

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION
TASMANIA
NEWSLETTER

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Liberations of trout 1973-74

Details of liberations of various species of trout in waters throughout Tasmania are set out in Reprint No. 6 which has been distributed to the three Angling Associations for the information of members.

Increased mobility for Fisheries Officers

The Commission has taken delivery of a Haflinger and two trail bikes for use in difficult terrain. Already, officers using trail bikes have successfully intercepted poachers in remote spawning streams.

The officers will give greater attention to the fishery in the lakes in the western Central Plateau in the coming season.

A new Holden utility has been added to the Commission's fleet based at Plenty.

Identification of Commission's officers

Fisheries Officers are to be issued with a folder containing a photograph of the officer and authorisation for him to act under the provisions of the Fisheries Act and to enforce the Regulations.

Boat ramp for Great Lake

The Commission has received advice from the Public Works Department that some grading will be undertaken at the southern end of Great Lake to improve boat access to that area and to enlarge the parking area.

Lagoon of Island fishery

The brown trout spawners did not run up the Blackburn Rivulet at Lagoon of Islands this winter due to the absence of a sufficient flow and the existence of a barrier at the junction of the tributary to the lagoon.

Hydro Creek fish trap

The new fish trap at Hydro Creek operated successfully during the winter run of brown trout and for the first time a greater number of brown trout were transferred from Arthurs Lake than from Great Lake.

Silver Plains Road

Repairs carried out at Silver Plains Road have improved the access to Lake Sorell.

The Commission's contribution towards the cost of the repairs was \$600.

Fishermen's Lane, Cressy

The access road to the Brumby Creek, through the Department of Agriculture Research Station at Cressy, was inundated in July this year.

The Commission was already concerned at the damage caused to the road by high speed traffic.

It is now proposed to hold discussions with the Department of Agriculture with a view to putting in spoon drains or some other device which would slow down traffic along this access road.

Pawleen Dam

The Pawleena Dam near Sorell was stocked with 200 adult brown trout from the Central Highlands during the winter programme.

It is anticipated that this water will provide some good fishing close to Hobart in the coming season.

Plenty River fish trap

Repairs to the Plenty River fish trap withstood several severe spates during the winter.

On several occasions the trap completely flooded and allowed fish to by-pass the trap.

Bridgewater-Dromedary Road

The new Bridgewater-Boyer Road has rendered obsolete a portion of the Bridgewater-Dromedary Road.

Representatives from the Commission and the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers' Association met representatives of the Brighton Council and the Public Works Department to discuss the possibility of leaving open a section of the Bridgewater-Dromedary Road.

As a result of the representations the Bridgewater Council has agreed to leaving .8 kilometres of the road from Bridgewater towards Dromedary to the north, open.

This will be a boon to anglers who find some good early fishing in this area.

The Bridgewater Branch of the S.T.L.A.A. have agreed to keeping the area tidy and cleaning up litter which may have been unlawfully dumped in this area.

Brown trout fishery at Lake Pedder

Condition of brown trout at Lake Pedder is good; both resident fish and fish stocked by the Commission in 1972 have made satisfactory progress and fish up to 7 kg (re 15 lb) have been sighted in the lake.

Wading conditions in some areas are difficult and the best fishing is likely to be had from boats.

Freshwater crayfish in Lake Pedder

The Commission does not propose to amend regulations to permit the use of natural bait to catch freshwater crayfish in Lake Pedder.

The Commission takes the view that it is desirable to maintain some areas where fishing for this large crustacean is prohibited.

The Commission has received reports of large catches of the giant freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis*) taken in the North-western part of Tasmania where roads opened for logging activities have given access to many rivers which were previously seldom visited.

Trout fishing film

The Leyland Bros. have made two films on the Tasmanian fisheries. One deals with the catching and transferring of adult brown trout and collection of brown trout ova at Liawenee Canal and the other deals with the Commission's investigations into the giant Tasmanian freshwater crayfish, *Astacopsis*.

New fish farm licence

Sevrup Fisheries Pty. Ltd. has been granted a fish farm licence to operate on premises at Myrtle Grove Creek, South Springfield.

The licence was issued in August.

Brown trout ova South Australia

A consignment of 50,000 brown trout eyed ova from Salmon Ponds hatchery was despatched to the South Australian Fly Fishers' Association. The ova arrived in good condition and there was a successful hatch.

