

Inland Fisheries Service

Annual Report

2022-2023





Inland Fisheries Service Field Assistant (Carp Program), Terry Byard, holding a Carp caught at Lake Sorell.



The Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Section 36 of the *State Service Act 2000* and Section 42 of the *Financial Management Act 2016*, I am pleased to submit the 2022-23 Annual Report of the Inland Fisheries Service for presentation to Parliament.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Diggle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being significantly larger and more prominent.

John Diggle
Director of Inland Fisheries

25 September 2023

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Minister's Message

Welcome to the 2022-23 Annual Report for Tasmania's Inland Fisheries Service (IFS).

As the Minister responsible for Tasmania's inland fisheries, I am delighted to note the many accomplishments of the past year.

I am excited to report that after 28 years of intensive effort and over \$15 million of targeted Federal and State funding the Tasmanian Carp Management Program has been successful in functionally eradicating carp from lakes Sorell and Crescent. Over 49,000 carp were removed from the two lakes over that period and importantly carp were stopped from spreading around the State preventing a major environmental disaster. This is a world first both in terms of the scale of the program and the results that have been achieved and credit must be given to the perseverance of all involved at IFS.



The Government's commitment to waive junior angling licence fees has continued to see more young Tasmanians enjoying this wonderful activity. It's fabulous to see a further 14 per cent increase in junior anglers over the past twelve months, equating to a 70 per cent increase over all since we introduced this initiative in 2021-22.

The tagged trout program again proved to be a great success over this reporting period with a further 50 tagged brown trout released into 15 waters across the State, and I had the pleasure of meeting up with Daryl Saunders, a Scottsdale local who caught the second tagged fish of the season at Briseis Mine Hole at Derby. Twelve were caught throughout the season and it was great to see the level of interest shown by fishers targeting these elusive tagged trout.

The Anglers Access Program is another fantastic Government initiative that has made it easier for anglers to go fishing. Some of the key projects delivered this year were upgrading the camping area at Tooms Lake in partnership with Northern Midlands Council, important maintenance work to the Double Lagoon and Lake Kay vehicle tracks in the Nineteen Lagoons, and in partnership with MAST and Tasmanian Irrigation, the boating buoy line at Craighourne Lake has been replaced. A significant milestone was achieved in 2023 with the transfer of land between the Crown and Forico at Four Springs Lake, which will allow the development of a track around the lake.

As the Minister responsible for Inland Fisheries, it is my pleasure to present the activities of the Inland Fisheries Service for the 2022-23 financial year.

The Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

About the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS)

Vision

To have sustainable, vibrant, and healthy inland fisheries that are the envy of the rest of Australia and the world.

Mission

To manage and develop Tasmania's inland fishery resources for the benefit of the Tasmanian community and stakeholders.

Our values

In working towards achieving our vision and mission we will value:

- each other, our differences and encouraging learning,
- working together professionally and with integrity,
- diversity and equality,
- quality, creativity, new ideas and trying new things,
- maintaining a safe and no harm work environment.

Our values in action

We will:

- communicate simply and clearly,
- treat others with respect and be inclusive,
- be efficient with our time and resources,
- act in the best interests of Tasmania and the IFS in how we conduct ourselves and undertake our business,
- act promptly and professionally in dealing with stakeholders and clients,
- care for the facilities, plant and equipment of the IFS.

Our strategic goals

The outcome after five years will be that:

- The fishery is managed sustainably.
- The Lake Sorell recreational fishery is restored.
- We maintain our reputation as a world-class recreational trout fishery and increase participation.
- We have advocated and acted on behalf of freshwater ecosystems.
- The IFS is respected and valued as a responsive, proactive, accessible and dynamic organisation.
- The IFS is financially sustainable.

Corporate Plan 2022-27

The IFS Corporate Plan 2022-27 guides our actions. It supports the IFS to be responsive to current challenges and opportunities within Tasmania's inland fisheries and proactive towards achieving our Vision and Mission.

Jurisdiction

Under the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* (the Act), the Director of Inland Fisheries, (the Director), through the IFS, manages fisheries in all inland waters, which includes lakes, rivers, farm dams, registered private fisheries, ponds and aquaria. The seaward limit is the statutory boundary between State (marine) and inland waters, and the IFS controls the inland side of this limit.

Responsibilities

The IFS has primary responsibility for implementing the Act and its subordinate legislation. The Act creates the position of the Director and provides that the Director is a corporation whose responsibilities are:

- To manage, control, protect, develop, improve, maintain and regulate salmon fisheries, fisheries in inland waters and freshwater fish.
- To stock inland waters with fish.
- To create, improve and maintain access to inland waters.
- To provide facilities in respect of access to inland waters.
- To carry out research and investigation into matters relating to salmon fisheries and fisheries in inland waters.
- To collect, publish and disseminate information relating to freshwater fish and inland waters.

Management

The Director is an Agency for the purposes of the *Financial Management Act 2016*.

The IFS receives specific corporate support from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

The Secretary of NRE Tas is the Head of Agency for the purposes of the *State Service Act 2000*.

While the IFS has primary responsibility for its core business functions, NRE Tas provides human resource administration, finance system and information technology support.

At 30 June 2023, the IFS had 21.21 paid full-time equivalents.

Organisational structure

- Director of Inland Fisheries John Diggle
- Executive Officer (Directorate) Vanessa Britten (as of October 2022)

Administration and Finance

- Manager (Finance and Business) Tracy Zhou
- Executive Officer (Licensing and Finance) Kellie Fahey
- Executive Officer (Commercial Licensing and Policy) Gabbie Henderson (as of September 2022)
- Clerks Tania Hooper
Kristy Thompson
Kerrie-Anne Collins (as of February 2023)

Fisheries Management

- Section Manager (Fisheries Management) Chris Wisniewski
- Manager (Compliance) Steven Paterson
- Fisheries Management Biologist Tim Farrell
- Senior Fisheries Management Officer Robert Freeman
- Project Manager (Anglers Access) Neil Morrow
- Manager (Hatchery and Stocking) Brett Mawbey
- Program Leader (Carp Management) Jonah Yick
- Commercial Fisheries Officer Jen Cramer (until July 2022)
- Fisheries Officer Paul Middleton
- Senior Technical Officer Christopher Bassano
- Utility Officer Gareth Jones
Craig Burgess (as of January 2023)
- Technical Officer (Carp Management) Brock Cuthbertson
- Fisheries Field Officer Josef Wisniewski
- Field Assistant (Carp Management) Terence Byard
Robert Cordwell

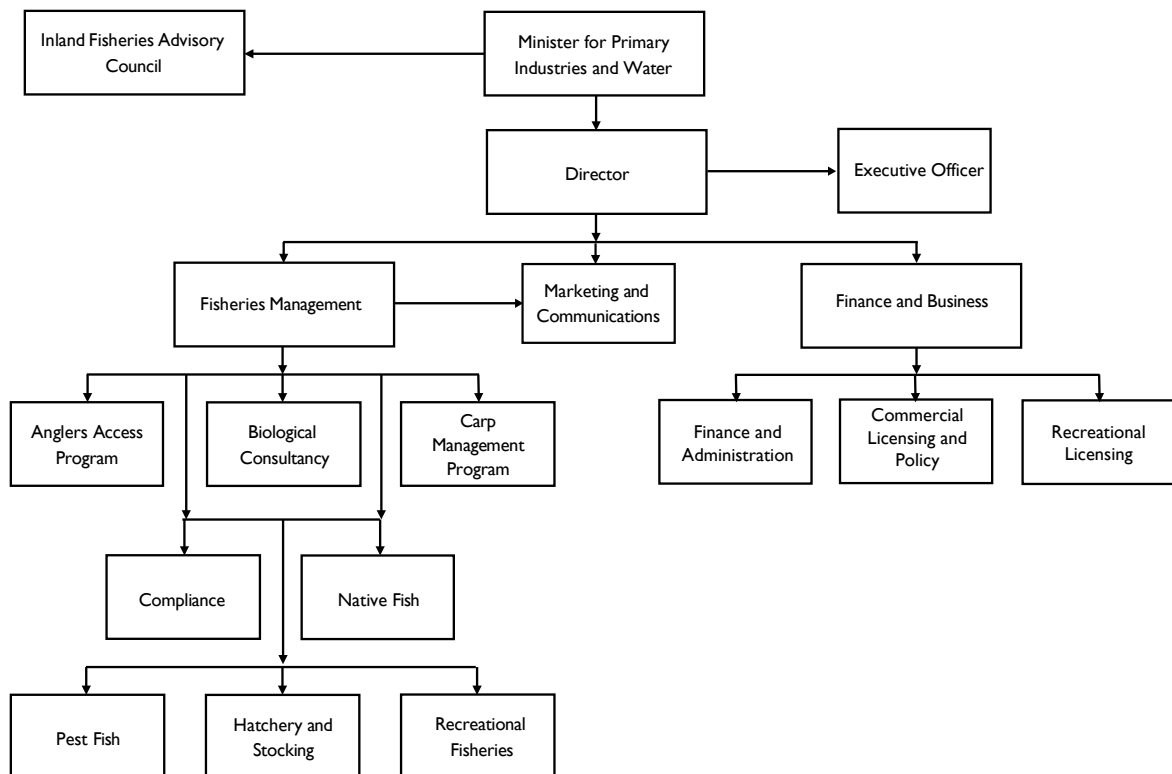


Figure 1. Organisational Outputs

Policy Commitments

2021

- Providing \$1 million for new and upgraded facilities and amenities for inland fishing, and improved access.
 - Building upon the policy commitments of 2018, this Government is providing \$1 million over four years for new and upgraded facilities and amenities for inland fishing, and improved access.
- Making licences free for junior inland anglers for the next four years.
 - To help more young people enjoy our world class trout fishery and increase angling participation, we will waive junior angling fees for the next four years. This will mean that children up to and including 17 years of age will be able to fish in Tasmania’s inland lakes and waterways for free.
- Doubling the amount of funding for the Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion.
 - The Inland Fisheries Service is delivering a major promotion to encourage trout fishing and support regional economies – the Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion.
 - Before the start of the 2022-23 inland recreational angling season, a further 50 tagged brown trout were released into 15 waters around Tasmania.
 - The Tasmanian Government has allocated additional funding to double the prize money for the Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion, with each tag worth \$2,000.

Inland Fisheries Advisory Council (IFAC) report 2022-23

Table 1. Membership of the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council on 30 June 2023

Representation and role	Member
Chairperson	Michele Moseley
Ministerial appointment	Julie Butler
Freshwater angling associations	Howard Jones
Director of Inland Fisheries	John Diggie
Conservation of freshwater ecosystems	Dr Liza Fallon
Commercial freshwater fisheries	Adam Chapman
Representing the north-western area	Sheryl Thompson
Representing the northern area	Julianne Stephens
Representing the southern area	Ranald Moore
Representing tourism	Simone Hackett

IFAC provides advice to the Minister responsible for Inland Fisheries on matters related to Tasmania’s inland fishery resources. It also provides a forum for consultation on policy matters and a sounding board for the Director of Inland Fisheries.

