

From the Fishers Mouth

18th May 2010

Cold wintery conditions presented for my last fishing trip to the lower Murray River. Icy winds, cold water and turbid conditions always make for challenging fishing, but we still managed to scrape a few small cod and golden perch together.

Many fishermen make an annual pilgrimage to the Murray chasing a 'fish of a lifetime' which we hope to fool into biting. The lower Murray is a huge river characterised by deep water and wide



open spaces. It makes our Murrumbidgee feel like a canal in comparison.

The attraction of the Murray is that it has a lot more adult cod than we have in the Riverina. What it doesn't have are the large numbers of smaller cod that fill in a days fishing. When fishing for large cod you don't expect many bites and I budget for one per day (if they are biting) so it's tough fishing.

The Murray does have a large population of golden perch and for anglers chasing this species, you can tally large numbers of fish. I typically don't chase the goldens, but they can attack the large lures we use for cod, so if you target them with small lures you can have some great fishing.

If you are planning a trip to the Murray, pack some extra patience, as the cod are timeless and not easily caught.

On the boating scene, Harro from Wagga Marine has a couple of boats that he wants to move on to new homes. One is a 1750 Tournament / 135hp Honda fibreglass ski-fish boat and the other is a Stacer 469 Sunmaster / 75hp ski-fish boat. Both boats are set up ready to go and Harro told me on the sly that he wants them gone. A bargain beckons.

The fishing in the river at the moment has slowed considerably as the water temperature has dropped sharply to just over ten degrees. It will take the fish a while to adapt to the cold, and they will start to bite again shortly, but at the change in seasons, they go quiet for a week or so.

In cold water, lure fishing is usually more productive than bait fishing, with spinnerbaits being a solid choice of lure. Casting lures at logs also works effectively as a cold fish doesn't like to leave his house to eat a trolled lure, whereas a spinner or hard body dropped on its nose can tempt a frigid cod.