

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 1983

LAGOON OF ISLANDS PROJECT

The proposal to divert waters from Ripple Creek into Lagoon of Islands are at an advanced stage of discussions. Officers of the Hydro-Electric Commission have provided the three Angling Associations and the Inland Fisheries Commission with a copy of the proposal. There are several matters requiring further consideration such as the channel discharging directly into the lagoon itself. It may be possible to put in a device to regulate the numbers of spawning fish moving up this channel and so control the number of young fish raised in the channel.

FISH SALVAGE

It is pleasing to be able to acknowledge once again the assistance given by members of the Tarraleah Branch of the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers' Association in salvaging brown trout near Laughing Jack Lagoon on 10 and 11 March 1983. Fish were collected from the lagoon outlet when the water was turned off to carry out repairs to the Hydro-Electric Commission installation. A total of 108 good conditioned brown trout, ranging in weight from 500 - 1 000 g, were successfully transferred back into Laughing Jack Lagoon.

EEL RESEARCH

Two articles on eel research carried out by Dr Robert Sloane were printed in the December issue of Australian Fisheries. The articles were entitled "The Tasmanian eel fishery - some facts and figures" and "Biological background to the Tasmanian freshwater eel fishery". The articles have stimulated a great deal of interest among eel fishermen and fisheries workers throughout Australia. A further five papers on the completed eel investigations have been submitted for publication to a research journal.

LAKE LEAKE

Following discussions with the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association and the Lake Leake Branch, 1 000 rainbow trout fingerlings of length 75 mm, were liberated in Lake Leake on 12 May 1983. The fish were raised from eggs collected at Great Lake and hatched at the Salmon Ponds Hatchery. Members of the Lake Leake Branch were invited to attend the liberation which was on a once only basis.

REARING POND

The Circular Head Branch of the North Western Fisheries Association has enjoyed a pleasing result with its rearing project. From 4 000 brown trout fry the Branch raised and liberated 2 309 fingerlings in a number of storages at Forest and Smithton.

SIGN TO CLARENCE LAGOON

Negotiations are in course with the Department of Main Roads to erect a sign to Clarence Lagoon. Anglers and patrons should note that the sign does not indicate that the road is of sufficiently high standard for use by conventional vehicles. The track is extremely rough and the notice is to serve only as a guide to the location of the lagoon.

GREAT LAKE FISHERY

Examination of spawning runs in Great Lake has shown that one of the best runs for many years of brown trout has taken place up the numerous tributaries to the lake. Commission staff have monitored the run in Liawenee Canal and have physically handled over 16 000 brown trout spawners up to the end of May and the run is continuing.

LAKE SORELL

At Lake Sorell, the run of brown trout spawners up Mountain Creek has exceeded 20 000. Here the fish had some difficulty in moving up Mountain Creek due to the silting up of the outlet of the creek. Commission staff opened up the entrance and kept this creek open so that the brown trout spawners may return to Lake Sorell. Staff repaired the weir which vandals damaged seriously by cutting logs with a chain saw.

PLAQUES AT SALMON PONDS

The continued generosity of Mrs Jean Walker in donations to the Salmon Ponds is drawn to the attention of anglers. The two plaques, illustrated in this newsletter, are recent additions to other gifts from the Walker family.

HAZELWOODS LAGOON PROJECT

The Commission has referred a project to construct a permanent lagoon, known as Hazelwoods Lagoon, to the Rivers and Water Supply Commission because of the effect the enlarged impoundment would have on Rivers and Water Supply Commission installations. The proposed new lagoon would drown the Rivers and Water Supply Commission gauging weir on the Clyde River below Lake Crescent and the replacement costs would be between \$8 000 and \$10 000. In a shallow lake of 150 hectares, there has been some criticism that it would be difficult to justify the amount of water lost by evaporation from a shallow lagoon. The excellent fishing enjoyed in many shallow lagoons in the more remote parts of Tasmania, could well justify the construction and maintenance costs of Hazelwoods Lagoon.

NETTING IN THE MERSEY RIVER

Netting in the Mersey River has been an issue for some time with anglers and a professional fisherman. The Minister for Sea Fisheries proposes to authorise Mr Trevor Sims to use two mullet nets and one seine net in the Mersey River downstream of a former netting boundary, that is, downstream from a point on the south side of St Patricks Bay on the eastern side of the Mersey River to a creek flowing through a property known as 'Sunrise' on the western side of the river. Further, the Minister for Sea Fisheries proposes to issue a permit to enable Mr Sims to use eel fishing equipment in the Mersey River as far as Tarleton Road.

