

Riverina Sportfishing Report

5th February 2008

Another week has passed with a fair smattering of rain for the Riverina. Not that rain is a bad thing, but every time the river starts to clear up we get another thunderstorm which makes the water cloudy and slows the fish from biting.

One good thing about a week of overcast weather is that the river will get a chance to cool down a few degrees. With a series of hot weather and clear skies, the water temperature slowly creeps up. In the past couple of weeks the water temperature has been a touch under 30 degrees which is great for swimming, but tends to make the fish harder to catch. I'm not sure whether the warm water increases the amount of food (shrimp etc) for the predators or they just get lethargic in hot water (as humans do) but certainly when the water cools toward the end of summer the fish start to bite more freely and the larger fish become easier to catch.

Further afield the far south coast is fishing very well for flathead and bream in the estuaries, but the recent heavy rain has made fishing unpleasant and added a lot of colour to the water. The mixing of salt and fresh water often brings the jewfish on the bite and no doubting that the local jewfish specialists will be skulking about under the cover of darkness ensuring that their secrets spots remain that way.

The south coast offshore is producing flathead, snapper and morwong for the bottom bouncers, whilst out on the bluewater, Bermagui's annual run of striped marlin is in full swing, with the local charter boats raising plenty of fish and getting a few tags per day for their clients.

Bermagui is a great location for trailer boat fisherman to try for marlin as the bar is comparatively safe, the bait fish are easy to catch, and you don't have to travel long distances to reach the continental shelf. There are also plenty of inshore reefs that hold the odd marlin through late summer and autumn that are safely within range of small boats.

Gearing up for marlin doesn't necessarily have to cost the earth, and there is plenty of reasonably priced gear available capable of handling the typical 70-100kg marlin. For more information on what gear you need, how to rig up for marlin, and where to start fishing, call into the Compleat Angler and we can point you in the right direction.

Jamin Forbes