

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER

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Field Station for Central Highlands

The Honourable Eric Barnard, Minister for Agriculture and Lands, announced recently that the Government would be including in the Loan Estimates in the coming year an amount for the start of a field station for the Inland Fisheries Commission at Miena. This announcement should be welcomed by everyone with an interest in the central plateau.

Overseas visit by Commissioner D. D. Lynch

The Chairman visited Northern and Southern Ireland, Finland, Holland, Singapore and North and South New Zealand. During the visit, inspections were made of the trout fisheries, eel fisheries, exotic fish farms, exotic aquatic plant farms and discussions were held with fisheries research workers at a number of research establishments and universities. The Chairman reported that he had inspected the fisheries in New Zealand for brook trout, brown trout, land-locked quinnat salmon, sea-run quinnat salmon and work on sock-eye salmon.

Various forms of eel fishing gears were inspected and eel passes, salmon passes and fish hatcheries were inspected and discussions were held on research projects being carried out in various countries. Personal contacts were made with a number of scientists and discussions held with them. The funding of the freshwater fisheries research and management was examined in New Zealand.

### Winter programme

The winter programme of transferring wild adult brown trout from the Central Highlands to lowland storages was continued this year and 9 465 fish were transferred - 3 595 from Great Lake and 5 870 from Arthurs Lake. Unfortunately, the run of fish was not large enough to provide stock for all waters listed for stocking. Copies of waters stocked have been made available to the three angling associations for information.

### Improvements to boat ramp at Lake Edgar Dam

Recently, a 3 m (10 foot) wide loop road near the launching ramp was made at Edgar Dam and it should relieve congestion in that area. The construction was carried out by the Hydro-Electric Commission on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission at a cost of approximately \$500.

### Silver Plains Road improvement

The Commission contributed \$1,300 towards the upgrading of the Silver Plains road at Lake Sorell. The Public Works Department and the Bothwell Council made similar contributions.

### Big rainbow trout

Mr. Col. Bryant of Upper Burnie caught an 8.2 kg (18 lb) rainbow trout at a farm dam near Bothwell last season. It is one of the largest rainbow trout caught in Tasmanian waters for some years.

### Great Lake shrimp

Work carried out by Mr. W. Fulton at Great Lake has shown that the Great Lake shrimp (Paranaspides lacustris) is plentiful in certain areas such as Brandum Bay which have aquatic plants. The shrimp is one of a group of small crustaceans of ancient lineage and it is of great scientific interest because it retains many primitive characters such as the relatively slight differentiation of the segments of the thorax and abdomen.

Before animals of this group were discovered in Tasmania in 1892, the group were only known from marine animals in the carboniferous age. Hence the Great Lake shrimp and its other Tasmanian relatives are often referred to as living fossils.

#### New species of Galaxiids:

The current research into the small native fishes of Great Lake continued and a scientific paper is in the course of preparation to describe a new species of Paragalaxias from Great Lake, a new species of Paragalaxias from Arthurs Lake and a new species of Galaxias from Arthurs Lake. The research into the distribution of Galaxias by Mr. W. Fulton has shown that they are more common in Great Lake than many anglers had thought. Mr. Fulton has investigated their biology and habits.

#### Whitebait

Following a serious decline in the landings of whitebait from Tasmanian rivers, the Inland Fisheries Commission closed all waters to whitebait for three years from 1974. The main species in the Tasmanian whitebait run (whose scientific name is Lovettia sealii) occurs only in Tasmania, and there are fears that over-fishing may threaten its survival.

As agreed at a meeting of whitebait fishermen with the Inland Fisheries Commission, there is to be a programme of experimental netting for whitebait to test whether stocks have recovered and to assess the amount of stocks available.

Those fishermen licensed to fish for whitebait in 1973 have been invited to participate in the test fishing programme which is to be carried out under the supervision of the Commission field staff for a period of one month. The fishermen may offer their catch for sale.

### Import of goldfish prohibited in New Zealand

The import of all goldfish has been banned in New Zealand since 1972. The Commissioner recently discussed the matter with New Zealand fisheries officers and the following extract is taken from a statement by the New Zealand Minister of Marine Fisheries, the Honourable J.B. Gordon.

".. Goldfish have been brought into the country (New Zealand) from early times and now breed in the wild. Until recently they had been considered "safe", but after extensive study and conferring with overseas experts it has since been established, said Mr. Gordon, they were capable of carrying particular diseases.

One was a bacteriological disease which could affect trout and salmon, another was a fungus that could attack most fish species and one was a bacteria that can cause a serious skin condition in humans.

Some persons in New Zealand have been affected recently by this bacteria, said Mr. Gordon.

He said the Parliamentary Select Committee on the fishing industry, after hearing testimony from New Zealand and overseas countries, agreed with the recommendation of the Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Council that the import of cold water aquarium fish should cease.

Accordingly, said Mr. Gordon, this course was being pursued as a safeguard against the spread of fish disease and to protect inland waters.

He added that although such a ban might affect the turnover of importers and retailers it would, if local breeders were to increase their supplies, effect a saving in overseas currency.

