INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION
NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1 - FEBRUARY 1990

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

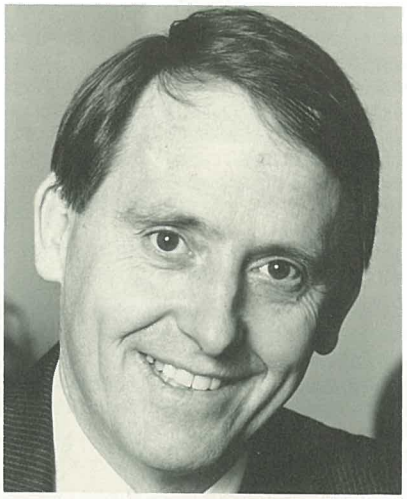
It was very pleasing for me to be appointed as the Minister responsible for Inland Fisheries in the new Labor Government.

I have taken a close interest in our inland fisheries for a number of years and I am very much aware of the opportunities and quality of Tasmania's wild trout fishery. I am also very much aware of the outstanding work that has been done by the Inland Fisheries Commission in developing and protecting this unique Tasmanian asset and the great enjoyment it provides to a large number of Tasmanians.

It would certainly be my objective as Minister to ensure that our trout fishery continues to flourish and that the interests of trout fishers are always considered.

Over the past few months it has been rumoured that the Inland Fisheries Commission may be affected by the restructuring of the State Public Service but I can confirm that the Commission will continue to operate precisely as it has in the past. The Commission will remain under my Ministerial portfolio of Primary Industry but will continue to operate as a separate body with no loss or reduction in services.

The first few months of Government have been very hectic and I have been involved with a variety of issues and extensive Parliamentary sessions. However, early in the New Year I look forward to inspecting some of the facilities around the State and personally meeting with the various groups and people involved in freshwater fishing.



The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr David Llewellyn.

I certainly enjoy the opportunity to cast a line myself, particularly in the Highland lakes, and I fully appreciate the enjoyment that so many Tasmanians receive from this great activity.

David Llewellyn
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY

IN BRIEF

Rainbow Park Fishing Village

A new tourist venture recently opened at the site of the former Port Arthur Marine Park at Taranna. The Rainbow Park Fishing Village has been registered by the Commission as a Wholly Private Fishery to permit 'put-and-take' fishing for rainbow trout on a 'user pays' basis. The park boasts many other attractions including freshwater and marine aquaculture displays, a shark enclosure, a restaurant and open market days.

Trout Fishing Championships

The Sixth Annual Trout Fishing Championship conducted by the North Western Fisheries Association was held at Great Lake on 4 and 5 November 1989. Some 616 trout were weighed in from 28 waters, the largest being a 4.23kg (cleaned) brown trout from one of the smaller Western Lakes. The catch from Great Lake totalled 283 which included 81 Atlantic salmon, evidence of the success of the Commission's recent stocking program.

Plaque Donated

The Commission recently received a bronze plaque to commemorate the contribution made by Sir James Youl in the introduction of trout to Tasmania. The plaque, which will be displayed permanently at Salmon Ponds, was donated by Mrs Jean Walker on behalf of the anglers of Tasmania.

Aquatic Plants of Tasmania

The University of Melbourne has published an informative book which illustrates and describes the aquatic plants of Tasmania. This is a useful guide for all anglers interested in the aquatic environment. Aquatic Plants of Tasmania, by Jocelyne Hughes and Georgina Davis is available from the Department of Geography, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria.

Curries River Dam Stocked

Curries River Dam near George town has been stocked with 15 000 advanced brown trout fry and will be opened to fishing in August next year. In a joint announcement the Minister for Primary Industry and the Minister for Resources and Energy said the decision by the Rivers and Water Supply Commission to open to fishing this previously closed water supply storage will be welcomed by all anglers.

BAN ON BOTTLES AND CANS

New regulations banning the use of bottles, cans and similar objects as strike indicators were gazetted on 27 December 1989.

Regulation 4(6)(e) states:

> No person shall, when fishing, use a bottle, jar, can or similar object made of plastic, glass, aluminium or any other metal in conjunction with a rod and line to warn of movement in the rod and line.

The new measures were introduced in an attempt to reduce shoreline littering at popular bait fishing areas.

Natural objects such as sticks and stones may still be used to indicate a strike and there are a number of commercial strike indicators on the market including lights, bells and buzzers.

Anglers are also reminded that it is a requirement that their rods be attended at all times – the angler must be within eight metres and able to respond immediately if a fish takes the bait. Commission enforcement staff have been asked to pay particular attention to these provisions and this is reflected in the 'on the spot' fines listed in this Newsletter.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES RESEARCH IN TASMANIA

by Dr Robert Sloane, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries

ACCLIMATISATION PHASE

In the first seventy years of the Tasmanian trout fishery the initial acclimatisation phase was perpetuated with the emphasis on the introduction of new species and strains, and on the continuation of widespread and extensive stocking.

