



JUNE 2009 Monthly Round Up

OFFSHORE

As we went in to June cool green water of no more than 19 degrees plagued off shore waters, during that 1st week bluer water of 19-20.5 degrees was near the northern sea mount wide of the continental shelf and made its way well inside the shelf prior to the Queen's birthday long weekend. Temperatures of 21.5 degrees were reached and the fresh current pushing down from the north carried with it an abundance of Albacore of 3-8kg up until the Friday and the captures over the weekend included mostly fish of 7-14kg with the heaviest specimen tipping the scales at 28.5kg.

Yellow Fin Tuna were the primary target and they really turned it on that Saturday with multiple captures both on lures and as a result of persistent cubing efforts by many. We saw a number of boats take their first ever fish and whilst the heaviest we weighed was no more than 42kg, the majority were between 25-35kg. Some vessel like Ali Mae II, skippered by visiting angler Jim Jones spent most of the Saturday afternoons catching Yellow Fin from their cube trail with plenty of these fish below the boat and after landing a dozen fish they were worn out and ready for home having tagged most of their fish. This was typically case for a number of vessels over the weekend. Generally, everyone landed Albacore tuna's and the vast majority took at least one Yellow Fin during their visit. Sea Surface Temperature Charts provided little assistance this month gone by due to high levels of cloud cover be upon on so many days preventing clear images to work off.

The level of bait offshore remains high with some schools of pilchard, sauries and striped tuna's, this coupled with water temperatures to suit saw a number Striped Marlin still holding offshore with three captures over that weekend and a few more raised or dropped. The heaviest marlin was that taken by Terry Roberts and crew of 'Sea Horse' visiting from Warnambool. Having only just landed a 120kg Mako shark their vessel was waiting for the assistance of friends to move their shark when a live bait set under a balloon at the back of their boat disappeared only to resurface inside the mouth of a 118kg Striped Marlin. Ian Ford and crew of 'Hotshot' captured a Striped marlin also of 100kg taken by the every productive Halco Laser Pro 190DD in the infamous King Brown colour.

Tuna schools have been off shore for some weeks and from time to time you can spend hours chasing these fish feeding on the surface on Sauries, it's quite spectacular and while the odds are against you in hooking one of these fish there's nothing quite like watching a few 40-70kg fin busting up in front of you.

MONTAGUE ISLAND

The Island has produced Kingfish consistently with the majority of fish coming in between 650-850mm in recent weeks, live baits being the standout method until the seals arrive and clean up most of the baits then it's off to the northern end trolling lures and jigging these fish from the bottom to mid water. The standard spread of tuna lures has produced fish readily and a 3-way hookup of Bonito and perhaps a Kingie is certainly full of thrills and sometimes spills. Smaller pink 150-200gm knife jigs remains consistent producers of good kings but as we all know these are one of the most finicky species in our water and quite often it's all or nothing but one thing is for sure there's been plenty of good size fish (over 65cm legal length). Those using medium size thread line outfits pursuing these fish on artificial baits like 5 or 7 inch Berkeley Gulps and Hollow belly's have done quite well but given the seals on site quite often you can play the fish out on the bottom first and then aim to more quickly pull these fish in directly to the boat. Fighting a good King on 14 or 20lb braided lines and 6-10kg graphite rods does really allow you to turn such fish straight away nor fight a green fish quick enough to beat a hungry seal.

INNER REEFS

The inner reef fishing has been slower than expected whilst we've seen some good Snapper taken from the wider reefs (6 & 12 Mile) weighing up to 4kg inshore numbers are not terrific and average sizes have ranged down from 1-1.5kg fish down to the more standard pinkie of less than 1kg. The odd larger Morwong is apparent and a feed of medium sized Flathead is still quite achievable both north and south of the port in recent weeks in no more than 45m deep of water. Gummy sharks were being picked up by a few fishermen fishing the reefs around Bermagui despite the moon phase. More typically however, the majority are now coming in off the beaches again including Adam Lindreas daylight capture of the pictured 12.5kg fish taken off Long Swamp north of the township. The odd Bronze whaler shark has been released from the local beaches but Salmon remain quite prominent on most beaches, in particular when fishing from at dawn and dusk or heading towards a full tide. A few nice Tailors have been caught in Wallaga Lake in recent weeks and surprisingly we landed a few healthy flathead in there during the past month also on soft artificial baits.

DEEP DROPPING OFFSHORE

The use of Electric reels was again a highly productive means of fishing with a couple of boats taking goods numbers Blue Eye Trevalla, Gemfish and Hapuka. Steve Tedesco skippering the See Bee captured all three of these species and more on one charter during May. Allan and crew visiting from Canberra last weekend landed three Ling to 18kg. A regular dropper to the depths offshore Graham Darlington had a Blue Eye Trevalla on each of the allowable three hooks on his rig only to lose out to a very hungry Mako near the boat.

ESTUARY

We're still getting reports of some nice Flathead being taken in the river here and most of that activity has been close to the mouth given the fresh water of recent rains pushing salt friendly species down stream. It's prime time to start targeting Bream and even Estuary Perch on soft and hard lures. Cool clear waters provide some excellent opportunity to sight fish the species and also give you a chance at pulling a few fish out of the odd school.

Blackfish, Trevally and Bream are being readily caught on lightly weighted baits in the harbour and some good sized squid are starting to move in. They can also be jigged up off the nearby rock walls and ledges. It's also prime time for Drummer fishing with cooked prawn and Cunjovei the prime baits either fished with a running sinker straight to the hook (Gladiator Live Bait 1 or 1/0 or Mustad 542 1/0) or under a float. Most importantly is burley with a mix of tuna oil, bread, sand and some Cunjovei perfect for the job. Make sure you remain consistent and keep throwing a handful of mix on to the ledges adjacent to where your fishing and allow the swell to wash it back in to the water. This not only brings a few of the target species on to the bite but draws a few of his neighbors along from nearby holes as well.

Cheers

Scotty, Cam, Michael and James