

## From the Fishers Mouth

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Jamin Forbes

The continued wet conditions are ideal for spring and summer fishing this coming season with water levels allowing fish to have more natural feeding opportunities which puts them in the right frame of mind, so they are easier to tempt on a lure or bait.

The food chain in our rivers and dams starts well away from the water with the



catchments transporting insects, worms and other small critters down small creeks into larger bodies of water. In years past, fishing was very productive where these small creeks and gullies entered the main body of water, but with so many years of drought the creeks stopped running and the fish had no reason to congregate at these locations. Now that we have somewhat of a return to normal seasonality,

hotspots such as creek mouths should again return good fishing.

Winter conditions make it challenging to catch fish, however Murray crayfish revel in cold, murky water and are feeding actively so their young mature and hatch in early spring. This influx of small crayfish adds to the myriad of small fish spawned at this time which builds the aquatic food chain. Whilst we curse the murky water as it hinders our fishing, we should be grateful as it bolsters the prey species in our waters and ultimately improves angler's catches.

There is some fishing still about with Mulwala producing cod for the persistent and the Hume Weir turning up the odd large golden perch, yet now is the time to target the massive cod of the Murray (before the season closes in September).

The increasing amount of daylight starts to get these big fish in the mood for love and in coming weeks they start to prepare nest sites (for the males) whilst the females begin to produce eggs in preparation for the right spawning conditions to arrive. The right conditions can be any time from September right through until Christmas (or not at all in some instances) but cod are very patient and wait until the time is right to give their progeny the best chance of survival.

If winter fishing isn't your thing, there is plenty of fishing available on the web with several sites providing accurate water level information, sea surface temperatures, knots, rigs, and almost any fishing related information you can think of. If you can't make sense of the web based information send an email to [jamin@riverinasportfishing.com](mailto:jamin@riverinasportfishing.com) and I will try to assist.