Hitherto, all tropical fish which could survive and breed in natural New Zealand waters have, with the exception of the common goldfish, been prohibited imports. The Controlling regulations are administered by the Department of Agriculture after consultation with the Marine Department."

### Electrofishing

The Commission has been approached by the angling clubs seeking the use of the electrofishing machine to get fish for transfer to other waters. Whilst in New Zealand, the Commissioner examined the use of electrofishing gear in that country. Following a fatality of an officer of the New Zealand Fisheries using electrofishing gear, the use of such gear has been prohibited in New Zealand. However, recently the restrictions have been relaxed to such an extent that research and management officers of the Ministry for Agriculture may attend a course to obtain instruction on the use of safety devices of electrofishing equipment for use in research and surveys.

Only after a person has attended and passed the prescribed course is he permitted to use electrofishing equipment.

Acting on this advice, the Commission propose to restrict the use of the electrofishing equipment for the purpose for which it was designed - i.e. for fisheries research programmes and it is not available for management programmes.

### Lake Gairdner

~~Anglers fishing Lake Gairdner are invited to forward~~

Anglers fishing Lake Gairdner are invited to forward samples of scales together with data of length, weight and date of capture of fish from the Lake so that ages of the fish can be established.

### Lake Kay

Lake Kay is to continue as a water restricted to artificial lures only. In Newsletter Vol 5 No. 2 it was stated in error that Lake Kay would be open to natural bait.

### Inspection of Tooms Lake

The Chairman, accompanied by Messrs. McEwan and W. Pulford, inspected Tooms Lake and noted that the spawning area available for trout is limited. The Commission recently decided to provide brown trout fry for Tooms Lake and to undertake some desnagging operations in the spawning stream. However, major improvements to the spawning stream are not proposed in the near future. Two tag recoveries of adult fish transferred from Great Lake to Tooms Lake were forwarded to the Commission. Both fish were caught at Brumby Creek near Cressy.

### Lake Lea

Trout fishermen noticed many fish running to spawn up the tributaries of Lake Lea in the past winter.

### Vaucluse dam

After discussions with officials of the Campbell Town branch, the Commission decided to continue its management policy of Vaucluse dam for at least another year when it would then review the position. Some anglers recorded good catches at Vaucluse dam towards the end of the season.

### Visitors

Dr. R. McDowall of Fisheries Research Division, Ministry for Agriculture, New Zealand, visited the central plateau with officers of the Inland Fisheries Commission to collect galaxiids. Dr. McDowall is co-operating with the Inland Fisheries Commission on some aspects of work with this group of fish.

### Factory on Northwest Coast fined \$200

Aluminates Pty. Ltd., a chemical factory at Heybridge, near Burnie, was fined \$200 after it pleaded guilty to four charges under the Environment Protection Act in the Burnie Court.

The Magistrate, Mr. P. G. Crisp, fined the company on a charge of emitting a pollutant into a watercourse. A sample taken had shown that the company had emitted 600 times the amount of suspended solids permissible, the Court was told. Mr. Crisp recorded convictions against the Company on three other charges.

They were: That the Company failed to comply with permissible effluent levels; That it failed to forward samples of pH effluent levels to the department on July 27; and that it had failed to forward samples again on August 14.

Mr. Peter Dixon, for the Company, said Aluminate wanted to apologise to the Department of the Environment and to the courts for the incident.

After hearing evidence from the Department and from Mr. Dixon, Mr. Crisp said the Environment Act needed to be administered seriously if the community was to benefit from it.

#### Staff

Senior Inspector M. F. Duncan returned to duty in August after an absence due to a prolonged illness.

#### Court cases

A number of serious offences against the Fisheries Act and Regulations were heard between February and June. The offences related to falsifying angling licence, shooting trout, netting trout, fishing without a licence, deadlining, using more than one rod and using natural bait. Details of the offences and the results of the courts are listed hereunder.

#### Falsifying angling licence

A father and son appeared in the Campbell Town Court on 21/6/76 before Mr. B. Burkett and pleaded guilty to charges of offences against the Inland Fisheries Regulations. Thomas Edward Knowles, Lake Leake, was charged with falsely stating the date of issue of an angling licence issued to his son, Colin Knowles, on 17/8/75.

Mr. Knowles was a licence selling agent of the Inland Fisheries Commission at the time of the offence. Colin Knowles of the same address was charged with fishing without a licence at Lake Leake on the same day. Both defendants were discharged under the Probation of Offenders Act.

Using a firearm to take trout

At Launceston Court on 16th June before Mr. K. Dockray S.M. John Grahame Breen of Karoola appeared and pleaded guilty to three charges.

1. Discharging a firearm into the Piper River near Karoola to take trout, for which offence a fine of \$40 was imposed.
2. Taking fish by means other than a rod and line. A fine of \$30 was imposed.
3. Taking fish by using a spotlight. A fine of \$30 was imposed.

A special penalty of \$4 per fish for each of 13 brown trout was imposed - totalling \$52.00. The total amount of fines amounted to \$152.00.

