

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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LAGOON OF ISLANDS FISHERY

Spectacular fishing continues to be available at Lagoon of Islands with well conditioned rainbow and brown trout being taken with the majority of fish being rainbow trout.

The Lagoon of Islands was impounded in 1964 as a joint enterprise by the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission. The two authorities contributed £36,000 and £9,000 respectively towards the construction costs.

Two lessons are to be learned from this successful fishery. The first is the value of a guaranteed minimum level of water in a storage managed as a fishery. The second is that a little patience is needed in waiting for a fishery to be developed.

All three associations and the Fly Tyers Club of Tasmania have advised the Inland Fisheries Commission that they are in favour of the Lagoon of Islands opening to fishing in November each year and closing in May.

The Commission proposes to seek a further advising as to whether the Associations would prefer the fishing at Lagoon of Islands to be restricted to the use of artificial lures only.

ACCESS ROAD EXTENSION COMPLETED.

The work authorised on the extension of Fisheries Lane to No. 1 Weir Brumby Creek is completed. The access road has enabled anglers to fish one of the finest stretches of water in Tasmania. With the high water level and good hatches of fly, the No. 1 Weir has offered excellent fishing throughout the spring.

WATER LEVELS OF SHANNON AND PENSTOCK LAGOON

The maintenance of satisfactory water levels of Shannon and Penstock Lagoons to maintain high quality trout fishing in the late summer months have aroused interest among anglers. The Minister for Agriculture recently put the anglers case to the Minister administering the Hydro-Electric Commission Act.

The Minister for Agriculture has transmitted the following advising from the Minister administering the Hydro-Electric Commission Act on this matter.

" ... Normal practice in the operation of the two lagoons requires them to be full or near full at the beginning of December, with some more or less continuous draw-off taking place throughout the remainder of the irrigation season. With the Lagoon of Islands storage at a high level this year it is the Commission's aim to utilise that water to meet the greater part of the demand for irrigation water in the Ouse and lower Shannon Rivers, thus limiting the demand on Penstock and Shannon Lagoons.

However, both the demand for water and the natural pick-up into the two rivers can vary rapidly and unpredictably. To avoid long periods of inadequate flow in the lower Ouse, it is necessary at times to supplement the river flow with relatively large discharges from Penstock Lagoon for short periods whilst adjustments from Lagoon of Islands become effective.

There are also some properties which irrigate from the Shannon River upstream of Blackmans Rivulet and their requirements can only be met from Shannon Lagoon.

Clearly, unless some draw-down in level can take place during the irrigation season, the lagoons would cease to be of any value as water storages for such purposes.

Records show, that on the average, the dry season ends in March and there would therefore be significant risk of loss of water due to spilling if the levels were held near full through April. It would be prudent to reduce the levels to near minimum values in April, irrespective of the method of control exercised from December to March.

It would appear unnecessary to supplement the natural flows in No. 2 canal during April and September for spawning purposes since the trout populations are self supporting under the present conditions.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the use of the Lagoons as a trout fishery is largely incompatible with the purpose for which they have been constructed, namely, power and irrigation purposes....."

LAKE LEAKE

Anglers fishing Lake Leake have reported good fishing and they are surprised at the increase in size of the fish taken. Whereas in May the brown trout taken were about 330 mm (13 inches) the size caught in November was about 470 mm (18½ inches). Good batches of March brown, Red spinner and other aquatic insects were recorded at the Lake in November. This year there has been a higher water level than in the previous year.

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

The continuous development of new water storages for the generation of electricity has provided additional fisheries and the Gordon and Pieman Schemes will create further impoundments and fisheries. Supervising the new fisheries has taxed the present inspecting staff to such an extent that next year the Commission is considering appointing additional inspectors.

AWARDS FOR INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION EMPLOYEES

To maintain parity with the Public Service rates the Commission has agreed to recommend to the Minister that the recent awards granted to the Public Service be granted to the Inland Fisheries Commission employees. It is envisaged that the rise will cost the Commission \$5,400 per year.

LIBERATION OF RAINBOW TROUT

In the spring rainbow trout from the Commission's hatcheries at Plenty and Corra Linn were released in selected waters as follows:-

<u>Fry</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Yearlings</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>2 year olds</u>	<u>Locality</u>
649,000	Great Lake	500	Dee Lagoon	200	Dee Lagoon
10,000	Lake Bellinger	275	Dee Lagoon		
10,000	Lake Kara				
10,000	Lake Flanagan				
<u>679,000</u>		<u>775</u>		<u>200</u>	

The two year old fish were 15 inches in length and the yearling fish were 11 inches in length.

LIBERATION OF BROOK TROUT

In November 1,541 yearling brook trout were liberated in Vaucluse Dam. The fish averaged 8 inches in length.

RAINBOW TROUT SPAWNING RUN, LIAWENEE CANAL

Inspectors estimate that approximately 6,000 rainbow trout moved from Great Lake into Liawenee Canal to spawn this year. Inspectors handled 1,864 fish in the trap.

SALE OV OVA TO SEVRUP FISHERIES

The Commission sold 70,000 un-eyed and 25,000 eyed rainbow trout ova to Sevrup Fisheries. The ova were collected from the spawning run at Liawenee Canal.

GREAT LAKE OPENING

Inspectors estimate that over 500 people visited Great Lake for the opening week-end. Many fine catches were taken but a number of brown trout were in poor condition.

GREAT LAKE BEETLE STUDY

A research worker at the University of Tasmania, Faculty of Agricultural Science, Mr. David de Little has received a grant of \$1,000 to work on the family Chrysomelidae which contains the genus Paropsis. The Great Lake beetle is a member of this genus.

WAYATINAH LAGOON

The three angling associations have advised that they are in favour of a suggestion to amend the Regulations to permit natural bait fishing in Wayatinah Lagoon.

SEAWARD LIMITS, GREAT FORRSTER RIVER

The Commission wishes to advise that the seaward limits of the Great Forrester River are to remain unchanged for the present.

EUROPEAN CARP IN VICTORIA

The spread of the European Carp in Victoria continues and it is now causing concern in the Yarra River and its tributaries. Already large populations have become established in the Murray River and in certain streams in Gippsland.

An Amendment to the Fisheries Act is needed to enable the Commission to deal promptly with any noxious fish, which may gain entry into Tasmania. The European Carp was an unauthorised introduction into Victoria. The consequences of this unwise introduction are permanent.

The Commission supported the ban by the Australian Fisheries Council on the importation of any further trout or salmon eggs into Australia from abroad. The ban was imposed because of the disease risk to the trout fishery in South-eastern Australia.

Australia is fortunate in not having many of the diseases which are so troublesome on some other parts of the world where there are salmon and trout fisheries.

This objection, together with the lack of success of the many previous attempts to introduce Atlantic salmon into Australia motivated the Commission's refusal to support the project.

PERSON FINED \$50 FOR TROUT POACHING

At the Bothwell Court on the 23rd November, 1973, Raymond Keith Hoskinson of Cluny, Bothwell, was fined \$25 for taking fish by means other than a rod and line. On a second charge of taking fish from an unknown creek entering Great Lake he was fined \$25. A charge of taking fish from a spawning stream was withdrawn.

Hoskinson appeared and pleaded guilty and was defended by Mr. D. Haan.

Mr. N.J. Maroney gave evidence on apprehending the defendant on the 3rd June, 1973.

Mr. C. Wright S.M. was on the Bench.

SEASONAL GREETINGS

Members of the Commission and staff would like to wish trout anglers the compliments of the season and to thank Angling Association members for their cooperation in managing the trout fishery during the year.

D.D. Lynch
Commissioner.