BOAT LAUNCHING SITES AT GREAT LAKE

The rise and fall of water level in Great Lake mitigates against the construction of concrete boat launching ramps as the cost would be very high due to the wide fluctuations in water level. At a recent inspection of the new highway, it was noted that good access would be available to the lake along the old highway at the following places: Stony Creek; Brownie Bay; South Brandum Creek; Mid Brandum Creek; south of the Old Road Bridge; Pine Creek; south of Pine Creek; north of Pine Creek; north of Doctors Rock; Breona. At present, the launching facilities at a number of points are poor due to the excessively low water level of the lake.

PLAQUES AT SALMON PONDS

**THIS COTTAGE, BUILT AS A RESIDENCE
FOR THE KEEPER OF THESE PONDS IN 1865,
WAS SUCCESSIVELY OCCUPIED BY MEMBERS
OF THE RAMSBOTTOM, STANNARD,
AND JONES FAMILIES.**

**THE HATCHING OF THE FIRST TROUT
AND THE FIRST SALMON
IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
TOOK PLACE HERE ON
4th. and 5th. May, 1864**

SALMON SEMINAR AT MARITIME COLLEGE

A seminar entitled "The Possibility of Salmon Culture in Tasmania" was held at the Launceston campus of the Tasmanian Maritime College on 13 April 1983. Overall, while proving of general interest, the lecture made no attempt to provide a factual or detailed proposal to introduce salmon in Tasmania. At the conclusion of the lecture, the questions from the floor were all of a basic nature. The Inland Fisheries Commission representative reminded the seminar of the current ban on all salmonid imports into Tasmania and of the risk of introducing diseases which are on mainland Australia and not in Tasmania.

SNOW-FLAKE CADDIS

The Brumbys Creek area was visited on 17 May to determine the feasibility of establishing a snow-flake caddis rise in that area.

The Poatina Power Station normally operates during summer and there is invariably some flow through the turbines. Complete shutdown for extended periods is very rare.

Brumbys Creek - Westons Rivulet flow is just below the Poatina tailrace and it would be unusual for these creeks to dry up. Therefore water is always present in Brumbys Creek.

From the tailrace outlet down to the top end of No. 1 weir is a distance of approximately 3 km. The Poatina Power Station was on standby only during the inspection and the nature of the stream was therefore seen at minimum flow. Parts of the stream have a rocky substrate with rapid water flow. Between these parts there are various lengths of slow flowing water which passes over a clay substrate. Almost all of this section of Brumbys Creek is accessible to anglers especially during periods of high flow.