Fishing at Dee Lagoon

The Commission has received several reports of rainbow trout fishing at Dee Lagoon.

One report claimed that excellent fishing was obtained for rainbow trout on each trip during the 1973-74 season.

Another report claimed that the members concerned fished unsuccessfully but sighted many schools of English Perch.

Return of fish tags

Tagged adult brown trout from the Central Highland were transferred to the Derwent River and the Leven River at Gunns Plains during the 1974 winter programme.

So far three tags have been returned to the Commission from fish caught in the Derwent River and four from fish caught in the Leven River.

Any angler catching a tagged fish is urged to forward the tag together with details of the weight, length and date of capture to the Inland Fisheries Commission, 127 Davey Street, Hobart.

Brook trout at Clarence Lagoon

Anglers fishing with the wet fly early in the season have taken some large brook trout 50.8 cm in length (20 m) and 3 kg (6 lb 6 oz) cleaned weight at Clarence Lagoon.

On the other hand, anglers using spinners have reported lack of success with "the brookies" at this water.

Wage increases and Annual Leave loading for
Inland Fisheries Commission employees

Following the flow-on from the Public Service Board determination that new salaries would be operative on the 23rd May, there will be a flow-on of payments to Inland Fisheries Commission employees.

There will also be a flow-on of the Annual Leave loading whereby an officer taking leave shall be paid an allowance by way of additional salary, calculated at the rate of salary prescribed for the relevant classification by a Principal Award of the Public Service Board.

It is expected that the increased costs will be about \$12,000 per annum to the Commission.

As the Commission does not propose to increase the angling licence fee in the current 1974-1975 season, it is likely that the Commission could have a deficit for the year ending 30th June, 1975.

Waddamana No. 2 canal

As a project the Fly Tyers' Club of Tasmania has fitted a number of timber flash-boards to the crest of the drop structure below Pulford's Bridge in Waddamana No. 2 Canal, to assist the passage of spawning trout over the structure during periods of low flow.

The Commission is pleased with the enterprise of the Fly Tyer's Club in undertaking the project and to the Hydro-Electric Commission for granting permission for this project to be put in course.

Parking trailers at boat ramps

The Commission has received advice from the Hydro Electric Commission that Fisheries Officers may act in cases where thoughtless persons park vehicles near boat launching areas and inconvenience late-comers by obstructing the launching area. Anglers who arrive at a launching site early in the day would relieve congestion if they parked cars and trailers well clear of the boat launching site.

Fishing in the Forth estuary

The sea run brown trout fishery in the Forth estuary is the best for many years.

Over 50 sea run fish, averaging 0.9 - 1.4 kg (2 - 3 lb) in weight had been caught up to the 12th August 1974

One fish, 38.1 cm (15 inches) weighed 1.4 kg (3 lb).

Brown trout fry for farm dams

In 1975 the Commission proposes to make brown trout fry available free of charge to persons wishing to stock farm dams provided reasonable access is given to anglers.

A person wishing to stock dams with brown trout should make application through an Angling Association Branch to the Commission by March, 1975, so that sufficient ova may be collected and put down.

The fry should be available by mid August 1975.

Proposed ban on importation of salmonid flesh and eggs into Australia

The Commission is delighted to receive notification from the Australian Government that it proposes to introduce legislation prohibiting the import of fresh or frozen salmonids (including heads and offal used for pet food and fish meal) unless processed in a manner which will ensure inactivation of infectious disease agents of fish.

For a number of years the importation of live salmonids and their eggs have been prohibited but the flesh of the fish could be imported into Australia in any form.

The Inland Fisheries Commission has realised the disease risk imposed by the free importation of untreated salmonids and is particularly delighted with the proposed action of the Australian Government to prevent the entry of salmonids in this form.

Recent Court cases

At the Bothwell Court on 15th July, 1974, fifteen anglers were fined a total of \$1,020 for breaches of the Fisheries Act and Regulations.

TONY HOLLIS, Dowsings Point, Hobart, pleaded guilty to charges of (1) disturbing spawning fish (2) discharging a firearm to take fish (3) taking fish by means other than a rod and line (4) taking fish from a water flowing into Lake Sorell.

He was fined \$10 on each of the charges, with a special penalty of \$2 on each of two fish. Costs were \$2.35. The offences took place at Ti-tree Creek on 2nd June, 1974.

