

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT  
Week ending Friday 26 Jan. 2024  
by Ray French

The stocking a couple of weeks ago has certainly added consistency to the winter fishing at Bewl. If you get the conditions right, there is some good sport on offer. Obviously, the big winds during this past week have not been good but between them there have been windows of opportunity which some rods have taken advantage of. When the prevailing winds are blowing from the North, we all shiver. However, this is not always the case at Bewl as the Dam provides good shelter for some distance in the main bowl and all of Bewl Straight is sheltered anyway. A big wind from the Southwest in winter is not so good, especially in the main Bowl. Best to keep out of it around the edges, or in the many other bays and straights, but again I would not go more than 70yds from a bank at the moment.

#### THE FISHING

As I said earlier, the fishing has been very consistent so far this winter, mainly because the water temperatures have not been seriously low, and the recent stocking livened the locals up. But it is nevertheless winter and for the most part the fish are on the bottom, not necessarily in deep water but on the lakebed. Neither is it easy fishing. It is very much a matter of some catch some blank and because they are not often visible it makes finding them a bit trial an error. But catch them we do and all methods, Fly, Predator and Any Method are sharing the spoils.

Having said that, I was out this morning with boat Partner John Turner for a couple of hours just off the Lodge and it was difficult. Nice sunshine but we were at the end of last night's big blow and the wind was both cold and brisk albeit a westerly. For whatever reason they just didn't want to play and although I had a couple it was slow. A bit different to the bag we had last week but I had to go home early today and we probably missed the best of it over lunch time but hey-ho, we'll never know! Good news though, the wind is due to drop further and I reckon this weekend will fish really well and next week is looking good too!!

Most of the time the fish are close to the bottom in a maximum 20ft (7m) of water. If the sun is out some will rise higher in the water, usually about 11.30 to 1.30pm. Yes, they can be that predictable. Due to work on the dam the water has been kept low. High winds and rain on exposed mud banks have resulted in the problem of some coloured water. It doesn't look good but so far it has not stopped the fish being taken, albeit as fly angler I am using bigger flies than normal. I doubt it makes little difference to the bait and lure boys!

Bewl is open for another month and the fish are in excellent condition and certainly worth fishing for but as always in winter every day is different...

Tight lines, have a good week.  
Ray French.

The Minky Booby strikes again!