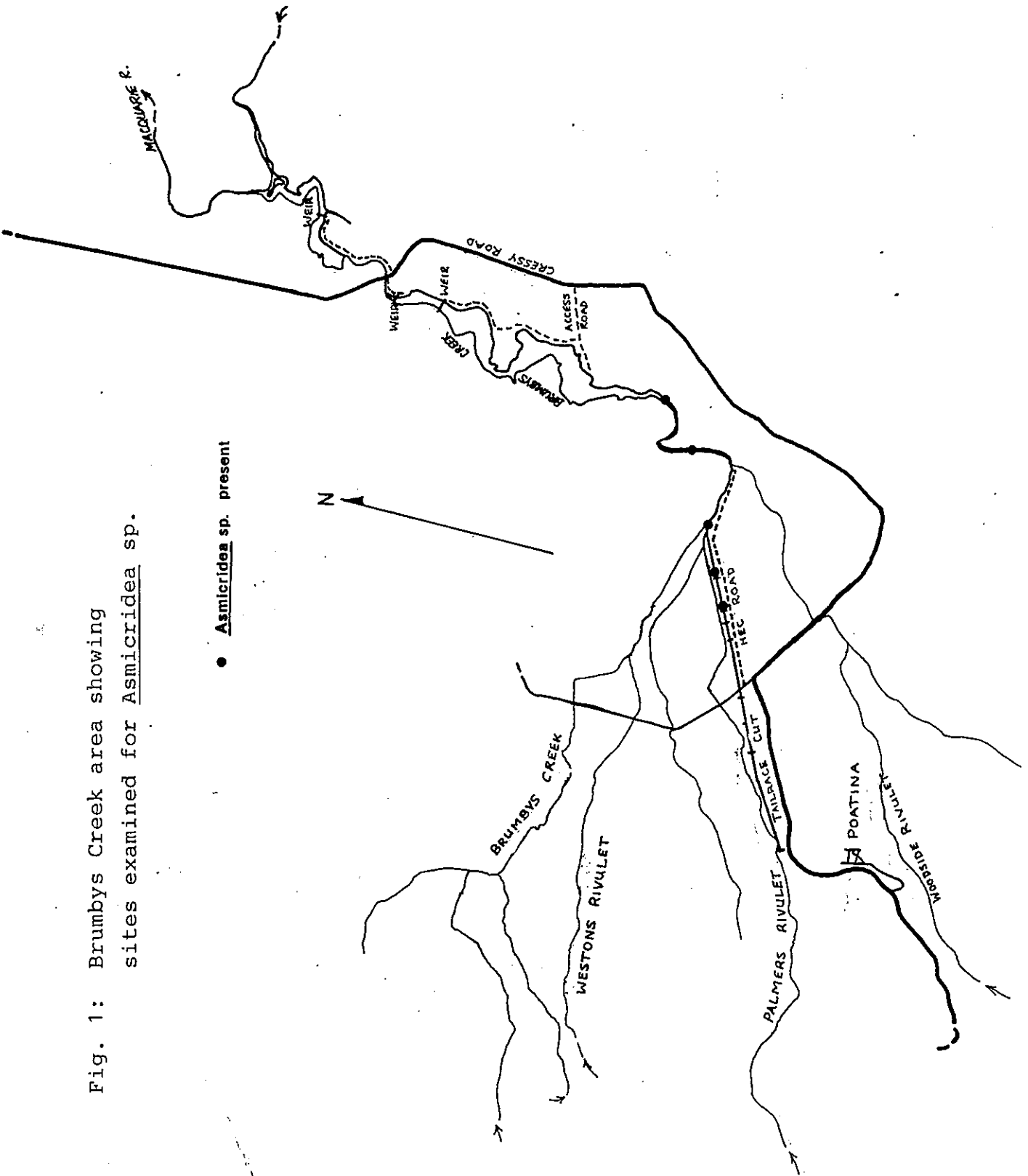
An examination of rocks in the stream showed that Asmicridea sp. larvae (snow-flake caddis) are already present (see Fig. 1). In fact they are extremely abundant, probably in greater numbers than were seen anywhere during the investigations in the Central Plateau over last summer.

A further inspection is proposed to catch the adults in the summer.

Additional habitat is not required and in fact could not be provided as the rate of flow of the water is not great enough in the areas lacking stoney substrate. This flow rate could not be altered.

Asmicridea sp. is also abundant on the rocks immediately below the various drop structures. These rocks are placed there to prevent erosion and have to be continuously replaced by the Hydro-Electric Commission.

Fig. 1: Brumbys Creek area showing sites examined for Asmicridea sp.



● Asmicridea sp. present

A Hydro-Electric Commission employee, Mr George Webb, (a very keen angler) acted as guide for the day. His job is to patrol the HEC installations in the area and he routinely patrols the length of tailrace and Brumbys Creek to No. 3 weir. He has observed prolific hatches of "white moths" in the tailrace and creek area each summer and in the past has seen large numbers of trout congregating to feed on these as well as grasshoppers.

From examinations of caddis habitat carried out earlier in the year it was concluded that if the area is in any way suitable the caddis would already be there. The area is suitable and the caddis are there in abundance. Nothing can or should be done to improve the habitat. The rest is up to the fish and the anglers.

TO 'DOB' OR NOT TO 'DOB'

It is probably safe to say that the most frequent criticism of the Commission is 'not doing enough about illegal netting'. With the limited staff resources available, Commission bailiffs cannot be everywhere at all times, and so heavy reliance is placed on 'information received'. At least 75 percent of successful prosecutions are obtained in that way. 'Putting someone in' raises the issue of being a 'dobber'. Well, you can not have it both ways - report offenders, or keep quiet. Not every report can be acted upon immediately, but the quality of information can help greatly in sooner or later apprehending offenders. By this is meant boat and/or car registration numbers and descriptions, accurate location of offence, etc. You can do this, and remain anonymous if you so desire by telephoning officers of the Commission.