IFAC held five meetings during the year at the IFS offices in New Norfolk.

The Council was briefed at each meeting on progress with the Government Policy Commitments relevant to the fishery and trends in licence sales.

The IFS Risk Register continued to provide the context for many of IFAC's discussions.

The IFAC is grateful for the support provided by the staff of IFS without which it would be unable to perform its function.

Meeting – 5 July 2022

Advice provided to the Minister regarding

- Policy Commitment of Anglers Access
- First World Ladies Fly Fishing Championship

Meeting – 13 September 2022

Advice provided to the Minister regarding

- Terms of Reference

Meeting – 22 November 2022

Advice provided to the Minister regarding

- Influence of climatic conditions in 2022-23 season on Fisheries and Infrastructure

Meeting – 14 February 2023

Presentation

- IFS Technical Officer – “King Island Redfin Survey”
- Anglers Alliance Tasmania – “AAT’s Collaborative Study of Environmental and Angler Impacts on Shallow Highland Waters”

Advice provided to the Minister regarding

- IFAC paper on *Water Flows and Levels* for consideration

Meeting – 2 May 2023

Presentation

- IFS Senior Fisheries Management Officer – “Swan Galaxias Translocation”
- Hydro Tasmania – “Campground Strategies on Hydro Land and Arthurs Lake”

Advice provided to the Minister regarding

- Increased popularity of free camping sites – Hydro land and other land tenure, pressure on existing sites from increased tourism
- Efforts to ensure the survival of threatened fish species - Swan Galaxias

Legislation

There were no changes.

Fisheries compliance

Table 2. Compliance inspections conducted during the 2022-23 financial year

Inspection type	Total in 2022-23
Angling creel	3,497
Whitebait fishing	119
Boating safety	425

Two full-time and eight part-time Officers authorised under the Act delivered fisheries compliance for the year. This included enforcement activities, investigations, and prosecutions, as well as education/awareness and public relations activities.

Fisheries Officers enforce a wide range of regulations under the Act and conduct angler creel surveys to help with fisheries assessments. The Compliance Operational Plan guides activities.

We work closely with other State agencies such as Tasmania Police, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) to patrol remote areas and to detect, and respond to, illegal activity.

Further details of activities are published in the Compliance Annual Report 2022-23 located at <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/>.

Strategic goal:

The fishery is managed sustainably

Fishery performance assessments

Consistent with the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28*, the following fishery performance assessments (FPA) were completed during 2022-23: Arthurs Lake and Penstock Lagoon.

A summary of all results is reported below.

Arthurs Lake

During December 2022, an in-lake FPA was conducted using the electrofishing boat. The purpose of the survey was to collect a sample of 200 brown trout for biological measurements and to extract their otoliths for ageing analysis. For approximately six hours each day, for two days, the IFS electrofishing boat was operated along the western shore of Arthurs Lake. A total of 212 adult and sub adult fish were collected. The backpack electrofishing unit was used around and up Hydro Creek to collect a sample of eight fry (young-of-the-year). A sample of 199 fish were processed at the IFS New Norfolk Head Office in the laboratory. Average weight and length of the adult/sub adult samples was 353 g and 279 mm respectively. The average Condition Factor (k) for these fish was 1.17 which is classed as "fair" ($k = 0.90 - 1.20$). All otoliths extracted were sent to Fish Ageing Services in Victoria for analysis.

During April 2023, an in-lake FPA survey using box traps was carried out. Over three nights 82 box traps were set at 28 locations around the lake, totaling 246 sets. A total of 435 brown trout were captured at an average catch rate (CPUE) of 2.66 per 24 hour set. The averages of the fish that were weighed and measured were 553 g and 359 mm respectively. The average Condition Factor (k) for these fish was 1.01 which is classed as "fair" ($k = 0.90 - 1.20$).

For the full report of these Arthurs Lake surveys go to the IFS website:

<https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/fisheries-performance-assessment-reports>.

Penstock Lagoon

During July 2022, an in-lake FPA was conducted to examine the trout fishery at Penstock Lagoon. A total of 84 box traps were set over two nights, capturing 722 brown trout and 20 rainbow trout. This was significantly higher compared to similar surveys conducted during 2016 and 2018. In addition, five brown trout captured had adipose fins clips and seven had hole punched adipose fins. These fish were released into the lagoon during 2014 and 2016 respectively and indicate high survival rates.

For the full report of these Penstock Lagoon surveys go to the IFS website:

<https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/fisheries-performance-assessment-reports>.

Fishery assessment reports

During the 2022-23 period, reports detailing the results of the Lake Leake and Tooms Lake surveys conducted during April 2022 were published on the IFS website located at

<https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/fisheries-performance-assessment-reports>.

In addition, a report outlining the results of several West Coast Brook Trout fisheries was completed and published on the IFS website, located at <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/fisheries-performance-assessment-reports>.

Lake Crescent tagged brown trout

During April 2021, 500 brown trout averaging 0.84 kg were collected from the fish trap at Liawenee, tagged and released into Lake Crescent. Over the 2022-23 angling season, fishers reported capturing 31 of these tagged brown trout, of which 25 were weighed and measured. The average weight reported for these fish was 2.69 kg, representing almost a 220 per cent increase in weight.

Lower River Derwent tagged trout study

In July 2021 and 2022, a total of 800 tagged adult brown trout were released into the Derwent Estuary near Dromedary. Four hundred tagged fish were released for each of the events. This was a study to investigate the movements, growth, catchability, and population of brown trout in the River Derwent.

Over the two year period, 54 tagged trout were recaptured by 42 individual anglers, using a range of methods. For both years, a low percentage of tagged trout were recaptured, with 21 (five per cent) caught for 2021-22 and 32 (eight per cent) caught for the 2022-23 season. Tagged trout were caught between two kilometres downstream of Meadowbank Dam, and Old Beach. However, the majority of fish were caught in the New Norfolk to Dromedary section. The tagged fish which had the most days at liberty was recaptured in Dromedary after 350 days. The tagged fish which had the least days at liberty was caught the day after release in Dromedary. Anglers that reported tagged trout also caught 116 untagged fish on the days the tagged trout were caught, however, no details were kept on their total catches for the season. Overall, it appears tagged trout did not significantly increase trout catches in the Derwent Estuary.

Future Assessments

The following fishery assessments are scheduled for 2023-24: Penstock Lagoon, Four Springs Lake, Lake Crescent, Lake Sorell and Tooms Lake.

Trout hatchery, stocking, and adult transfers

Consistent with the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* we have supplemented fish stocks in waters across the State using fish sourced from Central Highlands spawning traps, commercial hatcheries, and the Salmon Ponds hatchery.

Wild brown trout spawning run 2022

Trapping of the 2022 brown trout spawning run commenced on 1 May 2022 and finished on 4 August 2022 (see Table 3). A total of 24,547 were trapped with 10,672 adult brown trout transferred to waters across the state and 13,875 released upstream of the traps to spawn.

Table 3. Wild adult brown trout caught in Central Highlands fish traps in 2022

Trap	Number transferred	Number released above trap
Liawenee Canal – yingina / Great Lake	4,746	0
Sandbanks Creek – yingina / Great Lake	1,265	0
Tumbledown Creek – Arthurs Lake	1,332	9,344
Scotch Bobs Creek – Arthurs Lake	0	2,223
Hydro Creek – Arthurs Lake	550	2,300
River Derwent – Lake King William	2,779	8
Total	10,672	13,875

Wild rainbow trout spawning run 2022

We use fish traps at Liawenee Canal - yingina / Great Lake and River Derwent - Lake King William to monitor and enhance the wild rainbow trout fishery. The initiative to establish a population of wild rainbow trout in Lake Sorell commenced this year with 100 wild adult fish trapped from the Liawenee Canal and transferred to Mountain Creek and Silver Plains Creek.

Table 4. Total captures of wild rainbow trout, Liawenee and River Derwent traps 2016-22

Trap	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Liawenee Canal – yingina / Great Lake	5,402	2,310	923	988	1,093	349	587
River Derwent – Lake King William	112	15	0	0	0	0	-

Further details of activities are published in the Central Highlands Fish Trap Report 2022 - Wild Brown Trout and Wild Rainbow Trout Management Report 2022 located at <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/fish-trap-reports>.

Stocking of inland waters for public fishing

Each year we stock selected waters in the public fishery. In 2022, we stocked 26,990 wild brown trout, 21,983 rainbow trout, 2,267 brook trout, and 581 Atlantic salmon.

Table 5. Stocking of inland waters for public fishing by age/size class for 2022

Age/size class	Brown trout	Rainbow trout	Brook trout	Atlantic salmon
Fry (1-5 g)	17,000	2,500	0	0
Fingerlings (6-50 g)	0	0	0	0
Yearling (51-300 g)	0	0	2,267	0
Adult (>301g)	9,990	19,483	0	581
Total	26,990	21,983	2,267	581

For the full report go to the IFS website <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/stocking-reports>.

Ova and fish sales

Table 6. Ova and fish sales between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023

Qty	Age/size class	Species	Recipient	Value \$
65,000	Eyed ova	Brown	South Australian Fly Fishers Assoc. (SAFFA)	3,575
500	Adult (> 301 g)	Brown	Registered private fishery	2,500
20,000	Fry (1-5 g)	Brown	Registered private fishery	200
2,430	Adult (> 301 g)	Triploid Rainbow	Private farm dams	12,150
935	Yearling (51 – 300 g)	Triploid Rainbow	Private farm dams	2,805
1,650	Fingerlings (6 – 50 g)	Triploid Rainbow	Private farm dams	3,300

Commercial fisheries

Private fisheries

Registered private fisheries provide recreational fishing opportunities without being subject to angling licence provisions and angling regulations. On 30 June 2023, there were 12 registered private fisheries, one more than 2021-22.

Fish dealers

A person dealing in applicable freshwater fish must be a registered fish dealer under the Act. On 30 June 2023, there were 54 registered fish dealers, four more than in 2021-22.

Fish farms

A fish farm means any area on land or in inland waters used to farm, culture, hatch, rear, ranch, enhance or breed freshwater fish for commercial or research purposes. This year we:

- issued 13 aquarium fish farm licences
- renewed one salmonid hatchery fish farm licence.

Table 7. Types of freshwater fish farms in operation at 30 June 2023

Species farmed	Number of fish farm licences
Eels/Salmonids	1
Salmonids	21
Freshwater Aquarium	24
Freshwater Aquarium/Salmonids	1

There are 21 licenced freshwater hatcheries currently producing salmonids in Tasmania.

A licence was issued in 2021 for a freshwater salmonid hatchery at Hamilton but is yet to be operational.

Commercial freshwater fishing licences

All 12 existing commercial freshwater fishing licences (eels) were renewed. Eight licences were actively fished, the same as in 2021-22.

