



War Veterans Fishing Group



Blood worming at Outer Harbour

28 July 2025

I met up with Goldy and his mate Brian to head down river from the North Largs Boat Ramp at about 8.30pm. We launched the Goldy Boat (Amberjack) at the Ramp. Ready for action, Goldy had removed the Bimini and ice box for maximum room in the back of Amberjack for netting.

We headed down the Port River past the AWD and Submarine wharfs which were ablaze with lights. We arrived down in the Cutting opposite the Container Terminal and found about 20 other small boats with lights and dab nets collecting the worms. We joined in the movement around in circles through the clumps of broken weed which seem to float along with the worms in an outgoing

tide. A friendly dolphin or two entertained us for about 20 minutes by diving under the boat and 'inspecting' the electric motor! I suspect that he or she was interested in the worms we collected in the pool nets used to gather in the worms. We had 2 sets of LED lights fixed to the railing on the gunnel to see the worms. I noted that there didn't appear to be the volume of worms that I saw last year and the worms were a little slower with the out going tide. The electric motor helped us manoeuvre back to the clumps of weed and the worms.

We returned slowly back to the ramp after a couple of hours fishing about midnight to have a welcome coffee provided by Brian. We had a visit from 2 Fisheries Officers at mid night to inspect our catch. From their advice the catch on other boats at North Haven were well down on last year.

We packed up our cars and headed for home and I arrived about 1.00am. The worms were left in the tray until the next morning.

We noticed that the dolphins seemed hungrier than normal. Some fish were sighted including a garfish up near the surface. Goldy commented the next day that Amberjack was covered with algae which was easily washed off. The water at Outer Harbour was dirty but the algae bloom was not obvious in the flood lights.

Next morning I bagged up the blood worms and dropped them in the freezer for a couple of hours to 'cool off'. Dead worms do not wiggle and squirm when the metho and red food colouring are tipped in.



I then spend about an hour separating the worms from the weed that is always picked up in the nets. The next step in the process of preserving them is to drop them into a mixture of red food colouring and methylated spirits. 1 litre of metho and 2 bottles of red colouring. The red colouring gives them a lively colour compared with their normal drab grey.



After perhaps 30 minutes I drain the liquid off with a sieve and return them to the tray and add the table salt.



Next comes the bagging into snack bags with about 30 worms in each (a day's fishing quota!) Divided into portions for Goldy and myself to share with our mates in forthcoming fishing adventures. We finished up with about 30 small bags which weighed in at 2.7 kg.



A successful night's blood worming and incident free. Navigation up the River can be testing as there are so many navigation lights to manoeuvre through.

A worthwhile experience and a minimum effort considering all you need on the boat is a decent light or two and a net capable of holding the worms - garfish nets would be fine.

Maybe next year we will encourage a few more members to venture out on a cold evening in June or July to capture some bloodworms for bait. Assuming there will be some fish to catch sometime in the future.

Nick Williams

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