

On the Rise



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Western Lakes management plan underway

The development of the Western Lakes Management Plan has begun in earnest with the allocation of a full-time position by the Inland Fisheries Service to coordinate the planning process over the next 16 months. It should result in an approved plan by early 2002.

The planning process, which aims to deliver a workable plan that will ensure the sustainable management of the Western Lakes fishery, involves the following key consultation phases:

- 1 Reference group workshops to identify issues and management options
- 2 Release of an issues and options paper for public comment
- 3 Release of a draft management plan for public comment.

The establishment of a stakeholder reference group within the next few months is seen as an important strategy for identifying issues, developing a vision for the Western

Lakes region and determining management options that embrace the vision.

The reference group will consist of the following stakeholders:

- Angler representatives (3)
- FACT representative (1)
- World Heritage Area Consultative Committee (1)
- Conservation interest (1)
- Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania (1)
- Tourism representative (1)
- Fisheries Management (2)

Angling representatives for the reference group will be selected from a list of candidates put forward by the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council (IFAC).

The reference group will attend two workshops to identify issues, develop management options and a vision for the Western Lakes fishery. Information gathered from these will be put together in an issues and options paper that will be released for public comment.

Submissions received during the issues and options phase will be used to form the basis of the draft management plan, which will be released for public comment upon completion. All submissions from this phase will be considered during development of the final management plan.

IFAC will play a vital role in overseeing the process and ensure that it is conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. The Council will also review the issues and options paper, the draft management plan and the final management plan, and advise the Minister accordingly.

A series of public meetings will be held during the draft plan consultation phase. These meetings will be used to provide information about the plan and to seek additional public input.

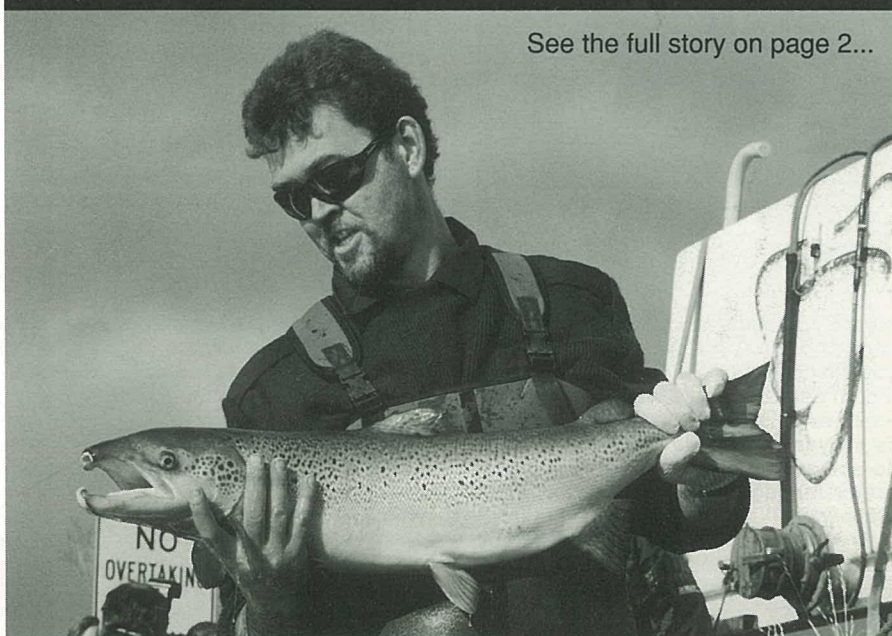
Further information will be made available through future issues of this Newsletter and on the IFS Website at www.ifs.tas.gov.au or contact Rob Freeman on (03) 6233 3348 or email robff@ifs.tas.gov.au.

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Saltas annual fish release at Meadowbank

See the full story on page 2...



Phil Adams, Salmon Ponds, preparing to release one of Saltas' salmon at Meadowbank

First donation to Habitat Improvement Fund

Tasmania's recreational trout fishery has been given a boost with the first corporate donation to the Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund by Hydro Tasmania.

The fund was launched in Launceston recently by the Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment, David Llewellyn, and the Fund's Chair, Professor Nigel Forteach.