The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Commission, in various forms, administered Tasmania's inland fisheries during this period. The Commission solely comprised voluntary angling representatives and nominated individuals from around the State and did not have the benefit of professional administration. Scientific investigations during the early period were confined to the efforts of amateur naturalists and the occasional visiting expert.

TILLYARD'S VISIT

One such visitor was Dr R.J. Tillyard, Chief of the Division of Economic Entomology, CSIRO, who made a brief visit to Tasmania in January 1933 to report to the Commissioners *on the problem of trout-food on the lakes and rivers of Tasmania.*

Dr Tillyard concluded that there was an urgent need for scientific study of Tasmania's inland waters including mapping of spawning areas, faunal studies of key waters, trout food investigations, hatchery hygiene experiments and investigations on the growth of trout.

Tillyard affirmed that there was a need for a *scientific basis on which any sound knowledge of Tasmanian trout-culture must be built up for the future.*

Tillyard's recommendations, particularly his suggestion that *the annual stocking of lakes and streams should be discontinued until such time as scientific investigations into the present available food-supply have been carried out*, produced a strong reaction from the Commissioners who defended their policies in a report to Parliament in 1933. The Commissioners response asserted, *it seems reasonable to conclude, having regard to the acknowledged eminence of Tasmania as a trout-fishing country, that the methods followed for many years have not been altogether fruitless.*

Much later, in 1958, Derisley Hobbs had this to say about the significance of Tillyard's recommendations.

His report, irrespective of any question of specific scientific merits, was important because it represented, after an interval of fifty years of complacency, a challenging of accepted ideas, just as remarkable as had been Youl's. Tillyard committed the gross heresy of questioning the fundamental soundness of the Commission's traditional and major line of activity – the annual stocking of lakes and streams. . . It was the Commission's first experience with scientists. Basically resentment arose because Tillyard, instead of limiting his observations to matters within his specialised field, had openly invaded the "practical" province of the Commissioners.

It is perhaps ironical that the anglers of the State proved much more receptive to Tillyard's doubts, and through its conservative reaction the Commission began to suffer a loss of popular support. But more than twenty years elapsed before Tillyard's recommendation to call in a consultant scientist was acted upon.

Perhaps the only concession to Tillyard were the studies into *the problem of trout food* which were initiated by the Commission in 1936, when the Government entomologist, Mr J.W. Evans, began a study of trout diet and bottom fauna.

NICHOLLS' INVESTIGATIONS

Apparently there was a change in attitude following World War II, and increasing concern among anglers in relation to the quality and quantity of trout being taken under rapidly expanding fishing pressure paved the way for a fundamental change in direction. The Commission recognised the need for an intensive scientific investigation and in 1947 Dr Aubrey G. Nicholls, then Officer-in-Charge of the Fisheries Division, CSIRO, began a rigorous scientific investigation of the suspected deterioration in the Tasmanian trout fishery.

Over a period of fourteen years he meticulously compiled statistics based on anglers' catch returns, electrofishing surveys, tagging experiments, scale reading and stocking returns.

Nicholls' most important finding was that, in general, hatchery releases were not contributing significantly to anglers' catches and, for the most part, natural recruitment was sufficient to maintain trout stocks in most lakes and in virtually all rivers. Such bold conclusions were not popular with many anglers at that time, but this research provided the impetus for the Commission to begin to reassess its management policies on the basis of firm scientific evidence, which, incidentally, has subsequently proved to be entirely accurate (see IFC Newsletter Volume 17 [2]).

