

# Riverina Sportfishing Report

18<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008

Despite some unsettled weather and mud rather than rain falling from the sky last week, the fishing continues to become more consistent. The water temperature in the Murrumbidgee is pushing 14-15 degrees and it won't be long before the golden perch are spawning. They are schooled up, and the odd fish is making a mistake and eating a lure, but once they start we will enjoy a great few weeks of fishing below the weirs.

Weirs within a few hours of Wagga to target these schools of goldens are Berembled Weir, Old Man Creek, Gogeldrie Weir, Yanco Weir, Hay Weir, and well within the realms of a two day trip are the weirs on the Lachlan near Hillston.

These barriers on our waterways impede the goldens progress as they travel upstream and the fish pool below the wall. Remember that most weirs have a legal distance you're allowed to fish below the wall. Check with fisheries for accurate regulations in this regard.



If the rivers aren't your thing, then Burrinjuck and Blowering are bristling with golden perch. The water temps are lower at present than the river and it will take a little longer before consistent catches come from the dams, but fantastic fish are being taken when the conditions are right. Blowering in particular has goldens in the shallows around the rangers hut and Yellowin bay, whilst at this time of year trolling through the tree tops behind Wade Island is a reliable technique at Burrinjuck.

Bait fishing is starting to prove its worth with worms doing the trick in both dams for goldens, whilst in the river shrimp and scrub worms are a mainstay. Early spring is also the time when the simple copper flasher or 'Burrinjuck special' with a bunch of worms on the back pulls more fish than any lure or bait. These simple lure/bait hybrids are usually trolled at varying depths until the fish are found. As the name suggests the 'Burrinjuck special' was designed for Burrinjuck, however they are just as effective in Blowering and other golden perch haunts. These are a modest yet effective addition to your fishing arsenal.

In my most recent guiding trips, the trout cod have been very aggressive. Trout cod prefer cooler water than Murray cod & golden perch, and are very active coming out of winter. Despite featuring commonly in catches, be aware that they are an endangered species. Enjoy the strong fight they put up and return them to the water unharmed.

With warm days and no flies yet, it's the ideal time for a fishing trip. Should you want to book a guided tour visit [www.riverinasportfishing.com](http://www.riverinasportfishing.com).

Jamin Forbes