

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 24th March 2023

By Ray French

More stock went in this week... The feast goes on!!

Bewl water is now 100% and overflowing (see image below).

Last weekend and this week sport has been very good with all methods catching, many reaching limit bags. With such a good head of fish, once located, it is very much a matter of filling your boots. However, fishing, like house prices, is very much a matter of location, location, location.

At this time of the year the fish tend to shoal up especially after a heavy stocking. Hot spots are, as always in the early season, the main bowl, Bewl Straight its Bays and Creeks and Rosemary Lane dam. However, due to the large amount of pre-season stocking, much of which was done from a moving boat as reported last week, a lot of other places are yielding fish for those who like to keep on the move or enjoy the peace and solitude of a quiet spot you can make your own.

Over the week the end of Hook Straight, Seven Pound Creek and Hook House have produced fish for those who visited them as did Copens Reach. Copens Reach is the big area round the corner directly opposite the Lodge and down to the Bird Sanctuary. I know from comments that the 'trickle stocking' has proved immensely popular and that Head Ranger Dan Baker is keen to repeat the process. However much depends of course on the weather, available staff, and stock delivery times. Evidence of that was as recent as this week when another 2,000 fish were delivered whilst it was still dark, bringing the total stocked so far in the region of 8,000 fish!!

My report this week is somewhat shorter due solely to the excessive winds we are getting at the moment and my fishing being curtailed as a result. The boats have been going out but at my age I thought it prudent to give it a miss today.

### THE BOATS

The thing that hasn't changed much this week is that the majority of fish are still very much round the periphery in no more than 20ft of water and often a lot less, grazing on the freshly covered banks. The majority of Any Method guys, mostly at anchor, are still catching on single small spinning lures although there is always a few who like to cover their options by using three rods. One ledger baited on the bottom, another bait suspended on a float and the third spinning!!

Wind permitting, I am fishing loch style again as are most of us fly boys and now off the Booby Basher and onto the 'Washing Line' using a DI5 with Booby and two Cormorants. Frankly though, it doesn't really matter what flies you use from Buzzer to Blob but for the best results retrieve as slow as possible with the occasional pull to sink the Booby. Apart from allowing your team to get through the layers, pulling the Booby down and allowing it to float slowly back up is a good tactic and got me in into double figures this week, with 8 on the Cormorants.

### THE BANKS

As I said, spreading the stocking by boat is popular, especially with bank anglers who have plenty of bank choice at the moment, irrespective of which way the wind is blowing. If, for example, the wind is making it awkward to fish from the bank at the Playground, hop on the ferry and get a lift over to Ferry Point. There is plenty of fish over there. In fact, I have found in the boat that there is as many fish off the wind in placid water as there is on it.

Up at Rosemary on Monday, whilst the AM boats sat braving the wind fishing onto the Cottages, we drifted lazily off the wind over the other side picking up fish regularly. Lovely fishing.

#### CONCLUSION

So, over the weekend, and if boat fishing is possible which as far as I know it is, get out of the wind in Bewl Straight. There are fish both sides all the way up to the Dam.

Fish slowly from top to bottom and you won't need to fish far from the banks, but do give the bank rods plenty of room. They only get about 6/8 weeks with the banks at their best before the water heats up and the fish move out.

Needless to say I shall be out again when the wind drops a tad, that is one benefit of retirement. After saying the fish are up and down in the water, the wind is still cold so from boat and especially the bank, if you are not catching put a Booby 3/4ft from the end of a sinking line, cast out let it settle on the bottom and then twiddle it back ultra slow. It rarely fails early season.

Tight lines, Ray F.

