

Riverina Sportfishing Report

4th December 2008

The opening of cod season can be the only time many fishermen dust off their fishing gear and throw a lure or bait into a river, stream or lake each year. As such, the first weekend in December sees a huge influx of people onto our waterways in search of Murray cod.

For some, opening is a symbolic event for gathering of mates to dangle a line whilst enjoying a cold beer or two. Many venture to the Cod Opening Classic fishing competition at Lake Mulala and others seek out a remote, quiet place and get serious about targeting the great cod. Whatever style of fishing you prefer it's important to enjoy what you are doing. And a trip is so much more enjoyable if you manage to catch a fish.



A few tips that will hopefully make your next cod adventure more successful are listed below:

- Make sure you obtain good bait. Fresh grubs are at the top of the list, but yabbies, scrub worms and shrimps will also catch cod.
- Check your tackle. Your reels drag system should be smooth and the line/leader checked and replaced where worn.
- Hooks on lures should be strong & razor sharp. Sharpen dull hooks or replace with a better quality hook.
- Tie good knots. Cod are a strong fish and will find any weakness in a poor knot, leaving you with a 'pig-tail' on the end of your line.
- Fish near structure. This can be clay ledges, rocks, or weed beds, but cod really love red-gum snags and the older the snag the better. Cast lures and baits beside the big old logs and you will hook more fish.
- Have patience. Cod are a very patient fish and to be consistent at catching them you need to spend a lot of hours on the water. Four or five hours without a bite isn't a long time to wait.

These few things I've listed may not appear much, but with attention to detail, you will catch cod and return from your trip with photo's and a big smile.

Remember that the laws have changed for Murray cod with the minimum size increasing to 60cm. Fish responsibly, practice catch and release, and if you do want a fish for the table, take only what you need as we want our children to enjoy these fish as much as we do.

Jamin Forbes