

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 15th Dec. 23
by Ray French

As a result of Sunday's stocking combined with some milder weather, the fish this week have responded in a positive way for all methods, and it is looking good into next week as well! The new fish spread out quickly over the main Bowl to all the usual places and have livened up the residents and those from last month.

I was out Wednesday with John T as usual, which during the morning had an overcast sky and very little wind from the West. Just about perfect for fishing at this time of year which ideally is low and slow. Of course, being a Fly angler, my reports are biased towards that particular method, but the Trout are the same and are found in the same places so how and where I catch will often be beneficial to all.

For the last four weeks I have been catching hard on the bottom using a fast sink fly line in a maximum of 15ft (5m) of water using two Minky Boobies, and fishing very slow with a 10 second hang halfway up at the boat. I assume other rods or methods are catching ok at different depths and speeds. I have tried other ways but over the years when the first frosts arrive this is a banker!

Anyway, back to Wednesday...

We fished until 2pm around the main bowl with mixed fortunes. Where last week John managed 5 to my 4, this week the fish preferred my end of the boat with me grabbing 5 including a double-up and another dropped, to John's nil. Ridiculous when you consider I tied his leader two weeks ago and we were using the same flies. That's fishing!! Oh yes and I also caught and witnessed my first ever Crayfish at Bewl in 40yrs on Wed. I put a picture of it on Facebook yesterday. It took my fly in it's one large claw similar to a Flounder bite.

SUMMARY

Weather looks good for the weekend and next week. The sun, if any, is too weak now to be a major problem and although I have been catching deep there has been evidence of rising fish especially at midday.

The bank Anglers have been doing well when the winds have been favourable, that is slightly into the face. This week the wind has been off the Lodge so the fish on that bank have been few. The far end of the Dam and Ferry Point would possibly be a better choice. On a light wind, onshore is the best one to have at Bewl.

NOTE

One thing I need to mention on the fly. Fishing on the drift, with the method we use, does not yield as many fish, no matter how slow it is as anchored or tethered.

When on the method the fish often follow the fly along the bottom on retrieve all the way back to the boat, just tapping the tail. This is very similar to the feel of small lakebed debris bouncing the fly so it can be confusing. At the boat lift the flies just off the bottom and hold for a second and then fig 8 up almost to the surface and hold again for up to 10 seconds. I catch a high percentage of fish at these two holding positions. Yes, they can be fickle in winter and so easy to miss. The boat needs to be no more than a casting platform.

One or two Boobies on a short leader has always been the go-to winter tactic from boat, dam, or bank and often banned on small waters. But with the switch to barbless wide gaped hooks these days to catch and release, the fly has become far less damaging.

Tight lines, have a good week. Ray French.

Below: 4 from Wednesday, another went back along with the Cray fish.

