

# INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

## NEWSLETTER

Volume XI No. 1

March 1982

### SHANNON LAGOON

Two angling associations have advised that they wish to have Shannon Lagoon opened to natural bait fishing in the next review of the Inland Fisheries regulations. In general, the character of Shannon Lagoon has changed because of the diversion of Great Lake water northwards through Poatina. However, the unusually dry summer of 1981/82 was an exception because of the need to release water from Great Lake to meet riparian requirements in the south.

### DONATION FROM PEDDER VISITOR

Mr V. (Bid) Gadsby, Vice President of the Australian Freshwater Fisherman's Assembly, has enjoyed visits to Lake Pedder where he was impressed by both the trout and the scenery. Mr Gadsby is an expert angler and photographer. The Commission appreciates his generosity in donating two fine examples of his photographic work, namely scenes at Lake Pedder.

### ADULT RAINBOW TROUT IN STORAGE DAMS AT BEACONSFIELD

The Beaconsfield anglers have taken delivery of 50 adult rainbow trout, kindly donated by Sevrup Fisheries Pty. Ltd., to provide stock for local storages. In addition, the Commission advised the Beaconsfield Branch on ways and means of improving spawning facilities. Even so, it may be necessary to add more fish from Commission hatcheries from time to time.

### COMMISSION BASE ON WEST COAST

A lease of land has been arranged from the Hydro-Electric Commission for premises for the Inland Fisheries Commission at Tullah. It is hoped that in July 1982, construction of a house for an officer may begin.

### JET BOAT AND WHITEBAIT

There has been considerable discussion by anglers concerning the operations of a jet boat on the Derwent and Huon Rivers. The Commission has discussed the matter with the Navigation and Survey Authority and the design of a jet boat is such that its wash would be less than that for a power boat of a similar hull length.

According to the Authority, the jet boat proposals are for routes from the New Norfolk and Huonville Bridges further upstream. This is certainly above the main whitebait (Lovettia) spawning areas in the Huon River and Derwent River.

The jet boats would not operate continuously and there would be plenty of uninterrupted time left for spawning of Lovettia as well as for migration of this and other species in the whitebait run.

#### ACCESS TO ARTHURS LAKE SUBSIDIARY DAM

The access track to the Arthurs Lake Subsidiary Dam is a private access for the Hydro-Electric Commission vehicles. The track is maintained to a standard sufficient for the Hydro-Electric Commission employees to travel to the subsidiary dam for inspection purposes and is generally suitable for four-wheel drive traffic. At this stage there are no proposals to upgrade the track to make it suitable for conventional vehicles in poor weather.

#### TOILETS AT EDGAR DAM

The Commission took up with the National Parks and Wildlife Service the provision of toilet facilities at Edgar Dam. The Service advised that the provision of adequate toilet facilities and the associated waste treatment systems in all areas under the Service's control throughout the State, constitutes perhaps the biggest single problem facing the Service. The problem is all the more acute as a result of budget restraints imposed by the general economic climate. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is unable to predict any timetable of improvements at Scots Peak at present.

#### LOGGING ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF GREAT LAKE

The Commission held discussions with Forest Resources concerning logging in this area. It was agreed that a small bridge would be built across Breton Rivulet and logging would only be done in relatively dry conditions to minimise siltation.

#### BRIDGE OVER ADA CANAL

On 16 January, a bridge was erected over the canal. The approaches to the bridge are temporary but the metal is quite solid. Further improvements will be made as time permits. The project was carried out by Commission and Lands Department staff with valuable assistance from volunteers - Messrs. W. Thompson, A. Cameron, R. Stephenson, I. French and B. Dobson. Already, many anglers have made use of the bridge.

#### FISH OUT POND

The Commission has rejected an application from the proprietor of Russell Falls Trout Farm, to conduct a fish out pond on his premises. A condition of fish farm licences specifically excludes the type of activity known as a fish out pond.

