

Riverina Sportfishing Report

3rd April 2008

The rapid change in seasons from summer barely a couple of weeks ago, to winter conditions in Autumn plays havoc with both fish and fisherman alike. Windy days make the highland lakes unpleasant places (and quite dangerous) whilst plummeting water temperatures slow the fish down and it takes a couple of weeks usually before they start to bite more freely.

For the trout fisherman, cold weather heralds the start of better fishing as the surface water cools which brings trout out of the inky depths into the realm where flat lining Tassies and other shallow running lures is an optimal technique. Flat lining is a good way to start trout fishing as you basically cast your lure out the back (no downriggers, keels, attractors etc) and motor slowly around until you find a fish. This is a simplistic view and flat lining can be quite an art form, but it works well.

Cold weather also stirs the blood of the big cod fisherman. Once the heat of summer is past and the swarms of small cod start to dissipate, large cod (over a metre) start to become easier targets for lure fisherman. Fishing big water such as Berembed, Yanco, Gogeldrie, Hay or Maude Weirs with large lures and a healthy dose of patience may see the fish of a lifetime grace your photo album.

If you are fortunate to land a big cod, careful handling is the key to ensuring its survival. Never lift the fish by its jaw and it's preferable to keep it in the water at all times. Cod stress very easily and if the fin tips and flanks of the fish are pink/red this is a clear sign that the fish is stressed and it needs to get back down to the cool water so it can recover.

If you are interested in travelling west (from Hay to the SA border) chasing big cod but may not have the know-how or equipment, I can organise a fully guided multi-day trip for one to three fisherman (or with two professional guides for larger groups). Give me a ring on 0427 692522 or call into the Compleat Angler to discuss options and availability.

The Murray crayfish season opens in May and the Compleat Angler has a massive pile of lobster pots already in stock. With your pots secured, now is the time for a few carp fishing sessions to fill the freezer with cray bait. Lake Albert the best location to catch some big carp and will keep the kids amused for a few hours.