The planets are certainly aligning for fishos this long weekend, so there’s no excuse for not wetting a line.

For starters, if you’re heading up the saltwater creeks, into the estuaries, on to the big rivers or out on the blue water this weekend, one thing you can be sure of is that water clarity will be at an absolute premium.

We are talking dead neap tides – this with, believe it or not, only 15m run-in tide on Sunday based on Darwin Harbour tidal predictions.

However, not only will there be minimal tidal movement, but finally this weekend the winds will be light to hardly blowing at all.

That’s because of a deep low-pressure system crossing the Great Australian Bight, so the moderate-to-strong, east-south-eastlyers that have been dampening fishing prospects of late will be hardly a puff over the next three days.

That, combined with barely discernible tides, means the world can be your oyster but you still need to be selective about where and how you fish.

The old adage “No Run No Fun” is a good one to follow up here, but there’s fun to be had too when the tides aren’t moving – if only because of the super water clarity.

So, what are the options?

The one I would really like to put up front is a serious offshore excursion chasing pelagics, including billfish.

This weekend you’ll be able to travel wide, so places like North Gutter and wide of Point Blaze will be accessible in comfort.

If an offshore excursion is not for you, perhaps a worthy option would be to have a play in Shoal Bay.

With these tides, you should be able to run around all day without fear of getting your boat bogged – within reason of course.

You’ll still need to have your smarts about you, but you can do interesting things like troll deeper edges, straightens and wide outside bends.

Take some crab pots along and get them in the water in time for the start of the incoming, albeit that it will be minimal.

At the top of the tide in Shoal Bay, you can zip over to some of the bigger creek mouths like Mickett’s and King.

Troll in and out of these, or just cast around with mid-divers … you just might bag a metre barra.

The famous Shoal Bay Rock could also be worth a visit.

There you can soak a livie or even a whole squid for a jew or two.

The beauty of it is that you’ll have the freedom to wander around.

Of course, there’s a select crowd which will already have this long weekend set aside for a major assault on the mighty Daly River.

Quality barra are still being caught on the Daly on neap tides over the last month.

Get down there and look for the agitated bait – that’s the clue.

Once you find it – and I’m talking about going down past Elizabeth Creek – simply troll at 3-5 knots up and down the middle.

If you’re not sure where to fish, look for boat skippers who do … but please keep out of their way.

Big bright lures are the go: fluoro-green 16A/17A bombers and ditto-coloured Reddy’s Big Ass BS2s and Big Ass 20s.

An easy option this weekend, one which is really not tide dependant anyway, is to head for the inland lagoons.

I understand barra fishing has improved at Corroboree, and notable has been the capture of a 97cm fish.

Nearby Hardies Lagoon has also been fishing well for barra up to 80cm. The technique at Hardies is to use weedless-rigged softies and get them right into the snags, down deep, before you start switching them out.

Four Mile Hole is still fishing well and some of the goons on the South Alligator River system are producing: Alligator, Bucket and Yellow Water for example.

Yes, there are some excellent options this long weekend, so don’t be scared to have a go.

Jackson Gilmore’s beaut barra was caught in Darwin Harbour on a soft plastic.

John Larsson’s Darwin Harbour barra came from a session that produced some exciting fishing.

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