## WHIRLING DISEASE

In November 1931 there was an outbreak of whirling disease in six trout farms in the United Kingdom. Whirling disease is one of the most important infectious diseases of trout. The parasite attacks the balance organs of the young fish and damages the central nervous system. This causes erratic swimming, curvature of the backbone and other deformities. Many of the fish die. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food banned the movement of live fish, eggs of fish and food stuff from the infected fish farms until further notice. The report was the first recorded of this disease from England. It effects rainbow trout most severley although brown and brook trout may also be effected. The disease does not effect man and there is no danger from eating fish which has been exposed to the disease. The disease has not been recorded in Australia.

## TASMANIA ACTS TO PREVENT ENTRY OF SALMONID DISEASE

Under the Stock Act, a proclamation was issued in February 1932 to prevent the importation of live salmonids, their eggs or other products, into Tasmania for a period of three years. This is to prevent the introduction of a disease known as Bacterial Kidney Disease which has been identified in main land Australia. The disease, caused by Aeribacterium salmoninarum, is an acute chronic systematic infection of salmonids. It occurs over a wide range of temperatures and can cause high mortality in fish hatcheries.

## FISH LADDERS ON COASTAL WEIRS

On 12 January 1932, a temporary fish ladder was installed at the Duck River gauging weir. This ladder is a modification of the original ladder which was tested during March last year.

On 14 January 1932, a temporary fish ladder, built according to plans previously submitted to the Rivers and Water Supply Commission, was installed at the Rubicon Weir.

Both ladders appeared to work well and should allow all migrating species to pass upstream. The ladder on the Rubicon Weir was immediately used by a number of species. Galaxiids, eiders, sandys were trapped above the weir after passing over the ladder. However, the flow at the Duck River was too great to allow detailed observations or trapping above the ladder.

On 18 January 1932, the gauging weirs on the Ansons and Scamander Rivers were inspected. Electro-fishing below these weirs indicated a build up of migrating galaxiids, sandys, eiders and smolt. Detailed measurements of both weirs were recorded. Details of the weir on the Franklin River (North West Coast) are to be collected.

On 13 January 1932, the fish ladder on the Lower Forth Weir was inspected under minimum flow conditions. There was no water passing through the ladder. This could easily be remedied by lowering the ladder approximately 6 cm in order that the intake is below water level at all times. Some concrete work is also needed at the foot of the ladder to enable fish to enter. This

work could be done in conjunction with the positioning of stones on the west bank. These proposals have been discussed with the North West Regional Water Supply.

#### APPLICATION FOR A FISH FARM LICENCE

The Commission has received an application for a fish farm licence from Mr P.C.M. Hall who wishes to culture rainbow trout in the sea near Chronicle Point. He has not as yet, finalised the site of the fresh water phase of his operation. Initially he proposes to carry out small scale operations.

#### LAKE SORELL

Lake Sorrell provided some excellent fishing in December 1981 and January 1982. One angler enjoyed three weeks fishing and his weekly catch was 33, 25 and 17 fish in good condition. A surprising feature of the catch was the high number of rainbow trout.

#### FUNDING OF INLAND FISHERIES IN VICTORIA

The Victorian anglers contribute about \$700 000 annually in licence fees and the expenditure of inland angling in that State varies between 2.5 and 3 million dollars per annum.

#### CONTROL OF GORSE

The Commission has received a request to investigate methods of controlling gorse which hinders angling at various rivers. There is some biological control of gorse in Tasmania by a seed weevil which entered the country accidentally. The weevil attacks the seeds but is not effective as a major controlling agent here. In New Zealand, the problem is more serious because arable land has been lost to gorse. In Tasmania the gorse mainly occupies low productive ground. The Commission has taken up the matter of gorse control with the Department of Agriculture.

#### WATER RAT PROBLEM AT SALMON PONDS HATCHERY

In the six months till the end of November 1981, twenty water rats were trapped at the Salmon Ponds and transferred to Derwent River below New Norfolk. The rat is usually a most serious predator on rainbow trout fingerlings but in the last year the mortality among brook trout was high owing to a water shortage and it was necessary to hold them in ponds which were not completely enclosed.

