are compliant before you hit the water. If you are unsure, call the Compleat Angler on (02) 6921 4313 for the most up to date information.

We are now about six weeks away from the Murray cod closed season. In the build up to the breeding season, cod become more aggressive and fishing the weir pools at Berembed, Yanco, Hay, Maude or Balranald could yield the fish of a lifetime. Recent reports from Hay of cod over 30kg would certainly make a cold day worthwhile. It won't be an easy days fishing, but if you would like a guided trip targeting big winter cod, now is the time.