

## From the Fisher's Mouth

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5<sup>th</sup> April 2010

With the Easter weekend behind us, the next main fishing holiday is the ANZAC weekend. In last weeks column I spoke about how the cooler weather sparks the hunger of large Murray cod, but the Autumn months also herald the start of the cool water species on the south coast.

Yellowfin tuna and albacore begin their annual migration along the NSW south coast around April and they can be present right through winter. In addition to the tuna, Autumn also sees larger snapper, kingfish, and flathead start to feature amongst anglers captures.



For tuna, you will need a reasonable sized craft (~6m or more) to safely handle the offshore conditions (or you can hire a charter boat), whilst the inshore species such as snapper, kingfish and flathead can be targeted using boats of 4-5 metres in good weather conditions. A few marlin are always about in April so don't fish too light.

One valuable resource for inland anglers looking to travel across to the south coast is Scott Bradley of Bermagui Bait and Tackle ([www.fishbermi.com](http://www.fishbermi.com)). Scott and his team fish frequently for everything from marlin to squid, and a visit to his website, a phone call, or drop into his shop, will see you armed with the latest information and tackle to target the species biting

at a given time. Scotty has arguably the best range of bream/bass style lures in Australia and its worth dropping in to browse his lure wall alone.

One thing to keep in mind when visiting a coastal destination is to be prepared to alter your fishing plan. If you have a target species in mind, and that particular fish isn't biting, you need to be flexible enough to change tactics.

For example, if you plan to target snapper and the local fisherman haven't seen one for months, yet each day they are catching heaps of kingfish, it makes sense to change your plans and fish for the species that are available. In this manner you will have a successful trip, even though it may not be on the fish you originally planned to catch.

On the local front, the Murrumbidgee and Old Man Creek are fishing well, whilst Burrinjuck and Blowering are a little slow. Mulwala is performing nicely with some good sized fish being landed there in the past week. Lake Albert was stocked recently with 20,000 golden perch (thanks to NSW Fisheries) so by September/October the Lake should be a viable angling destination once again.

Jamin Forbes