The industry declared a held catch of 26,198.5 kg of wild eels, down 15.9 per cent compared to 31,162 kg the previous year.

Exemption permits and angling exemptions

Twenty-one permits were issued exempting the holder from the requirement of an angling licence in support of educational and community programs.

Forty-seven permits were issued exempting the holder from various sections of the Act in support of education or scientific research.

Native fish conservation and management

An annual report of native fish management activities for 2022-23 was produced and published on the IFS website located at <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/reports>. The report details the activities and results and where applicable, presents trends for the last ten years. Below is an overview of the 2022-23 activities.

Pedder galaxias monitoring

During April 2023, the Pedder galaxias population was surveyed at the Strathgordon water supply dam. Twelve fine-mesh fyke nets were set overnight, resulting in the capture of 214 Pedder galaxias, at 17.8 fish per net. This figure remains high, indicating continued high abundance, however, recruitment from 2022 was absent.

Woods and Arthurs lakes monitoring

In accordance with monitoring protocols, 24 fine-mesh fyke nets were set overnight at each lake. During October 2022, Arthurs Lake was monitored, with 36 Arthurs paragalaxias captured, consisting of two defined length cohorts, with moderate levels of recruitment evident. A total of 71 saddled galaxias were also captured, with young-of-the-year fish representing 16 per cent of the catch, indicative of low recruitment. Monitoring at Woods Lake was delayed until January 2023. A total of 103 saddled galaxias were captured providing good evidence their abundance has increased over the last five years. A strong young-of-the-year cohort indicates good recruitment.

Penstock and Shannon lagoons monitoring

Due to staff illness, no monitoring was undertaken during 2022-23.

Swan galaxias monitoring

NRM South in partnership with the University of Tasmania, CSIRO and the IFS, delivered a project under the Commonwealth Government's, Environment Restoration Fund for Priority Threatened Species. The project aims to improve the long-term conservation trajectory of the Swan galaxias by establishing two translocated insurance populations within trout free streams. Around 1,200 potential sites were initially identified from modelling of Swan galaxias habitat. An extensive desktop assessment identified 84 priority sites. Following field assessment, Evercreech Rivulet and Delvins Creek were selected as the best sites. During March 2023, 60 individuals (20 juveniles and 10 adults from Blue Tier Creek and 20 adults and 10 juveniles from Dukes River) were released into Delvin Creek; in addition, 60 individuals (10 juveniles and 10 adults from Dukes River, 20 adults and 10 juveniles from St Pauls River and four juveniles and six adults from Cygnet River), were released into the upper section of Evercreech Rivulet.

Populations within the Swan River and eastern and western branches of the Tinamirakuna / Macquarie River were monitored.

Golden galaxias monitoring

Annual golden galaxias monitoring was conducted in March. The catch from Lake Sorell remained within the normal long term monitoring range, however, catches from Lake Crescent were lower. Further details of activities are published in the Native Fish Program - Annual Report 2022-23 located at <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/reports>.

Elver and lamprey

A total of 431 kg of lamprey caught in the Meadowbank Dam trap were released into Meadowbank Lake. A total of 914 kg of elver (juvenile eel) were caught in the Meadowbank Dam trap and 254.5 kg from the Trevallyn Tailrace. A total of 564kg were stocked into public waters with the balance allocated to CFFL (Tables 8 and 9).

Table 8. Public waters stocked with elver by the Inland Fisheries Service in 2022-23

Water	Kg stocked	Elver per kg	Number of elver stocked	T - Trevallyn M - Meadowbank
Meadowbank Lake	414	329	136,184	M
Lake Burbury	50	287	14,350	M
Lake Rowallan	25	287	7,184	M
South Esk River	100	625	62,500	T
Lake Pieman	75	385	28,875	M

Commercial freshwater fishing licence (CFFL) holders who elect to receive an industry support allocation of free elver for restocking typically receive a maximum of 50 kg per licence per year. The holder of licences 1 and 21 requested an uneven split of the allocation. The IFS permitted the holder of licence 26 to gift the majority of their allocation to the holder of licence 22.

An exemption permit was issued to each CFFL holder to allow the possession, transport, and release of elver into approved waters within their licence catchment.

CFFL holders received the following allocation of free elver as part of the industry support program.

Table 9. Elver allocation for CFFL

Licence number	Elver kg received
1	75
6	50
9	50
21	25
22	90
24	50
26	10

Pest fish management

Redfin perch - King Island

On 24 May 2022, the presence of redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) on King Island was confirmed. A fish was caught in Pennys Lagoon, in the Lavinia State Reserve, a RAMSAR listed site. IFS records noted redfin perch had been introduced into farm dams in 1964, although it was unknown if they had become established.

On 6 July 2022, a separate report was received relating to the presence of the mainland yabby (*Cherax destructor*) in Pennys Lagoon. There are no historical reports of yabbies on King Island.

In mid-September, IFS staff shipped a 4 m trailer boat and vehicle to King Island and undertook a one-week survey in collaboration with the PWS. A survey of Pennys Lagoon and other waterways was undertaken.

Three days were spent surveying Pennys Lagoon, using a range of techniques which included backpack electrofishing, trammel gill nets, box traps, and fyke nets. Two hundred and fourteen redfin perch ranging in size from 85 mm to 405 mm and 46 mainland yabbies were caught.

Over two days, six other sites around the island were surveyed. Redfin perch and mainland yabby were found in a small dam located on a golf course. Fourteen redfin perch and 14 mainland yabbies were caught using box traps. From discussions with members of the community, it seems probable that both redfin perch and the mainland yabby are established in other areas around the island. Eradication is not feasible, and there will be a focus on education to contain both species to their current locations.

The full report of the survey can be found here <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/pest-fish-reports>.

Strategic goal:

The Lake Sorell recreational fishery is restored

After an intensive 28 year physical removal program, European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) have been functionally eradicated from Lake Sorell, and consequently Tasmania. This means any remaining carp in lakes Sorell and Crescent are unable to breed. One carp was caught over the 2022-23 season (Table 10), bringing the total number of carp removed from Lake Sorell to 41,504. It was caught in early November in a trammel gill net set in the marshes behind the barrier net at Dogs Head Bay and was a female.

Table 10. Carp captures from lakes Sorell and Crescent for the 2022-23 season

Lake	Total caught	Adult / Juvenile	Total caught 1995 to present
Sorell	1	1 / 0	41,504
Crescent	0	0	7,797

High rainfall events from mid-October into November resulted in Lake Sorell rising quickly, peaking at 804.780 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) (420 mm over full supply). This level is the highest on record for Lake Sorell with similar levels recorded in December 1975. The high-water levels created optimal spawning cues for any remaining carp in the lake, making any mature fish vulnerable to capture around the marshes of the lake. Despite these conditions, only one carp was caught. The IFS will monitor Lake Sorell to confirm eradication and undertake educational campaigns on the threats invasive species pose to Tasmania.

Further details of activities are published in the Carp Management Program (CMP) Annual Report 2022-23.

The CMP held its yearly Workshop on 24 March. Dr. Alyssa Marshall, a research fellow/fisheries scientist from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies attended the workshop as an independent reviewer. On completion of the workshop, Dr. Marshall produced a report on the assessment of the CMP and supported the conclusion that there are no fertile males left in Lake Sorell, and therefore any remaining fish in the lake are unable to reproduce.

For the full report go to the IFS website <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/>.

Strategic goal:

We maintain our reputation as a world-class recreational trout fishery and increase participation

Angler survey

The annual Angler Postal Survey (APS) obtains a range of data about the recreational fishery that is used to assist fishery management. The APS is a written questionnaire mailed out at the end of the angling season. The results, including estimates of the catch rate, total harvest, angling effort and number of anglers fishing are shown in Tables 11 and 12.

*Catch rate = all fish species combined, expressed as fish per angler per day

Table 11. Ranking of lake fisheries by participation results of the 2022-23 Angler Postal Survey

Ranking	Lake	Catch rate* (fish per angler per day)	Angler numbers
1	yingina / Great Lake	1.48	6,069
2	Arthurs Lake	1.27	4,812
3	Little Pine Lagoon	1.17	2,861
4	Woods Lake	2.54	2,818
5	Penstock Lagoon	1.10	2,514
6	Bronte Lagoon	1.49	2,341
7	Four Springs Lake	1.39	2,254
8	Bradys Lake	1.08	2,124
9	Lake Crescent	1.45	1,517
10	Huntsman Lake	1.04	1,300
11	Craigbourne Lake	0.81	1,257
12	Dee Lagoon	0.93	1,170
13	Lake Leake	1.95	1,083
14	Brushy Lagoon	1.11	1,040
15	Lake Echo	1.68	867

Table 12. Ranking of river fisheries by participation results of the 2022-23 Angler Postal Survey

Ranking	Lake	Catch rate* (fish per angler per day)	Angler numbers
1	Meander River	0.70	2,709
2	South Esk River	1.38	2,159
3	Mersey River	0.94	2,159
4	River Derwent	0.71	1,947
5	Brumbys Creek	0.33	1,354
6	Tyenna River	3.01	1,143
7	St Patricks River	1.89	1,100
8	Huon River	0.58	804
9	North Esk River	1.44	719
10	Tinamirakuna / Macquarie River	0.51	635

Anglers Access Program

The Anglers Access program has focused on implementing the Policy Commitment of the State Government to improve anglers access with \$199,817 in projects completed with the balance of \$50,183 carried forward.

Existing anglers access projects were maintained during the year and in particular river access infrastructure damaged in the October 2022 floods which affected the Mersey, Meander, Leven and Lake river catchments.

In partnership with Northern Midlands Council, the IFS has contributed to upgrading the camping area at Tooms Lake. Work commenced in 2021-22 and was completed in 2022-23 including upgraded camping sites, improved parking for boats and trailers, removal and pruning of unsafe trees, construction of a new pathway from the boat ramp to the camping area around the lake shore and installation of a new toilet.

The IFS undertook important maintenance work to the Double Lagoon and Lake Kay vehicle tracks in the Nineteen Lagoons, part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The tracks had degraded and were subject to periodic closures impeding vehicle access. The tracks have been improved with new culverts and drainage, resurfaced and graded.

In partnership with MAST and Tasmanian Irrigation, the boating buoy line at Craighourne Lake has been replaced. Damaged in floods, the buoy line is an important safety feature for boating anglers.

In collaboration with MAST, the gravel ramp at Pioneer Lake was upgraded.

A significant improvement in lake level information for anglers has been provided through the Tasmanian Irrigation/ IFS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Tasmanian Irrigation's new Dam Dashboard provides lake levels in metres below full supply level, similar to data provided by Hydro Tasmania. This information helps anglers plan fishing trips and supports safe boating.

The transfer of land between the Crown and Forico at Four Springs Lake was completed with a licence issued to the IFS. This is the final step in securing the long-term objective of managing Four Springs Public Reserve for recreational angling and passive recreation. The transfer provides a parcel of public land around the entire perimeter of the lake including the dam wall and associated infrastructure. The IFS has commenced implementing a long-term strategy of maintaining and improving public facilities at Four Springs.

