

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER

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Penstock Lagoon and Shannon Lagoon

Consultations between the Hydro Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission have continued regarding alterations at Penstock Lagoon. Work on the spillway at Penstock Lagoon and on the embankment to the west of the lagoon are nearing completion and it is hoped to have the lagoon at the new operating level, 3317 feet, in a few weeks. Anglers may be interested to know that owing to the unusual season the Hydro Electric Commission has advised that it may be operating Waddamana Power B Station which takes 600 cusecs of water, and it may be necessary to release additional water out from Miena to Shannon Lagoon thence to Penstock Lagoon in this coming summer. At a later date, the Hydro Electric Commission proposes to carry out some work at the dam at Shannon Lagoon to permit the taking of riparian water to the extent of up to about 20 cusecs.

Little Pine Lagoon summer water level

The draw off from Little Pine Lagoon for power generation purposes is 5 feet. The Hydro Electric Commission has arranged without prejudice to maintain the level at 1 foot above minimum summer level - that is 3301 feet. Owing to the unusual heavy rains late in November, there was some spill over the dam at Little Pine Lagoon.

Rainbow trout fry at Mary Creek

The tributary which crosses the Steppes Interlaken Road and enters Lagoon of Islands is known as Mary Creek. It had a good hatch of rainbow trout fry which were ready to enter the lagoon late in November. In some

other years the creek dried up and as a result fry recruitment to Lagoon of Islands was hazardous. Early in the year field staff collected eggs from some rainbow trout spawners in Mary Creek to remove the risk of them being poached. The ova were hatched at Corra Linn and 50,000 rainbow trout fry were placed in Lagoon of Islands late in November.

Carp eradication programme

The Commission proposes to inspect the dams in the Stowport Yolla area where carp were found last year. These dams showed no carp at a retreat programme carried out earlier this year but it is proposed to put chemicals in the dams in January, 1976, to test whether any carp survived from the earlier treatment. It is essential that the eradication programme be continued until it is 100 per cent successful.

No yabbie farm for Tasmania

The Commission has considered several proposals to introduce the yabbie (Cherax destructor) from Victoria to Tasmania. The yabbie is an efficient burrower and carries a range of parasites which would have an unknown effect on crustaceans elsewhere. Tasmania has a wide range of native crustaceans and the introduction of the yabbie from the mainland would be an unwelcome addition to the crustacean fauna of this State and they could do considerable damage to farm dams and other earthen storages in the State.

Field day at Merseylea

The Railton branch of the North-Western Fisheries Association proposes to hold a field day at Merseylea on Saturday 7th February, 1976, there will be casting competitions and demonstrations of electro fishing by a crew from the Inland Fisheries Commission staff. The branch has invited all trout anglers to attend the field day.

Reinterment of John Beamont at Miena on 16th October, 1975

Representatives from the Hydro Electric Commission, Lands Department, Inland Fisheries Commission and Bothwell Council attended a ceremony at Great Lake on 16.10.1975, at which John Beamont was reinterred at a point near the dam over the Shannon River where it is said he first saw what he described as "the Great Inland Sea" and named it "Great Lake".

Co-ordinated policy on shacks in the Central Highlands

Representatives from the Lands Department, Hydro Electric Commission, Bothwell Council and Inland Fisheries Commission discussed a co-ordinated policy on shacks in the Central Plateau at a meeting held at Bothwell on the 16th October. There are 691 shacks sited in the Central Plateau, and of these 620 have known owners. It is proposed that a public notice be inserted in the press giving the owners of these shacks two months to identify themselves, after which period if the owners have not complied, the shacks may be removed. It is proposed that a complete list of known shack owners be kept at the Bothwell Police station for use by any public authority.

Whitebait

Encouraging runs of whitebait occurred in the Forester, Rubicon, Mersey, Inglis, Leven and Duck rivers. At times the run was hard to see because of discoloured water.

Junior angler movement

A pupil of Devonport High School has already taken 144 brown trout this season by using artificial lures. He had received instruction in angling under the achievement scheme.

Oatlands water supply

A brown trout caught by Mr. V. Spencer in the Oatlands water supply dam weighed 2250 gm cleaned (51b) and was 560 mm long (22 inches) the fish was in excellent condition.

Angling at Gordon River

Late in November a party of 10 people caught 85 brown trout, up to 4.5 kg (10lb) in weight, during one weeks fishing in the lower reaches of the Gordon River.

Silt in the Plenty River

The Commission has had further discussions with the Department of the Environment and the Rivers and Water Supply Commission regarding the deposition of silt in the Salmon Ponds at Plenty. On occasions the heavy silt load in the water supply to the ponds has obscured the fish in the display ponds.

Co-operation from Tasmania Police

The Commission has recently received excellent co-operation from Tasmania Police in cases involving netting in the Dasher River and in the salvage of trout at Oatlands.