## DIVERSION OF THE UPPER MEANDER WATERS INTO GREAT LAKE

A diversion of the Upper Meander waters to Great Lake is being considered by the Hydro-Electric Commission but no detailed investigation has been made. The scheme envisaged is primarily a gravity diversion of named and un-named tributaries of the Upper Meander adjacent to Wild Dog Teir. There could be five or six diversion weirs on the Upper Meander, Sales and Dunning Rivulets and un-named creeks. The weirs may range from 3 to 9 metres in height. Actual weir sites have not been selected. The Inland Fisheries Commission considers that the weirs would have little effect on fish, provided adequate flow of water was kept in the water courses to maintain fish stocks. More detailed consideration will be given to the proposal at a later date if the proposal should proceed.

## SISTERS BEACH SANCTUARY

The Commission proposes to regulate so that Sisters Creek from Lake Llewellyn to the sea becomes a sanctuary for fresh water fish. All fishing in this stream would be banned. The sanctuary would operate in conjunction with the Bird Land Nature Park at Sisters Beach near Hattle Avenue and it is hoped that visitors may see fish in pleasant, natural surroundings.

## SUBMERGED ISLANDS IN GREAT LAKE

The Commission proposes to take up with the Navigation and Survey Authority, the matter of marking submerged islands in Great Lake which may pose a hazard to boats when the water levels fluctuate and the submerged ground is just below water level.

## VOLUNTARY HELP PROPOSALS

From time to time, the Commission receives proposals to use voluntary labour to release trout fry or to undertake other activities. In the past, useful contributions have been made by anglers assisting in the construction or improvement of boat launching ramps and helping to salvage fish. At Lagoon of Islands this year, valuable assistance was given by anglers who were able to assist in the transfer of adult rainbow trout from ponds off Mary Creek back to Lagoon of Islands. The use of voluntary labour has some attractive aspects and it can achieve good results under some circumstances. The work on the bridge at Ada Canal is another example. The Commission is grateful to those anglers who have made themselves available to participate in these projects.

## LICENCE FEES

The Commission proposes to review angling licence fees in March and already, angling associations and other interested parties have offered views on types of licences and charges.

The Commission has sought information from New Zealand, where authorities claim that licence fees have not kept up with inflation. To overcome this difficulty, New Zealand authorities propose in the future to link licence fees to the annual cost of living index in order to keep abreast of inflation. Rises in fees are proposed for next season.

In New Zealand, a full season angling licence at present costs \$15 and this licence covers the whole of New Zealand except for Lake Taupo and Lake Rotorua. A weekly licence is available at a cost of \$6 and it covers all New Zealand except for Lake Taupo and Lake Rotorua and the southern lakes. A daily licence in New Zealand costs \$2 and covers only the district where the licence is issued. A tourist licence costs \$12 and is valid for one month only and covers all New Zealand except for Lake Taupo and Lake Rotorua. It is available at restricted sale outlets only to overseas visitors.

The separate licence fees for either Lake Taupo or Lake Rotorua are set out below:

Full season - adults and children over 16 years	\$15
Monthly	10
Weekly	7
Daily	2
Children under 16 years - full season	3
Children under 16 years - day licence	1

#### BRUISERS LAGOON

During the spell of hot weather in February, the size of Bruisers Lagoon reduced to less than 10 per cent of its usual surface area. Many small rainbow trout, ranging in size from 100 to 250 mm, were seen. It is proposed to investigate the possibility of damming up the outlet of the lagoon.

#### FISH SALVAGE

Early in December, the electro-fishing machine was used to salvage trout from Monpeelyata Canal. Eighty brown trout were salvaged, twenty of the fish weighed approximately 1.5 kg or more, 35 were from 500 g to 1.5 kg and the remainder were yearlings and advanced fry.

On 23 January, another salvage operation was put in course in the same water when 250 fish were transferred. The fish were put in Little Pine Lagoon.

#### ACID RAIN

In a number of European countries, great concern has been shown at the deterioration of streams due to acid rain. pollution from industrial complexes have got into the air and later have fallen with rain. It has been shown that conifers have the ability to concentrate pollution which has then reached streams and causes an increase in the acidity of the

streams. Increase in acidity has had an adverse effect on the streams and the fish, particularly on salmon. The Commission discussed with the Forestry Commission the possibility of this phenomena occurring in Tasmania. It seems unlikely that with the present state of industrial development in the State, that increased acidity had occurred in Tasmania and that the possibility of it occurring in the future is fairly remote due to the pattern and amount of industrial development and the wind pattern together with the location of pine forests.

