



INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION
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APPLE ISLE BECOMING ANGLERS' PARADISE

A comprehensive survey has revealed that Tasmania's trout angling industry is contributing more than \$3 million annually to the State's economy.

A detailed survey of visiting anglers shows that a total of \$3 059 400 was spent during the 1981 calendar year.

More than one-third of this (approximately \$1.2 million) was spent on transport within the State, with meals and accommodation accounting for \$1.1 million. The remainder was spent on tackle and other items.

An estimated 11 500 visitors went fishing for trout in Tasmanian waters during the surveyed year.

The survey, by the Department of Tourism, was the most detailed yet undertaken in an attempt to gain an accurate profile of visiting anglers' attitudes.

Revelations of the survey justified Tasmania's claim to having prized angling waters which gave value to visitors and at the same time played an integral part in the State's tourism industry.

Fifty-seven percent of anglers surveyed during 1981 had never before been on a trout fishing trip to Tasmania, and eighty-six percent indicated enough satisfaction with Tasmanian trout fishing attractions to want to return.

The bulk of visiting anglers came from Victoria (5 034) and New South Wales (3 558) and combined made up 74 percent of the total visitors. Only 29 percent of the total were from overseas, with North Americans (146 or 1.3 percent) and New Zealanders (108 or 0.9 percent) dominating.

A surprising aspect of the survey was that about two-thirds of the anglers did not primarily visit Tasmania to go fishing. Even though they confessed to be keen anglers, their visit to the State was a mixture of angling with general tourism - with angling given secondary consideration. Even so, they spent an average of seven days fishing Tasmania's lakes and streams - particularly the inland lakes and rivers.

Tasmania's famous Lake Pedder was overlooked as the most popular venue for visiting anglers.

The Central Plateau was the most popular area fished, with 30.2 percent of all visiting anglers participating. This region, which is nationally well known as the land of 3 000 lakes, includes noted trout waters such as Great Lake, Arthur's Lake, Lake Sarah, Lake St Clair and Lake King William, and the famous fly fishing waters of Little Pine Lagoon.

Lake Pedder, in south western Tasmania, which yields fish upwards of 5 kg, attracted 29.5 percent of the total number of angling visitors.

HOW THEY WERE HOOKED

Average number of resident Tasmanians in angling parties was 1.3; of non Tasmanians, the average was two.

The majority of anglers favoured lake fishing only.

A great majority of anglers were satisfied with most aspects of trout fishing in Tasmania, ranging from quality and quantity of fish, accessibility of fishing areas, and availability of information, accommodation and amenities at fishing areas and provision for the sale or hire of tackle, the availability and standard of angling guide services.

The survey also revealed that:

70.4 percent of anglers stayed overnight in fishing areas.

Spinning and bait were the most commonly used fishing methods. 47.7 percent of anglers used spinning mainly and 37.5 percent used bait.

57 percent of all anglers had never before fished for trout in Tasmania.

06.2 percent intend to return for further fishing expeditions.

Each angler averaged a total expenditure of £206-01.

FISHING METHODS

<u>Method</u>	<u>% of all Anglers</u>
Exit	37.5
Spinning	47.7
Trolling	20.5
Fly	23.0

Note: Percentages do not total 100 because many anglers used more than one fishing method.

PLAQUES FOR SALMON PONDS

Mrs Jean Walker of Lindisfarne presented the Inland Fisheries Commission with two plaques for the Salmon Ponds in memory of her late husband, Alan Walker, who had a life long interest in trout angling in the Deverent Valley.

The first plaque commemorates the actual spot where the first atlantic salmon and trout ova were hatched in the southern hemisphere. This plaque is to be located inside the hatchery museum.

The second plaque indicates the house of the first superintendent of the Salmon Ponds, William Ramstottom. The house is currently occupied by the Officer-in-Charge of the Salmon Ponds.

The Inland Fisheries Commission appreciates the generous thought of Mrs Walker in donating these plaques to enhance the public interest in the Salmon Ponds.

TOONS LAKE

The Ross Branch is extremely pleased with the fishing in Toons Lake. Last season was the best at Toons Lake for a number of years. With the lake full, shore fishing was good. Later in the season when the water warmed up, fish moved into the deeper water and the spinner men made good catches. The Branch believe that the stocking policy carried out over the past years is now starting to show results. Commission officers report brown trout in the spawning creek. The creek was cleared of obstructions in the summer work programme. The fish are not big, averaging about 1 kg, although fish up to 2 kg were sighted,

The Ross Branch arranged for ten boats to assist in the liberation of brown trout fry in August this year.

