

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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The proposed lake at Birralee

The current estimates for the completion of the Birralee project are that the cost of the dam is \$170,000, the cost of the picnic and parking area is \$2,700 and the consultants fees are \$12,000 making a total of \$184,700 to complete the project.

Sea run trout and "slob" trout

A brown trout 59 cm long and 2.5 kg cleaned weight, was caught by Mr. P. Anderson at White Rocks at Granton. The fish had a number of "x" shaped spots above the lateral lines and some anglers have confused this type of trout with the Atlantic salmon.

A close examination of the fish showed that it was six years old, had spawned once and had spent most of its life in brackish water. It was not considered to be a fish which had spent most of its life in the sea, however, the indications are that the water in which it occurred was extremely brackish.

The Commission would be grateful to anglers who could forward data on the length, weight, date of capture and locality of capture of any brown trout caught in sea or brackish water. The Commission would be further grateful if the scales from the shoulder of the fish were also included with the information.

Calverts Lagoon

Following a recent analysis of Calverts Lagoon it was found that the water had become less alkaline and survival tests

carried out with brown trout fry in the water from the lagoon were successful.

In the fifties, Calverts Lagoon, near Sandford, provided some of the best fly fishing for brown trout in Southern Tasmania. Often anglers flying into Hobart airport found it convenient to visit the Lagoon for some fishing before coming on to Hobart.

In the early sixties, increasing alkalinity of the water killed all the fish. The Inland Fisheries Commission has monitored the lagoon by analysing the water over the last eleven years and from time to time, conducted survival tests with rainbow, brook and brown trout in water taken from the lagoon. Tests carried out this month showed that the pH of the water was 8.1 and brown trout fry were able to live comfortably in the water.

The water level in the lagoon is now high and a liberation of 85,000 brown trout fry was made in the lagoon on Tuesday, 16th September. As the water in the lagoon is rich in nutrients it is expected that, provided the pH does not rise, the fry should do well and be at a suitable size for anglers to catch in the 1976-77 angling season.

The lagoon is within easy reach of anglers on Hobart's eastern shore and it is restricted to fly fishing only.

#### Lake Dulverton

Lake Dulverton has provided excellent fishing with many fish from previous liberations being caught this year. The range of size is up to .5 kg in weight, with the average size being about 2.2 kg. As the lake has no suitable areas for trout to spawn it has been stocked annually with adult brown trout from the Great Lake or Arthurs Lake.

#### Fisheries Notices

Fisheries notices which are placed at inland waters cost 75 cents each to buy and anglers are requested to notify the Commission of any instances of vandalism concerning these notices.

#### Staff

Anglers will be concerned to know that Mr. M. Duncan Senior Inspector has been on sick leave from 29th July and it is expected that it will be some time before he will be fit to resume duty.

#### Television Film

A GTV television crew from Sydney came to Tasmania to make film which included a segment on the trout fishery. The Company was given every co-operation and was accorded assistance in the making of the segment. The crew re-visited the Salmon Ponds to complete sequences which were not considered of high standard at the first run-through.

#### Lake MacKenzie

Lake MacKenzie spilled in July and an inspection carried out showed that there was no need to put salvage operations into effect to save fish. However, future spills in the area will continue to be monitored on the advise from the Hydro-Electric Commission.

#### Lake Crescent

A number of anglers have succeeded in taking large brown trout at Lake Crescent using the fly.

The Commission and anglers are agreed that fishing in the lake has improved since eel nets were banned from this water under the policy of keeping eel nets out of prime trout fishing waters.

#### Brown trout tag recoveries

A brown trout tagged at Liawenee and transferred to Tooms Lake weighed 1.0 kg and was 470 mm long. It was caught on the 10th August weighing .85 kg cleaned weight and the length was unchanged.

Another brown trout tagged at Liawenee Canal on 8th August 1968 was .96 kg and 419 mm long. It was re-caught in Howes Lagoon Bay in the 1974-75 season and, when cleaned, weighed 1.47 kg and was 552 mm long.

#### Increased reward for fish tags

Due to rising costs it is necessary to increase the reward for the return of fish tags to \$1.00. Anglers are requested to forward data concerning the length and weight of any tagged fish, together with the date and place of capture, to the Commission. The information is used to monitor the fisheries.

#### Plaque at Salmon Ponds

On 17th September, the Minister for Agriculture, the Honourable Eric Barnard, accepted a plaque which is to be placed on the willow tree at Salmon Ponds.

The willow tree was one of the cuttings from the grave at St.. Helena of the Emperor Napoleon. Mr. C. Minnis of the Medallion Seafood Restaurant, Hobart, donated the plaque.

#### Access road to Brumby Creek

Continuous heavy rains caused the road known as Fisheries Lane at Cressy to become water logged, it was prudent to close the road to vehicle traffic until further notice.

#### Siltation at the Salmon Ponds

The Department of the Environment has suggested that forestry operations up the Plenty River may be responsible for the discolouration of the water entering the hatchery at Plenty.

The Department proposes to set up the monitoring station on Plenty River at the bridge, through the gates at A.N.M. and the hatchery. Sedimentation tanks, plus a valve, were considered as a means of overcoming some problems. However, the low head of water on the gravity system ruled out this type of control.

### E.Z. Plant at Risdon and the Derwent River

Mr. R. Cooper of the E.Z. Company gave an informative talk to the Bridgewater Angling Branch. He made a number of comments of interest to anglers and the Company has a policy of containment of any leakages which may occur in problems to control wind-borne movement from heaps of treated ore. He stated that shark and flathead are the species of fish which have the highest concentrations of mercury and cadmium as they feed on oysters and scallops which concentrate heavy metals. In Ralphs Bay, oysters concentrate zinc. The Lake Illawarra is in deep water where there is little if any current and already the ship is covered in four inches of silt. The ore in the ships is zinc sulphide, which is inert and would only slowly become soluble.

The E.Z. Company has spent \$3,000,000 on Pollution control and has large stocks of zinc unsold. It has a team of five scientists engaged full-time on monitoring effluent and the estuary.

### Turnstile at the Salmon Ponds

The admission fee to the Salmon Ponds is now 40 cents for all persons over twelve years. An automatic turnstile has been installed to accept multiple coins.

### Cleveland Lagoon

At Cleveland, the Lagoon on the eastside of the Main Highway was stocked with brown trout fry after an inspection early in September. The Lagoon is about 150 acres in extent and with water depths up to 20 feet. Anglers have been catching large brown trout from this water and it is thought that a liberation of fry would ensure the continuation of good fishing in a water which does not have natural spawning grounds.

\$40 fine - fishing in closed waters

At the Bothwell Court on Friday 12th September, Trevor Andrew Williams of Madden Street, Devonport, appeared and pleaded

guilty to a charge of fishing in a closed water (Canal Bay, Great Lake), on 25th April.

The Magistrate, Mr. R. F. Turner, fined Williams \$40 and imposed costs of \$2.65.

Mr. B. Isaac gave evidence and Mr. N. Maroney prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

(D. D..Lynch),  
22nd September, 1975