HOBBS' REVIEW

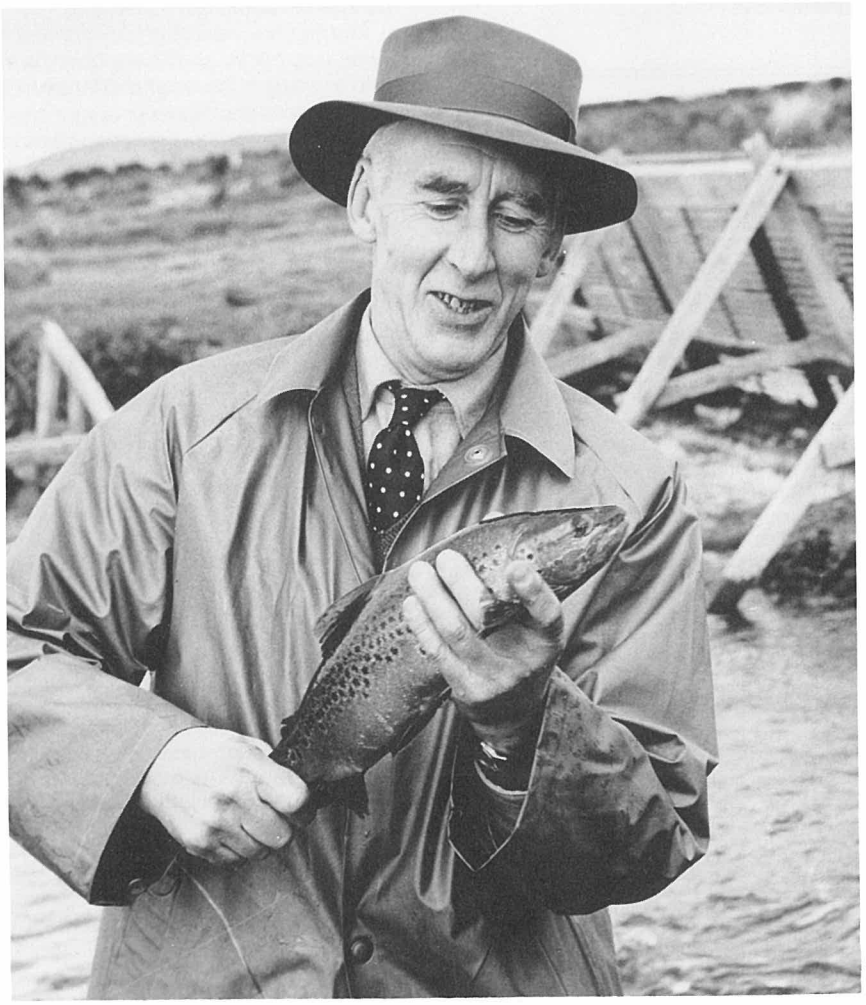
At the time of Nicholls' studies, informed anglers were also aware of significant developments in inland fisheries administration and research in New Zealand. Professor E. Percival, who had introduced ecological thinking into fisheries work in New Zealand and had directed the first freshwater research program in that country, was invited to Tasmania by the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association in 1949.

Eight years later, in March 1957, New Zealand eminence in this field was recognised, when Derisley F. Hobbs was commissioned to report on *the most suitable organisation and methods for the management and development of the freshwater fisheries in Tasmania.*

Hobbs' report, titled *The Administration of Tasmania's Inland Fisheries* was published in 1958 and provided a blueprint for extensive reform which resulted, a year later, in the establishment of the Inland Fisheries Commission as we know it today.

In essence, Hobbs recommended that the control of inland fisheries should pass to a professional officer as various changes were *presenting problems which could no longer be dealt with satisfactorily by the spare-time voluntary services of a Commission comprising representative anglers alone*. Hobbs stressed the need for the permanent employment of science graduates on the new Commission staff – he also recommended the appointment of an independent scientist, a freshwater fisheries specialist, on an advisory committee to oversee developments.

In his 1958 report Hobbs highlighted the importance of research, to the extent that he could



Derisley Hobbs at Liaweenee

envisage a biological survey of certain lakes, continuing over a number of years, with the development in the process of an indigenous school of aquatic biologists (a dream only realised in the present day). He regarded the role of a scientist as being not only important in research, but also as a critic and as a teacher of objective thinking. He cited Tillyard's contribution as a classic example.

THE NEW COMMISSION

Following his informative administrative review, Derisley Hobbs, in February 1960, became the first chairman of the newly constituted Inland Fisheries Commission. In his first report to Parliament, Hobbs highlighted the need to *strengthen the staff by appointment of one or more biologists and technical assistants* and he stated that the Commission needed *to be able to deal directly and competently with the day to day biological problems and to carry out limited investigations and development projects having a large applied science content.*

However, this policy was not implemented and for several years scientific investigations were *limited to those which can be carried out by biologists or student parties during short-term appointments, by recipients of grants-in-aid, and to studies such as the marking program which can be carried out by the present staff.*

In fact, research into Tasmania's inland fisheries regressed dramatically in the 1961/62 financial year, with the transfer of Dr Nicholls to marine fisheries work at CSIRO in Melbourne.

In March 1963 a biologist, Mr Bill Mollison, and a technical assistant were appointed. However, these positions lapsed in 1965 and 1964 respectively, and Mollison's major work, relating to coastal lagoons and estuaries, was never published.

The appointment of a science graduate, Mr D.D. Lynch, as Commissioner of Inland Fisheries in March 1964 following the untimely death of Derisley Hobbs indicated the now general acceptance of the need for scientific direction in inland fisheries administration.

In his first report to Parliament, Dan Lynch stated that *existing staff and facilities of the Commission are inadequate for mounting any but modest research projects. . . investment in a good research unit is vital to modern fisheries management.*

THE MODERN ERA

Dan Lynch encouraged visits to Tasmania by eminent scientists and maintained a close association with Australian researchers through the Australian Society for Limnology. However, efforts to establish in-house scientific expertise did not progress until 1970 when the Government agreed to sponsor a student scholarship. Wayne Fulton, now the Commission's Senior Scientific Officer based in Hobart, took up the scholarship in January 1970 and joined the Commission as a Scientific Officer in December 1972.

Wayne Fulton's main initial research program involved a detailed study of the benthic invertebrates in Great Lake and this work was later extended to include surveys of the bottom fauna in several other key trout lakes. He was later awarded a Masters Degree for this research, which was subsequently published in scientific journals. Wayne Fulton also developed a personal interest in Tasmania's unique native fish fauna and went on to describe a number of new fish species and to publish life history details.