DONATION OF RAINBOW TROUT OVA

Sevrup Fisheries Pty. Ltd. donated in excess of 1 million rainbow trout ova to the Inland Fisheries Commission. The ova were put down at the Corra Linn hatchery on 3 September 1962 and have now all hatched out. It is expected that the fry will be ready for liberation early in October in storages lacking spawning facilities.

DONATION OF BROWN TROUT EGGS

The Commission donated 110 000 brown trout ova to the Victorian Fly-Fishers' Association to commemorate the 50th anniversary of that Association. The eggs will be used by the Ballarat Fish Acclimatization Society in conjunction with the Association. Victoria is in the grip of serious drought which limited the supply of brown trout ova available.

LAGOON OF ISLANDS

All angling Associations have now expressed a preference for the fishery at Lagoon of Islands to be closed in July and open in November and that the number of brown trout be increased.

IMPORTATION OF SALMONIDS

From time to time proposals are advanced to import salmonids into Tasmania. Currently, there is an Australia wide ban on the importation of salmonids into Australia. This ban is designed to protect the valuable salmonid industries in Australia. These include recreational fisheries, the fish farm fisheries for trout flesh and trout egg production; there is a valuable export industry in trout eggs. Fortunately Tasmania does not have a number of diseases which ravage wild fish and fish farms in some other countries.

In March this year the Commission acted in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industry under the Stock Act 1931, Section 6 (1), to prohibit for three years the importation of the family salmonidae and ova from other States into Tasmania. The diseases known as bacterial kidney disease, red mouth and furunculosis are not known in Tasmania.

Any dispensation from the current ban could place an established export industry in jeopardy because of the well documented status of trout in Tasmania.

There is concern with another Authority which seeks to import Atlantic salmon fingerlings into Tasmania. The Commission feels that it

would be wise not to place Tasmanian salmonids at risk by such an importation.

BROOK TROUT

Brook trout were imported into Tasmania in 1903 and attempts to satisfactorily acclimatise them has been unsuccessful, in that self supporting populations have not been established. The only fishery of any moment is at Clarence Lagoon and it has not given a great deal of satisfaction to anglers. Accordingly, the Commission proposes to phase out brook trout activities at the Salmon Ponds.

IMPROVEMENTS TO LIAMINGEE CANAL

A new stripping shed has been erected at Liamingee Canal to facilitate the collection of eggs from brown trout and rainbow trout.

LAKE KARA

As a result of a request from the North Western Fisheries Association, it is proposed to introduce regulations to open Lake Kara at the same time as other waters managed as brown trout fisheries. The regulation would be effective in 1945.

The shelter shed erected at Lake Kara, which was severely damaged is to be dismantled by the Furnic Branch assisted by the Inland Fisheries Commission and transferred to the Central Highlands.

LAKE SORELL AND LAKE CHERCENT

The Commission wishes to commend the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers' Association for a detailed report on the fishery at Lake Sorrell, it is essential that this fishery be retained and the Commission is considering proposals to guarantee a reasonable water level in this storage to meet fisheries needs.

About 200 anglers fish Lake Sorrell each week. In the last ten years anglers have been concerned at the low level of Lake Sorrell during the summer months. The Inland Fisheries Commission has discussed with the Rivers and Water Supply Commission, the levels of these lakes and says that the fishery could be safeguarded.

A statutory authority, The Clyde Water Trust, controls waters of Lake Sorrell and Lake Crescent for domestic and agricultural purposes. The Rivers and Water Supply Commission has evidence to show that the irrigation usage of water from these two storages represented a 22 in (5") drop in level of both lakes whereas the annual evaporation drop in level could reach up to 36 in (36") in some years. The recorded outflow downstream for Lake Crescent is set out in the following table:

Recorded Outflow Downstream Lake Crescent.

1970-71	20 272.5	Megalitres (out.)	12 November to end April
1971-72	16 246.5	"	1 November to end April
1972-73	11 939.3	"	1 October to end April
1973-74	13 905.0	"	1 November to end April
1974-75	13 796.6	"	1 November to end April
1975-76	20 753.2	"	1 November to end April
1976-77	13 766.6	"	1 November to end March
1977-78	13 440.6	"	1 November to end April
1978-79	10 206.5	"	1 November to end April
1979-80	16 679.2	"	1 November to end April
1980-81	9 338.6	"	1 November to end April
1981-82	14 574.6	"	1 November to end March

Examination of the above table shows that the evaporation for November to March 1974-75 was approximately 36 in (36"). Further it is noted that 1970-79 was the driest year on record. In 1976-77, the lake was spilling until the end of December.