#### LITTLE PINE LAGOON WATER LEVEL

Following consultations with the Hydro-Electric Commission, it is proposed that, weather permitting, the level of Little Pine Lagoon be held at 3302 ft throughout January to March.

#### FISH MORTALITY - BACK CREEK, LONGFORD

Following investigations of a mortality of fish at Back Creek, it has been ascertained that brown trout died as a result of an increase of organic material in the creek. It was not possible to positively identify the source of the pollutant entering the creek. The fish died from lack of oxygen. An interesting sideline to the mortality was an indication of the stocks of fish present in this creek. Anglers expressed surprise at the size and condition of the fish present in this creek.

The Commission would point out that there are many similar locations in Tasmania where it is not fully appreciated that numbers of good conditioned fish are present in small streams.

#### LOST AND FOUND

A new tyre and wheel from a boat trailer have been found in the highlands. The owner may apply to Mr V.R. Spencer, Acting Senior Inspector of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

#### SEIZED BOAT SOLD

A dinghy seized at Dee Lagoon while being used to net trout on 21 December 1900, was sold by the Supply and Tender Department on behalf of the Commission for \$1 110.

#### PROSECUTIONS

A summary of recent court cases is set out on the following page for information. Further cases are listed for hearing.

Court Date	Offender and Address	Nature of Offence	Fine	Costs
26.8.81	Geoffrey William Reid Ravenswood	Possession of assembled rod.	20-00 ...	12-10 ...
7.9.81	Christopher Pitney Lindisfarne	Offering 9 brown trout for sale. Selling 2 brown trout.	215-00 ...	15-10 ...
7.9.81	Kerry Amos Brown Montagu Bay	Disturbing spawning fish. Fishing in closed waters. Taking fish other than rod.	168-00 ...	15-10 ...
7.9.81	John Stafford Winzil Austins Ferry	Disturbing spawning fish. Fishing in closed waters. Taking fish other than rod.	260-00 ...	15-10 ...
15.9.81	Shane David Tapp Launceston	Disturbing spawning fish. Fishing in closed waters. Taking fish other than rod.	60-00 ...	15-10 ...
21.10.81	Michael John Sweet Fingal	Fishing without licence.	50-00 ...	15-10 ...
3.11.81	Kevin Frances Rizzoli Ascot Vale, Victoria	Fishing without licence. Fishing in closed waters.	70-00 ...	15-10 ...
17.11.81	John Hurst Pipers River	Disturbing spawning fish. Fishing in closed waters. Taking fish other than rod.	65-00 ...	15-10 ...
6.1.82	William Darcy Rowlands Giverstone	Live bait in artificial water.	35-00 ...	15-10 ...
17.11.81	Frank Wolfhagen Pipers River	Disturbing spawning fish. Fishing in closed waters. Taking fish other than rod.	65-00 ...	15-10 ...
22.1.82	Shane Benson Mundy Bothwell	Disturbing spawning Taking fish by light. Taking fish other than rod. Fishing in closed waters.	190-00 ...	15-10 ...
25.1.82	Warren Purton Wynyard	Taking fish by light.	60-00 ...	15-10 ...
25.1.82	Ian John Smith Wynyard	Taking fish by light Fishing without licence.	110-00 ...	15-10 ...

<u>Court Date</u>	<u>Offender and Address</u>	<u>Nature of Offence</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Costs</u>
3.2.82 ...	Peter Anthony Lamprey Latrobe	Taking whitebait unlicenced. Possession of whitebait. Unmarked scoop net.	120-00 ...	15-10 ...
10.2.82 ...	Paul Michael Sheehan Railton	Taking whitebait unlicenced. Unmarked scoop net.	40-00 ...	23-10 ...

Inland Fisheries Commission,  
127 Davcy Street,  
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

*D. D. Lynch*  
D.D. Lynch,  
COMMISSIONER