

G'day lads

Launched about 6:45AM at Roseville ramp on Sat AM and headed around to Balmoral, chasing live bait. They were a little skittish on Saturday and it wasn't until well after 8 that we arrived at the Heads, ready to fish. With the sun streaming down and the tide all wrong, I thought it would be hard to score a fish or two, for the three new anglers I had aboard.

But it wasn't. The two live downrigged yakkas (one at 5m, one at 7m) were soon snaffled, by hungry kingies:





Strikes and hookups came steadily (although, no big kingies) until the bait tank was exhausted:





At that point we headed east for a few miles, hoping to find some surface fish. No joy on that plan although the water looked good, 22.8 with a strong northerly current.

Back out again on Sunday morning with an interesting crew. First my old mate Rod, who has become obsessed with fly fishing and is totally focused on taking his first king on fly. Considering how hot the kingie bite is currently I thought it might be a good day, to achieve that one.

Also aboard were Dave and Anthony, two top blokes keen to get into kingie fishing. We arrived at the usual grounds to find Doctor Mark and his sidekick doing well on saltwater fly:



I dropped two yakkas down to 5 and 7 metres on the DRs and promised the lads it wouldn't be long 'til the drags were howling.

How wrong can I be! After 30 minutes we hadn't turned a reel. The tide was all wrong but I could still see kings on the sounder, and Mark seemed to be hooking up steadily. On checking the baits I could see one possible factor- the water was so clear the cannonball could be *clearly* seen, in 7m. And the yellow braid looked like a laser beam. My guess was, all the gear down there - 2 weights, drop backs, fluoro braid etc- was putting the kingies off, especially as we were up over the shallow banks this morning. We pulled up the downriggers, got the burley going, and fished unweighted live yakkas down into the trail.

This turned the trick. Dave and Anthony hooked up then Rod was on, with a Clouser fly.





Rod's fish broke the flyline but the lads brought both their fish to the boat, for a pic and then release.



After an hour or so we had all enjoyed a good session and headed back in, before the day got too hot. You learn something new every day out there, may have to go to mono or even fluorocarbon leaders, now the northerly current is making the water so clear. Cheers to all, Andy