

Riverina Sportfishing Report

2nd February 2009

The brilliant fishing my clients were enjoying through December has wilted with the intense heat of late January. The mercury regularly pushing over 40 degrees and water temperatures nudging 30 degrees made the fish very, very hard to tempt. When the water gets this hot, the fish lose their appetite and apart from the first couple of hours each morning, become almost impossible to catch.

Casting spinnerbaits from daylight until about 10.00am and then switching to trolling very small hard bodies is the most reliable method at present. I am eagerly awaiting the next weather change as this will hopefully bring some cloud and allow the water to cool down and get the bite going again.



It's not all bad though as amongst the tough days there have been some highlights. Last week produced the fish of the season so far with Louise Roy of Wagga landing a 110cm Murray cod. Dragging the boga's down to 54lb, this great fish ate a Custom Crafted Extractor fitted with a pair of No 2 Owner trebles. These hooks are deadly sharp, biting deep into the jaw, allowing us to stay connected whilst the pressure was on. My spinnerbaits are also fitted with Owner hooks and the hook-up rate has jumped dramatically. These hooks aren't cheap but given the time and money we all spend chasing a fish around it's an investment.

Fishing with spinnerbaits is by far the most exciting way to catch a native fish. It's the thinking man's (or woman's) fishing. With a requirement to merge a series of skills to make a fish think that a flashing, jiggling piece of metal and plastic is something worth eating.

Spinnerbaiting starts with the ability to recognise where to cast. The subsequent cast needs to be centimetre perfect and then the drop (or sink) and retrieve need to be relative to the depth of water, current and proximity to snags. All these factors need consideration for every cast and loss of concentration will most certainly have the fish ignore your lure. The lure must stay right in the fish's face to be successful.

As with any fishing, if the fish are biting red-hot, you can get away with non-optimal techniques, but for the other 364 days of the year you have to make sure everything you do is spot-on. Keep your lures in the strike zone and when the fish decide to bite your lure will be there ready and waiting.

Jamin Forbes