Hobart Office	23 5522	(002)
Mr V.R. Spencer	91 8268	(003)
Mr B. Cassidy	59 6166	(002)
Mr V. Causby	51 2635	(002)
Mr C. Thompson	61 1577	(002)
Mr N. Wilson	80 1164	(002)
Mr N. Maronay	39 1794	(003)
Mr B. Vanderfeen	26 1781	(004)

PROSECUTIONS

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

<u>COURT DATE</u>	<u>OFFENDER AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>NATURE OF OFFENCE</u>	<u>FINE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
24.2.83	David James SCOLYER Flowerdale	Take whitebait with scoop net. Refuse to give name and address.	20-00	55-10	recorded
23.3.83	Ronald Geoffrey BROWN 9 McLeod Avenue Quoiba	Using more than 1 rod and line.	40-00	15-10	
6.4.83	Garry Wayne DONAGHY 15 Third Street Wayatinah	Fishing without a licence.	50-00	15-10	
13.4.83	Wayne Geoffrey COLE 83 River Avenue Heybridge	Attempting to take whitebait.	70-00	56-10	
14.4.83	Arthur STUBBS 30 Roope Street New Town	Using more than 1 rod and line.	50-00	15-10	
20.7.82	John Wallace RIGBY 23 Paringa Avenue Newnham	Possession of net in inland waters. Take fish by means other than rod and line.			probation of offenders probation of offenders
20.7.82	Ronald Hollman HUNT 7 Penrith Street Riverside	Possession of net in inland waters. Take fish by means other than rod and line.			probation of offenders probation of offenders
26.4.83	Alan Maxwell PURCELL 1 Union Street Longford	Disturbing spawning trout. Take fish by means other than rod and line. Take fish from closed waters.	50-00 20-00 20-00	15-10	36-00 36-00
23.3.83	Leigh Douglas MARTIN 48 High Street New Norfolk	Attempting to take fish by means other than rod and line.			dismissed
13.4.83	Colin John MUNDAY 68 Stirling Street Burnie	Attempting to take whitebait without licence.			adjourned Sine Die
17.1.83	Frederick John FAHEY Main Road Franklin	Take fish by means other than rod and line. Possession of net in inland waters.	30-00	15-10	no penalty

<u>COURT DATE</u>	<u>OFFENDER AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>NATURE OF OFFENCE</u>	<u>FINE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
10.5.83	Lawrence Norman TOMLIN Ellendale	Using more than 1 rod and line.	40-00	15-10	
10.5.83	Russel Scott OATES 50 Bilenga Street Mornington	Using more than 1 rod and line.	40-00	15-10	
10.5.83	Neville Rex READ 9 Bennett Place Bridgewater	Fishing without a licence.	50-00	15-10	
10.5.83	Roy David CRAWFORD 21/2 Carlisle Close North Ryde	Fishing without a licence.	50-00	15-10	
10.5.83	Bernard CLAYTON 2 Third Avenue New Norfolk	Possession of whitebait.	50-00	15-10	
14.4.83	Michael James WORKER 34 Tecoma Road Risdon Vale	Fishing without a licence.	dismissed		
18.4.83	Reginald George PURCELL 1 Union Street Longford	Disturbing spawning fish. Take fish by means other than rod and line. Take fish from closed water.	dismissed dismissed dismissed		
3.5.83	Lloyd MUNDAY 75 Sterling Street Burnie	Take whitebait with scoop net. Possession of whitebait.	adjourned	Sine Die Sine Die	
3.5.83	Lloyd MUNDAY 75 Sterling Street Burnie	Possession of whitebait.	50-00	15-10	
3.5.83	Lloyd MUNDAY 75 Sterling Street Burnie	Take whitebait with scoop net. Unidentified scoop net.	30-00 20-00	15-10	
3.5.83	Lloyd MUNDAY 75 Sterling Street Burnie	Take whitebait without licence.	Adjourned	Sine Die	
4.5.83	William George HUBBLE 10 Bishton Street Devonport	Using more than one rod and line	35-00	15-10	

<u>COURT DATE</u>	<u>OFFENDER AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>NATURE OF OFFENCE</u>	<u>FINE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
25.5.83	John Edward LOYE 24 Ocean Street LaTrobe Valley	Fishing without a licence			dismissed


D.D. Lynch,
COMMISSIONER