The Commission's full-time research staff was doubled in 1978 when Robert Sloane was appointed to the newly established Liawenee Field Station at Great Lake. At the time of his appointment he had already commenced a PhD study of Tasmanian freshwater eels and, as this work was relevant to the Commission's management of the eel fishery, the degree was completed on a part-time basis. His main brief on joining the Commission was to plan the development of a laboratory at the field station and to commence general studies of trout population dynamics in highland lakes. A major thrust of this work involved a detailed study of the spawning requirements of rainbow trout and the potential for spawning stream improvement.

In effect, by 1978, the Commission finally had the ability to relate trout food investigations and trout population dynamics, research which was recommended by Tillyard thirty-five years earlier, in 1933!

In 1980, the construction of a new laboratory complex at Great Lake and the purchase of additional premises for research in Hobart, provided the appropriate environment for an expanded Commission research program.

EXTERNAL FUNDS FOR RESEARCH

In April 1984 Dr Robert Sloane succeeded Dan Lynch as Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and later that year Dr Peter Davies was appointed to the research post at Great Lake. Peter Davies' expertise in organic chemistry and aquatic toxicology added a further dimension to the Commission's research capabilities.

At this time, a fundamental change in direction occurred, when it was decided that the Commission should seek external funding to support its research drive. The Commission's scientific staff identified the need for a greatly expanded research effort, to focus on a number of key management issues, but recognised that it was unrealistic to levy anglers or to expect the Government to immediately fund additional permanent research positions.

The initial impetus was provided by a $100 000 State Government grant over two years (1985 and 1986) which established a survey team to investigate trout populations in Tasmanian rivers. The stream survey provided data which was directly comparable to work earlier published by Dr A.G. Nicholls. At the same time the lake studies which were commenced in 1978 were analysed, along with unpublished data collected so meticulously by Nicholls in the 1950's. Collectively, the lake and stream data enabled the Commission to re-establish its scientific base and steer a management course for the future.

The success of the external funding drive is evident in the many major projects described in this Newsletter. The Commission is now recognised as a Registered Research Agency and can offer tax incentives for eligible industries willing to fund research projects. Special research grants to the Commission have now totalled more than $800 000 since this policy was introduced. During this period fourteen graduate scientists and eleven technical support staff have been employed for varying periods.

COMMISSION RESEARCH TODAY

Today, the activities of the Inland Fisheries Commission are largely motivated by two prime objectives –

- to provide and maintain a world class trout fishery; and
- to protect and conserve Tasmania's freshwater fauna, whilst maximising recreational and commercial benefits.

These goals can only be achieved by the application of practical research findings through carefully designed management programs and policies. An active and well directed research effort is thus an integral component of the Commission's strategic plan.

At the present time, the Commission employs ten graduate scientists (five temporary) and four technical support staff (two temporary) on its research team.

The Commission is now at the forefront of trout fishery research and management and is also widely acknowledged for its contributions in the fields of freshwater environmental research; aquatic toxicology; eel biology; galaxiid taxonomy, life history and conservation; as well as general invertebrate taxonomy and biology.

In fact, the Commission's research effort has expanded so rapidly in recent times that its facilities, permanent research staff and clerical and administrative support services, are fully taxed, to the extent that a conscious effort is now being made to limit further development. *It is noteworthy that this unprecendented expansion has been achieved at virtually no cost to the Tasmanian angler or to the Tasmanian Government.*

Any further development of the Commission's research effort will be dependent on the future provision of expanded facilities and resources specifically dedicated for this purpose.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Current Commission research projects are briefly listed below.

Derwent Estuary Study

A three year study on the water quality and fish populations of the upper Derwent estuary (Cadbury's Point to New Norfolk), funded by Australian Newsprint Mills, has recently been completed. The study involved netting surveys for sea trout and bream, an angler interview program, and a detailed survey of water quality at 12 stations in the estuary.

Dove River Monitoring

The Commission has been contracted to carry out a monitoring program on the Dove River at Cradle Mountain in order to assess any effects of future releases of treated waste water from developments at Waldheim. Field trips are being conducted every two months and involve the collection of water samples and stream invertebrates for the purposes of detecting any changes in water quality and stream life. The project, funded by the Department of Parks Wildlife and Heritage, will continue until late summer 1990.

Pesticide Project

The 1988-89 financial year saw the completion of a two and a half year study of pesticide effects on fish in Tasmanian streams, funded by the Australian Water Research Advisory Council (AWRAC). The results of this study are being analysed and will be reported in the newsletter and scientific papers. It is expected that the results will be of significant interest to environmental authorities both locally and interstate. Funding has also been approved for a further two and a half year study on the effects of pesticides on stream invertebrates. The funding of $90 000 is again to be provided by AWRAC.

