

From the Fisher's Mouth

15th June 2010

The local fishing scene for the past week could only be described as abysmal. If you love boating and casting whilst freezing to death, you would have been in your element as the freezing mornings made life very unpleasant for both fish and fisherman alike.

The water temperature in the river at Hay last week hovered around eight degrees.



When water is that chilly the fish are always difficult to catch, but there was something else that all but stopped the fish from biting across a wide area with Blowering, Mulwala, and the rivers all not producing fish.

Fishing is never easy and even more difficult when the fish are cold, yet I have caught fish in good numbers from water as cold as four degrees, so I can't lay the full blame on wintery weather. The other main factors that fish like (such as a high barometer, clear

water, water not rising or falling, moon phase) were all fine, so there was obviously something that we humans don't understand that stopped them from eating.

It wasn't all doom and gloom though with Anthony Curtis of AC Lures, landing a great 94cm cod from his canoe whilst casting one of his own 70mm Invaders (in purple/pink for those who seek such details). I also managed to extract a couple of fish around 60cm for my clients, which sounds like a good result, yet between us we would have had over 1000 casts in the fifteen or so hours we fished.

The poor fishing won't last as no matter how cold it gets, fish still have to eat and with different moon phases, weather patterns and whatever other 'X' factors there are all falling back into alignment, the fisherman will have a few more wins and fish will get caught.

As I mentioned last week, if you want busy fishing for the family (or yourself), the south coast is probably your best fishing option, but if you want to tough out the cold and spend a lot of hours between bites, sooner or later through the winter months, you will hook a giant cod. It just depends how many days you are prepared to put in and whether your patience can outlast the cod's.

On a dourer note, I received reports from over the June long weekend of people using set lines in our rivers. Set lines have been illegal for about two years and people who continue to fish like this risk huge fines and possible loss of boat & car. If you find illegal fishing equipment don't tamper with it, contact your local Fisheries office and let them deal with it.