

Going for Gold

Jamin Forbes 11th September 2007

With the Murray cod season now closed until December 1, the primary targets are golden perch. Goldens are every bit as aggressive as Murray cod, at times attacking lures and baits well above their weight division, but they can also be a frustrating fish repeatedly following lures and baits without striking.

When targeting goldens, the prime part of the day is always the last hour of light. With the sun off the water they lose their inhibitions and bite freely. Catching a golden when they are running hot isn't difficult, but there are a few things you can try during the rest of the day that can see more goldens hooked.

Lure choice can have a big impact. Hard body lures, spinnerbaits, soft plastics and bibless lures will all work at different times and knowing what lure will work is a complex decision. My preference is to start with a small 'minnow' styled hard body as goldens prefer a narrow profile with a 'shimmy' action rather than a broad wobble that a typical cod lure has.

If I was getting follows on the minnow, but no hits, I would change to a spinnerbait. Goldens love some flash in a lure and often the blades of a spinnerbait make the difference and a hookup ensues.

When the first two options are exhausted and you know the fish are still interested, but not biting, bibless lures such as the Jackall are good, and at times a soft plastic shad wiggled in front of a goldens nose will prove too much. After refusing every offering in the tackle box, a cheap, simple plastic is often their undoing.

For bait fisherman, worms, shrimps and peeled yabbie tails are the baits of choice. Goldens prefer to live amongst snags (especially smaller sticks and debris) close to the bank and are often right at the shore, so don't cast out too far. Goldens also love moving bait, so bobbing is another technique to utilise.

With the river and creek likely to remain low, walking along the riverbed flicking lures is a great way to spend a few hours. Remember that you are only allowed to access private property if you are walking along the dry riverbed and can't access the banks without permission from the property owner.

One tip when fishing from the shore is to stand back from the edge so that your lure exits the water right at the bank as this is where goldens will attack. If you see a puff of silt or a swirl behind your lure, keep working that location and consider changing lure types as mentioned above.

Goldens are a great fish and are a worthy adversary on light tackle. To gear up for goldens, drop in to Rod's Compleat Angler, or for a guided day on the water visit www.riverinasportfishing.com

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