Georges River hot spots

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I realise I have not covered the Georges River as much as I should lately and I apologise for that, so this month’s report will focus on where and how to target bream, bass, whiting and flathead there.

Let’s begin from the Captain Cook Bridge to the bridge at Alfords Point and next month we might run from Alfords Point to the weir at Liverpool.

The Captain Cook Bridge is extremely accessible and has plenty of parking at either end so it can at times be fished very heavily.

On the southern end you see many anglers sitting and waiting for their floats to be taken down by mullet. Many anglers here use what I call a kelly pole, although many of these rigs these days are more like European coarse fishing outfits.

The southern side is a great place to fish on a run-out tide for bream, flathead, whiting and the odd jewfish.

I prefer to fish the run up on the northern side of the bridge and I mainly confine my fishing times to the mornings or just before dusk when the high tides are no greater than 1.6m in height.

I suggest you put your bait and your catch in a bucket when fishing here because there are plenty of bait- and fish-stealing rats here, especially at night.

From a boat you can anchor up-current of the bridge and fish back towards the structure or you could anchor near one of the pylons and cast your offerings into the eddies that form here.

But don’t anchor in between the pylons and obstruct the channel because it is against boating regulations.

BALD FACE POINT

Bald Face Point can be fished from the shore or a boat. Shore fishers can park at the end of Stuart Street and take a short walk down to the rocks. Use a 3m-3.6m rod because the current can race past at times and a rod of this length will make landing the fish much easier.

One of my preferred rigs here is the paternoster, as it tends to not get as many snags as a ball sinker down to a swivel and a long leader.

You can fish Bald Face at all tides but I prefer a rising tide to keep my sinker away from the rocks and out on the sandy bottom.

From a boat you can drift and use your sounder to locate bait schools at the edges of the drop-offs and then anchor up. Or you can slowly work casting hard-bodied lures and soft plastics back to the rocky shore. Don’t cast too close, there are plenty of snags.

When anchored a small but steady berley trail will keep the fish nearby.

Jewfish, bream, flathead, whiting and sharks are often caught here.

OATLEY BAY

This small bay at times can produce bream, flathead and whiting. The shore is dotted with rock bars, pontoons, moored boats and mangroves, all of which at times can hold fish. Take care because it is pretty shallow and muddy.

It’s best fished a couple of hours before the rising tide and two to three hours into the falling tide. Once the tide is about half-way down I suggest you move out and fish the front edge of the entrance and the weed beds on the opposite shore. Be careful, the weed beds are in shallow water.

WORONORA RIVER

Access to shore spots is from either end the Como Bridge. The southern is the easiest but the northern tends to be more productive.

The tide always races through here so you need to time your fishing to about an hour either side of the tide change.

Watch out for passing boats, the channel is in easy casting distance of the shore.

In Summer many anglers anchor upstream of the bridge and fish into the dark for jewfish. In Winter you can still catch jewfish as well as bream and some monster whiting. Best baits are strips of fresh mullet, slimy mackerel, pink nippers and blood and tube worms.

My preferred rig here is a No 2-4 ball or bean sinker down onto a swivel with a 1m-2m leader. Berley is a must.
LUGARNO

On the southern side of the river opposite the old Lugarno ferry are a number of land-based options with plenty of parking nearby.

On the northern side there is a great walkway that over hangs the river for the shore-based angler but parking is very limited because of the seafood restaurant at the end of Forest Road.

The main channel is closer to the southern side and it is not a great cast to get to deeper water, and there don’t seem to be as many snags on the southern side.

The water on the northern side is a little deeper but both sides produce bream, flathead, whiting, jewfish and the odd luderick.

SALT PAN CREEK

This creek is mainly a spot for the boat angler and the edges are very shallow and muddy. It is best fished on a falling tide from the small bridge upstream down to the entrance.

Position your boat about 4m-5m from the shore and cast lures as tight to the edge as you can. Bream, flathead and whiting feed in close.

Images

Bic Fox can’t get enough of fishing from his kayak for bream and bass. Who wouldn’t when you get to tangle with these two brutes?

This Georges River bass took a diving minnow.
Flathead are good fish on which to hone your soft plastic skills.