

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

For the week ending Friday 19th April 2024.

by Ray French.

FISH GALORE!!!!

Bewl Spring fishing is now in full flow with plenty of Trout being caught by both Any Method and Fly rods from all over the reservoir. Yes, the persistent winds have made it difficult at times, but last Mondays stocking of 3,000 more prime Rainbows from Rosemary Lane dam has ensured that Bewl Straight has now got a good head of fish for all weathers.

Bewl Straight offers good areas of shelter for most winds and is a popular retreat during inclement weather for bank and boat anglers alike. The main benefit of stocking Rosemary Lane early season is that the water level is normally at its highest, yet still relatively shallow, which provides good grazing over freshly covered banks & grass as the water warms. The Trout also disperse relatively quickly and move to seek out the many Bays and Creeks that make up Bewl Straight, as have the fish that were stocked at the top of Hook Straight recently. They are now active throughout Hook Straight including Seven Pound Creek. Another large fish holding area that can provide good shelter.

THE FISHING

The sport this week has been everything it has promised with lots of bending rods into some top-quality fish with plenty at 3lb+. Good news is that there have been three major developments this week in terms of fish activity and methods:

- There has been, for the most part, a big improvement in water clarity.
- Although the windy shores are still slightly coloured, they are now holding Trout in numbers on the search for windblown food.
- The Trout are now holding out in open water and on the feed especially in the Main Bowl.

I was out twice this week on Bewl, Wednesday and today (Friday), and both days were memorable in terms of numbers and quality. After getting turned over by John T last Wednesday (reported last week) I was determined to give it my best this week. And so it transpired. We found some fish and I found some form & caught into double figures which included several fish over the 3lb mark. What was good about it, we caught in different places. Rosemary Lane, Copens Reach and the Main Bowl.

All my fish were caught on Airflow Fast Glass 40+ intermediate line with a team of Cormorants either fished straight through, or with a small white Booby on point as a 'Washing line'. John caught on similar flies and method.

Today (Friday) I went out with Bewl Club colleague and friend of long-standing, Nick Cox. We had a fabulous morning's fishing drifting across the Main Bowl on 'Washing line' to fish that were coming out of nowhere to grab our flies. I was using the same flies as Wednesday. We caught a lot of fish including five 'double ups' which we managed to hook and land.

NOTE: We used barbless hooks and all fish caught were returned to the water unharmed to fight another day.

ANY METHOD.

AM anglers have been doing well on bait over the winter, especially on the bottom. However, now we are in Spring the water begins to warm, and the fish rise to natural food, the spinning lures have taken over and are catching steadily, especially as the water clears. A few Pike are getting caught too. I've not heard of any specimens as yet but there are a few rods targeting the Toothy Critters.

There are always a couple of regulars who spin specifically for Perch. There are a lot this year and I know they are regularly caught deep in high Summer in excess of 3lb. However, at the moment on the Fly 4oz is a good one!

HOT SPOTS

Bearing in mind the cold wind has been predominantly from the North the fish have been surprisingly very much on it and in some places very close to the bank. The problem there is the bank boys will find it hard to cast, and also many of the banks with the water high are flanked by trees.

Favourites areas this week in no particular order are:

- * The Main Bowl.
- * Top of Hook Straight.
- * Seven Pound Creek.
- * Hook House.
- * Mussel Bay & Monty's Seat.
- * Ferry Point to Dunstars.
- * Dunstars Bay
- * Goose Creek to Rosemary Lane and Tinkers Marsh.

Tight lines and good fishing...

Ray French.

Below. Nick Cox with a nice fish off the dam.

