

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 1st July 2022
by Ray French.

Although the water has cooled a little this week the fishing has been similar to last week with the majority of the fish coming up from the deep rather than near the surface. Having said that, there have been fish up on a regular basis, especially in the cloud. However, in my experience, the majority of these have been exclusively on fry with trout coming up from deep to take a mouth full and then going back down. Not many are staying up and chasing on the surface.

This has again made it difficult for the fly anglers in windy conditions who prefer to fish on the drift and has favoured the any method rods and those who anchor who can better reach the deeper fish in cooler water.

The primary reason for Bewl Water's fish annual migration to the depths is of course water temperature and being in the Southeast we do get above national average sunshine and temperatures.

Although cooler (today Friday) after a week of mixed weather our water temperature is still hovering around the 20c mark, feels warm to the hand and is likely to get warmer in high Summer. It is no surprise then that our stock seeks the cooler layers... and that is where they are being caught!!

Example....John Turner and I were out this week in cloud and what you would describe as ideal conditions, so we went on the drift, and fished high in the water with colour and natural flies in the main bowl where the majority of fish are at the moment. Didn't get much interest until a drift into the bubbles got me a fish. It was the only one between us though albeit we didn't stay long there, just checking, strange really but it should be only a matter of days before the trout get there in numbers, normally the fry go first and the trout follow, usually in July!

After two hours, one circuit of the Main Bowl and one fish we deemed it necessary to rethink...

Changing to the 'dark side' with fast sinking lines we did another circuit of the main bowl and a bit beyond, this time fishing as deep as the increasing wind would allow using a mixture of flies including Blobs, Cormorants, Boobies and Minkies.

Still no joy so we conceded defeat and tied up to an abandoned boat anchor buoy out near the boils. After all, fish bags dangling over the sides of several anchored boats was evidence of success so why not.

Fishing from top to bottom with the same rig and various retrieves we had a bit of interest but no trout. Another rethink... we moved and dropped the hook...this time nearer the dam in about 40ft of water, an area always popular with anglers and where trout tend to patrol for the majority of the season.

I decided to go back to Bewl's original deep water summer basics and tied a new leader using four size 8 heavy buzzers on a 10lb leader, 5ft apart with the top dropper 7 ft from the Di8 Fly line. We used to reach these deep fish using a long leader on Floating lines in the 'day' but now the fish often go much deeper!

Anyway, long story short, I got lucky, catching a fish almost immediately and went on to get a mixed bag of trout and perch with quality in both species. It took some time to establish the correct depth,

but my six trout came on the same buzzer at 35ft. That is the 20ft marker on fly line plus the third buzzer on my leader was a further 15 ft from the line. It didn't take John long to switch to buzzers with the same immediate effect. His fish also came on the 20ft line-markings. Our trout came within a 10ft band of the depth described and the perch were the same and obviously swimming together.

I don't know but it is a reasonable assumption that throughout the main bowl the fish could be at a similar depth or on the bottom in shallower water, a theory we shall explore next time. Anyway, by 4pm the action had waned sufficiently for us to call it a day. We got there in the end.

SUMMARY

There is no doubt the fish are there, in fact I know they are but for us they were taking deeper than I had expected given the conditions. Also, they seemed to want not to chase unless on the surface and then they were only evident for a second or two to snatch fry and then not often. At depth they didn't take anything pulled, i felt they were merely cruising preferring static 'food' either as Buzzers or Bait!!

DEEP BUZZER TECHNIQUE

For those Fly boys who have not tried it...

Simple, providing your line is marked at 10ft intervals to say 40ft.

Lower leader and flies to bottom*. Slowly fig8 to surface until a take or fish. Note where you are from line-markings.

To find the bottom of a deep reservoir I use an old Sea weight with the point fly through its loop. I have caught fish at 50ft at Bewl Water and at that depth without the weight the bottom is difficult to feel.

GENERAL

Further information from the Rangers and other sources tells me of fish being caught in other areas than the Main Bowl such as Goose Creek, Monty's Seat, Seven Pound Creek, Ferry Point and Hook House. In the main bowl, the most productive spots have been the dam area, Chingley Wood and Point, the Playground and Beauman's Point.

But most importantly in general the fish are down, not always as deep as we found them but that is often the case.

Fish depth is critical, they like to be in conditions they find the most comfortable and that is the cooler water that depth provides. You will find that, and you will catch fish quite easily, many do, the AM boys especially.

We found them this week and you can too. I can appreciate the method is not to everyone's liking but hey, either way, I find it great to be out on the water at this time of year in a boat from 8.30am until whenever...fishing... think about it.

Tight lines, Ray F.

Right: One of the better ones from 30ft plus.

