

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION
NEWSLETTER

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WHITEBAIT

Good runs of whitebait have been reported by a number of observers at the Huon River. The runs have not approached the size of runs which occurred in the 1950's but, nevertheless, they are encouraging.

Although runs in waters have improved, the Commission takes the view that the fishery needs absolute protection to enable it to recover from the over-fishing experienced in the 1940's. The recovery has been slow, but there are encouraging signs of improvement. Lovettia seali, the main component in the run of the whitebait fishery when it was at its peak, occurs only in Tasmania and it would be a tragedy if the species were fished to extinction.

Successful prosecutions for offences against whitebait regulations were carried out against offences committed in the Derwent and Great Forester Rivers. On 18th December 1978 an alleged whitebaiter was apprehended at Inglis River and eight charges have been issued for alleged offences committed on that day. Other offences were detected at Huonville and charges are in course.

FISH FARMS

An application for a fish farm licence near Bradys Lake has been received from Tastrout Pty. Ltd. The application is being investigated. An application for a fish farm licence at Wynyard by Mr. A. Waal has been withdrawn. A fish farm licence has been issued by the Minister for Primary Industry to Mr. A. Purves to operate a fish farm at Brumbys Creek, Cressy.

The Acting Director of Fisheries and Wildlife Division, Victoria, Dr. D. E. Kerr, advised that, in the opinion of his Division, intensive fish farming in locations adjacent to rivers does not increase the disease risk to wild river fish. The occurrence of diseases in fish hatcheries is generally in proportion to the density of the fish held. This holds, providing of course, that a pathogen is present on the fish and stress occurs.

Fish density, handling formula, variations in water temperature, increased faecal and nitrogenous waste and low oxygen tension in hatchery ponds are factors which result in stress. The incidence of fish pathogens amongst

wild fish has not been found to increase with the establishment of hatcheries. This has been the experience in Victoria and corresponds with that found overseas. Since the stress factors are normally insignificant in the stream environment, the low density of stream fish provides only minimal contact between individuals which, in itself, inhibits the spread of disease.

ELECTROFISHING PROGRAMME

Field work is now completed in the electrofishing programme carried out in various parts of the State in the summer and the results are being collated for publication.

CORMORANTS

Reports from Commission officers and anglers indicate that cormorants were much less numerous in December 1978 than they were at the same period last year.

RAINBOW TROUT IN LAGOON OF ISLANDS

The recruitment of rainbow trout fry from naturally hatched eggs in Marys Creek has been good this year. In addition, 100,000 rainbow trout fry hatched out from eggs removed from spawners in Mary Creek in 1978 have been liberated in Lagoon of Islands.

LAKE SKINNER

Following representations from the Huon Branch, Lake Skinner was successfully stocked with rainbow trout fry by members of the branch, assisted by Venture Club members.

PINE LAKE

Pine Lake is now open to fishing. Observations carried out by the Commission over the year suggests that fish grow relatively slowly in this lake and it is not one of the better fishing waters of the State.

LAKE GORDON

Angling in Lake Gordon has been satisfactory, two persons caught 10 trout in one day, including a rainbow trout which was greater than 2.3 kg (5 lb). On Christmas Day another angler caught three rainbow trout in 1½ hours fishing. They ranged in size from .91 - 1.02 kg.

LITTLE BLUE LAGOON

This water was stocked with rainbow trout fry in December 1974. An angler caught 5.6 kg fish (12½ lb) and a 6 kg (13.10 oz) in the lagoon on 10th January. These fish were four years old.

PENSTOCK LAGOON

Mr. D. Roberts, an experienced Hobart angler, caught 87 trout, including three rainbow trout from Penstock Lagoon up to mid-December. The fish ranged in weight from 1.6 - 2.7 kg ($3\frac{1}{2}$ - 6 lb). He also reported sighting many fish about 25 cm long.

FISHING IN HUON

Anglers fishing near Huonville have reported catching trout in good condition in the evenings in Mountain River, Russell River, Huon River, She-Oak Creek, Blackfish Creek and Dennison River.

GREAT LAKE OPENING

An interested keen angler took an impromptu creel census on 6-7th November 1978 at Breona and found that 46 trout were caught in the Little Lake area of Great Lake by trolling. Forty-one of the fish were brown trout and five were rainbow trout. The brown trout weighed up to 1.9 kg ($4\frac{1}{4}$ lb).

JORDAN RIVER

An excellent run of bream occurred in the Jordan River and the run attracted the attention of poachers who attempted to net fish. Three nets containing bream were seized by police but the identity of the owner, or user, has not been established.