Triploid Trout Research

A two year joint investigation with the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology into the production of triploid trout for commercial farms was completed in December. The project has been funded by the Commonwealth Marine Sciences and Technologies grant scheme. The research has centred on triploidy assessment techniques and commercial-scale production. Other aspects under review include a comparison of three methods of assessing triploidy; the viability of triploid milt; the spawning behaviour of triploid males in the wild; the induction of triploidy in brown trout and hybrid trout and the value of triploids to the wild fishery.

Lake Fauna Study

Since 1986 staff have conducted surveys of the freshwater fish and invertebrates from over 120 alpine lakes in Tasmania. These surveys were made possible through receipt of specific grants and financial assistance from the Department of Parks Wildlife and Heritage and the National Estate as well as from internal sources. An extensive survey was undertaken in the Central Plateau area and the groups of lakes found in most of the major State Reserves have also been targeted. Collections of fish and invertebrates have been examined and some of the information published. The work will form the basis of a series of reports that document the freshwater fauna of several national parks within the State and, with the examination of water quality and physical data on the lakes, will enable a more widespread evaluation of the factors affecting the distribution of this fauna.

Southwell River Project

Following an initial general survey of the streams in the vicinity of the Hellyer Mine on the West Coast, the Commission has been funded by Aberfoyle Limited to undertake a monitoring program of the aquatic invertebrates in the Southwell and Que rivers. The program is designed to assess the effects on the stream fauna of discharge from tailings dams in the vicinity of the mine.

Endangered Tasmanian Galaxiids

The biology of three species of *Galaxias* is being studied following their recognition as endangered species and the receipt of a $53 000 grant from World Wildlife Fund Australia. New populations of two of the species, the Swan galaxias and the Clarence galaxias, have been found. The life history and environmental requirements of these two species and a third species, the saddled galaxias, have been studied. Management alternatives, aimed at reducing the threat to these species, are under examination. A final report on this project to the World Wildlife Fund will include all management recommendations. Commission staff are also investigating the decline in abundance of the Lake Pedder galaxias.

Lagoon of Islands Investigation

Negotiations with the Hydro-Electric Commission have culminated in approval of funding for a two year intensive study of water quality problems in Lagoon of Islands. The lagoon has been affected by a severe algal bloom and elevated iron levels. This study commenced in September 1989 and will provide for the employment of two extra staff dedicated to the project.

St Patricks River Study

The Australian Water Research Advisory Council has recently announced support for a two year investigation on the effects of stream hydrology on trout recruitment in small nursery streams. The St Patricks River has been chosen for the study which commenced in July 1989.

Rainbow Trout for Mariculture

The Commission's Salmon Ponds facilities are being used to assist commercial trout farmers in producing rainbow trout from sea-grown broodstock. Limited production of sterile trout and various trout hybrids is also being undertaken.

Forestry Studies

The Commission has been successful in obtaining grants from the Tasmanian Forest Research Council for two discrete forestry studies. The first study is aimed at determining the effects of forestry operations on freshwater fauna under a range of logging conditions. The second study will evaluate the impact of forest spraying practices on streams under different logging regimes with a view to recommending safe procedures.

Internal Research Priorities

The Commission has also set several major priority areas for internal investigation in 1990. It is intended that a comprehensive and long-term investigation of the Macquarie River system be commenced in order to evaluate the dynamics of the trout population in this renowned fishery. Significant invertebrate species (particularly the 'red spinner' mayfly) will also be studied.

Further priorities include a study of the environmental performance of freshwater salmonid farms in Tasmania with a view to establishing guidelines for future developments, and a continuation and expansion of investigations already under way in relation to the potential of sterile and hybrid trout in the management of waters with limited spawning grounds.

Mr Dan Lynch examining two trout

Publications

Publications detailing recent Commission research investigations are listed below.

Andrew, J (1989) Environmental Factors Influencing the Non-reproductive Distribution of Riverine Populations of *Salmo trutta* L. - A Review of the Literature. Unpub. M.Sc. qualifying thesis.

Chilcott, S.J. (1986) Lake Crescent Environmental Impact Statement. The effects of a 0.5m water level increase on Lake Crescent. In *Proposed Raising of Lake Crescent*. Report of the Lake Crescent Working Party.

Chilcott, S.J. (1989) A continuation of the surveys of freshwater invertebrates from lakes in the World Heritage Area, Tasmania. *IFC Occasional Report* 89-01.

Davies, P.E. (1989) Relationships between habitat characteristics and population abundance for brown trout, *Salmo trutta* L., and blackfish, *Gadopsis marmoratus* Rich., in Tasmanian streams. *Aust. J. Mar. Freshwater Res.* 40 341-59.

Davies, P.E., Fulton, W. and S. Kalish (1988) The environmental effects of effluent from the ANM Newsprint Mills at Boyer, Tasmania. *IFC Occasional Report* 89-02.

Davies, P.E. and S. Kalish (1989) Water Quality of the Upper Derwent Estuary, Tasmania. *IFC Occasional Report* 89-03.

