

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.
Week ending Friday 12th Jan. 2024
by Ray French.

BEWL BONANZA!!!
3,000 Rainbows in to keep you warm in Winter...

Stocked on Monday, the latest fighting furies quickly showed and provided sport for those that challenged the elements...unfortunately this week the elements mostly won. For much of the week, the temperatures have been kept down by a Northeast wind which when it blew, put the anglers and the fish off...bloody freezing!

Fortunately, there was a window of opportunity on Wednesday and I did manage to get out with John T for the morning. On arrival the sun was just showing, the sky was clear and there was no wind (see picture below). There were also quite a few fish showing between the lodge and Beauman's Point. However, by the time Ranger Rob 'defrosted' the boat and got us away there was a slight ripple and no fish to be seen.

One thing that has been consistent over the past couple of weeks has been the dirty water colour. This is not surprising given the big winds and rain we have had but throughout it has not stopped us catching. Those that read my reports regularly will have seen that our tactics from the boats have been to present our flies hard on the bottom on D18 sinking lines. Each time I bring the flies up I ask myself how the fish see the them in this colour water. The conclusion I have come to is they don't, the majority are on the bottom and we get down to them. It may even be a bit clearer down there, I have no idea, but I do know that their bellies are on the mud and they are looking up. Our Minky Boobies bounce on the stones and muscles in the mud. On a slow retrieve you can feel them. Then occasionally the rod tip arches over and you're in!

I also always hold the flies 4ft from the surface for 10 seconds for sometimes a Trout will follow up and grab it. Not often, but usually once a session they have a go. Also, none of our fish in the last two months have come in water over 15ft and mostly about 10ft. I cannot speak for the Any Method lads but rarely do I see them very far from the banks at this time of the year, so I suspect they are working to the same plan.

Anyway, we fished Wednesday morning anchoring in no more than 15ft of water at the Playground, the Aqua Park, Chingley Corner and Chingley Point before the wind blew up. The dreaded North Easterly and extremely cold normally puts the fish off, it certainly did us and off we came. We did catch fish though, which surprised me considering the temperature drop. I had four and John had a couple but they were shy biting. Very enjoyable.

SUMMARY

Apparently, fishing was good today (Thursday) with tomorrow and the weekend also looking dry hopefully with light winds.

Whatever method you choose, at this time of year, low and slow is the preferred retrieve. Around about lunchtime, the warmest part of the day, some fish do show but they are very difficult to catch and I suspect they are 'onecers', fish that surface for a quick look and then dive back down again. One thing of note, in all the time this winter we have been fishing with Boobies on the bottom, we have not had a fish at any point 'on the drop'!!!

Have a good week, the fish are there for sure...

Ray French

Pic: Bewl Wednesday morning