FISHERY AT MUSSEIROE RIVER

The Commission has supported representations from the Musselroe Progress Association to preserve the excellent bream fishery in the Musselroe Bay River.

RINGAROOMA RIVER

As a result of a request from the Commission, the Environmental Department has acted to remove the source of sawdust entering the Ringarooma River.

LITTER

The Commission has suggested to the Longford Council that rubbish bins be provided on the roadside at the bridge across Brumkys Creek and at the entrance to Fisherman's Lane at Cressy. From observations which members of the public and members of the Commission have made, there is a need for litter bins in these areas.

LAKE LEAKE

It is proposed to release 300 tagged brown trout into Lake Leake in the winter programme 1979. The fish would not be stripped before liberation.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON

Following negotiations between the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission, it was agreed to maintain the elevated water level of the lagoon for two months to provide good angling.

LAKE ROWALLAN

Lake Rowallan was drawn down on the morning of 10th February. A Fishery Officer, accompanied by two North West Fisheries Association members found eight brown trout dead, one dead rainbow trout and 15 dead blackfish. A further inspection on 12th was carried out by three other officers. They found thirteen dead trout and thirteen dead blackfish. The majority of the fish retreated in the run of the river to Lake Parangana. Generous offers of assistance by the Devonport Branch and the Northwestern Fisheries Association were not needed in a salvage operation at this lake, as the trout had the opportunity of moving down into Lake Parangana because of the gradual draw-down of the water from Lake Rowallan. Emotional and inaccurate reports were given to the media regarding deaths of many fish in the area. The reports were untrue.

The Commissioner proposes to inspect Lake Rowallan on 13th March and members of the Northwestern Fisheries Association have been invited to attend.

VISITORS

Professor Kawanabe of Japan visited Tasmania and inspected the Arthur River. He held discussions with the Commissioner on Grayling.

Owing to budgetary considerations, Dr. K. Wolfe, a specialist in fish diseases in the United States of America, is now unable to visit Australia.

PERCH IN LAKE GORDON

Reports of redfin perch, about 500 g in weight have been received from anglers fishing at Lake Gordon. One fish was caught in December 1978 and another in January 1979.

PERCH AT HUNTERSTON

A property owner at Hunterston has reported large quantities of perch coming onto his property when he used riparian water in February 1979. It is thought that the perch came from Lagoon of Islands.

MORTALITY OF FISH, COOEE CREEK

A mortality of brown trout and eels occurred in Cooee Creek on 22nd January. The cause of death is ascribed to the high pH, between 10-11, of the water. The cause of the high pH is unknown but it is expected that it came from a truck dumping carbonate waste.

FISH SALVAGE

In February Laughing Jack Lagoon was drawn down for maintenance. Commission staff attended to remove the fish from the stream below the lagoon.

The pond at Tarraleah was drained and refilled in January. Commission staff and Tarraleah anglers salvaged brown trout.

EXPERIMENTAL ZIG ZAG SPAWNING CHANNEL AT LIAWENEE CANAL

A pilot operation to test the effectiveness of the channel as a spawning ground for rainbow trout was successful in that fish spawned in the pilot area and a successful hatch of fry resulted.

ELVER TRAP AT TREVALLYN DAM

The elver trap at Trevallyn Dam was installed at the Trevallyn Power Station on 9th November 1978 and commenced catching on 19th December. The catch up to 9th February, 1979, was 427,500 elvers. The catch ranged from 1,000 to 9,000 elvers per night. The catch information is valuable in the current research programme to assess the extent of elver runs in Tasmania.

The Commission has received complimentary letters from an eel fisherman regarding the co-operation and understanding exhibited to the eel fisherman in the course of setting up the fishery for migrating eels.

LAKE DULVERTON STOCKING PROGRAMME

Following a request from the Oatlands Anglers, it is proposed to allocate brown trout fry (50,000) for liberation in Lake Dulverton in the 1979 spring. Adult brown trout will be placed in Lake Dulverton, if available, during the winter programme.

MANAGEMENT PLAN - LAKE DULVERTON

The Commission and the National Parks and Wildlife Service have discussed a draft management plan for Lake Dulverton.

PENSTOCK LAGOON LITTER

It is pleasing to report that anglers recognise that a part of the attraction of angling is to be able to visit a water which is litter free.

After the Christmas holidays, a Burnie angler, Mr. Greg Harkness, gathered up and carted away three trailer loads of rubbish from around Penstock Lagoon. Other anglers and members of clubs carry out similar voluntary clean ups. Their work is appreciated by the Commission.