Davies, P.E. and R.D. Sloane (1986) Validation of aging and length back-calculation in rainbow trout, *Salmo gairdneri* Rich., from Dee Lagoon, Tasmania. *Aust. J. Mar. Freshw. Res.* 37 289-95.

Davies, P.E. and R.D. Sloane (1989) Long-term changes in brown trout and rainbow trout populations in Great Lake, Tasmania. *N. Amer. J. Fish. Mngt.* 8 463-74.

Davies, P.E., Sloane, R.D., and J. Andrew (1988) Effects of hydrological change and the cessation of stocking on a stream population of *Salmo trutta L., Aust. J. Mar. Freshw. Res.* 39 337-54.

Davies, P.E. and W.W. Thompson (1989) Tasmania's trout fisheries - current status and changes since 1945. *IFC Occasional Report* 88-04.

Davies, P.E., Thompson, W.W., and R.D. Sloane (1988) Tasmania's trout fisheries - current status and changes since 1945. *IFC Newsletter 17(2).*

Fulton, W. (1987) Tasmania's endangered freshwater fauna. *IFC Newsletter 16(1).*

Fulton, W. (1988) The freshwater fish fauna of Tasmania's Western Central Plateau. IFC Occasional Report 88-02.

Fulton, W. (1988) Further collections of freshwater fauna from the World Heritage Area, Tasmania. *IFC Occasional Report* 88-03.

Fulton, W. (1989) Environmental and toxicological investigations in relation to pollution in the King River catchment. *IFC Special Report to HEC.*

Fulton, W. and P.E. Davies (1987) The Great Lake trout fishery. *IFC Newsletter 16(2).*

Fulton, W. and A.M.M. Richardson (1987) The freshwater fauna of the World Heritage Area, Tasmania. *IFC Occasional Report* 87-01.

Fulton, W. and N.C. Pavuk (1988) The Tasmanian whitebait fishery - summary of present knowledge and outline of future management plans. *IFC Occasional Report* 88-01.

Harris, G.P., Davies P.E., Nunez, M., and G. Meyers (1988) Interannual variability in climate and fisheries in Tasmania. *Nature.* 333 754-57.

Pavuk, N.C. (1987) Environmental factors determining the reproductive success of *Salmo trutta* (brown trout), *Salmo gairdneri* (rainbow trout) and *Salvelinus fontinalis* (brook char) - a review of the literature. Unpub. M.Sc. qualifying thesis.

Thompson, W.W. (1989) Lake Leake: A look at the past and present fishery. *IFC Newsletter 18(2).*

RAINBOW TROUT STOCKING

Details of recent domestic rainbow trout releases are provided below.

Date	Size	Water Stocked	Number
10.07.89	15 grams	Lake Crescent	2 000
11.07.89	125 grams	Lake Crescent	500
21.07.89	125 grams	Lake Dulverton	400
27.08.89	20 grams	Lake Barrington	2 000
27.10.89	adult	Craigbourne Dam	700
31.10.89	60 grams	Leven River	400
06.11.89	100 grams	Lake Crescent	1 000
Total			7 000

INFRINGEMENT NOTICES

On the spot infringement notices for minor inland fisheries offences came into effect in August last year. During the ensuing period 79 notices have been issued and to date 58 of these have been accepted at the prescribed $100 fee and paid within the specified period. Details of infringement notices are provided below.

Offence	Number	Location
Fishing without a licence	15	Lake Bailey, St Patricks River, Great Lake, Craigbourne Dam, Little Henty River, Pieman River, Lake Rowallan, Emu River, Dee Lagoon, Bradys Lake.
More than one rod and line	16	Lake Crescent, Lake Echo, Great Lake, Lake Rowallan, Craigbourne Dam, Wayatinah Lagoon, Pieman River, Lake Gardiner, Woods Lake
More than two lures or baits	2	Lake Crescent
Unattended set rod	41	Lake Crescent, Little Blue Lagoon, Lake Bailey, Great Lake, Bradys Lake, Lake Lea, Arthurs Lake, Woods Lake, Lake Gardiner, Tungatinah Lagoon, Pieman River, Lake Binney, Talbots Lagoon.
Fishing in closed waters	1	Canal between lakes Crescent and Sorell
Possession of assembled rod	2	Pieman River, Talbots Lagoon
Possession of natural bait	2	Lake Sorell

PROSECUTIONS

In a recent significant ruling three Smithton residents received heavy fines for whitebait offences. Roger, Peter and Phillip Lambert received fines totalling $3 800, $2 700 and $1 250 respectively for offences relating to the taking and possession of whitebait. The charges were laid after Commission enforcement officers observed illegal whitebaiting activities at Deep Creek in August 1989. The fines reflect increased penalties for serious fisheries offences, which were gazetted in March 1989.

Successful prosecutions since the last Newsletter are summarised below.

