

From the Fisher's Mouth

15th March 2010

Setting up a boat to fish in our local region requires a significant amount of work in order to end up with a comfortable craft to fish from. The options available to fit out a boat is mind boggling with some of the latest gadgets being nothing short of technological marvels.

One item that has almost become standard issue is the electric motor. For the non-boating people an electric motor is a battery powered engine that is used to silently propel the boat about for fishing.



The electric motor received a boost recently with Minn Kota recently releasing the i-Pilot. The i-Pilot is a bolt-on module for Minn Kota bow mounted engines that use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to store waypoints, trolling routes and also has a 'virtual anchor' which allows the user to keep the boat in the one position. As the boat drifts away from the desired spot, the i-Pilot will activate and drive the boat back to where you told it to stay. For the dam fisherman, the ability to store your favourite trolling run and then have the electric motor accurately follow that route will improve boat positioning immeasurably.

I trialled an i-Pilot a couple of weeks ago and at first use it appeared gimmicky, but once I got used to the remote control it was a comfortable addition to what is already an essential fishing tool. Wagga Marine has these units in stock and with water in Lake Albert, Harro and his team can organise an on water test.

On the water, I have been fishing Mulwala and Hay in the past week or so. Mulwala has had its tough moments, but it is starting to fish really well. With the weed all but gone, a lot more of the lake is accessible which opens up more options to fish. Some large cod



have been caught there in the past month or so, with the typical 50-60cm fish filling the day in whilst waiting for a big cod to make a mistake. The afternoon seems to be fishing better than the morning, but fish can start to bite at any time, so it pays to keep fishing regardless of the time of day.

Last week I managed to fish a day in front of the flood water at Hay, but instead of the fish biting ahead of the impending flush, they were very quiet and lethargic. Now that the water has moved through, we will have to wait until the water clears. The water will improve each day, and realistically it will be well into April before we get to see clean water suitable for lure fishing.