

Special Days

Jamin Forbes 30th October 2007

Every now and again you have a special days fishing. These days can stick in your memory for various reasons, such as a lot of fish, a big fish, something out of the ordinary, or just pleasant conditions.

Last Saturday I had a day which put a tick in every box.

Neal Lasker from Berry on the south coast of NSW chartered my services and we started with a few small fish before Neil hooked a massive beast of a cod. On 15kg line Neil battled the fish for 15 minutes until his arms were cramping from the strain. We got the fish to the surface (estimated 1.3-1.4m and about 30kg) swimming past the boat in plain sight, before it ran downstream into a snag where it eventually snapped the braid.

This cod fought harder than any I have hooked before, helped in no doubt by its size, but still a very tough fish. Whilst it was great to see such a massive fish, a photo would have been nice, but that's fishing. Usually anything after a special event like that is an anti-climax, but the smaller fish kept biting which kept us busy.

Some hours later, I was lifting my lure out of the water when a golden perch that was chasing the lure leapt clear of the water, snapped at the lure, before spinning perfectly in the air to re-enter the water head first. Not something you normally see, but on this day it seemed perfectly usual.

The almost frantic fish activity in the river at the moment is sparked by the water temperature hovering around 20 degrees. If you can pick a day where the barometer is high or rising and the water level is stable, you may well have your own special day.

Recently I have been experimenting with 'Owner' trebles retrofitted to some of my favourite hammerheads and AC invaders. 'Owners' are the meanest, sharpest hook you could imagine with a chemically sharpened point and three cutting edges to assist the hook to bite in. Since I have been using them I have increased my hookup rate significantly, hooking fish in all sorts of places apart from the mouth and turning half chances into photographs for my clients.

Owner trebles are not cheap, but I see them as an investment and with all the money we fisherman spend on trying to catch a fish, the link between fisherman and fish should be a focus.

Check out the range of Owner hooks at the Compleat Angler, or if you want to see them in action with a guided fishing trip, call me on 0427 692522.