Offender	Offence Summary	Total Fine Plus Costs $
Peter L FOREST, Burnie	More than 1 rod	124-10
Graeme J WOODS, Blythe Heads	More than 1 rod	124-10
Walter S STRONG, New Norfolk	More than 1 rod	99-10
Gary R KEAN, Lutana	More than 1 rod	124-10
Garry A COLLINS, Midway Point	Unlicensed	124-10
Hilda M COLLINS, Midway Point	Unlicensed	124-10
Christopher KING, Queensland	Unlicensed/Other than rod	224-10
Glen MILLS, Smithton	Other than rod/Possess net	224-10
Robert L JORDAN, Launceston	Other than rod	195-10
Dianne M BRACKEN, Ulverstone	Unlicensed	124-10
George CHARLESWORTH, D'port	More than 1 rod	124-10
Glen H ASHBY, Latrobe	Closed water	124-10
Linda BURNS, George Town	Unlicensed	124-10
Karen L ROBINSON, George Town	Unlicensed	124-10
Ashley J REYNOLDS, Burnie	Natural bait	174-10
Merton L LEE, Launceston	More than 1 rod	74-10
Jason B ROUSE, East D'port	Whitebait/Possess net	199-10
Dulcie W HILL, Ulverstone	Disturb spawning fish	174-10
Anne L HARPER, Binnalong Bay	Disturb spawning fish	174-10
Denzil D BADCOCK, D'port	Unattended rod	154-10
Beverley J BADCOCK, D'port	Unattended rod	124-10
Mathew J REID, D'port	Unattended rod	149-10
Dennis L KNOWLES, Longford	Disturb spawning fish/Other than rod	234-10
John PETERS, Trevallyn	Unattended rod	124-10
Graham HOLMES, Newnham	Unattended rod	124-10
Darren N MOORE, Riverside	Unattended rod	124-10
Cyril N SMITH, Deloraine	More than 1 rod	124-10
Graham HOLMES, Launceston	Unattended rod	124-10
Montague JEEVES, Victoria	Unattended rod	144-10
Barry J JEEVES, Boat Harbour	Unattended rod/Unlicensed	244-10
Godfrey MAYNE, Campania	Other than rod/Closed water	424-10
Colin H PARREMORE, Campania	Other than rod/Closed water	424-10
Kevin L HAMPTON, Rossarden	Other than rod/Closed water/Use light	416-10
John A PARKER, George Town	Other than rod/Closed water/Use light	370-10
Michael J HAMPTON, Rossarden	Other than rod/Closed water/Use light	370-10
Timothy J FOON, Ravenswood	Unlicensed/Assembled rod	324-10
Garry CUNNINGHAM, Launceston	Unlicensed/Assembled rod	224-10
Philip J ZANETTO, Trevallyn	Other than rod/Unclean fish	408-10
Christopher FARQUHAR, Bridgen'th	Other than rod/Unclean fish	634-10
Anthony M JARVIS, Gretna	Other than rod/Closed water	374-10
Matthew L WILLIAMS, Hamilton	Other than rod/Closed water/Unlicen'd	498-20
Glenn M WOODFORD, Westerway	Unlicensed/Assembled rod	124-10
Jason G MADDEN, New Norfolk	Other than rod/Closed water	224-10
Ricky A LOCKETT, Newnham	Lend licence	74-10
Adrian MARSHALL, Leith	Disturb spawners/Other than rod	324-10
Graham R BARTON, Huonville	Other than rod/Possess net	366-10
Perry D MARNEY, Claremont	Closed water/Disturb spawners	154-10
Anthony RANDALL, Smithton	Whitebait	174-10
Roger LAMBERT, Smithton	Whitebait	424-10
Rodric SCHWESINGER, Bellerive	Closed water	64-10
Roger LAMBERT, Smithton	Whitebait/Obstruction	3 824-10
Peter Warren LAMBERT, Smithton	Whitebait/Obstruction	2 724-10
Phillip Garry LAMBERT, Smithton	Whitebait/Obstruction	1 274-10

NETTING CONCERNS

The Inland Fisheries Commission has confirmed its preparedness to review current regulations governing the capture of salmonids in nets. Conflict has arisen over the increasing numbers of trout and salmon, predominantly escapees from sea-cage farms, being taken in amateurs' nets, as highlighted in the last newsletter.

Current regulations outlaw the taking of trout or salmon by any means other than rod and line, and require net fishers to exercise sufficient supervision over their nets to ensure that any salmonids taken accidentally are returned to the water unharmed.

Amateur netters claim that it is unrealistic to return net-caught salmonids to the water, particularly as the fish may already be dead when nets are checked, and they are demanding changes to the law in order to permit the retention of any fish taken in nets.

The Commission has called for a review of current netting boundaries in order to gain greater protection for sea-trout in coastal estuaries. If acceptable boundaries can be negotiated the Commission would be willing to support net fishers' demands in relation to retaining any fish taken in nets outside the newly established boundaries.

The Commission would also support the implementation of a joint scientific investigation with Sea Fisheries, to examine net catches in contentious areas. Such a study could also examine the potential of further management options including seasonal and night-time netting restrictions in disputed areas.

