

Spring Weather – Big Cod

Jamin Forbes 14th August 2007

With two weeks to go before the Murray cod closed season commences, time is running out to target this great fish.

The weather is turning with warm days and less frosts allowing the water temperature to start rising (albeit very slowly) and as we are on the fringe of the cod's breeding season the mature fish are starting to become more aggressive as they compete for partners and breeding sites.

In the next few weeks the golden perch will also start to school and move in great numbers through our river systems. These fish move upstream and reach the man made barriers where large congregations of fish make it relatively easy angling. This annual run of goldens is opportune through the Murray cod closed season providing a viable target when the cod are off limits.

Locations to try for goldens are below the weirs at Old Man Creek, Berembed, Yanco, Gogeldrie, Hay, Maude and Balranald. Further afield, the migrations of goldens through the locks of the Murray around Mildura are famous for producing cricket score catches of fish.

As good as it is for fisherman to target fish under the weirs, the free movement of fish through these structures is a key aspect of returning our rivers to their former glory. A lot of money has been allocated to improving and constructing fishways with an ultimate goal of allowing free movement, improved breeding and in the end, more fish.

In the past couple of weeks, I have had a couple of trips fishing west of Wagga (yes, I am being a bit vague on the description), with the quality of fish nothing short of exceptional. Last weekend, Ian Wooden and myself landed 14 cod, 3 golden perch and a silver perch and missed several other big fish. Our technique of choice was trolling 90mm AC Invaders and large Hammerheads in deep water, with the top three cod pulling the scales down to 53lb, 31lb and 20lb and the remainder of the cod between 55-65cm.

On my trip previous with clients, we landed 25lb & 6lb cod, as well as a 50cm trout cod casting MudGuts spinnerbaits into the snags.

The fishing isn't easy, and there can be several hours between bites, but making sure that lure presentation is precise and working each region from several angles will improve your strike rate.

Lure fishing is far more than casting a lure out the back of the boat and idling up the river. It's almost an art form that requires patience and attention to detail. If you want to learn the tricks ask the staff at the Compleat Angler, or for a hands-on experience with a guide, visit www.riverinasportfishing.com or call Jamin Forbes on 0427 692522.