

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 30th December 2022.

by Ray French.

This has been a short week with mixed fortunes for Anglers almost totally dictated by the weather which has been very much a mirror of all the seasons with cold, rain, sun, and violent wind. On the better days support has been good, with 40 boats out, however today (Friday) apparently only one braved it and that was back in by 11am such was the conditions!!

The fishing has been similar for both Any Method and the Fly boys where some have caught well whilst others have struggled. I couldn't get down myself, what with a family Christmas and then a cold, but I have talked to a few regulars and Head Ranger Dan Baker.

At this time of year it is always a bit hit and miss, the water starts to clear and then it rains hard and colours again, especially in a big wind. This certainly makes it difficult for the fish to see Flies and Spinners especially when fished at speed. Coupled with the cold winds, there is less likelihood of a hatch to bring the fish up.

Most success of late for all methods has come from fishing on the bottom in depths up to 30ft. On the fly I have actually found the best depth to be 5ft-20ft but some of the bait fishers have caught deeper I hear. A few Pike anglers have been out and again with mixed success, but no biggies were reported this week.

SUMMARY

What we do know is there is no shortage of fish. It is the conditions that are making it difficult, but you can increase your chances by adapting to the fish's habitual Winter attitude....

As the water gets colder they tend to slow down and go deeper. Often just lying on the bottom, not moving far or fast and even more so when the water is coloured. I tend to anchor and fish from bottom up on fast sinking lines (unless I see rising fish). The AM rods do this pretty much all the time to good effect especially when using bait on rigs or float.

With short days and limited time I stick to the main Bowl and Bewl Straight. If it's rough weather with a SW wind Bewl Straight offers good shelter and has fish it's whole length to Rosemary Lane Dam. Fishable again now that the water level is rising.

Having talked about the conditions this week, they do of course change, often daily, which is why our sport is so difficult to predict. However the fish are coming out regularly, though it is very much a matter of luck.... a matter of right time, right place. But then isn't there always a large element of that.

Remember, Bewl is open for fishing every day now until January 31st.....see you down there.

Tight lines, Ray F.