HELICOPTER ACCESS

An article by Warren Steptoe which appeared in the July edition of *Modern Fishing* has provoked considerable reaction from many anglers. The article promoted the use of helicopters to gain access to remote lakes on the Western Central Plateau.

The use of both helicopters and float planes in the highlands has been under review for some time and the recent Central Plateau Select Committee received evidence on this subject from a number of interest groups.

Tourism operators and professional guides would like to offer helicopter and/or float plane trips in order to take clients to remote waters. But many anglers oppose this concept in areas where vehicular access is already prohibited, maintaining that the only access into such areas should be on foot.

Proponent Jason Garrett of London Lakes Lodge regards the current debate as a 'storm in a tea-cup' as no more than a handful of clients have used helicopters in recent years and the flying time and consequent disturbance amounts to minutes rather than hours.

There is no doubt that many recent claims in relation to helicopter disturbance and usage have been greatly exaggerated, but this does not reduce the need for clear policy direction.

The Commission's position is one of compromise. It is recognised that some use of float planes and helicopters is justified and will become an important part of tourism operations in the future. Equally, the concerns of anglers are valid, and every effort must be made to maintain the wilderness nature of the Western Lakes region and to protect the fishing and walking experience offered by this unique area.

The Commission's basic policy suggestions are given briefly below.

Float Planes

The Commission considers that waters in the Western Lakes region are generally unsuitable for float plane operation due to their small size, shallow, rocky nature and variable water levels. Float planes also create major disturbance in taking off and landing and they represent an environmental hazard especially if fuel is stored and planes refuelled at remote sites.

For these reasons the Commission favours the restriction of float planes to designated landing areas on the largest accessible lakes in the Central Highlands, such as Great Lake, Arthurs Lake and Lake St Clair.

Helicopters

Helicopters represent a reduced environmental risk in the highlands provided they do not land on water. They also represent a lower disturbance factor under these circumstances.

The Commission favours the restriction of helicopters to a small number of designated landing sites in the Western Lakes. In the interests of safety these sites should be located in the immediate proximity of walkers' huts. Appropriate sites should be determined after discussions with the various interest groups.

This would enable anglers and walkers to seek solitude away from helicopter access, whilst allowing tourism operators to provide a limited service to clients.

BROWN TROUT FRY DISTRIBUTION 1989

NORTH

Name of Water Stocked	Locality	Number
Bishopsbourne Branch (2)	Bishopsbourne	30 000
G Cuthbertson	Bishopsbourne	4 000
Exeter Branch	Glengarry	10 000
Hagley Farm School	Hagley	3 000
Lake Waverley	Launceston	5 000
I & M B McFarlane	Westbury	3 000
J M McEwan	"Trefusis", Ross	2 000
P & M McGee (2)	Westbury	6 000
R Mitchelson	Westbury	15 000
Ringarooma Branch (2)	Winnaleah	20 000
E W & M Spencer	Cressy	5 000
K Von Bibra	"Beaufront", Ross	1 000
Total		104 000

NORTH WEST

Name of Water Stocked	Locality	Number
Devonport Rearing Unit	Sassafras	55 000
Forest Rearing Pond	Forest	5 000
North Motton Rearing Unit	North Motton	85 000
C E Palmer	Tulla	2 000
Total		147 000

SOUTH

Name of Water Stocked	Locality	Number
J R Jenkins	Colebrook	1 000
P Jones	Broadmarsh	5 000
Pawleena Dam	Sorell	5 000
Rileys Creek Dam	Geeveston	5 000
Rostrevor Lagoon	Triabunna	5 000
H Taylor	Elderslie	5 000
Total		26 000

MAJOR PUBLIC STORAGES

Name of Water Stocked	Locality	Number
Blackmans Lagoon	Bridport	50 000
Brushy Lagoon	Westbury	75 000
Craigbourne Dam	Colebrook	30 000
Lake Crescent		25 000
Curries River Dam		15 000
Lake Kara		30 000
Lake Leake		65 000
Penstock Lagoon		40 000
Tooms Lake		50 000
Total		380 000
GRAND TOTAL		657 000

BROOK TROUT STOCKING

The Commission has continued to expand the brook trout stocking program after having successfully obtained ova from Salmon Ponds and Clarence Lagoon. Details of recent releases are listed below.

Date	Size	Water Stocked	Number
07.10.89	advanced fry	Lake Rolleston	10 000
07.10.89	advanced fry	Lake Selina	5 000
07.10.89	advanced fry	Langdon River	1 000
07.10.89	advanced fry	Anthony River	1 000
14.10.89	advanced fry	Clarence Lagoon	5 000
29.11.89	1.5 grams	Clarence Lagoon	6 000
29.11.89	1.5 grams	Lake Selina	7 000
29.11.89	1.5 grams	Langdon River	1 300
29.11.89	1.5 grams	Anthony River	700
Total			37 000