

# INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 No. 1

February, 1978

### NEW FACES ON THE COMMISSION

Mr. Ron Stephenson is the new Associate Commissioner for the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association district. He replaces Mr. P. D. Wallace, who retired after serving on the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission since 1946.

Mr. V. Causby commenced duty with the Inland Fisheries Commission on 23rd January, 1978, and will ultimately be based at Strathgordon.

Mr. R. Sloane commenced duty as a Research Officer on 3rd January, 1978. Mr. Sloane is an experienced trout angler and has studied freshwater fisheries at the University of Tasmania. Mr. Sloane is currently pursuing his investigations into the eel fishery and will be engaged on work based at Liawenee Canal.

Mr. W. Menzie, who has been at the Salmon Ponds for a number of years, retired on 16th December, 1977.

### FISH AT LAKE PEDDER

Lake Pedder continues to enjoy popularity with anglers. Mr. Arthur Ford of Paradise caught 4 fish in the first week of February 1978 near the Edgar Dam. The fish weighed 9.979 kg (22 lb), 6.35 kg (14 lb) and 5.669 kg (12 lb 8 oz).

### LAGOON OF ISLANDS

One angler caught 8 rainbow trout and 1 brown trout in Lagoon of Islands on the dry fly. The average weight was 3.402 kg (7½ lb). The brown trout were claimed to be better proportioned than the fish from Lake Pedder and it is claimed that the fish grew from 1.13 - 3.4 kg (2½ to 7½ lb) in five years.

## PENSTOCK LAGOON

Penstock Lagoon continued to fish well. Fish up to 4.082 kg (9 lb) were caught in November 1977 and the Commission continues to receive reports of good fishing in this water.

## LAKE SORELL

Anglers caught good fish at Lake Sorell over the Christmas holidays. The fish, in some cases, averaged up to 2.27 kg (6 lb).

## RAINBOW TROUT - LAKE GORDON

Rainbow trout taken at Lake Gordon near the Pokana Bay and the other south of Mc Partlans Pass were up to 39 cm long ( $15\frac{1}{4}$  inches) .681 grammes in weight ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs). The fish were in good condition and were 1 + years old.

## RETURN OF FISH TAGS

Angler co-operation in the research programme at Great Lake is most encouraging. A number of recoveries of brown and rainbow trout which were tagged and released in Great Lake in the 1977 spawning runs have been forwarded to the Commission. The Commission invites all anglers who catch tagged fish to return the tags, together with details of the weight, length, place of capture and date of capture to the Commission. Such information is used in fisheries management.

## ANGLING SEASON 1977-78

Mr. David Roberts, a Hobart angler, and three friends, have caught 500 fish up till the end of January using fly fishing methods. The fish were up to 4.536 kg (10 lb).

## OVERSEAS VISITORS

Dr. R. McDowall of the Marine Research Division, Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, New Zealand, visited Tasmania in February for the purpose of collecting galaxiid fishes. Dr. McDowall is an authority on this group of fishes. He has written joint papers

with Mr. Fulton, of the Inland Fisheries Commission, on the galaxiids of Great Lake.

#### FIELD STATION AT LIAWENEE

The buildings for staff accommodation are nearing the hand-over stage.

#### "A WORLD APART"

Many favourable comments have been received about the three segment Australian Broadcasting Commission film "A World Apart". The film was produced with the co-operation of the Inland Fisheries Commission and Commission staff. The film generated a lot of interest and it is hoped it may be shown overseas.

#### TROUT FARM LICENCE

A trout farm licence has been issued to Mr. R. Doedens to operate at National Park.

#### CORMORANTS

The Commission has continued culling cormorants when the opportunity has presented itself. The Commission recently purchased more suitable weapons for the task. The Commission would welcome information from anglers regarding the location of cormorant rookeries in Tasmania.

#### ELECTROFISHING

The Commission has built two electrofishing machines and the electrofishing programme in the south of Tasmania is nearly completed for the summer of 1977/78. It is hoped to commence fishing in the north and northwest in late February.

#### LAKE LEAKE FISHERY

The fishery at Lake Leake is managed as a brown trout fishery. On recent visits by members of the Commission a good head of fish was evident. On 5th January, 4 fish taken ranged in length from 18.8 to 39 cm (7.4" - 15.3") and in weight from 73 to 601 grammes (2.6 oz - 1 lb 5.2 oz) and aged from under one year to two years plus

In October, another angler fishing for 20 minutes caught two fish. They weighed 4 lb and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  lb (1.8 kg and 1.7 kg). The presence of young fish in the water would indicate that there is satisfactory recruitment from spawning in Snowy River.

It is the Commission's policy for stocking in Lake Leake to come from spawning in Snowy River.

#### POACHING

Inspectors had a busy period between December and February, with court action against various offenders for breaches of Fisheries Regulations. There were 45 charges against 20 persons in 6 courts. Fines amounting to \$1400.90 were imposed by Magistrates. A summary of the offences are set out below.

OFFENCE	CHARGES
Unlicensed angler	9
Falsely representing to be licensed	4
False name and address	2
Producing a licence of another person	1
Using more than two lures or baits	6
Using more than one rod and line	7
Using deadlines	1
Unattended set rod	7
Attempting to take whitebait while unlicensed	2
Attempting to take whitebait with a scoop net not marked with identification tags	2
Taking fish by means other than rod and line	1
Taking fish from a water flowing into Lagoon of Islands	1
Wilfully disturbing fish	1
Discharging a firearm to facilitate the taking of fish	1
Total	45

(D. D. Lynch),  
Commissioner  
3rd March, 1978