

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Number 5

October, 1972.

WHITEBAIT

The take of whitebait in the rivers of the North-west coast is being watched to see if there is any improvement in the run of the previous year. The species known as Lovettia sealii started to run late in July and made a successful deposit of eggs in the Mersey River. However, a rise in the river level prevented a big take of this species. The run of the species formerly known as Galaxias weedoni but now known as Galaxias brevipinnis was one of the largest for many years.

The Commission is concerned that anglers are taking more whitebait than is permitted by the regulations which are designed to conserve the fishery. Commercial fishermen have complained that amateurs have supplied retailers and thus destroyed a market which should be legitimately open to commercial whitebait fishermen.

The Commission has under consideration a proposal to impose more stringent regulations for the protection of the whitebait fishery. One proposal is to limit the taking of whitebait by anglers in the rivers of the North West to 250 ml. that is 1/2 pint which is the amount permitted at present to be taken from the Forth River.

COLLECTION OF GRUBS

The Commission has received complaints of the destruction of wattle trees by persons collecting grubs from plantations developed on farms as shelter belts. It has been suggested that scallops could be used as bait in lieu of wattle grubs. The Commission feels that this suggestion has merit as scallops would be at least as cheap as wattle grubs and could well result in the less destruction of shelter belts of wattle trees.

WAYATINAH LAGOON

The Tarraleah Branch has forwarded a suggestion that Wayatinah Lagoon be opened to natural bait. The Branch claims that formerly this lagoon was a rainbow trout fishery but now the predominant species taken is brown trout.

The Commission would welcome comments from the three associations on the suggested change in the regulations to allow the use of natural bait at Wayatinah Lagoon.

LIBERATION OF BROWN TROUT FRY

The annual distribution of brown trout fry has been completed. Fry were liberated in North eastern storages of Big Waterhouse Lake and Blackman's Lagoon, farm dams on the North west coast of Tasmania, lakes near Strahan, farm dams in southern Tasmania. The surplus brown trout fry from the Salmon Ponds were liberated in the Derwent River with the cooperation of Mr. K.C. Webb, President of the Southern Tasmanian Licenced Anglers' Association.

COLLECTION OF RAINBOW TROUT OVA

Collection of rainbow trout ova from the spawning run at Liawenee is in course and eggs are being put down at the Commission's hatcheries at the Salmon Ponds and Corra Linn. The higher water level of Great Lake has decreased the spawning area at Liawenee Canal.

The Commission is grateful to the help from members of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association in assisting in the caring of eggs at Corra Linn.

TRAIL BIKES AT LAKE KARA

The North Western Fisheries Association has expressed concern at the damage caused to the walking track around Lake Kara. The Commission has authorised the erection of notices warning that trail bikes are not allowed at Lake Kara.

ACCESS ROAD TO NO. 1 WEIR BRUMBY CREEK

The access road to No. 1 Weir, Brumby Creek, is now open and the road is well formed and in good condition. It should be a boon to fishermen operating at Brumby Creek. The good work carried out by the Cressy Branch of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association and Mr. Clarke, Manager of the Agricultural Research Farm are acknowledged.

FUTURE PRODUCTION OF BROWN TROUT FRY

The free distribution of brown trout fry for liberation in farm dams has provided good fishing in a number of areas throughout the state but especially in the North West.

As a result of complaints received the Commission reviewed the practice and decided that, in future, brown trout fry would be sold to persons wishing to stock farm dams.