The IFS has completed planning, including funding and approval, for three boating infrastructure projects at Huntsman Lake, Little Pine Lagoon and Lake Mikany. Due to higher than expected lake levels all three projects have been deferred until 2023-24.

Marketing, communication, and promotions

A marketing, communication and promotions strategy gives direction in promoting the recreational freshwater fishery. Key messages were “Go trout fishing to win” promoting the \$100,000 Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion and “No fee for junior anglers”.

Under the visiting journalist program Steve and Jo Starling were issued a permit to fish while visiting Tasmania to draft articles and produce YouTube videos on the trout fishery. A film crew from a New Zealand based production company, including presenter Clarke Gayford, were issued a permit to fish while filming for the Fish of the Day television series.

An on-line presentation on the Tasmanian wild brown trout fishery was given to the Colorado chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Two IFS officers attended the 10th World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne and presented *Tasmania's Wild Brown Trout Fishery* and *Return of the Monster Trout! The Recovery of Lakes Crescent and Sorell – Tasmania*.

Instagram

The IFS continued in the social media space through our Instagram page [@troutfishtasmania](#). This has been popular with a following of over 2,360.

Angler Diary app

We are committed to obtaining accurate information that enables active management of the trout fishery. An angler diary has long been recognised as a way that anglers can record where, when and how they have fished. With the release of the new Angler Diary, as a feature of the Infish mobile app, anglers can record their fishing effort and catch. It also allows anglers to provide information to help manage the fishery.

In July, an iOS version of the Angler Diary app was released. There were 679 entries from 111 anglers at 106 locations on the iOS version of the app. There have been technical difficulties in releasing an android version. The IFS plan to release the android version for the coming season.

Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion

In addition to the 42 tagged trout that weren't caught during the 2021-22 promotion, a further 50 tagged trout were released before the start of the 2022-23 inland recreational angling season. All 92 tagged trout were eligible for a \$2,000 prize.

The tags were orange and had unique identifying details.

The waters and number of tagged trout released for 2022-23 were:

Table 13. Waters and number of tagged trout released for the Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion

Designated water	Number of tagged trout released
Arthurs Lake	5
Briseis Mine Hole	2
Bronte Lagoon	2
Craigbourne Lake	2
Curries River Reservoir	2
Huntsman Lake	2
Lake Burbury	5
Lake Leake	3
Lake Mackintosh	5
Lake Parangana	2
Lake Pedder	5
Lake Rosebery	5
Lake Rowallan	2
River Derwent	3
yingina / Great Lake	5

There were 12 tagged trout caught this year. One each from Briseis Mine Hole, Curries River Reservoir, Lake Leake, Lake Rosebery and yingina / Great Lake. Two each from Arthurs Lake and Bronte Lagoon and three from Lake Mackintosh.

National Gone Fishing Day

On Sunday 9th October, national Gone Fishing Day was an angling licence free day across the state. Fishing opportunities for junior angling were coordinated through local angling clubs and supported by Anglers Alliance Tasmania and the IFS.

Fish were tagged for the Hydro Tasmania / Cressy Trout Expo at Brumbys Creek. Over 600 people participated and over 200 trout were caught. Eight lucky anglers managed to catch a \$50 tagged fish.

Trout Weekend 2023

Fine weather on Saturday gave way to strong winds and snow on Sunday but had little effect on the crowds at the annual IFS Trout Weekend on 20 – 21 May. An estimated 3,500 people attended, enjoying the celebration of Tasmania's wild brown trout spawning run.

Patrons were able to walk the *Wild Trout Trail* down along the fast-flowing Liawenee Canal to see the working fish trap.

Hydro Tasmania, Biosecurity Tasmania, MAST, Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmania Marine Police, Anglers Alliance Tasmania, Derwent Catchment Group, Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club and Flyfishers Club of Tasmania provided displays. John Gooderham had a display where children could hunt for aquatic insects.

The Devonport Fly Fishing Club held fly casting lessons on the ponds with competitions and prizes.

Patrons enjoyed food from the Longford Angling Club, Great Lake Community Centre and the coffee van was popular.

The Hon. Jo Palmer, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, enjoyed the celebration and presented a plaque to Sheryl Thompson – inductee into the Tasmanian Angling Hall of Fame, who dedicated a lifetime of enjoying, supporting, and advocating for our recreational fishery.

Strategic goal:

We have advocated and acted on behalf of freshwater ecosystems

Willow removal

The IFS collaborated with the Derwent Catchment Project (DCP) to continue the Tyenna River Recovery Plan. The IFS provided \$11,000 of cash funding and in-kind support. The 10-year recovery plan for the river has progressed with willow control almost complete at Lanoma Estate. Work continued at Maydena and Westerway, including willow removal and replanting with native vegetation. Volunteer support from anglers and community groups including kayakers is providing an important labour source for working bees. In support of this important work the IFS has entered a MoU with SFM Forest Management to create 40 m riparian buffer zones on plantations that pre-date the Forest Practices Code.

Clean Up Australia Business Clean Up Day

IFS staff participated in Clean Up Australia Business Clean Up Day. The River Derwent was the focus for clean up this year with a large amount of rubbish removed between Bridgewater and Gretna on the River Derwent.

Strategic goal:

The Inland Fisheries Service is respected and valued as a responsive, proactive, accessible and dynamic organisation

Building and reviewing strategic partnerships

The IFS has renewed a four-year Grant Deed with Anglers Alliance Tasmania (AAT) to provide support services for the inland recreational fishery.

We maintained MoU with our key stakeholders:

- Births Deaths and Marriages, Department of Justice
- Client Update, Services, Service Tasmania
- Forico Pty Limited
- Hydro Tasmania
- SFM Forest Management
- Tasmanian Irrigation
- Van Dairy Group

The IFS remains a member of 26Ten.

Scientific and technical advice

We provided a range of advice on environmental and technical issues to a range of stakeholders and professional partnerships. These included NRE Tas, Forest Practices Authority, Hydro Tasmania, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Tasmanian Irrigation across a range of projects.

IFS involvement with State and National policy and working groups

Lakes Sorell and Crescent Water Management Plan 2005 review

We are a member of the Consultative Group participating in the statutory review of the lakes *Sorell and Crescent Water Management Plan 2005*.

National Freshwater Vertebrate and Invertebrate Working Group

Represented Tasmania on the working group participating in several meetings through the year.

Rural Water Use Strategy

Provided feedback on the draft Rural Water Use Strategy.

Tasmanian Australian Society for Fish Biology (ASFB) State Committee

Represented on the committee.

Tasmanian ASFB Alien Fishes Committee

Represented on the committee.

National Strategy for non-indigenous freshwater fish and invertebrates meeting

Represented Tasmania.

Rural Water Roundtable

Represented on the committee.

Right to Information enquiries

We received no right to information enquiries.

Staff support and development

The IFS is responsible for staff performance, wellbeing, safety and completed performance management reviews. A range of training resources were made available to staff during the year including:

- Business Analysis
- Project Management Essentials
- Diploma – Government Investigation
- Manager Essentials Program
- Policy Skills
- Email Ninja

Refresher first-aid courses were completed, and voluntary flu and COVID-19 vaccinations supported.

There were monthly meetings for staff and managers as forums for communication and operational efficiencies.

Events supported

July 2022

- New Norfolk Licenced Anglers Association, Annual General Meeting
- North-West Fisheries Association, Annual General Meeting and Dinner (Ulverstone)
- North-West Fly Fishers Club, Spawning Fish Viewing (Talbots Lagoon)
- North-West Fly Fishers Club, Guest Speaker (Burnie)
- Longford Angling Club, Annual General Meeting (Cressy)
- Frombergs Dam Junior Anglers, Annual Dinner (Ulverstone)
- North-West Fisheries Association, Special Meeting (Ulverstone)

August 2022

- Williams Outdoors Trout Opening Event (New Norfolk)
- Agfest 2022 (Carrick)

September 2022

- National Gone Fishing Day (Four Springs Lake)

November 2022

- Anglers Alliance Tasmania Meeting (Miena)

February 2023

- University of Tasmania Field Ecology Unit (Interlaken)
- The 10th World Recreational Fishing Conference (Melbourne)
- Trout Unlimited Presentation – Colorado Chapter (on-line)
- IFAC, Guest Speaker (New Norfolk)

March 2023

- Longford Angling Club, Guest Speaker (Longford)
- North-West Fly Fishers Club, Guest Speaker (Burnie)

April 2023

- Penguin Angling Club, Guest Speaker (Penguin)
- Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania, Guest Speaker (Launceston)

May 2023

- IFAC, Guest Speaker (New Norfolk)
- Ulverstone Angling Club, Guest Speaker (Ulverstone)
- North-West Fly Fishers Club, Annual Dinner (Penguin)
- Agfest 2023 (Carrick)
- Liawenee Trout Weekend 2023

June 2023

- Break O'Day Sports Angling Club, Guest Speaker (St Helens)
- Tasmanian Fly Fishers, Guest Speaker (Launceston)
- Southern Tasmanian Licenced Angling Association, Annual General Meeting (Claremont)
- Lake Pedder Anglers Club, Meeting
- Westbury Angling Club, Annual General Meeting (Westbury)

Publications

- Brumbys Creek Anglers Access Program brochure
- Carp Management Program Annual Report 2021-22
- Central Highlands Fish Trap Report 2021
- Central Highlands Fish Trap Report 2022
- Compliance Annual Report 2021-22
- Inland Fisheries Service listing of northwest private dams for public fishing
- Inland Fisheries Service Annual Report 2021-22
- Lake Leake Fishery Performance Assessment April 2022
- Let's go trout fishing v2
- Tinamirakuna / Macquarie and Lake rivers Anglers Access Program brochure
- Penstock Lagoon Fishery Performance Assessment March 2023
- Permissible Imports List – Freshwater Aquarium Fish
- Stocking Report 2022
- Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code 2022-23 and 2023-24
- Tooms Lake Fishery Performance Assessment April 2022
- Wild Rainbow Trout Management 2021
- Wild Rainbow Trout Management 2022

Results for Angler Postal Survey 2018-19 to 2022-23 (Lakes)

*Catch rate = all fish species combined, expressed as fish per angler per day

Table 14. Results for Angler Postal Survey 2018-19 to 2022-23 (lakes)