WAYNE NOEL LAWSON, Bundoora, Victoria, was fined \$50 for fishing without a licence at Swan Bay, Great Lake, on 8th April, 1974. A conviction was recorded on a further charge of using two rods at the one time. Costs were \$2.65

JOHN TASMAN HANSON, Somerset, pleaded not guilty to charges of (1) discharging a firearm to take fish and (2) disturbing spawning fish.

The charges were proven and he was fined \$50 with \$2.95 costs on the first charge and a conviction recorded on the second charge.

IAN ERNEST SEIMSEN and DAVID MICHAEL KUBE, both of New Norfolk, pleaded guilty to (1) wilfully disturbing spawning fish at Barron Creek, Shannon Lagoon, on 23rd May, 1974 and (2) taking fish by means other than a rod and line. They were each fined \$20 on each of the two charges with a special penalty of \$1 for each of the 39 fish. Costs were \$2.95.

ATHOL JOHN WATSON, MAXWELL MARKS and EDMOND JOHN WALFORD all of Campbell Town, pleaded guilty to charges of (1) disturbing spawning fish, (2) taking fish by means other than a rod and line and (3) taking fish from a water flowing into Lake Sorell, Mountain Creek, on 1st June, 1974. They were each fined \$20 on each of the three charges with a special penalty of \$1 for each of the 34 fish taken. Costs were \$2.35.

KERRY NEIL BARRET, Queenstown, pleaded guilty to (1) discharging a firearm to take fish and (2) taking by means other than a rod and line at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake on 8th June, 1974.

He was fined \$15 on the first charge, \$10 on the second charge and had a special penalty of \$1 for each of the five fish taken. Costs were \$2.35.

LINUS VAICIULEVICIUS, Lenah Valley, RODNEY JOHN JACKMAN, Mt. Stuart, STEPHEN LEIGH CLARK, Howrah, were each fined \$50 for disturbing spawning fish at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake, on 12th May, 1974.

They each had a conviction recorded for attempting to take fish by means other than a rod and line.

Vaiciulevicius and Jackman had a further conviction recorded for attempting to take fish from a water flowing into Arthurs Lake, and were fined a further \$20 each for discharging a stone or other missile for facilitating the taking of fish.

Clark was also fined \$20 for attempting to take fish from a water flowing into Arthurs Lake. Costs were \$2.65.

ANTHONY EDWARD RIGBY, Launceston, pleaded guilty to a charge of wilfully disturbing fish at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake, on 2nd June, 1974. He was fined \$50.

He had a conviction recorded for taking fish by means other than a rod and line, taking fish from a water flowing into Arthurs Lake and obstructing an officer of the Inland Fisheries Commission in the execution of his duty. Costs were \$3.15.

BARRY JAMES ROBERTS, Launceston, pleaded not guilty to charges of (1) wilfully disturbing fish at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake, on 2nd June, 1974 (2) taking by means other than a rod and line (3) taking from a water flowing into Arthurs Lake.

The charges were proven and he was fined \$50 on the first charge and a conviction recorded on the other two charges. Costs were \$3.15.

KENNETH WILLIAM MORAN, Launceston, was fined \$50 on a charge of taking fish from a water flowing into Arthurs Lake, namely Hydro Creek, and was also fined \$40 for stating a false name and address. A conviction was recorded on the charges of taking by means other than a rod and line and wilfully disturbing fish. A special penalty of \$2 for each of the three fish was also imposed. Costs were \$3.15.

The cases were heard before Messrs. G.R. Ellis and D. G. Hallett, Justices of the Peace.

Senior Inspector M. F. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

Other court case results are as follows -

KERRY ROBIN FOLEY, Hobart Rd., Launceston, was fined \$50 on each of the charges of fishing without a licence, and falsely representing himself to be a licensed angler at the Isis River on 15th September, 1973.

ERIC BULS, Regent St., Sandy Bay, was fined \$10 and \$20 respectively, for the same charges for offences committed on 4th November, 1973.

JAMES BARRY GILL, 30 Wilsdon St., Queenstown, was fined \$20 for using natural bait at Dee Lagoon on 13th April, 1974.

MICHAEL ASPRADAKIS, Fish Shop Proprietor at Kingston, was on 1st August fined \$20 for selling bream.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

3rd September, 1974