LAGOON OF ISLANDS

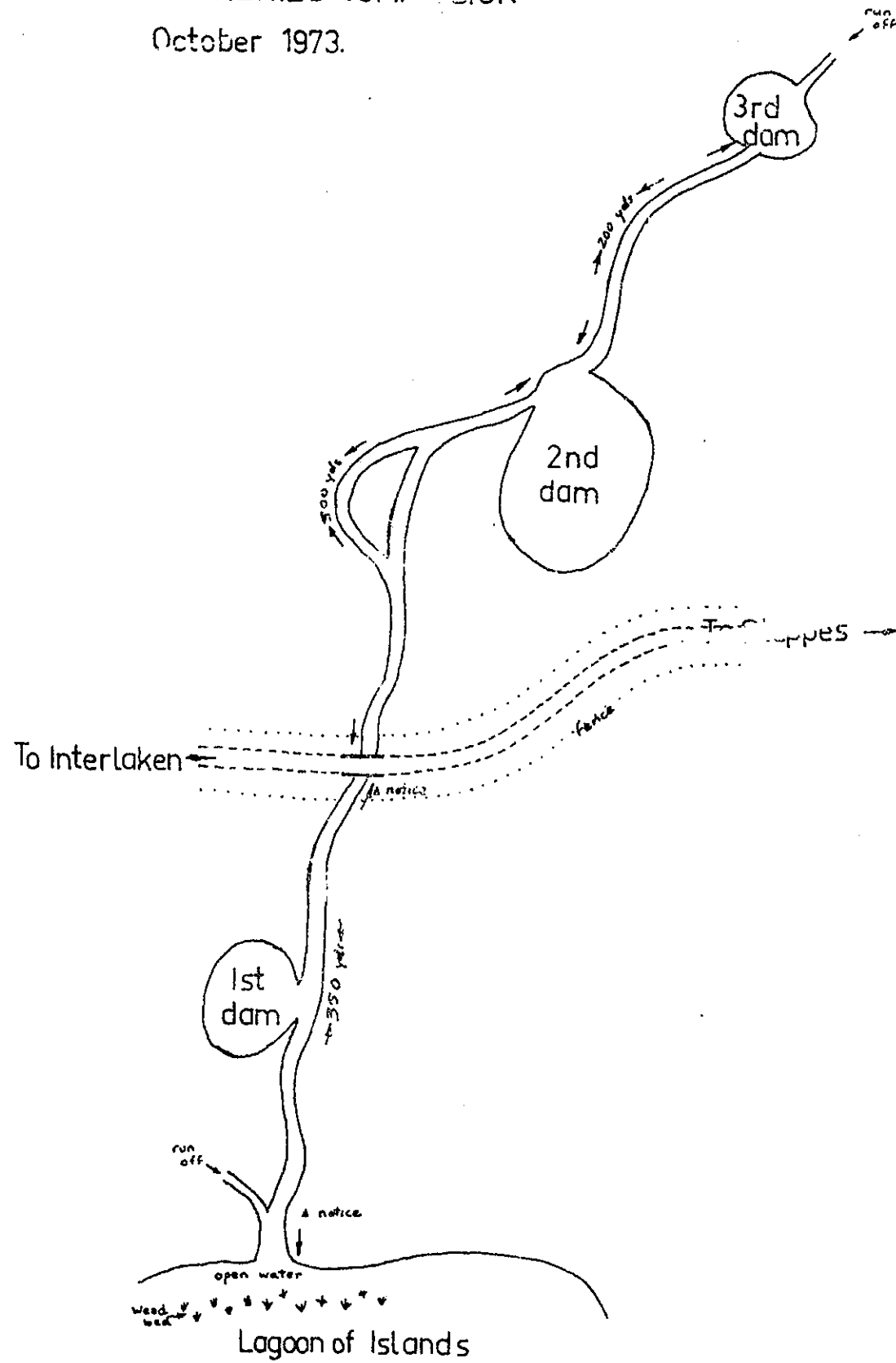
Many fine conditioned rainbow trout have been taken at Lagoon of Islands in the current season. However, the Commission is concerned at the extent of the illegal fishing which allegedly occurred in this water. It is estimated that upwards of 2000 fish were taken at Lagoon of Islands by illegal means and a number of fish were taken from Blackburn Rivulet which enters Lagoon of Islands the rivulet is the main spawning stream for fish at Lagoon of Islands and it is closed to fishing at all times.

The attached diagram shows the location of Blackburn Rivulet and the three dams on the rivulet are also closed to fishing at all times.

Complaints have been received about the behaviour of some thoughtless anglers at Lagoon of Islands and the Commission has under consideration a proposal to open Lagoon of Islands to fishing in November each year.

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Blackburn Rivulet running into the S.S.West corner of Lagoon of Islands.

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION BOUNDARY AT FORRESTER RIVER

Following a suggestion from the Scottsdale Branch, Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association, the Commission agreed to erect boundary pegs at the junction of the first ditch and the bed of the old Forrester River at a position about 1/2 a mile to the north of the Patterson Bridge over the Forrester River.