Ranking	Season 2022-23	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2021-22	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2020-21	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2019-20	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2018-19	Catch rate*	Total anglers
1	Yingina / Great Lake	1.48	6,069	Yingina / Great Lake	1.67	7,223	Yingina / Great Lake	0.91	5,338	Yingina / Great Lake	1.23	4,241	Yingina / Great Lake	1.39	6,123
2	Arthurs Lake	1.27	4,812	Arthurs Lake	1.13	5,436	Arthurs Lake	0.74	4,284	Arthurs Lake	0.94	3,270	Woods Lake	2.74	4,898
3	Little Pine Lagoon	1.17	2,861	Woods Lake	2.58	3,649	Woods Lake	1.97	3,196	Woods Lake	2.98	2,493	Arthurs Lake	0.65	4,815
4	Woods Lake	2.54	2,818	Penstock Lagoon	1.52	3,003	Bronte Lagoon	1.07	2,570	Penstock Lagoon	1.62	2,428	Penstock Lagoon	1.71	3,256
5	Penstock Lagoon	1.10	2,514	Four Springs Lake	1.68	2,813	Lake Leake	1.26	2,537	Four Springs Lake	0.98	1,651	Little Pine Lagoon	1.06	2,449
6	Bronte Lagoon	1.49	2,341	Little Pine Lagoon	1.60	2,813	Penstock Lagoon	1.55	2,537	Little Pine Lagoon	1.49	1,424	Four Springs Lake	1.57	2,254
7	Four Springs Lake	1.39	2,254	Bronte Lagoon	1.49	2,509	Little Pine Lagoon	1.28	2,405	Bronte Lagoon	1.21	1,327	Bronte Lagoon	0.73	2,198
8	Bradys Lake	1.08	2,124	Craigbourne Lake	0.51	2,167	Four Springs Lake	1.31	2,142	Bradys Lake	0.50	1,165	Bradys Lake	1.07	1,642
9	Lake Crescent	1.45	1,517	Bradys Lake	0.90	1,863	Bradys Lake	0.50	1,812	Lake Leake	0.59	971	Craigbourne Lake	0.32	1,252
10	Huntsman Lake	1.04	1,300	Lake Echo	1.14	1,254	Dee Lagoon	0.89	955	Lake Echo	0.96	777	Lake Echo	2.37	1,224
11	Craigbourne Lake	0.81	1,257	Lake Leake	1.3	1,216	Lake Binney	1.03	955	Brushy Lagoon	0.09	744	Tooms Lake	1.01	1,196
12	Dee Lagoon	0.93	1,170	Huntsman Lake	1.21	1,102	Brushy Lagoon	1.13	922	Huntsman Lake	1.09	712	Lake Burbury	1.67	1,085
13	Lake Leake	1.95	1,083	Lake Pedder	1.75	1,064	Lake Echo	1.30	889	Dee Lagoon	0.18	712	Lake Leake	1.23	1,057
14	Brushy Lagoon	1.11	1,040	Brushy Lagoon	0.76	950	Lake Burbury	1.39	856	Meadowbank Lake	0.50	615	Lake Binney	0.66	974
15	Lake Echo	1.68	867	Dee Lagoon	0.83	722	Talbots Lagoon	2.66	823	Lake King William	3.12	582	Lake Augusta	2.06	779

Results for Angler Postal Survey 2018-19 to 2022-23 (Rivers)

*Catch rate = all fish species combined, expressed as fish per angler per day

Table 15. Results for Angler Postal Survey 2018-19 to 2022-23 (rivers)

Ranking	Season 2022-23	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2021-22	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2020-21	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2019-20	Catch rate*	Total anglers	Season 2018-19	Catch rate*	Total anglers
1	Meander River	0.70	2,709	River Derwent	0.52	2,889	River Derwent	0.26	2,076	Mersey River	1.36	1,942	Mersey River	0.97	2,755
2	South Esk River	1.38	2,159	Mersey River	2.39	2,471	Mersey River	1.32	1,944	River Derwent	0.55	1,748	South Esk River	0.89	2,254
3	Mersey River	0.94	2,159	South Esk River	1.05	2,395	South Esk River	1.05	1,779	South Esk River	0.63	1,586	Meander River	2.11	1,892
4	River Derwent	0.71	1,947	Meander River	1.20	1,977	Meander River	1.47	1,581	Meander River	1.74	1,359	River Derwent	1.02	1,864
5	Brumbys Creek	0.33	1,354	Tyenna River	1.94	1,672	Tyenna River	1.82	1,348	Brumbys Creek	0.30	1,295	Tyenna River	1.80	1,642
6	Tyenna River	3.01	1,143	Brumbys Creek	0.72	1,368	Huon River	0.27	1,054	Tyenna River	2.01	1,133	Brumbys Creek	0.76	1,335
7	St Patricks River	1.89	1,100	St Patricks River	2.61	1,254	Brumbys Creek	0.60	988	River Leven	0.88	971	River Leven	1.49	946
8	Huon River	0.58	804	North Esk River	0.51	1,064	Tinamirakuna / Macquarie River	0.65	955	St Patricks River	2.23	841	Tinamirakuna / Macquarie River	0.60	946
9	North Esk River	1.44	719	River Leven	0.69	988	River Leven	1.7	922	Tinamirakuna / Macquarie River	0.50	647	Huon River	0.49	834
10	Tinamirakuna / Macquarie River	0.51	635	Tinamirakuna / Macquarie River	1.80	950	North Esk River	2.02	757	River Forth	0.75	582	North Esk River	1.15	751

Strategic goal:

The Inland Fisheries Service is financially sustainable

Finance and administration

The year concluded with a net operating and comprehensive deficit of \$114,929. This result included an operating deficit of \$143,822 and gain on sale of non-financial assets of \$28,893. The operating result was better than expected due to an increase in licence sales combined with tight control of operating expenditure.

A total of 355 five season licences were issued this year. The total number of five season licences issued was 2,756. The IFS recognises the total proceeds of five season licences in the year of receipt. Of the \$126,235 received this financial year, an amount of \$100,988 is applicable to future years. The IFS is holding a total of \$297,469 of revenue for five season licences applicable to future years.

Cash holdings decreased during the year by \$1,063,629, with the funds invested in term deposits. Interest income increased by \$88,163 compared to the previous year due to increased interest rates. Income from investment properties and other leases increased from \$571,934 in 2021-22 to \$586,720 in 2022-23. The increase was based on the application of CPI in 2022-23.

The IFS uses corporate credit cards for operational purchases subject to departmental policies and guidelines. At 30 June 2023, 16 cards were issued to staff with a combined credit limit of \$110,000.

At 30 June 2023, the IFS has 11 telephone land lines, 16 mobile phones, 19 data packs, five tablets, one test phone for Filemaker Pro and one air card. The IFS also funds the data pack associated with the Liawenee Trap remote camera.

Asset management

Four vehicles were disposed of during the year. Ten vehicles were in the fleet consisting of one Toyota Hilux, three Landcruiser flat trays, one Mitsubishi Pajero, one Isuzu D-MAX dual cab, and four Ford Ranger dual cabs. The vehicle fleet has a book value of \$372,120 and an original cost of \$345,846. There is a fleet of six vessels, ranging from small punt-style boats to aluminum catamaran-style workboats. The boat fleet had a combined purchase cost of \$271,689 and a closing book value of \$45,827 after depreciation.

Risk management

A risk management strategy is incorporated into the IFS Corporate Plan 2022-27 and operational and business plans that guide the annual activity program.

In addition, the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council review key risks and mitigation strategies at each meeting.

Grants, contributions, and contractors

The grant from the State Government to the IFS in the form of an Administered Payment via NRE Tas was \$1,485,000. This amount consisted of the annual contribution of \$1,166,000 with an additional \$319,000 to meet Policy Commitments. The \$319,000 was allocated as; \$250,000 for anglers access projects, \$19,000 for the junior licence fee waiver and \$50,000 for the Tasmanian Tagged Trout Promotion.

The IFS continued to provide funding of \$22,000 (incl. GST) to AAT.

As in previous years several local contractors were engaged to provide services including cleaning, building maintenance, electrical and plumbing. Contractors also provided security, field, fire, grounds, and air-conditioning maintenance. Tasmanian contractors were used for all trade services.

Angling licences

Angling licence distribution and payment

Angling licences are sold through private agents, Service Tasmania and online.

Renewals of angling licences are sent through direct mail and email to full-season licence holders. There were 7,078 renewal notices posted and 11,742 emailed resulting in 13,376 anglers renewing.

Angling licence structure and fees

The policy commitment from the Tasmanian Government to freeze licence fees in 2017-18 concluded in 2021-22 with fees increasing for the first time in five years. Due to cost of living pressures, the IFS did not implement the full fee unit this year. The policy commitment to waive junior angling licence fees continued.

Table 16. Tasmanian angling licence structure and fees for the past five years

Angling licence type	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Adult	\$79.50	\$75.50	\$75.50	\$75.50	\$75.50
Junior	Fee waived	Fee waived	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Pensioner	\$44.00	\$41.50	\$41.50	\$41.50	\$41.50
Senior	\$63.50	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
28 day	\$63.50	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
7 day	\$40.50	\$38.50	\$38.50	\$38.50	\$38.50
48 hour	\$25.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$23.00
extra rod - adult	\$17.00	\$15.50	\$15.50	\$15.50	\$15.50
extra rod - other	\$8.00	\$7.70	\$7.70	\$7.70	\$7.70
Adult 5 season	\$399.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$360.00
Senior 5 season	\$317.50	\$290.00	\$290.00	\$290.00	\$290.00
Pensioner 5 season	\$220.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00

Trend in angling licences held

The number of angling licences held, including five-season licences was 26,165. This was an increase of 1.95 per cent compared with 2021-22. Junior licence numbers increased by 14 per cent which is again mostly attributed to the government commitment to waive junior fees. The revenue from angling licence sales was \$1,548,211 compared to \$1,524,787 received for the 2021-22 season.

Table 17. Number of angling licences held per licence category over the past five years

Angling licence type	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Adult	11,069	11,502	11,556	10,306	10,791
Junior	1,725	1,510	1,016	898	960
Pensioner	5,902	6,125	6,183	5,675	5,974
Senior	2,174	2,029	1,896	1,779	1,676
28 day	959	832	612	836	1,012
7 day	1,669	1,414	1,294	1,610	1,846
48 hour	2,667	2,252	2,279	1,999	2,543
Total	26,165	25,664	24,834	23,103	24,802

Angler origin

Table 18. Number of licences issued to Tasmanian, interstate, and overseas anglers in 2022-23

Angling licence type	Tasmanian	Interstate	International	Total
Adult	9,109	582	18	9,709
Junior	1,543	179	3	1,725
Pensioner	4,481	422	1	4,904
Senior	1,289	487	0	1,776
Adult - 5 season	1,222	138	0	1,360
Pensioner - 5 season	964	34	0	998
Senior - 5 season	325	73	0	398
28 day	72	847	40	959
7 day	273	1,332	64	1,669
48 hour	1,601	977	89	2,667
Total	20,879	5,071	215	26,165

Table 19. Number of angling licences issued per country over the past five years

Country	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Canada	11	3	0	20	21
France	6	1	3	18	15
Germany	23	2	3	12	19
Hong Kong	1	0	0	11	3
Ireland	3	0	0	10	1
Japan	3	0	1	22	9
Netherlands	2	2	0	12	5
New Zealand	21	1	0	24	26
Singapore	10	8	0	16	10
South Africa	2	0	0	9	4
Switzerland	6	0	0	6	5
United Kingdom	28	7	1	52	49
USA	76	10	3	143	115
Other	23	2	1	103	28
Total	215	36	12	458	310

Table 20. Number of licences held by Tasmanian, interstate and overseas anglers in the past five years

Angler origin	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Tasmania	20,879	21,632	21,430	18,332	19,522
Victoria	1,998	1,688	1,646	1,885	2,138
New South Wales	1,393	1,035	745	1,064	1,293
Queensland	873	714	534	679	758
South Australia	293	242	160	233	256
Western Australia	330	168	127	248	297
Australian Capital Territory	117	94	147	153	167
Northern Territory	67	55	34	51	61
International	215	36	12	458	310
Total	26,165	25,664	24,834	23,103	24,802

Whitebait licence

The 2022 whitebait season opened on 1 October and closed on 11 November 2022. There were 766 whitebait licences sold for the six-week season compared to 762 in the previous year. The cost of a whitebait licence was \$34.00. Total revenue from whitebait licences was \$26,044 compared to \$25,146 in 2021-22. This reflects an increase of 3.57 per cent.