Dennis Vernon Colgrave, Mann Street, Invermay, appeared and pleaded guilty to each of three charges.

1. Discharging a firearm into the Piper River near Karoola to take trout. A fine of \$40 plus costs of \$2.35 were imposed.
2. Taking fish by means other than rod and line. A fine of \$30 was imposed.
3. Taking fish without a licence. A fine of \$50 was imposed.

A special penalty of \$4 per fish for a total of 7 brown trout was imposed - totalling \$28.00. The total amount of fines amounted to \$148.00



## Netting

At the Campbell Town Court of Petty Sessions on 21/6/76 before Mr. Burkett, Herbert Keith Knott of Lauderdale appeared and pleaded guilty to -

1. Taking fish by means of a graball net at Lake Leake on 30/12/75 - fined \$60 with costs of \$2.35
2. Fishing without a licence - fined \$50 plus witness expenses of \$17.95.

Tim Taylor of Lauderdale was charged with -

1. Taking fish by means of a graball net at Lake Leake on 30/12/75. The case was heard ex parte. A fine of \$20 was imposed with costs of \$3.30 plus witness expenses of \$17.95.

## Deadlining

At Huonville Court on 17th May before Mr. W. J. E. Cox S.M. Peter James Harris of Lenah Valley Road, Lenah Valley, was charged with attempting to take fish by means other than a rod and line, namely by means of dead-lines, in the Huon River on 12th February, 1976. The case was heard ex parte. Harris was convicted and fined \$50.00 plus \$2.35 costs.

Fisheries Inspector B. Isaac gave evidence and prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

## Unlicensed angler

At the Hamilton Court on 5th July before Mr. R. Turner Daniel Leslie Legge of Gormanston was charged with three offences against Inland Fisheries Regulations committed at Lake St. Clair on 10th April, 1976.

1. On the first charge of being an unlicensed angler he was fined \$50.00 with \$3.00 costs

2. On a second charge of using more than one rod and line he was fined \$20.00
3. On a third charge of fishing with an unattended set rod he was fined \$20.00

Nick Wallace, Invermay Road, Launceston, appeared and pleaded not guilty to a charge of being an unlicensed angler. The charge was dismissed.

He pleaded guilty to a second charge of being in possession of 6 brown trout while not being the holder of an inland fishing licence. He was convicted and fined \$50 plus \$3.10 costs and a special penalty of 10 cents per fish for each of 6 trout was imposed - totalling 60 cents. The total amount of fines amounted to \$50.60.

#### Fishing with two rods

At the Bothwell Court of 25/6/76 before Mr. E. Sikk, Cyril Norman Smith of Weegenia was charged with fishing with two rods in Christmas Bay, Great Lake, on 8/4/76 contrary to Inland Fisheries Regulations. The case was heard ex parte and Smith was fined \$75 with costs of \$2.65. He was given 14 days to pay.

#### Unattended set rod

Robin Phillip Wills of East Parade, Deloraine, appeared and pleaded not guilty to using an unattended set rod at Great Lake on 27th December, 1975. Evidence was given by Mr. B. Vanderfeen of the Inland Fisheries Commission and the defendant was found guilty, convicted and fined \$20 with \$2.65 costs.

Dennis Claude Buckingham of Winter Street, Deloraine, appeared and pleaded guilty to using an unattended set rod at Great Lake on 27th December, 1975. The defendant was fined \$20 with \$2.35 costs.

#### Unattended set rod and using natural bait

At the Magistrate's Court held on 23rd April at Bothwell before Mr. J. Morris S.M., Terry Edwin Dando, of King Street, Westbury, was charged with using natural bait in

Ada Lagoon on 24th January, 1976. He was further charged with fishing with an unattended set rod on the same date. Dando was fined \$40 on the first charge with costs of \$2.65 and on the second charge a conviction was recorded and costs remitted.

A charge against Arthur William Hill of Carrick for using natural bait at Ada Lagoon on 24th January, 1976, and a charge of using an unattended set rod at the same locality was heard ex parte. On the first charge he was fined \$40 with costs of \$2.65. A conviction was recorded on the second charge and costs remitted.

#### Unattended set rod

Leo Walter Seadon, Eddie Street, Launceston, was charged with using an unattended set rod at Great Lake on 27th December, 1975. The case was heard ex parte. Seadon was fined \$40 with \$2.65 costs.

#### Fishing with two rods

A charge against Phillip Alan Webb of Oldaker Street, Devonport, of using two rods at Great Lake on 26th December, 1975, was heard ex parte. He was found guilty and fined \$40 with \$2.65 costs. He was given 28 days to pay.

#### Netting for freshwater crayfish

On 10th May, 1976, at Wynyard Court of Petty Sessions before Mr. J. Temple-Smith S.M., Royce Burgess of Calder Road, Wynyard, was charged with attempting to take freshwater crayfish with the use of three ring nets on 29/2/76 at Seabrook Creek. The case was heard ex parte. Burgess was convicted and fined \$30 with costs of \$2.80. Evidence was given by Ranger Scott of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

(D. D. Lynch),  
Commissioner

23rd August, 1976