Mr Llewellyn said he was confident Tasmania's anglers would support the Fund, established to provide a source of capital for works to improve and restore habitat for fish and other aquatic fauna.

"Although the focus of the Fund is on freshwater habitat improvement, a key outcome is improved fishing for the angler – so everyone stands to benefit," Mr Llewellyn said.

Mr Llewellyn said the need for the Fund was first identified through the Review of Inland Fisheries undertaken in the mid 1990's but its establishment – under the umbrella of the Tasmanian Community Foundation – had involved a lengthy legal process.

"The Fund is a privately administered public trust operated independent of Government and the Inland Fisheries Service, and its success depends upon contributions from a range of corporations, organisations and individuals.

"I'd like to commend Hydro Tasmania for its donation to the Fund and its ongoing commitment to improving our inland fisheries, and hope that the example set today stimulates support from other corporations and organisations."

The Chair of the Fund, Professor Nigel Forteach introduced the other Trustees, who are Dr Rob Sloane, John Cleary, Mike Stevens and Ashley Artis.

"The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting directions and final approval of projects, but will receive expert advice from a range of authorities as required," he said.

"We will be working very hard over the next 12 months, seeking contributions and building the Fund before calling for project submissions from the community.

"The type of projects we envisage may include restoring river flows, streambed improvements, removal of weirs to enable fish passage and fishery restoration, such as the Shannon Lagoon and Lake Sorell."



Saltas annual fish release at Meadowbank

...from page one

Local anglers joined with representatives of the Inland Fisheries Service in July, to watch the release by Saltas Pty Ltd of 200 'trophy fish' from their Atlantic salmon surplus brood stock, into Lake Meadowbank.

The release has become an annual event – this is the fourth consecutive year – in the lead up to the season's opening and it continues to generate enormous interest in the community. Over fifty local anglers turned out to admire the trophy fish that they would soon be pursuing, and the event was covered by three TV crews and two newspaper journalists.

Saltas provide the fish free and pay the cost of transporting them to the lake. The fish were weighed and tagged prior to their release again this year. Last year, nearly one third of tags were returned by anglers, along with valuable data – fish weight and

gut content – which provides an indication of how well these salmon adapt to the natural conditions in Lake Meadowbank. Returned tags will be drawn for prizes at the end of the season, and last year's winner will be announced shortly.

This year, Saltas have been experimenting with the use of different tags and anglers should check their fish in the following places:

- (i) Behind the left pectoral fin (on the side behind the gills)
- (ii) The dorsal fin (on the back)
- (iii) Behind the eye (on side of the head)

Tags may be returned to Saltas via collection points at Wigstons, New Norfolk; Fishing Connection, Harrington St, Hobart; The Essential Fly Fisher in Launceston; and Tassie Tackle and Outdoors on the North West Coast. All details of capture including full weight would be appreciated.

Welcome to the 2000/01 Trout Season

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish anglers all the best for the new season, which commenced on Saturday 29 July this year. In particular, I want to emphasise the importance of boating safety over the coming months.

I am urging all anglers, when preparing to go boating this season, to pay particular attention to the safe condition of boats and make absolutely sure that the required safety equipment is on board.

On another subject, the proposed changes by the Inland Fisheries Service to regulations for the Western Lakes area have generated considerable interest and debate. Many submissions have been received by the Service, and these comments were presented to the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council for consideration at its August meeting. The Council's recommendation will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration in the near future. Any regulatory changes agreed to are expected to be in place prior to the Western Lakes area becoming available for fishing this season.

The Service had hoped to open Lake Crescent for a limited period this season. However, the prolonged dry conditions and extremely low water levels have made the

launching of boats difficult and boating conditions too dangerous to warrant the lake's opening this year.

I hope that many anglers will choose to support the newly established Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund which aims to generate money for projects specially designed to improve and restore habitat for fish and other aquatic fauna.

The Fund is designed to address the lack of capital funding needed to restore and enhance the State's fishery. Although its focus is on improving the health of freshwater environments and protecting important aquatic habitats, a key outcome is improved fishing, so everyone stands to benefit.

The Fund is seeking donations from a range of corporations, government organisations, community groups and individuals. Anglers are requested to make a donation when purchasing a licence this season, and by way of incentive, the Service is offering a Gift Voucher for a One-day Licence for those contributing \$10 or more.

