

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday Dec 16th.

by Ray French

"It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas"...well it has this week, especially at Bewl, resplendent in white where it certainly looks like Christmas. With the beauty also comes a 'present'.... the Trout are joining the party!!

The reservoir is filling nicely and together with the extreme cold the water colour, which has been dirty for so long, is beginning to recover with visibility improving from the 18" of a week ago to about 4ft - 5ft now. I am sure the water content and colour has contributed greatly to the poor fishing performances of late, which have not reflected the reservoirs normal standard for late summer and Autumn. Obviously, what with the that, the cold, the snow, and the travelling conditions there has not been many rods about this week. But some of those that did brave it managed to catch with one boat getting into double figures!

FISHING

Both Any Method and Fly rods have caught fish and in bright sun, light wind and calm. Not ideal conditions and not everyone caught, but a good start to recovery. The last report two weeks ago described the best time to fish to be between 12-2pm when the fish were prepared to rise, albeit they didn't want to chase or feed and were extremely difficult to catch. We did fish deep for a lot of the time but with no response, again due I am now sure to the water quality!

However, with the improving water it will now be worth trying all depths again with increasing confidence. At this time of year I have had most success pretty deep and often hard on the bottom with a Booby and 2ft leader on a fast-sinking line, fished very slowly from both boat and bank, albeit sometimes I have had to anchor the boat in a wind to fish slow. Having said that, even in Winter the fish will change levels maybe several times a day in warm weather and good water so be prepared to mix your fishing depth especially if you see fish. Maybe come up on a Floater or Slow Sink. My favourite Bewl combination at any time is a three or four fly leader on an Airflo Fast Glass 40+ intermediate line with a Booby on Point. If I need to fish the leader higher in the water I put another Booby or Fab on top dropper.

Of course, it's a lot easier for the Any Method lads to change depth and speed by using a fixed spool reel with a lure/spinner or with baited hooks on a float. But for me their big advantage in Winter is that they can wear gloves!!!

SUMMARY

Certainly, the water clearing has made a difference and it should continue to clear as it fills. Hopefully tomorrow and Sunday's weekend anglers will get a few fish especially those that know the water and anchor. Personally, I recommend you look at the main Bowl, the beginning of Hook Strait to the Cages and Bewl Straight both sides with Chingley Point as ever a favourite.

The wind of late has been basically Northerly, hence the cold weather however, apparently it is about to turn to a South Westerly over the weekend and become milder. This will help those out on Sunday and hopefully keep the temperature up over the Christmas holidays. It will also put fish back on the Dam and on the left side of Bewl Straight looking out from the boat Jetty. It has been blowing from the Dam of late.

STOCKING

As most of you know there has been TWO good stockings over the last few weeks but due to unfavourable circumstances not many Trout have come out. This does mean that there is a currently a reasonable head of Trout...

.... AND THERE'S MORE TO COME NEXT WEEK!!! yes, another Trout stocking to go in next week to liven things up over Christmas and January...

CHRISTMAS FISHING

Bowl Water will be open to fishing EVERY DAY over Christmas except Christmas day (25th) even the Monday and Tuesday!

Tight lines, Ray French.