RESTRICTION ON LURES

It is proposed to designate Lake Botsford, Lake Flora, Lake O'Dell and Rocky Lagoon as waters where fishing is by artificial lures.

COURT CASES

At Deloraine Court of Petty Sessions before Mr. W. Zeeman, Kevin Dyson How of Mole Creek, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Rowallan on 6th May 1978. He also pleaded guilty to a charge of falsely representing to be a licensed angler. On the first charge he was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10. On the second charge he was fined \$50.

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 24th November, 1978, before Mr. Matterson, Michael Noel Bowerman of New Norfolk, Maxwell Anak Bowerman of Plenty, Julian Gavin Bowerman of Gretna, and Kenneth Glen Marsh of New Norfolk, appeared and pleaded guilty to charges of wilfully disturbing spawning fish, taking fish with a graball net and taking fish from a water closed at all times (Mountain Creek). The offences occurred at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell, on 3rd June, 1978. On the first charge they were fined \$45 each, with costs of \$8. On the second charge they were fined \$25 each with a special penalty of \$2 per fish for each of 42 fish (\$84). On the third charge a conviction was recorded. The four defendants were represented by Mr. J. Dixon and pleaded guilty to the charges.

Michael Harold Mundy of Bothwell and Shane Benson Mundy of Bothwell, faced charges of wilfully disturbing spawning fish, taking fish from Marys Creek, Lagoon of Islands on 21st August, 1978, taking fish by means other than rod and line. Both appeared and pleaded guilty. On the first charge each defendant was fined \$60 with costs of \$8.00. On the second charge each defendant was fined \$60. They were each ordered to pay a special penalty of \$10 for each of two fish taken. On the third charge a conviction was recorded.

Richard Hauser of Bridgewater, and Brian John Beard of Bothwell, appeared and pleaded guilty to charges of taking fish from Mary Creek, Lagoon of Islands, on 23rd September, 1978, taking fish by means other than rod and line and willfully disturbing spawning fish. On the first charge each defendant was fined \$45, with costs of \$8, and a special penalty of \$4.00 each for each of 13 fish taken. On the second charge a conviction was recorded. On the third charge each defendant was fined \$69.

Arthur Charles Dyke of West Ulverstone, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using natural bait in Lake Sorell. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8. The offence occurred at Lake Sorell on 4th September, 1978.

David Neil Munnings of New Norfolk, appeared and pleaded guilty to falsely representing to be a licensed angler, giving a false name and address and fishing without a licence. On the first charge he was fined \$80, on the second charge he was fined \$100 and on the third charge he was fined \$65 with costs of \$8. The offences occurred at Bradys Lake on 1st August, 1978.

Michael James Watson of Rossarden, appeared and pleaded guilty to a charge of willfully disturbing spawning fish at Mary Creek, Lagoon of Islands, on 22nd August, 1978, using a light to take fish and taking fish by means other than a rod and line and taking fish from a closed water (Mary Creek). On the first charge he was fined \$75 with \$8 costs, on the second charge he was fined \$70, on the third charge he was fined \$60 with a special penalty of \$80 and, on the fourth charge, a conviction was recorded.

Gregory John Plunkett of Dodges Ferry, appeared and pleaded guilty to fishing without a licence and a second charge of falsely representing to be a licensed angler. On the first charge he was fined \$65, with \$8 costs. On the second charge he was fined \$80. The offences occurred at Bradys Lake on 1st August 1978.

John Leslie Gately of Dodges Ferry, pleaded guilty by endorsement to a charge of failing to produce his angling licence for inspection within 14 days. He was fined \$70 with costs of \$8. The offence occurred at Bradys Lake on 1st August, 1978.

Gerald Maxwell Burbury of Woodbury, pleaded guilty by endorsement to willfully disturbing spawning fish at Dogs Head Creek, Lake Sorell, on 11th June, 1978, and taking fish spawn from spawning fish at Dogshhead Creek. The first charge was adjourned sine die and on the second charge the defendant was fined \$50 with \$8 costs.

Lindy Marie Snooks of Launceston, pleaded guilty to be endorsement to using natural bait in Lake Sorell. The defendant was fined \$25 with costs of \$8.

Susanne Lorraine Snooks of East Launceston, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence, and using natural bait in Lake Sorell. On the first charge the defendant was fined \$30. On the second charge she was fined \$25 with \$8 costs. The offences occurred at Lake Sorell on 7th October, 1978.