I'd like to wish you all – safe fishing and 'tight lines' this season.

Greg McCrossen, Director Inland Fisheries

Hydro Consultation for South Esk-Great Lake

Hydro Tasmania held a series of public meetings last month, to present the results of their public consultation for the South Esk-Great Lake Water Management Review. This water management review is a Hydro Tasmania initiative that aims to achieve environmentally sustainable water management for Hydro-affected waterways.

Previously, Hydro Tasmania carried out extensive consultation with stakeholders in the Great Lake and South Esk catchments from January to June 2000. The aim of this consultation was to identify stakeholder concerns and issues related to Hydro

Tasmania waterway management. There was a high rate of response from interested parties, and Hydro Tasmania thanks all those who participated.

Based on the information received through the public consultation, Hydro Tasmania has proposed a series of technical studies which will look at issues raised on a waterway-by-waterway basis. Hydro Tasmania plans to use the information from the public consultation and the results of the technical studies to develop strategies for managing the waterways it influences in a sustainable way, taking multiple use into consideration.

Carp Update July 2000

The possibility of total carp removal from Tasmania is a step closer to reality with the recent announcement of continued State Government funding of almost \$400 000 per year for the Carp Eradication Program over the next two years.

The funding is indicative of the Tasmanian Government's commitment to pest fish management and of its recognition of the success of the Program so far. Recognition has also come from interstate fisheries organisations that have expressed increasing interest in the Service's carp research and operations.

Another positive development for the Carp Eradication Program has been the commencement of a co-operative project between the IFS and CSIRO Fisheries to evaluate the success of the program's fish removal methods.

The project is funded by the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) and will provide \$176 000 over the next three years. The primary aim is to create computer models based on data compiled by the Carp Eradication Program over the last five years.

These models will be used to help operators allocate time and resources more productively during fishing efforts and will enable the Service to determine the likelihood of total eradication using current and past methods and technologies. The outcomes of this project may also be useful in determining the most desirable strategy

for tackling the possible introduction of pest fish in the future and provide a baseline study on the effectiveness of carp control and eradication by physical removal.

Another component of the collaborative project is the processing and interpretation of a large number of carp otoliths collected over the past five years. Otoliths, or 'ear bones' are calcified concretions situated in the inner ear of most fish. The deposition of calcium and protein at regular intervals allows the age of fish to be determined and is therefore, a useful tool in fisheries biology.

The work on carp otoliths will be invaluable in understanding population structure, growth rate and reproductive success of carp in Tasmania, and will aid in the formulation of management techniques used on the two carp populations. The ageing work may also help solve the mystery of how long the carp population has existed and why the species has been less successful in Lake Sorell.

Since the last newsletter update, the onset of cooler weather has resulted in reduced carp activity, making them harder to catch. However, radiotracking operations have continued with modest success, with the location and removal of fish from a few minor aggregations. Lake Sorell has received increased attention lately due largely to unseasonal aggregating behaviour exhibited over the last few months. In June, eight carp were captured from this lake including a 4.9kg male carp;

the largest carp captured from either lake since the inception of the Project. The capture of these fish raises the total number of carp removed from Lake Sorell to 77. The ratio of radiotracker implanted fish to fish without transmitters in Lake Sorell suggests that this population is quite small with carp numbers significantly lower than the heavily depleted Lake Crescent population. In Lake Crescent, an estimated 930 fish remain which is approximately the same number of carp that have been removed over the past year.

Britt Mawbey (Brett's daughter) with a 4.9kg male carp from Lake Sorell, the largest carp caught from Lake Crescent or Sorell



New machinery shed for Liawenee

For many years now the Service has needed a new machinery – come display – shed at Liawenee. Fortunately this year, funds were made available and the shed building process began.

- February – Liawenee inspector marked out the footings;
- March – The Longford Angling Club dug the footings;
- April – The Bishopsbourne Branch, NTFA and FACT club members, plus an off-duty Parks and Wildlife Service officer, mixed and concreted the footings;

Longford Club members starting the building of the machinery shed, Liawenee



*Club members from Bishopsbourne, NTFA and FACT, and PWS officer laying the foundations
The new shed - completed by May 2000*

- Late April-early May – the shed was approved by the Central Highlands Council and was then erected by contractors;
- Mid May – the floor was gravelled;
- 20-21 May – the new shed was full of commercial exhibitors for the Inland Fisheries Service Open Weekend who were more than happy to be out of the cold.

