

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER

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New officers join the Commission

Mr. B. Cassidy has commenced duty with the Commission and in the first instance will be based at Lemana; later he will be based at Liawenee.

Mr. R. Walter has commenced duty with the Commission and in the first instance he is based at Hobart; later he will be based at Maydena and, finally, at Strathgordon.

Calverts Lagoon

The Lands Department has acquired Calverts Lagoon for the Crown and the land surrounding it. The Department proposes to use the area exclusively for scientific research. Subsequently, the Commission ascertained that a student at the University of Tasmania proposes to study parasites in aquatic invertebrates, snails and water-fowl (chestnut teal and dotterels).

Following representations to Mr. Eric Barnard, the Minister for Agriculture and Lands, the Lands Department has agreed to allow access to anglers provided they obtain permission to enter from Mr. Steane of the Lands Department.

The Commission has received many enquiries about the access for anglers to this water as good hatches of duns have been noted late in November. Brown trout in the water are now above the legal minimum length. The Minister has assured the Commission that it may continue its joint investigations with the Government Analyst into changes in water quality of Calverts Lagoon. Anglers will recall that Calverts Lagoon was formerly one of the best trout fishing waters close to Hobart and it enjoyed enormous popularity with local and visiting anglers.

Little Pine Lagoon

Following discussions with the Hydro-Electric Commission it was agreed to keep the level of Little Pine Lagoon to the maximum possible over the Christmas holiday period, even if it meant foregoing the minimum flow of 2 cusecs down the Deep Cut Canal.

Anglers have requested the Commission to maintain a high level of water when angling at Little Pine should be at its best.

Field Station

Owing to difficulty with the site at Miena, it is proposed to build the field station at Liawenee. Stage I of the field station is the erection of a house for a bailiff.

Fish mortality at Salmon Ponds

A mortality of fish occurred at the Salmon Ponds late in November. There were several contributing factors. The water supply had been reduced by a root growing in a pipe above the hatchery grounds. During the very hot week in November an outbreak of "white-spot" occurred which affected all species and age groups of fish at the establishment.

Fortunately, a good supply of rainbow trout fry at the Corra Linn hatchery enabled the stocking programme for rainbow trout to be carried out successfully.

Lake Gordon

The Commission has completed the rainbow trout stocking programme at Lake Gordon, and has received many favourable comments on the proposal.

Lake Gordon was approximately 60 per cent full in November and the level is rising. When full, Lake Gordon will have a surface area of 268 km² (67 000 acres) and a catchment area of 1290 km² (497 sq. miles).

Whitebait fishery

No good runs of whitebait occurred in the rivers of the Northwest or the Huon, however, some runs were reported from the Derwent River.

Fish farm licence

The Commission has received an application from a farmer wishing to purchase small fish from a commercial fish farmer and to raise the young fish in small dams of about 3 acres in extent and then sell the larger fish. The Commission proposes to receive comments on this proposal from angling associations.

Commercial eel fishing

The Commission reviewed the commercial eel fishery in Tasmania and the methods of eel fishing and types of gear permitted in other countries and it proposes to give consideration to amending the eel fishing regulations after consultation with angling associations and commercial eel fishing interests.

Big black cormorants

Large numbers of big black cormorants are on most waters in Tasmania this year and nearly all small dams have at least one resident cormorant.

In order to protect trout the Commission has found it necessary to destroy cormorants at Liawenee Canal and the Salmon Ponds where they have preyed upon fish in captivity.

The big black cormorant is not on the list of protected birds.

New angling pond for junior anglers

The Tarraleah Branch has a project to construct a junior angling pond at Taylors Bay, Bronte Lagoon, and the Commission has agreed to assist in the project by providing stock for the pond when it is completed.

Importation of fish into Australia

The Commission and the Minister are concerned at the lack of action in preventing the entry of goldfish into Australia. Several States have banned the importation of goldfish from abroad and New Zealand has banned the importation of goldfish for a number of years.

The Commission takes the view that supplies of goldfish to meet the trade in Australia could be raised from local goldfish farms and that the disease risk to other fish is not justified by the continued importing of goldfish from abroad.

The Commission also supports the ban on the importation of salmon unless it has been heat-treated to destroy the spores of exotic diseases which are not present in Australia.

Book on Tasmanian caddis strikes trouble

Dr. Artur Neboiss of the National Museum, Melbourne, has completed to the proof stage a 300 page and 800 illustration book on the Tasmanian caddis. Because the funds have been "cut-off" by the Federal Government, the publication of the book can only proceed if funds can be made available from another source.

It is essential when carrying out river surveys and other ecological work that the animals found can be identified. Dr. Neboiss undertook a long-term study of the Tricoptera or caddis flies so that these animals could be named. To anyone interested in freshwater ecology of Tasmania there is an advantage in an understanding of these animals because they are so abundant in Tasmanian streams and they are important in the food web and as fish food.

Moreover, their immature stages are usually readily recognisable even at the species level.

Dr. Illies of the Max Plank Institute in Germany had commented favourably on Dr. Neboiss' work. The Commission would welcome from anglers suggestions of ways and means of raising the necessary funds (about \$4000) to cover the costs of printing this book. Any organisation which may be able to help should advise the Commission at its earliest convenience.

A Fisheries Officer is ...

If a Fisheries Officer asks to see your licence, he's insulting.

If he takes your word for having one, he's corrupt.

If he arrests a violator, he's showing how rough he can be.

If he gives the culprit another chance, he's showing favouritism.

If he labours day and night to enforce the law, he's a tyrant.

If he relaxes at all, he's a shirker and crook.

If he talks fish and fisheries conservation, he's maudlin.

If he keeps quiet, he's not interested in his work.

If he accepts suggestions, he's incompetent.

If he acts like a gentleman, he's too easy.

If he acts firm, he's unfair and a rascal.

(After "Outdoor
Oklahoma").

Seasons Greetings

Members of the Commission and staff would like to wish anglers the compliments of the season and to thank all anglers who co-operated with the Commission in its endeavour to provide good angling in Tasmania.

The Commission looks forward to the continued assistance in 1977.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

6th December, 1976