

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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FINGERLING BROOK TROUT AT SALMON PONDS

The fingerling brook trout at Salmon Ponds are in good condition. They have been held in maximum security to keep out predators and vandals.

LAKE PEDDER

Yet another sequence on the trout fishery at Lake Pedder has been filmed by the Tasmanian Film Corporation with Noel Ferrier as the actor.

PENSTOCK LAGOON

In January and February one angler caught 39 well-conditioned fish at Penstock Lagoon. Some anglers report catching more rainbow trout than brown trout. This is not unexpected as, where brown trout and rainbow trout are present in the same water, the latter species is the more easily caught by anglers.

MERSEY RIVER

Anglers claim that there is a good increase in the size of fish taken in the Mersey River and anglers fishing the upper reaches have been catching 2-3 fish per evening. Members of the Commission inspected the Mersey River on 6th April and saw a number of rising fish.

BOAT RAMP - EDGAR DAM

The Commission has been advised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service that construction of a jetty is in course near the Edgar Dam.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Recently a meeting of the Inland Fisheries Commission was held at Devonport and the Commission had an evening meeting with representatives of the Northwestern Fisheries Association to hear views of that Association. The Commission also met eel fishermen to discuss problems relating to the eel fishery.

NORTHERN TASMANIAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION DISPLAY

A display is to be held at the Queen Victoria Museum commencing 22nd May. The display is organised by the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association and the Inland

Fisheries Commission proposes to put up a board illustrating some facets of the Commission's research programmes.

BLACKFISH

A blackfish, Gadopsis, caught on the Northwest Coast on 17th February, 1978, weighed 2.63 kg.

CREMORNE LAGOON

An inspection of Cremorne Lagoon showed that the lagoon was at a low level and covered with weeds and would be unsuitable for development as a trout fishery at this stage.

STUDY OF RAINBOW AND BROWN TROUT AT LAKE EUCUMBENE

Mr. R. A. Faragher had carried out studies which show there is some degree of species segregation with regard feeding. Analyses of guts of brown and rainbow trout showed that 65 per cent of the brown trout obtained their diet from the bottom fauna, whereas of the rainbow trout sampled simultaneously, 77 per cent of their food items came from the surface or mid water.

RAINBOW TROUT AT LAKE GORDON

A well-known Hobart angler caught rainbow trout (1.57 kg cleaned) at Lake Gordon at Easter. The fish was short and deep. It was a female, full of roe and was a strong fighter. Other anglers report similar experiences with rainbow trout at Lake Gordon.

TYENNA RIVER

The Commission noted that the Tyenna River was one of the principal spawning areas for the Derwent River and had discussions with the New Norfolk Council and the Rivers and Water Supply Commission regarding the possibility of any activities which might damage this river.

ELVER PASS ON PLENTY RIVER

In addition to elvers, two galaxias - Galaxias truttaceus and G. brevipinnis - and the sandy are using the eel pass on the Plenty River. A University research student is working on the life history of sandies which he collects from the pass. He proposes to tag and release a number of these fish.

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXPERIMENTAL ZIG ZAG SPAWNING CHANNEL

Approximately 60 loads of gravel have been carted from the shores of Great Lake for use at the zig zag spawning channel at Liawenee.

DRAINAGE AT LIAWENEE

Drains have been completed at the field station and spoil from the drains has been used for filling around the newly erected buildings.

ARTHURS LAKE

Arthurs Lake is now at a very low level and some concern was expressed for the safety of the fish. However, an inspection showed that fish are in no danger, and the water temperature is suitable for the fish to live in. Anglers using trolling and spinning methods of fishing have had a poor season at Arthurs Lake, but those using fly equipment have done well.

GALAXIAS INVESTIGATIONS

Following recent investigations into the distribution of galaxias, a previously unknown species of Paragalaxias has been found at Lake Field. The matter is receiving further investigation.

STAFF

Mr. V. Causby has taken up a position of Fisheries Inspector stationed at Strathgordon.