The Inland Fisheries Service is very grateful for the assistance freely given by anglers. Their support has been and continues to be significant, since many projects over the years would never have been completed without the voluntary help of club members.

Report on the Inland Fisheries Open Weekend

Liawenee Open Weekend, held on 20 and 21 May 2000, was once again a very successful event on the angling calendar. The team effort between angling clubs, Government departments, commercial operators, volunteer groups, private individuals and Inland Fisheries Service staff was very evident.

Liawenee Open Weekend is centred on the annual brown trout spawning migration where approximately 18 000 brown trout deposit their eggs in gravel throughout the canal. Liawenee Canal is also the main brown trout trapping area for the Inland Fisheries Service. Field staff strip approximately one million eggs each year to distribute around the State as fry during the following August and September.

The Open Weekend is one of the main promotional activities for the Service and is used to explain Inland Fisheries management. This year, IFS staff worked hard to prepare live displays of native fish, young trout and carp, and were out in force to talk to members of the public and answer questions about fisheries management.

Some angling clubs, such as the Longford Branch, make the event their main revenue raiser for the year and their barbecue stand was extremely popular this year. Several other food stalls added to the variety, such as the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association's take-away stand, the Central Highlands Community Centre's food stall, and a cappuccino and hot chocolate van. Cold weather conditions assisted with patronage of all of these stalls and the new machinery shed, which was used by commercial exhibitors, filled to overflowing with each snow shower.

Numbers were down a little compared to last year, but very favourable comments were received from those visitors who braved the highland conditions. Visitors were pleasantly surprised with the variety of exhibitions and the capital improvements undertaken since last year, including the new shed, fish trap display area and safety fence.

Viv Spencer, Senior Inspector



Jim Ferrier, Peter Richards and Tom Edson volunteered to do what they do best – catch trout – in preparation for Open Weekend



Oatlands Police Officer in Charge, Les Cooper, liaising with trout guides who gave lessons in fly fishing



Longford Club members making a killing with their barbecue



Fly tying was popular again this year



Jan Spencer and Lucy Murfett talking with artist, Stan Gri the Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund

Inland Fisheries rewards exceptional angling achievement

The Inland Fisheries Service recently rewarded the exceptional angling achievements of Mr Mervyn Wood of Bridgewater, currently in his 95th year and still fishing.

At the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers Association (STLAA) Annual Dinner in June, Mr Wood was presented with an award that will entitle him to receive a free angling licence for as long as he continues fishing. In presenting the award, the Minister for Inland Fisheries, Mr David Llewellyn, recalled some of Merv's experiences and contribution to angling over his long association with trout fishing in this State.

Born in 1905, Merv fished the River Derwent as a twelve year old with the renowned W T Cramp. Earlier, as a seven year old, he accompanied his father, Alfred, on trips to the lakes. These trips were made by horse and cart with supplies including a bag of chaff for the



Mervyn Wood accepting his free fishing award from the Minister for Inland Fisheries, David Llewellyn

horse and a billycan of jollies (jollytails for bait) swinging on the axle. It took two days to get there with an overnight stay at Melton Mowbray. He obtained his first trout licence at age twelve and has held a licence continuously since that age.

Later on, Merv became involved with the Bridgewater Anglers Club and the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers Association. He was responsible for the reconstituting of the Bridgewater Anglers Club in 1936, going on to serve on the Committee of the Club for 32 years, 23 of these as Secretary. He was also a Delegate to the STLAA for all of this period. In 1947 he was made the first Life Member of the Bridgewater Club and in 1968 was awarded Life Membership of the STLAA.

Between 1956 and 1963, Merv was instrumental, with the help of Mr Hector Jones from the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Commission, in obtaining and releasing large numbers of fry and yearling fish as part of a

significant stocking program of the Derwent River. Merv was also involved in the stocking of the Morass, which was the marshy area between the Sand Lake and the Blue Lake of Arthurs Lakes. These areas become one with the flooding of Arthurs Lake in 1963.