Financial Section



INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 Budget \$	2023 Actual \$	2022 Actual \$
Revenue from continuing operations				
Angling and Other Licence Fees	3	1,589,000	1,721,535	1,680,645
Grants - Administered Payment	4	1,470,000	1,581,750	1,747,044
External Grants and Reimbursements	2.1(a)	-	102,330	92,086
Interest Revenue	2.1(b)	10,000	107,801	19,638
Other Revenue	5	693,000	654,737	629,106
Total revenue from continuing operations		3,762,000	4,168,153	4,168,519
Net gain (loss) on Sale of Non-Financial Assets	8	-	28,893	146,388
Net gain (loss) on revaluation of Investment Property	10(c)	-	-	734,595
Total income from continuing operations		3,762,000	4,197,046	5,049,502
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee Benefits	6	2,352,000	2,517,568	2,235,939
Operating Costs	7	1,439,000	1,607,693	1,480,255
Depreciation Expenses	9(b)	226,000	186,714	211,422
Total expenses from continuing operations		4,017,000	4,311,975	3,927,615
Net result from continuing operations		(255,000)	(114,929)	1,121,886
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified to net result in subsequent periods				
Net gain (loss) on revaluation of Land		-	-	480,000
Net gain (loss) on revaluation of Buildings		-	-	1,045,753
Total other comprehensive income		-	-	1,525,753
Comprehensive Result		(255,000)	(114,929)	2,647,639

This Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts. Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit. Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2 of the accompanying notes.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 Budget \$	2023 Actual \$	2022 Actual \$
Financial assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	16(b)	1,620,000	1,323,257	2,386,585
Investments	2.2(a),16(c)	630,000	1,429,947	454,654
Trade and Other Receivables	17	125,000	94,468	34,332
Total financial assets		2,375,000	2,847,672	2,875,571
Non-financial assets				
Property, Plant and Equipment	9	3,220,000	4,829,824	4,876,807
Infrastructure	9	1,212,000	998,344	1,027,572
Investment Property	10	3,238,000	4,010,000	4,010,000
Total non-financial assets		7,670,000	9,838,168	9,914,379
Total Assets		10,045,000	12,685,840	12,789,950
Liabilities				
Trade and Other Payables	2.2(b),18	63,000	124,635	207,172
Employee Benefits	2.2 (c),15	757,000	890,951	797,794
Total Liabilities		820,000	1,015,586	1,004,967
Net Assets		9,225,000	11,670,254	11,784,983
Equity				
Reserves	12	2,754,000	4,279,786	4,279,786
Accumulated Funds	13	3,271,000	4,190,614	4,305,543
Contributed Capital	14	3,200,000	3,199,854	3,199,854
Total Equity		9,225,000	11,670,254	11,785,183

This Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2 of the accompanying notes.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 Budget \$	2023 Actual \$	2022 Actual \$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities				
Receipts from Customers	2.3(a)	2,282,000	2,404,330	2,400,630
GST Received	2.3(b)	144,000	175,769	157,390
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	2.3(c)	(3,791,000)	(4,138,250)	(3,550,868)
GST Paid	2.3(d)	(69,000)	(109,139)	(89,725)
Receipts from Government	2.3(e)	1,470,000	1,581,750	1,747,044
Interest Received		10,000	56,734	20,845
<i>Net cash from (used by) operating activities</i>	16 (a)	<u>46,000</u>	<u>(28,806)</u>	<u>685,316</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities				
Payments for Plant, Equipment and Vessels		(156,000)	(168,121)	(231,520)
Payments for Investment property		-	-	-
Proceeds from disposal of plant and equipment	2.3 (c)	-	108,891	415,109
Net movement in term deposits	2.3 (g)		(975,292)	174,208
<i>Net cash (used by) in investing activities</i>		<u>(156,000)</u>	<u>(1,034,522)</u>	<u>357,797</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(110,000)	(1,063,328)	1,043,113
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,730,000	2,386,585	1,343,472
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the Reporting Period	16 (b)	<u>1,620,000</u>	<u>1,323,257</u>	<u>2,386,585</u>

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts. Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2 of the accompanying notes.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year ended 30 June 2023

		Contributed Equity	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 July 2022		3,199,854	4,279,786	4,305,543	11,785,183
Net result	13	-	-	(114,930)	(114,930)
Balance as at 30 June 2023		3,199,854	4,279,786	4,190,613	11,670,253

		Contributed Equity	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 July 2021		3,199,854	2,754,033	3,183,657	9,137,544
Net result	13	-	-	1,121,886	1,121,886
Other Comprehensive income		-	1,525,753	-	1,525,753
Balance as at 30 June 2022		3,199,854	4,279,786	4,305,543	11,785,183

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2023, continued.

Note 2.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income

Statement of Comprehensive Income variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of the budget estimate.

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
External Grants and Reimbursements	2.1(a)	0	102	102
Interest Revenue	2.1(b)	10	108	92

- (a) The variance resulted from a grant for Swan Galaxias Grant Deed from NRM South which was not budgeted.
- (b) The interest rate of term deposits increased significantly in financial year of 2022-23

Note 2.2 Statement of Financial Position

Budget estimates for the 2022-23 Statement of Financial Position were compiled prior to the completion of the actual outcomes for 2021-22. As a result, the actual variance from the original budget will be impacted by the difference between the estimated and actual opening balances for 2022-23. The following variance analysis therefore includes major movements between the 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023 actual balances.

	Note	Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000	Budget Variance \$'000	Actual Variance \$'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2.2(a)	1,620	1,323	2,387	-297	-1,064
Investments	2.2(a)	630	1,430	455	800	975
Trade and Other Receivables	2.2(b)	125	137	34	12	103
Property, Plant and Equipment	2.2(c)	3,220	4,830	4,877	1,610	-47
Infrastructure	2.2(d)	1,212	998	1,028	-214	-30
Investment Property	2.2(e)	3,238	4,010	4,010	772	0
Trade and Other Payables	2.2(f)	63	125	207	62	-82
Employee Benefits	2.2(g)	757	891	798	134	93

- 2.2(a) The variance of the cash and investments reflects the movement between the two items based on the timing of the investment and its maturity.
- 2.2(b) The variance results from the timing of the invoicing and receipts of payments from customers.
- 2.2(c) The variance between budget and actual reflects revaluations which were not budgeted.
- 2.2(d) The variance between budget and actual of infrastructure results from a budget error.
- 2.2(e) The variance between budget and actual reflects revaluations which were not budgeted.
- 2.2(f) The variance results from the timing of the invoicing and making payments to suppliers.
- 2.2(g) The basis for calculating the liability for long service leave includes assumptions that were not factored when the budget was formulated and includes increases of salaries and superannuation.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2023, continued.

Note 2.3 Statement of Cash Flows

Statement of Cash Flows variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of the budget estimate.

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Receipts from Customers	2.3(a)	2,282	2,530	248
GST Received	2.3(b)	144	176	32
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	2.3(c)	-3,791	-4,264	-473
equipment				
GST Paid	2.3(d)	-69	-109	-40
Interest Received	2.3(e)	10	57	47
Proceeds from disposal of plant and	2.3(f)	0	109	109
equipment				
Net movement in term deposits	2.3(g)	0	-975	-975

2.3(a) The variance reflects greater revenue than budgeted.

2.3(b) The variance results from a higher business activity level.

2.3(c) The variance reflects increase of expenditure over budget.

2.3(d) The variance results from a higher business activity level.

2.3(e) The variance reflects increase in interest rate that was not predicted.

2.3(f) The variance reflects the disposals of assets which was not budgeted.

2.3(g) The interest rates of term deposits increased significantly so it was decided to reinvest for longer terms through 2022-23.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

	2023	2022
Note 3 Angling and Other Licence Revenue	\$	\$
Angling Licences	1,548,263	1,524,787
Other Licences	151,618	134,843
Permits and Registrations	21,654	21,015
	<u>1,721,535</u>	<u>1,680,645</u>

In 2013-2014 the IFS introduced a five-season licence. The IFS recognises the total proceeds of these licences in the year of receipt. A total of \$126,235 was received in 2022-23 for five-season licences of this amount \$100,988 is applicable to future years. The IFS is holding a total of \$297,493 of revenue applicable to future years.

