

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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FISHERIES ACT

A recent amendment to the Fisheries Act provided that it is an offence to steal from another fisherman's net or gear in inland waters. A fine of up to \$300 may be imposed in cases of theft from fishing gear.

IMPORTATION OF FISH DISEASE INTO TASMANIA

A recent case of an outbreak of a disease in a dealer's aquarium, where fish were on sale, indicates the need for great caution, both in purchasing diseased fish and importing diseased fish into the State. The dealer imported fish, known as "comets", from an interstate commercial hatchery, which has a history of fish disease. The dealer is alleged to have sold diseased fish to the public, with the result that healthy fish became sick and died when the diseased fish were placed with them.

The Commission is examining appropriate regulations to ensure that healthy fish are sold to the public. The case in question has been examined by the Bureau of Business and Consumer Affairs, as well as the R.S.P.C.A.

INSPECTION OF LAKES IN WESTERN CENTRAL PLATEAU

On 14 April, 1980, members of the Commission inspected access to lakes of the western central plateau. The improvements to tracks in recent years was noticed, and expenditure of considerable money by the Lands Department on improving the tracks was obvious. The Commission inspected access to Double Lagoon, Lake Kay, Lake Botsford, Lake Ada, Ada Lagoon, Rocky Lagoon and Little Blue Lagoon. The track to Lake Kay has been open since October 1979 and \$20,000 has been spent on improvements to this track. The track to Lake Ada passes to within 60 metres of Rocky Lagoon on the western shore, and is only ten minutes walk around this lake, which provides adequate access for fishing purposes. When funds are available, it is proposed to consider providing additional parking space at Rocky Lagoon.

The Commission did not inspect the track to Lakes Flora and O'Dell, but it was noted that these tracks have been opened to the public since November and would be continued to be open in dry conditions. The co-operation of the Lands Department Warden, based at Liawenee, is invaluable in maintaining the land under the Central Plateau Management Plan and ensuring the most prudent access to the lakes for fishing purposes. The overall requirement is that the fragile environment is protected for its own sake, as well as for the continued maintenance of the fishery.

Information concerning the condition of the track is signposted at the Liawenee turn-off and further information may be obtained by calling in, or phoning, the Lands Department information centre at Liawenee.

During the course of inspection, the Commission noted that improvements to maintain summer water level could be effected by repairing some small dams in the area. A second projection is to erect a small foot-bridge over the canal leading from Lake Ada to Ada Lagoon. It is hoped to put this work in course in the summer of 1980/81.

The new bridge erected by the Department of Main Roads across Little Pine river improves the access to Lake Fergus, however, further investigation is needed to find the access track leading to the bridge, which would enable public access to Lake Fergus during the fishing season.

CATCH AND RELEASE FISHERIES

Several fly fishermen have approached the Commission with a view to having some small waters in the central plateau assigned to catch and release fisheries only. The proposal is that anglers catching fish in these waters, could use barbless hooks and return the fish to the water, sometimes after photographing the fish. Penstock Lagoon was suggested as a suitable location for a catch and release fishery. The Commission would like to canvass this view among various anglers before making a decision.

PENSTOCK LAGOON

This season, some anglers have reported lack of success in fishing at Penstock Lagoon, whereas others claim Penstock Lagoon fishes extremely well, especially in November and early December. Last year, 25,000 brown trout ova were put down in No. 2 canal leading into Penstock Lagoon and, in the course of the year, it was noted that the eggs eyed and hatched out. Later, 55,000 rainbow trout ova were put down at No. 2 canal with the view of augmenting the number of rainbow trout in this water.

Transferring surplus adult brown trout from Great Lake to Penstock Lagoon did not prove rewarding in an operation carried out some years ago. In June of 1970, one hundred tagged adult brown trout from Great Lake were transferred to Penstock Lagoon, but the operation was unsuccessful and many of the fish died.

LAKE LEAKE

Good fishing at Lake Leake is reported by a local angler who has caught in excess of 200 brown trout during the season. Brown trout up to 2.5 kg (5 lb) were reported in the catch and many of the larger trout were feeding on small perch. Anglers also reported catching perch up to 1.4 kg (3 lb) in weight.

From tag returns, the adult brown trout transferred from the central highlands did not do well in Lake Leake.

LAGOON OF ISLANDS

Lagoon of Islands is at a low level in the autumn, due to the draw-down to supply riparian rights. Anglers will recall that the guaranteed fisheries minimum level is 2480 and the normal full supply level of the dam is 2494.74 feet. When the winds died down towards the end of March, there were some good rises and anglers fishing the dry fly were successful at Lagoon of Islands.