In the late forties to the late fifties, Merv did most of his fishing in the Morass area with his long-time fishing companion, George Lewis. From a small shack, which is now underwater about 500 metres in front of the current dam, they used to fish the stream and marshy area between the two lakes. Merv recalls such places as "plodder", "strip", "stream" and "big marsh". Fishing was done mostly with the fly (black and red tadpole) from a small plywood dinghy which they paddled and dragged up and down the stream and around the marsh.

Terry Byard – Southern Tasmanian Licenced Anglers Association



ndstall



who donated a picture worth \$400 for a raffle to raise funds for

MAST projects funded on inland waters

The Board of Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) has approved 32 projects to upgrade and improve recreational boating facilities around the State as part of the Recreational Boating Fund 2000.

MAST received 180 submissions for 110 facilities after calling for proposals when boating registrations were sent out in November last year. The selection of this year's projects followed a series of public meetings around the State with boat users and other interested parties.

This year there is an increase in projects due to the assistance of funding from individual property owners contributing with MAST on a dollar for dollar basis, enabling the recreational boating fund to spread further around the State.

Funding for inland waters will go to upgrade boat ramps at Jonah Bay, Arthurs Dam, Johnstone Rd – Great Lake, Tods Corner and Strathgordon Bay – Lake Pedder. The boat ramp extension at Brandum Bay has already been completed.

Funding has also been allocated for signage on all recreational boating facilities Statewide. MAST is currently liaising with Councils to determine which facilities require signage in their respective municipal areas.

Although approval in principle has been given for all of these projects, a few are subject to Property Owners receiving approval for their 2000-2001 budgets.

For further information on recreational boating facilities, contact MAST on 6233 8801.

OTHER THAN TROUT

A regular article on animals of interest to the angler

Focus on Golden Galaxiias

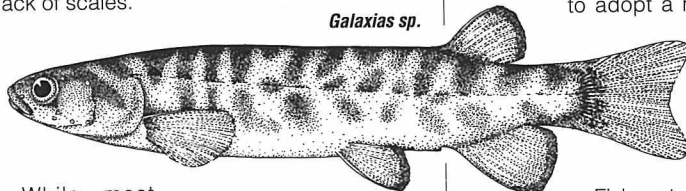
by Sven Frijlink, Technical Officer

What are galaxiids?

Galaxiids are small, scaleless fishes from the family Galaxiidae. They are confined to the Southern Hemisphere and represent a large proportion of the temperate freshwater fish in southern Australia. From a total of 21 species in Australia, Tasmania has a relatively rich galaxiid fauna with 15 species, 10 of which are endemic (only found here). Some of these occupy a broad geographical range whilst most are restricted to well defined geographical areas.

Many people will be aware of the presence of galaxiids in Tasmanian lakes and waterways. Some are similar in appearance to small trout and are often confused as such. The spotted galaxias (*Galaxias truttaceus*) are even referred to as "mountain trout".

While a large degree of variation exists between species, galaxiids can generally be identified by their elongate, tubular bodies, posteriorly situated dorsal fin and lack of scales.



Galaxias sp.

While most galaxiid species are exclusively freshwater, a few are diadromous, meaning that they also have a marine stage in their life cycle. These species are also the ones that occupy a large range, due to the dispersal opportunities afforded by spending part of their life cycle at sea.

The Golden Galaxiid

The golden galaxias (*Galaxias auratus*) is endemic to lakes Sorell and Crescent. Adult fish are light yellow-gold on back and sides with dark round or oval spots, which often merge to form vertical bands. Relative to most galaxiids, the golden galaxias has a short, wide and deep body with a small head. It commonly reaches 140 mm but can grow to a maximum reported length of 240 mm, making it one of the largest galaxiid species.

G. auratus co-habits lakes Sorell and Crescent with brown and rainbow trout, the short-finned eel and the recently introduced European carp. Many former bait anglers of Lake Crescent will be familiar with this fish as it was used extensively as bait for large trout. Commonly, anglers would catch a golden galaxiid, attach it to a fishing line and row the bait towards the middle of the lake and release it. This process became known as 'longlining' and was responsible for the capture of many large trout.