Note 4 Grants		
Government Contribution - operating	1,581,750	1,747,044
External Grants and Reimbursements	102,330	92,086
	<u>1,684,080</u>	<u>1,839,130</u>

Note 5 Other Revenue		
Rents from operational properties	246,496	245,296
Investment property rental	340,224	326,638
General Sales & Miscellaneous Revenue	55,193	38,762
Fines	12,825	18,410
	<u>654,737</u>	<u>629,106</u>

Note 6 Employee Benefits		
Salaries	1,820,880	1,709,681
Superannuation	289,521	252,196
Leave	377,080	237,412
Other	30,086	26,650
	<u>2,517,568</u>	<u>2,225,939</u>

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 7 Operating Costs		
Advertising Promotions	5,042	62,513
Audit Fees	19,250	18,560
Conferences & Training	9,628	6,068
Contract Services	221,668	127,658
Contractors/Consultants	10,249	35,000
Equipment Maintenance/Hire	10,380	16,277
General Insurance	68,213	62,858
Grants & Contributions	35,118	91,436
Motor Vehicle Expenses	97,900	83,855
Office Related Expenses	222,922	196,748
Operating Expenses	246,737	207,328
Printing / Publications	58,770	61,939
Protective Clothing	10,388	6,428
Rates and Property Costs	479,894	404,954
Travel Expenses	82,461	72,832
Vessel Costs	29,073	25,801
	<u>1,607,693</u>	<u>1,480,255</u>
 Note 8 Gains / (Losses) on Disposal of Assets		
Proceeds From the Disposal of Plant & Equipment	108,891	415,109
Written Down Value of Disposed Assets	(79,998)	(268,721)
Total Gain/(Loss) on Disposal	<u>28,893</u>	<u>146,388</u>

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

Note 9 (a) Property, Plant, Equipment and Infrastructure	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Land at Fair Value *	1,205,000	1,205,000
	1,205,000	1,205,000
Buildings at Fair Value*	3,060,001	3,060,001
Less Accumulated Depreciation	55,480	-
	3,004,521	3,060,001
Motor Vehicles at Cost	483,776	521,943
Less Accumulated Depreciation	111,656	176,097
	372,120	345,846
Equipment at Cost	1,394,923	1,372,541
Less Accumulated Depreciation	1,190,566	1,159,418
	204,357	213,123
Vessels at Cost	271,689	271,689
Less Accumulated Depreciation	227,862	218,852
	43,827	52,837
Total property plant and Equipment	4,829,824	4,876,807
Infrastructure	1,169,044	1,169,044
Less Accumulated Depreciation	170,700	141,472
	998,344	1,027,572
Total property, plant, equipment and infrastructure	5,828,169	5,904,379

*Valuations by the Valuer General are derived from the analysis of market sales for different classes of properties and locality as at 30 June 2022.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

Reconciliation of movements (including fair value levels)

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the previous financial year are set out below. Carrying value means the net amount after deducting accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

(b)

2023	Land Level 2 (vacant land in active markets)		Buildings Level 2 (general office buildings)		Infra-structure		Motor Vehicles		Plant and Equipment		Vessels		Work In Progress		Total \$'000
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Balance 1 July	1,205	3,061	1,028	345	213	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,905	
Additions	-	-	-	168	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190	
Disposals	-	-	-	(80)	-	-	(80)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(80)	
Depreciation Expense	-	(56)	(29)	(62)	(31)	(9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(187)	
Revaluation increments(decrements)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Carrying Amount 30 June	1,205	3,005	999	371	204	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,828	

2022	Land Level 2 (vacant land in active markets)		Buildings Level 2 (general office buildings)		Infra-structure		Motor Vehicles		Plant and Equipment		Vessels		Work In Progress		Total \$'000
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000		
Balance 1 July	780	2,242	1,057	252	230	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,628	
Additions	-	-	-	218	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	232	
Disposals	(55)	(145)	-	(69)	-	-	(69)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(269)	
Depreciation Expense	-	(82)	(29)	(56)	(31)	(14)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(212)	
Revaluation increments(decrements)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers	480	1,046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,526	
Carrying Amount 30 June	1,205	3,061	1,028	345	213	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,905	

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 10 Investment Property		
(a) Carrying amount		
At valuation	4,010,000	4,005,237
Additions, at cost	-	4,763
Total	<u>4,010,000</u>	<u>4,010,000</u>

Fair Value Measurement of Investment Properties

Investment properties consist of a property in West Hobart that operates as a kitchen and restaurant, and a property in Moonah that operates as a retail outlet and a bus depot at the rear of 17 Back River Rd.

Values are based on valuations undertaken by the Valuer General as at 30 June 2022.

(b) Reconciliation of movements (including fair value levels)

	2023 Level 2	2022 Level 2
	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at 1 July	4,010	3,271
Additions work in progress	-	4
Net gains(losses) from fair value adjustments	-	735
Carrying amount at 30 June	<u>4,010</u>	<u>4,010</u>

(c) Amounts recognised in profit and loss for investment property

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Rental income	340	327
Gain (Loss) on disposal	-	-
Direct operating expenses from property that generated rental income	(26)	(24)
Net gains(losses) from fair value adjustments	-	735
Total	<u>314</u>	<u>1,037</u>

(d) Leasing arrangements

The investment properties are leased to tenants under long term operating leases with rentals payable monthly. Minimum lease payments are non-cancellable operating leases of investment properties not recognised in the financial statements receivable as follows.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
One Year or less	188,056	227,221
From one to five years	347,630	565,902
Total	<u>535,686</u>	<u>793,123</u>

(e) Contractual obligations

At year end there were no contractual obligations.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

Note 11	Auditor's Remuneration	2023	2022
	The total of fees paid for the financial year:	\$	\$
	Fees for Audit	19,250	18,560
		<u>19,250</u>	<u>18,560</u>
Note 12	Reserves		
	Asset Revaluation Reserve-Land	1,537,394	1,537,394
	Asset Revaluation Reserve-Buildings	2,742,392	2,742,392
		<u>4,279,786</u>	<u>4,279,786</u>
	Movements during the year:		
	Balance at the beginning of period	4,279,786	2,754,033
	Net change in valuations	-	1,525,753
	Balance at the end of period	<u>4,279,786</u>	<u>4,279,786</u>
Note 13	Accumulated Funds		
	Opening Balance	4,305,543	3,183,657
	Net Surplus for the year.	(114,930)	1,121,886
	Closing Balance	<u>4,190,613</u>	<u>4,305,543</u>
Note 14	Contributed Capital		
	Contributed capital represents the initial net amount of Assets and Liabilities when the IFS commenced reporting on an accrual basis from the commencement of the 2000-01 financial year:		
	Balance as at 1 July	3,199,854	3,199,854
	Balance as at 30 June	<u>3,199,854</u>	<u>3,199,854</u>
Note 15	(a) Employee Benefits		
	Annual Leave	257,714	221,318
	Long Service Leave	569,856	528,686
	Accrued Salaries	63,381	47,790
	Total	<u>890,951</u>	<u>797,794</u>
	Settled within 12 months	374,114	319,507
	Settled in more than 12 months	516,837	478,287
		<u>890,951</u>	<u>797,794</u>

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

(b) Related party transactions

There are no material related party transactions with Key Management Personnel (KMP) including Cabinet Ministers, or their Close Family Members (CFM) or entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or CFM in 2023 \$0 (2022 \$0).

(c) Remuneration of key management personnel

2023	Short term benefits		Long term benefits		Total
	Salary	Vehicle Benefit	Superannuation	Movements in leave	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
John Diggle, Director of Inland Fisheries Reappointment 15 October 2022	181	18	24	(24)	199
2022					
John Diggle, Director of Inland Fisheries appointed 14 October 2017	178	15	23	(11)	205

2023	2022
\$	\$

Note 16 (a) Net Cash from (Used by) in Operating Activities

Net Surplus (Deficit)	(114,929)	1,121,886
Net (gain) loss on sale of non-financial assets	(28,893)	(146,388)
Depreciation	186,714	211,422
Change in Assets/Liabilities		
Decrease (increase) in other assets	-	(5,063)
Revaluation adjustment for investment properties	-	(734,595)
Increase (decrease) in employee benefits	93,157	22,408
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(104,620)	146,368
(Increase) decrease in receivables	(60,235)	69,278
Net Cash from (Used by) in Operating Activities	<u>(28,806)</u>	<u>685,316</u>

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and at the bank.

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:

(b) Cash at Bank

Working accounts	142,889	1,100,253
Short term deposits	1,180,367	1,286,632
	<u>1,323,256</u>	<u>2,386,885</u>

(c) Investments

Term deposits	1,429,947	454,654
	<u>1,429,947</u>	<u>454,654</u>

(d) Corporate Credit Card

Facility Available	110,000	110,000
Less Used/Committed	(4,156)	(6,672)
Balance unused	<u>105,844</u>	<u>103,328</u>

Note 17 Trade and Other Receivables

Sundry Debtors	86,991	23,996
Net GST Receivable	7,477	10,236
	<u>94,468</u>	<u>34,232</u>

Note 18 Trade and Other Payables

Current

Trade Creditors	30,999	110,172
Deferred Commitments	93,637	97,000
	<u>124,636</u>	<u>207,172</u>

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

Note 19 Events subsequent to Balance date

The Director of Inland Fisheries is not aware of any matter or circumstance since the end of the financial year that has significant effect, or may significantly affect, the operations of the IFS, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the IFS in subsequent financial years.

Note 20 Financial Instruments

20.1 Risk Exposures

(a) Risk Management Policies

The IFS has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- a. credit risk;
- b. liquidity risk; and
- c. market risk.

The Director has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Inland Fisheries Service's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Service, to set appropriate limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

Risk Exposure	Measurement method
Credit Risk	Ageing analysis, earnings at risk
Liquidity risk	Sensitivity analysis
Market risk	Interest rate sensitivity analysis

(b) Credit risk exposures

Credit risk is the financial loss to the IFS if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. Receivables are valued at amortised cost. Cash on hand is valued at face value. The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the Financial Statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the IFS's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account of any collateral or other security. There are no provisions for credit losses. The following tables analyse financial assets that are past due but not impaired.

Analysis of financial assets that are past due at 30 June 2023 but not impaired

	Not past due	Not past due 60 days	Not past Due 90 days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade & Other Receivables	82,881	69	11,518	94,468

Analysis of financial assets that are past due at 30 June 2022 but not impaired

	Not past due	Not past due 60 days	Not past due 90 days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade & Other Receivables	32,778	430	1,024	34,232

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

(c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the IFS will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The IFS's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The following tables detail undiscounted cash flows payable by the IFS by contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Statement of Financial Position.

2023	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities						More than 5 Years	Undiscounted Total
	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	5 Years		
Financial Liabilities	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Trade & Other Payables								
	124,635						124,635	
Total	124,635	-	-	-	-	-	124,635	

2022	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities						More than 5 Years	Undiscounted Total
	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	5 Years		
Financial Liabilities	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Trade & Other Payables	207,172	-	-	-	-	-	207,172	
Total	207,172	-	-	-	-	-	207,172	

(d) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the IFS is exposed to is interest rate risk.

At the reporting date, the interest rate profile of the IFS's interest bearing financial instruments was:

2023	\$	Weighted average interest rate
Variable rate instruments		
Cash at bank	142,889	0.10%
Fixed rate instruments		
Term Deposits	2,610,314	3.74%
TOTAL	2,753,203	
<hr/>		
2022	\$	Weighted average interest rate
Variable rate instruments		
Cash at bank	1,100,253	0.10%
Fixed rate instruments		
Term Deposits	1,741,286	0.58%
TOTAL	2,841,539	

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

Sensitivity analysis of Services exposure to possible changes in interest rates

Changes in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would have the following effect on the IFS's profit or loss and equity:

	Income Statement		Equity	
	100 basis points	100 basis points	100 basis points	100 basis points
	increase	decrease	increase	decrease
30 June 2023	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets	28	(28)	28	(28)
Net sensitivity	28	(28)	28	(28)
30 June 2022	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets	28	(28)	28	(28)
Net sensitivity	28	(28)	28	(28)

This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2022.