It was noted that the average draw off is about 15 000 megalitres per year for normal irrigation seasons.

The Lake Crescent inlet and outlet were inadequate for taking down Lake Crescent and still release required discharge at peak of irrigation demand.

FISH DISEASES

Recent papers by overseas researchers, such as Adair and Ferguson working at Belfast in Northern Ireland, and Ahne working at Munich in Germany, have shown that a number of species such as goldfish, discus fish, bream (*Abramis brama*) and Zebra fish, may be carriers of the disease known as infectious pancreatic necrosis.

In all, there are now about twenty freshwater species and six

marine species from which the virus causing the disease has been isolated. In all cases, the non-salmonid fish carrying the disease appear to be healthy. This disease can have devastating effects in fish farms for trout and fish hatcheries but fortunately it has not been detected in Australia.

The Inland Fisheries Commission has been outspoken about the importation of exotic species due to the risks posed for salmonid fisheries in this State.

The matter of diseases which may be transmitted via exotic ornamental fishes to salmonids has been of great concern to the Inland Fisheries Commission in recent years. The Commission wishes to have a safeguard on inspection of all fish to protect the salmonid and native fishes.

HYDRO CREEK HUT BURNT

The Commission is disturbed by the actions of vandals in burning down its shelter and store at Hydro Creek. Fish screens were burnt in the fire. The damage is about \$2 000.

EEL TRAP IN MACKQUARIE RIVER

The licensee proposes to remove the eel trap in the Macquarie River.

LITTLE SWAMPSTON RIVER

Concern by some anglers has been expressed that bream may not be able to move up above a stack crossing at Little Swampston River. A recent inspection indicated that bream could move up at suitable times. The stack crossing is situated below the uppermost extreme of tidal influence in the river. The crossing was constructed after consultation between the Department of Main Roads and the Commission. The pipes were laid parallel with the existing watercourse with a longitudinal gradient approximating the average natural gradient of the watercourse at that location so that the structure could not present any hindrance to fish movement up or down Little Swampston River.

FUNDING OF INLAND FISHERIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The Annual Report of the New South Wales Fisheries Association

for the year ending 1980, gives some interesting figures regarding the funding of inland fisheries in that State.

The sale of licenses brought in revenue of £530 1/7 and the allocation from consolidated revenue was £54 17/8.

In the previous year, i.e. the year ending 30 June 1979, the income from angling licenses was £571 5/4 and the allocation from consolidated revenue was £278 0/0.

The full season licence was £6 and a 21 day licence was £3. 73 075 full season licenses were sold and 32 174 twenty-one day licenses were sold.

PENSTOCK LAGOON

Lack of flow down No. 1 and No. 2 canals leading to Penstock Lagoon resulted in no spawning of brown trout in the autumn of this year. Accordingly, the Inland Fisheries Commission staff released 10 000 brown trout fry in Penstock Lagoon, at various places, in August this year.

PET RIVER DAM

Due to some clients not collecting brown trout fry on the north-west coast, 10 000 uncollected fry were placed in Pet River Dam in August this year.

NETTING IN INGLIS RIVER

The Inland Fisheries Commission has warned commercial fishermen that it will take action against persons setting nets in the Inglis River down as far as the mouth.

PROSECUTION

Listed are recent court cases. Further cases are pending for hearing.

COURT DATE	OFFENDER AND ADDRESS	NATURE OF OFFENCE	FINE	COATS	PENALTY
20.7.82	Frank Peter GYBERT New South Wales	Using more than one rod and line.	20-00	15-10	
20.7.82	Gary Alan THYFORD Launceston	Fishing with a licence. Representing to be licenced.	40-00	15-10	
21.7.82	Darry Reginald ROUSE East Devonport	False name and address.	30-00	15-10	
27.7.82	Reginald BIRCELL East Devonport	False name and address.	25-00	15-10	
29.7.82	Graham WEDCRAFT Ulverstone	Using light to take fish. Willfully disturbing spawning fish.	100-00	15-10	
29.7.82	John WEDCRAFT Ulverstone	Using gaff to take fish. Willfully disturbing spawning fish.	80-00	15-10	
29.7.82	Graham WEDCRAFT Ulverstone	Taking fish other rod. Take fish in closed waters. Willfully disturbing spawning fish.	80-00	15-10	20-00
17.8.82	Eric WARRINGER Launceston	Fishing without licence.	Prov. of Offenders Act		
3.9.82	Steven HAGES Sandy Bay	Fishing without licence. Refusing to give name and address.	70-00		

D.D. Lynch,
MAGISTRATE