Unlike many galaxiids, *G. auratus* seems to have been little affected by the introduction of trout: they represent an important food item for trout but remain very abundant in both lakes. However, the species has been classified as rare under the *Threatened*

Species Protection Act 1995 due to its restricted distribution. Furthermore, the immediate and long-term impacts of European carp introduction, through habitat modification and resource competition, are yet to be determined.

Life Cycle

The life cycle of the golden galaxias is completed entirely in freshwater, within lakes Sorell and Crescent. Adults spawn on substrates such as rocks and weeds in shallow lake margins during late winter and spring. The eggs are adhesive and are not swept away by water movement. After hatching, the transparent larvae are planktonic and undergo a gradual metamorphosis to juvenile fish after about 70 days. Juvenile fish to about six months of age are frequently observed in schools near the surface around the shore and amongst the marshes. The young fish tend to adopt a more benthic habitat

by about eight months. Thereafter, *G. auratus* seem to prefer shallow margins with rocky habitat providing cover. Fish mature after one year, and most live to around two and a half years of age. However, some fish have been found to live up to five years.

What do golden galaxiids eat?

As a general rule, *G. auratus* exploit progressively larger food items as they grow. Smaller larvae (<10 mm) consume rotifers, copepod nauplii, small adult copepods and algae. Larger larvae and small juvenile fish eat adult copepods, cladocerans, chironomid pupae, ostracods and shrimp larvae. Larger juvenile and adult fish feed on insect larvae, insects, molluscs and crustaceans and

smaller galaxias. They have been observed to consume a very wide range of prey types, sizes and numbers, indicating that *G. auratus* is a generalist, non-selective feeder.

Interestingly, there is a considerable difference between the diets of larvae-early juvenile fish from Lake Sorell and Lake Crescent. As a rule, fish from Lake Sorell consume a smaller number of larger prey items whilst Lake Crescent fish consume a larger number of smaller prey items. This is thought to reflect the marked differences in population dynamics of zooplankton between the two lakes.

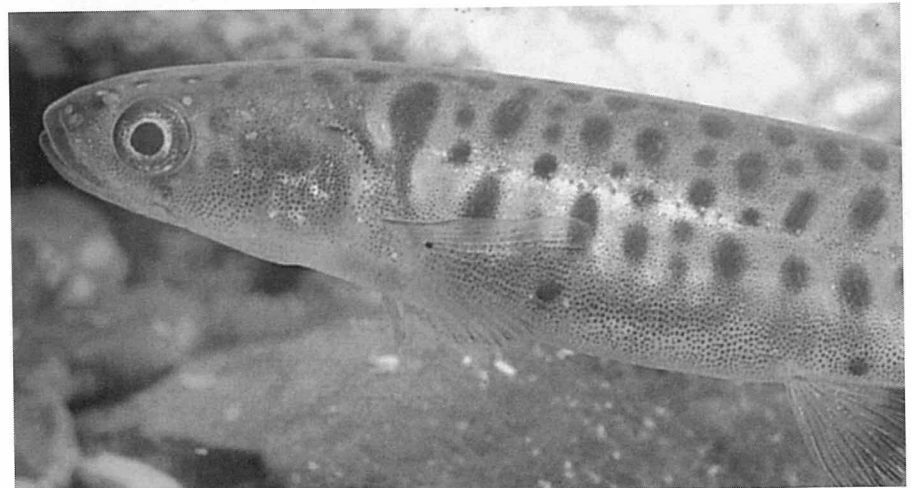
Why is it important to study fish larvae?

Investigation into the early life history of fish, as indicated by studies into the golden galaxiid, is a priority for developing management strategies aimed at conserving the species.

As a rule, the mean survival rate of freshwater fish larvae from hatching to metamorphosis into juveniles is about five per cent. While this figure is considerably higher than for marine fish, it still emphasises the importance of the early life history of fishes in the ultimate success of adult populations. Fluctuations in year class recruitment and consequently the structure of a fish population is usually decided in the initial stages of development. This is when fish are most vulnerable to mortality in the form of predation, starvation and to a lesser extent, disease.

