

Bowl Water fishing report 26/11/21

Considering the mixed weather, a week of cloud and bright sun Bowl has continued to fish well for all methods... Fly, Predator and Any Method and I would say with equal success for each.

Early last Sunday a fresh stocking was introduced at Rosemary Lane Dam at the end of Bowl Straight.

Some of the fish are still there but a good many have spread out into Tinkers Marsh and Bowl Straight as far down as Goose Creek and Dunstars Bay. In fact we have seen active fish pretty much all the way down Bowl Straight to the main Bowl. Not in prolific numbers but sufficient to give a good sheltered alternative in bad weather. However, the main bowl is still providing the best of the fishing when the winds allow and you can add to that Copens Reach, the area from Ferry Point to the Nature reserve and across plus the area from the Fishing Lodge to the cages and across.

What has become noticeable lately and normal for this time of year is that the Trout have restricted their feeding mainly to the middle of the day and that I have found the hours from 11 am – 2.30 pm to be the best. It does vary a bit dependent on the weather but that is a good rule of thumb at the moment. Also us Fly boys are still catching from the surface to about 4 ft max, even in full sunshine. However, strangely we are not getting fish below 4 ft at any time and we have tried all lines and depths to rectify this. Most of the AM boys are also catching at around 4ft on Float or Spinner and again in the restricted times and not at depth as far as I know.

I am sure this will all change as the weather and water gets colder, the upper activity will reduce and the Trout will drop deeper. It's been a strange year for fishing so far and I reckon nature has been a month late. This time last year I was catching regularly at about 10 – 20ft with a short leader and DI 7/8 !!

We shall see.

METHOD

Best method me and the regulars again this week has been to keep the flies high in the water and if left static, to sink slowly. So most popular set up has been either the single or double Booby Washing Line on Floating line or Slow sink. My set up again this week has focused on Fast Glass Intermediate, three fly leader with Cat Booby on point (size 12), Black Cormorant (size 14) on mid dropper and size 12 Sunburst Yell Blob on top dropper. If the Trout are evident and at the moment you can still see some when there is cloud cover, I replace the Blob with another Booby.

Main retrieve has been short pulls at medium speed which will get an evident bow wave or a surprise hit.

With the fish taking high in the surface I find I convert more follows with the Intermediate line than the floater when using Boobies. Always have done. The alternative has been a slow fig 8 or at times almost static which will take the lethargic cruising fish.

Opposite to the AM lads, who nearly always anchor, most of the experienced Fly rods fish on the drift weather permitting, and at the moment it is probably the most rewarding especially during the week when there are very few anchored boats.

SUMMARY

The fishing is not easy but it is rewarding with patience and observation. The main Bowl is still the first choice and Chingley side of the tower providing the most catches. But the fish have been hammered in this area for the last few weeks and many have moved away into open water and over to the playground side of the Tower. So keep moving is the best tactic especially after wind change days. On Wednesday I was out in bright sunshine and managed 5 Rainbows but each came from a different place albeit I did a couple of drifts at each move. And I loved a lot !!

I had one half way up Chingley Wood, one 80m off the playground, another at Ferry Point and two between Beaumans Point and the Dam, out in open water.

I did have have a couple of slow takes at Rosemary but they didn't materialise.

Again I cannot comment on the banks as I only saw two bank anglers and sadly where they were not in a particularly good place. The banks are slow this year but even so the areas I have recently touched fish close in have been Ferry point (Bewl Straight side), Chingley Dam Corner, Lodge to playground and it would currently be worth trying Rosemary Lane. Thing is though I am drifting with the wind into the windy banks which is where a lot of the food ends up but not many anglers do !

Tight Lines, Ray French.