

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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OPENING LIAWENEE FIELD STATION

Tasmania's first inland fisheries field station was opened by the Minister for Primary Industry, Dr. J. Amos, on 30 November 1980. The field station is on the Liawenee Canal at Great Lake, Central Plateau. The station, which cost about \$600 000, is made up of a complex of buildings on a 14 hectare site. There is a laboratory, offices, workshop/boatshed, two houses and a hostel. The field station will give the Inland Fisheries Commission a greater capacity for research and management on trout and commercial freshwater fish. A four man team will be stationed at Liawenee comprising of a biologist, technician, inspector and cadet inspector, however, when necessary the field station could accommodate an extra six people. The laboratory consists of a wet room, a room for preserving specimens, aquarium room, constant temperature rooms, library and offices. The workshop/boatshed can be used for repairs to boats and trailers and also for construction work at the field station and in the field. The houses at the field station will be occupied by the biologist and the inspector. The other two staff will live in the hostel which has six single rooms.

The field station is the first to be established in Tasmania for the Inland Fisheries Commission since the establishment of the Salmon Ponds in the 1850's. The field station was located in the central plateau so that research officers could carry out research on the site to appraise, verify and analyse data.

At the opening ceremony there was opportunity for inspection of the work carried out by the Commission, including a demonstration of the research work carried out in the 1.6 km long zigzag spawning channel where research of rainbow trout spawning is in course. Live elvers from Trevallyn Power Station were on display as well as a number of other live native fish, some of which were only described by the Commission recently for the first time.

It is planned to open the field station for public inspection on field days during the spawning runs of rainbow and brown trout each year. Unfortunately, owing to other staff commitments, it will not be possible for the field station to be opened for public inspection at other times.

REGULATIONS

New regulations which are to come in force on the 1 January 1981 are designed to permit the Commission to allow netting for migratory eels in various streams in Tasmania. The regulations also provide for Bruisers Lagoon, a new lagoon near Tods Corner at Great Lake, to be managed as a fly fishery. Bruisers Lagoon was stocked with rainbow trout in December 1980. The St. Helens storage is to be opened to fishing.

BROOK TROUT

Edgar Pond was stocked with 4 900 advanced brook trout fry in December 1980. An inspection showed that some escaped over the gauging weir into a drain near the airstrip. As the warmer temperatures set in, the drain dried up into a series of pools and on the 9 December it was necessary to undertake a salvage operation.

Field staff used electro-fishing equipment to rescue 1 390 advanced fry of brook trout and brown trout which were present in equal numbers. In addition 25 yearling brown trout were rescued and all were liberated in Edgar Pond as by this time the flow out of the pond had ceased.

The Commission is to reconsider the policy of stocking Edgar Pond with brook trout because of their escape downstream. The ditch leaving Edgar Pond passes into a swamp and it is not clear whether the swamp drains into the Huon River. Fry screens would be expensive to install and maintain but a screen to retain yearling and larger fish may be feasible. An alternative option is available and indeed it may be better to concentrate on managing Edgar Pond as a brown trout fishery. To do this would necessitate installation of a small fish ladder on the downstream side of the gauging weir. The Commission proposes to discuss the matter with the Hydro-Electric Commission.

FISH FARM LICENCES

Two proposals for fish farm licences have been received. The first is from Tasmarine 1 for a rainbow trout farm at Oyster Cove in Southern Tasmania. The applicants propose to farm rainbow trout in a cage in saltwater. The second application is for a fish farm at Holwell by J. & J. Theiss where fish are to be raised for flesh and egg production.

LAKE ROWALLAN

Anglers fishing Lake Rowallan have reported good fishing especially for rainbow trout and blackfish.

GORDON RIVER

The Gordon River fished well during the first part of the season and late in November, when over a period of nine days, ten anglers caught 156 brown trout by trolling. The fish ranged in weight from 1.36 to 5.2 kg.

ARTHURS LAKE

A party of four anglers caught 27 brown trout in Arthurs Lake on 8 and 9 December. The fish were in good condition and were caught by trolling.

LAKE LEAKE

An angler fishing Lake Leake reported catching some good conditioned fish late in September and November. The fish ranged in length from 370 mm to 525 mm (14½ to 20½ inches). Their cleaned weights were from 230 to 1 250 g. It is suggested that the largest trout have been feeding on English perch in Lake Leake.

ELVER PROJECT AT TREVALLYN POWER STATION

With the co-operation of the Hydro-Electric Commission the annual portorage operation to move elvers upstream commenced in December and already 150 000 elvers have been caught and transferred. A surprising feature of the operation was the catch of six grayling in the fish pump. It was possible to transfer three of these alive and liberate them upstream. The fish pump was developed by staff and works off water pressure. It was the use of the pump which brought about the discovery of grayling inside the power station.