Categories of financial assets and liabilities

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and Receivables at amortised cost.	2,848	2,876
Total	2,848	2,876
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	125	207
Total	125	207

Net fair values of financial assets and liabilities	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Total carrying amount	Net fair value	Total carrying amount	Net fair value
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	2,754	2,754	2,842	2,842
Receivables	94	94	34	34
Total financial assets	2,848	2,848	2,876	2,876
Financial liabilities (recognised)				
Trade Creditors	125	125	61	61
Total financial liabilities (recognised)	125	125	61	61

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, continued.

Financial assets

The net fair values of cash and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

Financial liabilities

The net fair values for trade creditors are approximated by their carrying amounts.

Note 21 Commitments and Contingencies

Schedule of Commitments	2023	2022
	\$	\$

By Type

Lease commitments

Low value leases	-	916
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There were no capital commitments at year end.

There were no contingent assets or liabilities at year end.

By Maturity	2023	2022
	\$	\$

Operating lease commitments

One year or less	-	916
From one to five years	-	-
More than five years	-	-

Total operating lease commitments	-	916
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Inland Fisheries Service holds no operational leases.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

The Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) is established under the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* with the Inland Fisheries Service being used as a business name. The Director of Inland Fisheries, a body corporate under the Act, has the power to execute contracts of all types, to acquire and sell property and to invest.

Note 1 Summary of Accounting Policies

The following summary explains the significant accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with:

Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Interpretations; and applicable Treasurers Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016* and the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995*.

Australian Accounting Standards include Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Compliance with IFRS may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as IFRS includes requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The IFS is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under AASB's that do not comply with IFRS.

The Financial Statements have been prepared as a going concern on an accrual basis and, except where stated, are in accordance with the historical cost convention. The accounting policies are generally consistent with the previous year.

The Financial Statements are presented in Australian dollars which is the functional currency of the IFS.

(b) Changes in Accounting Policies

(i) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards

In the current year, the IFS has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

(ii) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards yet to be applied

The IFS has reviewed the pending Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and conclude they will not have a material impact on the Service's operations.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

(iii) Changes in Accounting Policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies from the previous financial year.

(a) Revenues

Revenue is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an increase in future economic benefits related to an increase in an asset or a decrease of a liability has arisen that can be reliably measured. Revenue is recognised at fair value of the consideration received net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) payable to the Australian Taxation Office. A liability is recognised in respect of revenue that is reciprocal in nature to the extent that the requisite service has not been provided at balance date and conditions include a requirement to refund unused contributions. Revenue is then recognised as the various performance obligations under an agreement are fulfilled.

Angling and other licence fees that are short term or low value are recognised on receipt as cash sales as this corresponds with the issue of the relevant licence.

Revenue is recognised when the IFS obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the IFS and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Rental income is invoiced monthly in advance and recorded as revenue when invoiced.

Control over granted assets is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed as a contract liability.

Interest on funds invested is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest rate method.

Other revenue is primarily the recovery of costs incurred and is recognised when an increase in future economic benefits relating to an asset or a decrease of a liability has arisen that can be reliably measured.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

(b) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Employee benefits includes entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

Operating costs include all other expenses other than personnel expense and depreciation that are incurred in undertaking the activities of the IFS.

All applicable items of property, plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their service potential. Land, being an asset with unlimited useful life, is not depreciated.

(c) Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

Gains or losses from the sale of non-financial assets are recognised when control of the assets has passed to the buyer.

(d) Impairment – Financial assets (Trade and other receivables)

Trade and other receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at amortised cost, which represents their transaction value. An assessment for impairment is conducted on an expected credit loss basis at each reporting date. When determining whether the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating the expected credit loss, IFS considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on IFS's historical experience, an informed credit assessment and forward-looking information.

(e) Impairment – Non-financial assets

All non-financial assets are assessed to determine whether any impairment exists. Impairment exists when the recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

The IFS's assets are not used for the purpose of generating cash flows; therefore value in use is based on depreciated replacement cost where the asset would be replaced if deprived of it. All impairment losses are recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

(f) Assets

Assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the IFS and the asset has a cost or value that can be reliably measured.

(g) Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(h) Non-Financial Assets

Acquisition, Recognition and Valuation

Non-financial assets are initially recorded at their cost of acquisition and re-valued in accordance with the following accounting policy. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the cost of the asset. The costs of self constructed assets include the cost of materials and direct labour, any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to a working condition for its use.

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the IFS is \$10,000. Assets valued at less than \$10,000 are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year of purchase (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which represent a value greater than \$10,000). Assets are grouped on the basis of having similar nature or function in the operations of the IFS.

Assets Valued at Fair Value – Land and Buildings

Freehold and vested land and buildings are initially brought to account at cost. Subsequent to initial recognition land is recorded at fair value and buildings are recorded at fair value less accumulated depreciation.

Fair value is based on the highest and best use of the asset. Unless there is an explicit Government policy to the contrary, the highest and best use of an asset is the current purpose for which the asset is being used. These assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure they reflect fair value at balance date.

Inland Fisheries land and buildings are revalued at least once every five years using a mix of valuations and/or updated based indices adjustments. The revaluation is undertaken by the Office of the Valuer-General. Investment properties, land and buildings were revalued as at, 30 June 2022. The next revaluation will occur during the year ending 30 June 2024.

Motor Vehicles, Vessels, Plant, Equipment and Infrastructure

Motor vehicles, vessels and plant and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Disposal of Assets

Any gain or loss on the disposal of assets is determined as the difference between the carrying value of the asset, at the time of disposal, and the proceeds from the disposal. It is included in the financial results in the year of disposal.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Depreciation

Items of property, infrastructure and plant and equipment (excluding freehold land) are depreciated over their economically useful lives. The straight-line method is used, except for vessels, which have been depreciated on the diminishing value basis. Assets are depreciated from their date of acquisition and where they have been revalued, depreciation is charged on the adjusted amount. Depreciation rates are reviewed annually. If necessary, they are adjusted to reflect the most recent assessments of the useful lives of the respective assets with regard to such factors as asset usage, the rates of the technical and commercial obsolescence and the most recent assessment of net amounts expected to be recovered on their disposal.

Major depreciation periods are:

Buildings	40 Years
Infrastructure	40 years
Plant and Equipment	10 Years to 25 Years
Vehicles	8 Years
Vessels	10 Years

(i) Investment properties

Investment property is property held either to earn rental income or for capital appreciation or both. Investment properties are derecognised when either they have been disposed of or when the investment property is permanently withdrawn from use and no future economic benefit is expected from its disposal. Investment property is not depreciated. Investment property is recorded at fair value, with any changes in the fair value being recorded as income or expenses in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(j) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures, where necessary, have been reclassified to comply with the presentation adopted in the financial report.

(k) Trade and Other Payables

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the IFS. Trade accounts are normally settled within 30 days. Accruals are included in the trade and other payables balance and are stated net of GST.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

(l) Employee Entitlements Excluding Superannuation

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits including on costs.

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Those liabilities expected to be realised within 12 months are measured as the amount expected to be paid. Employee benefits are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June, where the impact of discounting is material, and at the amount expected to be paid if discounting is not material. The IFS assumes that all staff annual leave balances less than 20 days will be settled within 12 months, and therefore valued at nominal value, and balances in excess of 20 days will be settled in greater than 12 months and therefore calculated at present value.

A liability for long service leave is recognised, and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. The IFS makes a number of assumptions regarding the probability that staff who have accrued long service leave, but are ineligible to take it will remain with the IFS long enough to take it. For those staff eligible to take their long service leave, the IFS assumes that they will utilise it on average, evenly over the following ten years. All long service leave that will be settled within 12 months is calculated at nominal value and all long service leave that will be settled in greater than 12 months is calculated at present value.

(m) Employer superannuation contributions

Contributions to defined benefit and other complying superannuation schemes are charged as an expense as the contribution becomes payable. The IFS does not recognise a liability for the accruing defined superannuation benefits. This liability is held centrally and is recognised within the Finance-General Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance. During the year the amounts of contributions paid to defined benefit schemes was \$79,721 (2021-22 - \$77,251), and the amount paid to accumulation schemes was \$160,727 (2021-22 - \$133,824).

(n) Economic Dependence

The IFS's is dependent upon the ongoing receipt of grant funding via the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. This administered payment amounted to \$1,581,750 and represented 38% of total revenue. These funds are used to undertake community service obligations in respect of the control of pest fish, the conservation and monitoring of native freshwater fish populations and environment together with a range of commitments announced by the Government in previous years.

(o) Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar, unless otherwise stated.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Where the result of expressing amounts to the nearest dollar would result in an amount of zero, the financial statement will contain a note expressing the amount to the nearest whole dollar.

(p) Taxation

The IFS is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax, except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as an asset or liability within the Statement of Financial Position.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, the GST component of cash flows arising from operating, investing or financing activities which is recovered from, or paid to, the Australian Taxation

Office is, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, classified as operating cash flows.

(q) Leases

Low value short term operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(r) Judgements and Assumptions

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, the IFS is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Significant judgement made by IFS that has a significant effect on the financial statements relate to:

Employee entitlements, the assumptions for which are provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance which are. A wage inflation rate of 4% per annum and discount rates for year 1 of 3.810%, year 2 of 3.550%, year 3 of 3.367%, year 4 of 3.365%, year 5 of 3.375%, year 6 of 3.421%, year 7 of 3.492%, year 8 of 3.554%, year 9 of 3.593% and year 10 of 3.603%.

Property, plant and equipment in notes 1(j) and 9.

Investment properties in notes 1(k) and 10.

IFS has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.



Inland Fisheries Service

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Monday, 11 September 2023

Statement of Certification

The accompanying Financial Statements of the Inland Fisheries Service are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with the Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016* to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position as at the end of the year.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the Financial Statements misleading or inaccurate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Diggle".

John Diggle
Director of Inland Fisheries
Dated 11th day of September 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Xiaojing Zhou".

Xiaojing Zhou
Manager Finance & Business

Independent Auditor's Report
To the Members of Parliament
Inland Fisheries Service
Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Inland Fisheries Service (the Service), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification signed by the Director.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- (a) present fairly, in all material respects, the Service's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) are in accordance with the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995*, Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* section of my report. I am independent of the Service in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My audit is not designed to provide assurance on the accuracy and appropriateness of the budget information included in the financial statements.

Responsibilities of the Director for the Financial Statements

The Director is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the financial reporting requirements of the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* and the *Financial Management Act 2016* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director is responsible for assessing the Service's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Service is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament, or the Director intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Service's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Director.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Service's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the

related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Service to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Director regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Stephen Morrison
Assistant Auditor-General
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Tasmanian Audit Office

11 September 2023
Hobart



Fishing in the Western Lakes - Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

How to contact us:

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A large, stylized graphic of a fish, rendered in a light blue color against a dark blue background. The fish is oriented vertically, with its head at the top and its tail at the bottom. The graphic is composed of thick, rounded lines, giving it a modern, abstract appearance. The background features a pattern of curved, parallel lines that suggest water or a fish's body structure.

CONTACT DETAILS

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