In contrast to less volatile marine habitats, fish in freshwater environments are particularly susceptible to episodic mortalities due to the effects of weather or water conditions. An untimely flood, drought or food shortage may decimate an otherwise healthy batch of eggs or larvae. Therefore, knowledge of the ecology of fish larvae is invaluable in the assessment and forecasts of the health and viability of adult fish populations.

Golden galaxiid, G. auratus. Courtesy G.R. Allen



By Jean Jackson, Scientific Officer and
Andrew Harvey, Technical Officer
Native Fish Conservation

Captive breeding trials

The recovery plan for the Swan, Pedder, Clarence, swamp and saddled galaxias identifies the need to establish methods for a captive breeding program. IFS native fish staff are currently establishing a breeding trial at the IFS field station at Liawenee. The aim is to determine successful methods for breeding threatened native fish species in captivity.

While supplementing wild populations with captive-bred fish is not currently required, it is important to establish breeding techniques now should they ever be required in the future. Nor is captive breeding a substitute for the current efforts of IFS staff in identifying and conserving native fish habitats.

The trials will use a number of indoor aquariums in addition to large outdoor tanks generously donated by Saltas. The first species to be trialed will be the Swan, Clarence and golden galaxias. It is hoped that a successful spawning will be achieved in captivity this Spring.

Although this is an important program, the key to ongoing survival of native fish populations is the protection of habitat from disturbance and introduced species, particularly predators such as brown trout and redfin perch.



Pools in the north-west where dwarf galaxias previously occurred, now dry

Results of Dwarf galaxias surveys

As described in the last issue of *On the Rise*, surveys were conducted in the north-west of the State between Temma and Woolnorth to search for the Rare dwarf galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*). It was so dry there in March and April that a lot of time was spent just looking for water, with many sites mapped as 'permanent' being dry.



Eggs of Clarence galaxias found in the wild, October 1993

Results were mixed, with the species being discovered at only one site (near Marawah) of the 35 sites where fish were sampled. The previously known site north of Marawah was dry and cattle-trampled, having been cleared for pasture since the species was found there in 1997. Other species found were spotted galaxias, climbing galaxias, jollytails, pygmy perch, sandies and eels. These native species were often present in huge numbers in the small trout-free streams and lagoons.

Another new Clarence galaxias site found

Acting on tip-offs from a glacial geomorphologist, native fish staff set about exploring for new Clarence galaxias sites and found one within the World Heritage Area. Although the species appears similar to the climbing galaxias, which also occurs in the area, its identity was subsequently confirmed by Brett Mawbey on a recent visit to the site. Fortunately, this population is protected from trout invasion by a steep bouldery stream.

A Rainbow Experience

By Mrs Sheryl Templar, Historian, North Western Fisheries Association

I recently had the privilege of interviewing a very special lady – Mrs Rhyllis Furmage – who spent many years as part of a family living and working at the Breona Rainbow Chalet, Great Lake. Unfortunately a fire destroyed the chalet in the 1960's and a unique part of the history of our trout fishery went with it.

Rhyllis Furmage, nee Dickenson, was born at Catamaran in the south of Tasmania and was married at the Golden Valley Church on 8 June 1940. The wedding party travelled in a Model T Ford to the wedding reception at the Rainbow Chalet, Great Lake.

Rhyllis' husband answered the call to serve in the war. She returned to the chalet during those years with her mother, father and seven brothers and sisters – the Dickenson family – to run the accommodation house.

Rhyllis, now in her 80's, recalled many happy memories spent at the chalet and said, it gave the family a lift to feel they had the chance to work and play alongside one another through those very hard times.

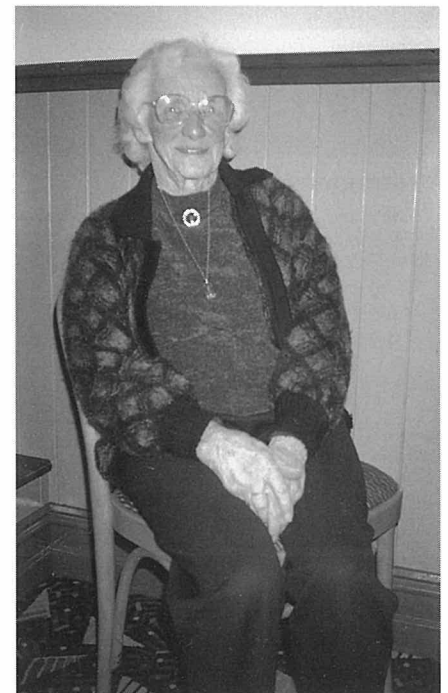
"My father and brothers took boarders fishing in their two boats, the Lizzard and

the Dorie," remembered Rhyllis, indicating that the Dickensons' would have been among the first Tasmanian trout guides.