AREAS FOR DISABLED PERSONS

The Commission has been approached by the Hamilton Council to consider establishing a number of places throughout the State to enable disabled persons to fish for trout from their cars. It is understood that local Government would assist in the proposal by supplying materials to develop the areas. The Commission is seeking further information on the proposal.

POACHING

A man was apprehended at Mary Creek, Lagoon of Islands, in possession of two rainbow trout during the closed season. Proceedings are to be put in course.

WHITEBAITING OFFENCES

Nine persons have been apprehended for whitebaiting offences and 30 nets have been confiscated. The nets came mainly from Inglis River, Montagu River, Duck River, Mersey River, Seven Mile Beach creek and Crayfish Creek. Proceedings will be taken against persons for illegal whitebait fishing.

ILLEGAL IMPORTS OF FISH

Two unsolicited fish were in a recent consignment of tropical fish exported from Singapore. The fish, known as fire eels, were seized and destroyed as they are prohibited imports.

FISH-OUT PONDS

An overwhelming adverse response has been received from angling associations regarding the desirability of establishing fish-out ponds for trout in Tasmania. It is obvious that anglers in this State find the idea of fish-out ponds an abhorrent one.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil conservation is vital to the preservation of trout habit. It is pleasing to note that the Scottsdale Branch is co-operating with the Lands Department in planting marram grass near Big Waterhouse Lake to stabilise drifting sand. Unwise land use may be one of the greatest threats to creeks, rivers and water storages and continued vigilance is needed to preserve the freshwater resource for trout fishing and other uses.

FLOOD MITIGATION

In its stream improvement scheme, the Rivers and Water Supply Commission proposes to widen and de-slag Daylebrook Creek, Weston Creek and Chestnut main drain in January 1981. In Daylebrook and Weston Creeks the project will involve increasing the width to about 7 metres for a distance of about 4 km. In Chestnut main drain the proposal is to de-slag for a distance of 5 km. The Inland Fisheries Commission is examining the proposal to assess the effect on trout.

COSMIC RAY RESEARCH

The University of Tasmania has approached the Commission with a view to setting up cosmic ray research facilities at Liawenee near the field station. The project, involving the use of detectors, would occupy a small area on the southern side of the field station. It is essential that maximum security from vandalism be available.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The holidays will provide the opportunity for many anglers to get away and spend some time on rivers, or in the central plateau or remote areas. Anglers are urged to be careful on the water so that the holiday period will not be marred by boating accidents. Anglers fishing the central plateau are requested to be especially careful with camp fires and to observe safety regulations.

<u>Court Date</u>	<u>Offender & Address</u>	<u>Nature of Offence</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Costs</u>
11.11.80	Ashley David Summers Scottsdale	Unlicenced angling	50-00	8-10
11.11.80	Isaac James Summers Scottsdale	Unlicenced angling	50-00	8-10
11.11.80	Shane Anthony Summers Scottsdale	Unlicenced angling	50-00	8-10
1.12.80	Dean Kenneth Eyre Moonah	Fishing in closed waters. Using more than 1 rod and line.	20-00	8-00
15.12.80	Gregory David Lovell Grove	Using light. Disturbing spawning fish. Using gaff. False name and address. Taking fish in closed water.	160-00	8-00
15.12.80	Garry Michael Lovell Grove	Using light. Disturbing spawning fish. Using gaff. False name and address. Taking fish in closed water.	160-00	8-00
15.12.80	Michael David Lovell Grove	Using light. Disturbing spawning fish. Using gaff. False name and address. Taking fish in closed water.	160-00	8-00
16.12.80	Phillip Kevin Foster New Norfolk	Using more than 1 rod and line.	20-00	8-00
16.12.80	Maxwell Henry Gittus New Norfolk	Fishing in closed water. Using natural bait.	20-00	8-00

ACCLIMATISATION OF UNWANTED SPECIES

A recent issue of the Australian Journal of Marine Freshwater Research gave an account of the establishment of exotic tropical fish in the Hazelwood Power Station, Victoria. The fish are the black mangrove or Niger cichlid, Tilapia mariae, of West Africa; the convict cichlid, Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum, of Central America; and the Jack Dempsey cichlid, Cichlasoma octofasciatum, of Central and South America. Although these fish may die if they attempt to leave the Hazelwood Power Station and enter the colder waters, their acclimatisation is a warning that other species of exotic fish could escape and become acclimatised in Australia to the disadvantage of native fish or trout.

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