Lawrence Stephen Hume, of Swansea, faced charges at an ex parte hearing to having taken fish from closed waters (Mountain Creek) on 1st July, 1978, taking fish by means other than rod and line, i.e. a .22 rifle, and wilfully disturbing spawning fish. He was found guilty on the first charge and fined \$100 with costs of \$8, and a special penalty of \$132, or \$12 per fish. On the second charge a conviction was recorded. The third charge was adjourned sine die.

Robert James McQueen of Somerset, appeared and pleaded guilty to a charge of taking fish from closed waters, i.e. Mountain Creek on 1st July, 1978, taking fish by means other than rod and line, i.e. a .22 rifle, and discharging a firearm to take fish and wilfully disturbing spawning fish. On the first charge he was fined \$60 with costs of \$8 and a special penalty of \$120, i.e. \$10 per fish. On the second charge a conviction was recorded. The charges of discharging a firearm to take fish and wilfully disturbing spawning fish were adjourned sine die.

A charge against Ronald Victor Farrell of George Town, of refusing to allow a search of his vehicle to be made and obstruction, was adjourned to the Launceston Court to a date to be fixed.

The total amount of fines at this Court was \$1,715, the total amount of special penalties was \$812 and the total of court costs was \$144. This made a total amount of \$2,671.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 28th November, 1978, before Mr. Brettingham-Moore, Gerald Leslie Russell of New Norfolk, pleaded guilty to a charge of taking whitebait in the Derwent River on 7th October, 1978, when not the holder of a whitebait licence. He appeared and pleaded guilty and was fined \$20 with costs of \$8.10.

Kerry David Graham of New Norfolk, pleaded guilty to the charge of taking whitebait in the Derwent River on 7th October, 1978, when not the holder of a whitebait licence. He was fined \$20 with costs of \$8.10.

Paul Anthony O'Dwyer of Victoria pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Pedder on 9th October, 1978. He was fined \$60 with costs of \$8.10.

Peter Charles Greenwood of Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Pedder on 9th October, 1978. He was fined \$60 with costs of \$8.10.

Ashley Bryant of Devonport, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Pedder on 9th October, 1978. He was also fined \$60 with costs of \$8.10.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 12th December before Mr. J. H. Bryan, Garry Claude Duncan of Wynyard pleaded guilty by endorsement to a charge of fishing without a licence and falsely representing to be a licensed angler at Lake Pedder on 21st October, 1978. On the first charge he was fined \$75 with costs of \$8.10. On the second charge he was fined \$75.

Terrence Williams, of St. Leonards, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Pedder on 23rd October, producing the licence of another person and falsely representing to be a licensed angler. On the first charge he was fined \$75 with costs of \$8.10. On the second charge he was fined \$50 and on the third charge he was fined \$75.

At Scottsdale Court on 12th December before Mr. W. Zeeman, Anthony Hill and Gerald Heaver of Weymouth, were charged with taking freshwater crayfish with a ring net. Both defendants were found guilty and fined \$30 each, with costs of \$8.10.

Joseph Barnett of Bridport, appeared and pleaded guilty to taking whitebait while unlicensed. He pleaded not guilty to a further charge of possession of whitebait. He was fined \$40 on the first charge with costs of \$8.10. The second charge was adjourned sine die.

Victor Patrick Barfoot of Ittraville, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence and falsely representing to be a licensed angler. On the first charge he was fined \$25 with costs of \$8.10. On the second charge he was fined \$50.

On 19th January, 1979, Hedley Charles Monks of "The Ripple" appeared before Mr. Brettingham Moore at Bothwell charged with wilfully disturbing spawning fish, taking fish from closed waters and taking fish by means other than rod and line at Mary Creek, Lagoon of Islands, on 21st August, 1978.

Acting Sgt. P.E. Hyatt prosecuted and Messrs. N. Maroney and B. Cassidy gave evidence for the Inland Fisheries Commission.

The case was adjourned to No. 2 Court, Macquarie Street, Hobart, on 24th January, 1979. After conferring with his Solicitor, Mr. P. Wright, the defendant changed his plea to guilty.

On the first charge a conviction was recorded with costs of \$8.10. On the second charge a fine of \$50 plus special penalty of \$10 in respect of each of two rainbow trout was imposed. On the third charge a conviction was recorded.

AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A FISH FARM LICENCE NEAR BRADYS LAKE AND CONSIDERING RELEVANT ISSUES THE MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY MR. ERIC BARNARD DECLINED TO ISSUE A FISH FARM LICENCE AT THIS SITE.

D. D. Lynch
Commissioner.

February/March, 1979.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Subject: [Illegible]

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