"Guys coaches serviced the chalet delivering the mail, food and visitors. We had to dig the coach out of snow drifts, the likes of which we very rarely experience today," she remarked. "Communication to the outside world was via a single Hydro phone with workers relaying messages. The workers used skis to get to the chalet for a much sought-after cup of tea."

Before the chalet had extensions to the exterior of the building, Rhyllis and her brothers and sisters would sleep in tents and in the laundry when the accommodation house was full. Twelve bob a day was the going rate for a room there, and the kettle was always on for anyone needing a warm drink or spot by an inviting log fire.

Despite her years, Rhyllis, who now lives in a nursing home in Hobart, spoke as if her time at Great Lake was only yesterday, and she was so interesting and informative. On behalf of all trout anglers, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks for her time, memories and wonderful historical photographs.



Rhyllis Furmage – her family, the Dickensons ran accommodation at the Rainbow Chalet, Great Lake during the war years

Erosion protection works at Mountain Creek

Last March 2000 the Service undertook work to protect the lower managed section of Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell from further riverbed and bank erosion. Funding was supplied by the State Government through the Lake Sorell Rehabilitation Project.

The streambed erosion was greatly affecting the passage of trout to suitable spawning beds further upstream of logs that had been positioned to slow flows and provide suitable spawning habitat for trout by retaining gravel.

Over 600 cubic metres of large scree rock was carted to the site, the largest of which was placed below the logs and the remainder used to protect the banks from further erosion.

To handle large floods, a break out levee was constructed in either bank upstream at points adjacent to the natural flood zones. The plan is to restore the natural flow of flood-water that occurred prior to creek management.



Above Eroded streambed at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell

Left Rock work around logs to protect the streambed from erosion



The original reason for building the creek to retain floods within its banks was to stop spawning trout going over the banks and being lost in the surrounding bush as water levels receded back into the river. This is now considered a secondary priority compared with protecting suitable spawning sites in the main stream from high flows that quickly remove the small gravel.

A smaller side channel with an in-line fish trap was also constructed, so that a controlled water flow from the main stream can be supplied to it by a knife gate structure. This side channel was built to take advantage of a drop in the streambed caused by past erosion. The streambed below this barrier was protected by gabion mattresses filled with rock and an under layer of geo-fabric.

The new side channel will enable the trapping of trout for management and study under controlled conditions after which the fish can be placed over the trap to re-enter the main stream. Previously fish were caught in temporary traps in the main stream that were difficult to manage in moderate to large flows. This new trap should allow easier access for fish and a safer, more efficient environment for Service staff to undertake work.

Chris Wisniewski, Inspector

Prosecutions

Infringement notices

Offence	Number
Fish without a licence	3
Possession or use of net	1
Take whitebait without a licence	1
Take fish from closed waters	2
Possession of assembled rod & line	1
Use excess rods	1
Use a strike indicator	1

Court proceedings

Offences that were proceeded with by summons are listed below.

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Any comments, suggestions, contributions or ideas for articles would be most welcome and should be addressed to:

Sarah Burton
Inland Fisheries Service
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Offender	Location	Offences Summary	Total fine + costs (\$)
Jason John KEMP, Gagebrook	DERWENT RIVER	Unlicensed	272-60
Terran Leslie WOODS, Somerset	INGLIS RIVER	Unattended set rod	135-30
John Terrence SMITH, Latrobe	RUBICON RIVER	Take whitebait, Possess net	1 035-30
Wayne Anthony PURKISS, New Norfolk	DERWENT RIVER	Possess net, Take whitebait	535-30
Dale BARRATT, New Norfolk	DERWENT RIVER	Possess whitebait	353-30
Nathan John SMITH, Devonport	FORTH RIVER	Aid person to commit an offence	1 035-00