SECOND NIGHT COURT AT BOTHWELL BRINGS FINES OF \$515.00

At the Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions before Justices W.G. North; W.G. Hallett and S.L. Allwright at 6 p.m. on the 25th September, 1973, charges were heard against twenty two persons for angling offences.

John Joseph Steed, Luckman Place, Rokeby, Peter John Oakford, Palm Road, Risdon Vale, Brian Terence Kelly, Kanooka Street, Rokeby and Graham Geoffrey Street of Renfrew Circle, Goodwood, pleaded guilty to disturbing spawning fish in Barren Creek.

Fisheries Officer M.F. Duncan gave evidence that he saw four men carrying twelve gauge shot guns and then discharge them into Barren Creek near where it flows under the road into Shannon Lagoon.

All four pleaded guilty and were fined \$50.00 each and were fined a special penalty of \$10.00

Trevor Wayne Baensch of Abbott Street, Launceston, Ian Sydney Norton, Elphin Road, Launceston and Wayne Chatwin Bass Highway, Prospect Vale, were charged with wilfully disturbing spawning fish, namely, brown trout in Hydro Creek at Arthurs Lake on the 15th August, 1973.

They were charged with further offences of taking two brown trout within 100 yards of a fish trap and with taking fish, namely, two brown trout by means other than a rod and line and with taking two brown trout in a water flowing into Arthurs Lake which is closed at all times.

Baensch and Norton were convicted of three charges each and fined \$20 each on the first charge with costs amounting to \$2.65. A special penalty of \$10 each and a conviction was recorded on the other two charges.

Chatwin pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 on the first charge and convictions recorded on the other two charges and a special penalty of \$10 with \$2.95 costs was imposed.

Bernard Rehrmann of Crawford Street, Launceston, was charged with disturbing spawning fish, namely, brown trout on the 3rd June, 1973, at Great Lake. He was further charged with taking brown trout by means other than a rod and line and was fishing in a water flowing into Great Lake which is closed to fishing at all times.

Rehrmann pleaded guilty to charge 1 and 2 and the third charge was withdrawn.

Rehrmann was fined \$30 on the first charge, a conviction was recorded on the second and a special penalty of \$10 and \$2.96 costs was imposed.

Barry John Wood of Harris Street, Launceston, Rex Forster Wood of Cypress St, Launceston were charged with taking fish from the Blackburn Rivulet a water flowing into Lagoon of Islands on the 25th August, 1973. They were further charged with disturbing spawning fish and having an assembled rod and line at an inland water where the taking of fish is prohibited at all times.

Both pleaded not guilty to all three charges. Charges 1 and 2 were proved, charge 3 was withdrawn. They were fined \$20 on the first charge and \$2.65 costs and had convictions recorded against them on the second charge with a special penalty of \$35.0.0., i.e. \$5 per fish

Fred Ronald Hannam of Calais Street, Mowbray and Clyde Wilmot Saunders of Hadspen were charged with offences at Hydro Creek.

Hannam was charged with throwing a stone into a water of Hydro Creek for the purpose of killing or taking or killing of brown trout. He was further charged with wilfully disturbing brown trout, taking one brown trout within 100 yards of a fish trap and with taking a brown trout by means other than a rod and line.

Charges were heard ex parte. Both were convicted and fined \$25 on the first charge, costs of \$2.95 being imposed and a special penalty of \$5.00

David James Newstead of Dennis Drive, Launceston was charged with disturbing spawning brown trout on the 3rd June, 1973, at Hydro Creek. He was further charged with taking fish, namely, one brown trout by means other than a rod and line and with taking fish, namely, one brown trout within 100 yards of a fish trap maintained by the Commission.

Newstead pleaded guilty to the first two charges and the third charge was withdrawn. He was fined \$20 on the first charge with \$2.95 costs and a conviction recorded on the second charge with a special \$5 penalty.

Mervyn William Wheelton of Hargreave Crescent, Launceston and Noel Albert Burston of Hargreave Crescent, Launceston were charged with wilfully disturbing spawning fish, namely, brown trout on the 3rd June, 1973, at an unnamed creek at Great Lake.

Both pleaded not guilty and the complaint was dismissed. Charges against two other persons were withdrawn because one of them had since died and two other charges were dismissed sine die.

Charges against three persons were not listed.

The total amount of fines was \$515.00 and costs amounted to \$33.95.

D.D. Lynch
Commissioner
October 18th, 1973.