Anglers at Lake Dulverton salvaged 126 brown trout ranging in size from 3 - 7lb. The fish escaped when part of the wall at Lake Dulverton was carried away following heavy rain late in November. The Oatlands sub branch of the Bothwell Angling Club organised a working bee to transfer the fish back to Lake Dulverton.

Trailers at boat launching sites

Anglers are urged to co-operate by removing trailers from launching sites at prime trout waters throughout the State. Unfortunately some unthinking anglers leave their boat trailers parked in such a way that latecomers have difficulty in launching their boats.

The Commission proposes to take action under Inland Fisheries Regulations, against those persons who block launching ramps in the coming summer.

Deadlines

A youth was recently caught setting deadlines in the Elizabeth River. Parents are advised to see their children are correctly briefed in matters relating to angling. The fishing code setting out rules pertaining to Inland Fisheries is available free to all licenced anglers.

"Trout" map

The map Central Tasmania 1:150,000 recently produced by the Lands Department with the co-operation of the Inland Fisheries Commission, should prove a boon to trout anglers in the Central Plateau. Much useful information is given regarding roads, the location of various lakes, hills and other features of the Central Plateau. Price \$1.50. This publication compliments the publication sponsored by the Hydro Electric Commission and the Tourism Department called Tasmanias Wonderful Inland Waterways, which is available at most booksellers for \$1. Both these publications should be welcomed by anglers and visitors to the State.

Blythe River fish mortality

The recent mortality of trout in the Blythe

River is being investigated. Samples of fish and water have been forwarded to the Government Analyst for analyses.

Lake Sorell and Lake Dulverton

Lake Sorell fished very well in August and September. Lake Dulverton continues to be visited by anglers from all parts of the State and some fish liberated from the Central Plateau over the past years are now being caught by anglers fishing at Lake Dulverton.

Recent Court Cases

On 21st November, 1975, at Bothwell Magistrates Court before Mr. E. Sikk, S.M., charges against five men were heard and fines amounting to \$215 were imposed for offences relating to trout fishing.

Barry Henry Boon, Alanvale Road, Launceston, pleaded guilty to using a firearm to take brown trout at Cowpaddock Creek, Arthurs Lake, on 19th July, 1975. He was convicted and fined \$20 for shooting fish and \$15 for taking brown trout in closed waters. A special penalty of \$5 for each of two fish was imposed together with costs of \$2.35. Mr. V. Spencer gave evidence and Mr. M. Duncan prosecuted.

A charge against Allan Webb, Main Road, Sorell, of failing to produce his angling licence within fourteen days was heard ex parte. He was convicted and fined \$30 with costs of \$2.65. Mr. V. Spencer gave evidence and Mr. M. Duncan prosecuted.

Barry John Philp, Craythorn Road, Rosevears, was charged with giving a false name to an Inland Fisheries Inspector, Mr. N. Maroney, on 15th November, 1975, at Tods Corner, Great Lake. He was further charged with falsely representing himself to be a licensed angler. He was convicted and fined \$25 on each charge and costs of \$2.65 were imposed.

Stanley Charles Lees, Franklin Street, George Town, was charged with disturbing spawning fish at Doctors Creek on 6th June, 1975, and taking trout by means other than rod and line. He appeared and pleaded guilty on each charge and a special penalty of \$15 for each of 2 fish taken was imposed. Costs were \$2.35.

Ian Frederick Pfeiffer, Carrick, pleaded guilty to wilfully disturbing spawning fish on 6th June at Doctors Creek, taking trout by means other than rod and line and giving a false name and address. On each charge he was fined \$20 and a special penalty of \$5 for each of two fish taken was imposed. Costs amounting to \$2.35 were imposed. Mr. B. Isaac gave evidence and Mr. N. Maroney prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

Angler Fined \$100.00

At the Launceston Court of Petty Sessions on 10th November, 1975, before J. R. Rex S.M., Phillip Andrew Clark of Mann Street Invermay, appeared and pleaded guilty on two charges.

1. Fishing without a licence - Contrary to Section 4 (1) of the Inland Fisheries Regulations 1973. He was found guilty and fined \$50 which is the minimum penalty.
2. Falsely representing to be a licensed angler - Contrary to Section 16 4 (b). He was found guilty and fined \$50 with \$2.35 costs.

Clark was given three months to pay. Fisheries Inspector N. Maroney prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

Trout fishing in closed waters brings \$40 fine

At the Bothwell Court on Friday 12th November, Andrew Williams of Madden Street, Devonport, appeared and

pleaded guilty to a charge of fishing in a closed water
(Canal Bay Great Lake) on 25th April.

The Magistrate, Mr. R. F. Turner, fined
Williams \$40 and imposed costs of \$2.65. Mr. B. Isaac gave
evidence and Mr. N. Maroney prosecuted on behalf of the
Inland Fisheries Commission.

Seasons Greetings

The Chairman and members of the Commission
would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Associations
and their branch members for their co-operation and assistance
during the year and to wish their members the compliments of
the season.

(D. D. Lynch)
Commissioner

3rd December, 1975