**Episode 80:** Lake Eildon Murray Cod With John Cahill [Download MP3]

**John Cahill**
Fishing Journalist and Tackle Rat

John is a well-known fishing personality and co-owner of Ebb Tide Tackle. Over the years he’s published over 300 fishing articles in multiple magazines, covering a range of topics, though in recent years he’s focused more on writing about his passion: surface fishing for pelagics.

Growing up in Shepparton, John has fished for Victorian Murray cod since he was a kid and has a fascination for the species.

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**John’s Hot Tips Eildon Murray Cod Fishing**

- Lake Eildon is a year-round Murray Cod fishing option, with no closed season for the species in this storage. Winter tends to be characterised by fewer fish, but a better quality of fish being caught.
- John likes to move relatively quickly through the lake, putting a handful of casts into every likely area then moving on in search of active fish. When he comes to a likely piece of structure, a place he knows holds fish or a patch of baitfish he’ll put in a few extra casts.
- It’s a mistake to not mix up the lures and techniques. Just because you caught a cod once on a particular pure or technique doesn’t mean that will always work, so have an open mind and try other lures and techniques.
- When the cod are shut down and the fishing is tough it’s important to keep fishing and be persistent. Low light periods and night are usually best but sometimes you’ll be surprised by quality fish during the day.

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The main bait species are roach or redfin. When you see the schools you’ll know what depth to fish, surface or deep. Sometimes these bait schools are down as deep as 15m, and that’s where the cod will be when this happens.

Finding cod in Eildon: John like the areas south of an imaginary line through Fraser National Park for cod. There are plenty of cod north of this line, but they’re best fished with weedless presentations, rather than the big swimmers John loves to use. South of Fraser National Park John likes to focus on the steep rocky banks where swimmers can be easily worked with less chance of getting snagged. For the novices throwing spinnerbaits here, letting them sink well down and rolling them super slowly is deadly.

John finds the Murray cod fishing is especially good when the barometer is falling steeply, lightning is flashing and thunder is roaring. A rising barometer works well too. Periods of stable barometric pressure are still worth fishing, but it can be a little tougher.

**John’s Preferred Murray Cod Tackle**

- John is sponsored by Megabass and loves their rods, reels and lures for cod fishing.
- The three rods he likes to use are the Megabass Destroyer TS Poker, Destroyer TS Casino and a Black Jungle Super Red Demon.
- John couples these rods with Megabass Rhodium and Megabass Lynn reels. All are swimbait models designed for working large, heavy baits.
- Lines are usually PE4 or PE5 YGK braid, needed to set big hooks and prevent the loss of expensive swimmers.
- 60lb mono leader is perfect for protection against abrasion from rocks, logs and other structure.

**John’s Best Murray Cod Lures**

- A Megabass Magdraft soft plastic swimbait in 8” or 10” fished slow or deep at 6-8m along walls. Expect to get snagged occasionally if you’re fishing them properly, it’s a good indication you’re in the zone. This lure can also be worked slightly faster and shallower at night. Dawn and dusk are the prime swimbait times, along with night time.
- In winter and into spring the fish are moving up on the edges and John like to throw a Megabass Vatalion swimbait. These are fished with plenty of pauses and twitches, with hits invariably occurring on the pause, so don’t be tempted to just slow roll them. John works these from the reel without too much rod action.
- A large spinnerbait is John’s other “must have” lure. His favourite is a 1oz Cod X Twin Spin fished deep and rolled as slowly as possible. John uses these through the day when the fish are down deeper.

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Episode Sponsors

- **Make Wooden Lures** is Greg “Doc Lures” Vinall’s passion project, where he shows fishermen from all over the world how easy it is to hand make their own custom lures. From crankbaits, to vibration baits, stickbaits, popper, jerkbaits and more, you’ll find all the info you need to go from zero to hero in no time!
- **Fishotopia** is where Australia’s genius fishing minds hang out to share their secrets and talk tackle, technique and more. Join the community and find out how the ten percent fish!

John’s Sponsors And Business

- Megabass are sponsors of John and his fishing via [Viva Fishing Australia](https://viva.com.au). John uses their rods, reels and lures for his Eildon cod fishing
- **Mako Eyewear** and **Simrad** also support John’s fishing and journalistic endeavours.
- **Ebb Tide Tackle** is the online tackle store co-owned by John and his partner Andy Smith and is a great source of gear for surface pelagics and Aussie natives. Full contact details for Ebb Tide are provided above in John’s profile.