LAKE LEAKE

The Chairman visited Lake Leake on 20th March and noted that a very small flow of water was in the Snowy River. In discussions on the fishery with Lake Leake anglers, it was reported that brown trout up to 1.93 kg had been taken recently. A well-conditioned rainbow trout was caught on the day of inspection.

BLACKMANS LAGOON

Reports of excellent fishing at Blackmans Lagoon have been received, with well-conditioned trout up to 4.99 kg being taken.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON

The management plan to lower the level of Little Pine Lagoon is in course and the second phase of the proposed strategy started late in March by commencing to draw down the level to the minimum level for the winter.

The first phase of the experimental plan to control the water weed, Elodea canadensis, was to maintain a high water level up to the end of February.

THE GIANT TASMANIAN FRESHWATER CRAYFISH - ASTACOPSIS GOULDI

The usual summer run of large Astacopsis was reported in a number of rivers along the Northwest Coast. Recently a 3.6 kg freshwater crayfish, Astacopsis gouldi, was taken at Olinda.

Anglers are reminded that it is an offence to skin-dive for freshwater crayfish. Freshwater crayfish may be taken by a line attached to a bushpole and a net may be used to help land the crayfish. Spearing of crayfish is not an acceptable method.

The Commission has re-affirmed its ban on the export of Astacopsis from Tasmania.

TREVALLYN POWER STATION - ELVER PASS

The Trevallyn power station elver pass operated on a pilot basis last year to ascertain the feasibility of catching elvers. The operation was successful and approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ million elvers were caught. The Commission hopes to expand the work on catching and transferring elvers at this power station.

CORMORANTS

The number of cormorants in Tasmania appears to have declined. The Commission is continuing its programme of culling cormorants. Vigilance has been maintained at the Salmon Ponds and at Liawenee so that cormorant predation on trout is being kept to the minimum in those areas.

Recently the Commissioner discussed the status of cormorants in Victoria with the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Victoria. That State is giving consideration to taking the big black cormorant off the protected list of species in major areas of the State for a limited period. This action would permit anglers to kill cormorants.

ILLEGAL FISHERMEN FINED

At Smithton Court of Petty Sessions on 10th March, 1978, before Mr. J. Templesmith, S.M., Peter Wayne Turnbull of Nelson Street, Smithton, pleaded guilty to charges of -

1. That on 22nd October, 1977, at Grays Creek, did have in his possession a scoop net not marked with identification tags. He was fined \$40.00 with costs of \$8.10.
2. Attempting to take whitebait whilst not the holder of a whitebait licence. Adjourned sine die.

Neil Thomas Madden of Burleigh St., Longford, and Eric Jenkins of Burleigh St., Longford, pleaded guilty by summons at the Longford Court of Petty Sessions on 21st March, 1978, before Mr. K. N. Dockray, S.M., to a charge of using natural bait in No. 1 weir at Brumbys Creek on 1st October, 1977. The defendants were fined \$40 each with costs of \$8.10.

Stuart John Reid of Wesley Vale, appeared in the Devonport Police Court on 3rd April, 1978, before Mr. P. G. Crisp, S.M., and pleaded guilty by summons to a charge of taking whitebait without a licence in the Rubicon River on 15th October, 1977. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

Trevor William Norton of North Street, Devonport, was charged with taking whitebait on 15th October without a licence at the Forth River. He pleaded guilty by summons and was fined \$50 with \$8.10 costs.

Reginald James Costello of Tasman St. Devonport, pleaded guilty by summons to taking whitebait in the Forth River on 15th October, 1977, when not licensed. He was fined \$50 with \$8.10 costs.

Maxwell Thomas Fisher of "Forthside", Forth, pleaded guilty to taking whitebait without a licence in the Forth River on 15th October, 1977. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

Neil Francis Wilcox of George St., Devonport, pleaded guilty by summons to taking whitebait without a licence in the Rubicon River on 15th October, 1977. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10. Senior Inspector M. F. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner