

From the Fisher's Mouth

6th June 2010

If spending many hours chasing freshwater fish in the depths of winter isn't your idea of fun, yet you still want to satisfy the urge to fish, there are plenty of options on the coastal areas catering for a wide range of fishing tastes.



For example, winter is the best time to catch lobsters. Depending where you are on the south coast, the crabs march in to shallow water where they can be caught in pots, or for the more action oriented fishermen, you can don a wetsuit & snorkel and dive for them.

Also very active in the cooler months are squid and cuttlefish. The cuttlefish are less attractive to use as food, but with squid it's always a toss up to see if you eat the squid, or use it for bait. Squid congregate around small reef systems and weedy outcrops where you target them with specialised jigs designed to imitate a prawn or small fish.

When fishing squid jigs, cast the jig out, let it sink to be just off the bottom and retrieve slowly. The squid will wrap its tentacles around the lure and be caught on the needles. Once hooked, pull them in slowly and be careful of the ink as they always save some up for when you go to lift them in the boat.

The influx of molluscs along the south coast also brings in schools of snapper. Squid and cuttlefish are a favourite of snapper and there is no better bait than a freshly caught squid to tempt a cunning old man snapper. The snapper will also be in the shallow water where the squid are, so don't fish too deep.

For the fishermen seeking the adrenalin rush, winter is tuna time along the south coast. Yellowfin, bluefin and albacore venture close enough to our shores in winter for trailer boats to be able to reach them. With tuna, most of your time will be spent trying to find the fish as there is a lot of water between them. Look for current lines, reef systems, schools of baitfish and diving birds. Combine these factors and you will be close to the tuna. All you have to do is get them to bite and hold on!

There are plenty of other salt water options apart from those I have mentioned and to find out what is biting visit www.fishbermi.com or call Scott Bradley and his team at Bermagui Bait and Tackle on (02) 6493 5444.