PIEMAN RIVER DEVELOPMENT

Proposed development at the Pieman River of interest to anglers is the building of a launching ramp for boats and toilets at the Mackintosh Dam site, at a proposed cost of \$150,000. Along the Pieman Road near the Huskisson River Bridge, a boat ramp, toilet and picnic areas are proposed at a cost of \$200,000. At a later stage, a preliminary survey of the Heemskirk Road is to be undertaken to examine the cost of bringing this road up to a good standard.

CURRIES RIVER DAM

The Rivers and Water Supply Commission has not made a decision on the recreational uses of the water on this storage. However, consultations have been held between the two Commissions on the possible developments.

ACCESS TO LAKE ECHO

Anglers are advised that the property owner of Macclesfield has closed the gate leading to the northern part of Lake Echo. Anglers should approach the property owner, Mrs. White of Macclesfield, for permission to use this access road.

INSPECTION OF SAXONS CREEK

It was found during an inspection that Saxons Creek was popular with anglers seeking freshwater crayfish and eels. Accordingly, the Commission declined to proceed with a suggestion that it be declared a sanctuary for freshwater crayfish.

CARP ERADICATION PROGRAMME

The Commission's field staff treated twelve farm dams near Stowport to remove European carp. Carp were found in only two dams and a total of 52 carp were killed and removed. In the course of investigating a report that carp were in Chasm Creek, 2½ km of creek were electrofished. No carp were found. In addition, Chasm Creek for a distance of 90 metres above the location of several dams and 100 metres below one dam, were treated with a chemical to kill fish. In each case no carp were found.

CYGNET FISHING CARNIVAL

A successful fishing carnival was held at Port Cygnet on 1-2 March. The bags were inspected by Commission officers. The best bag was that of one party, who had eight fish, ranging in size from 1060 - 360 grammes. Another party had eleven trout up to 560 grammes.

LAKE SKINNER

On 2 December 1979, members of the Huonville Association liberated 20,000 rainbow trout fry at Lake Skinner. The fry were raised at the Commission's Corra Linn hatchery. On 20 April, 1980, a sample of nine fish were caught and measured before being returned to the lake. The range in weight was from 156 g (5 oz) to 311 g (10 oz) with an average of 221 g. The range in weight was from 252 to 315 mm with the average 292 g. The fish were extremely active and readily took the lure. The growth of the fish is considered satisfactory in the sixteen months in which they occupied Lake Skinner.

At the time of the inspection in April, a great deal of fly life was noticed on the lake and the fish readily took the lure. The gut content of one fish was examined and it contained flies, thrips, and a variety of small midges and a few beetles. The diet was entirely of terrestrial origin.

HOP GROWING AT GUNNS PLAINS

The temporary closure of the reserved roads at Gunns Plains and the change of ownership of the property, formerly owned by A.N. Dobson, are important as they involve a changed land use which will result in deprivation of the public of traditional facilities for recreation and tourism. The public enjoyed access to the south-side of the river for a number of purposes. First, it is the best place to view a magnificent, huge limestone rock on the north bank of the river, about 100 metres to the east of the island in the river. This rock is of heroic size.

The previous owners allowed camping and picnicking here and up to 30 motor cars visited this area on a day in the summer. Further, the area is patronised by bush-walking clubs. Hop fields to the edge of the river would exclude these activities, unless there is a reserved road and riverside area set aside for the purpose. Furthermore, there is a traditional fishing site in the area which was reached from the property formerly owned by A. N. Dobson.

The Leven River at Gunns Plains is one of the best fly fishing rivers in Tasmania and it enjoys an international reputation for its excellence. Any erosion of this State asset should be avoided, if at all possible.

HANDBOOK ON TASMANIAN FRESHWATER FISHERIES

A handbook on Tasmanian freshwater fisheries is under discussion with the Fauna of Tasmania Office. It is proposed to publish the book on freshwater fisheries to cover the 25 native species, as well as introduced species of fish. The handbook would sell at around \$3.00 retail. This book would be produced in association with the Inland Fisheries Commission.

TASMANIAN GALAXIAS

A recent Honours thesis, submitted by Craig Johnson, gave a distribution list of Tasmanian galaxias and their close relatives. The following list includes suggested common names. The correct spelling is "galaxias" with an "s". In the interests of clarity, it would be prudent to avoid any reference to trout in the common name of these native fish.

(List on following page) ..

Common name	Scientific name	Endemic	Distribution
Golden galaxias	<u>Galaxias auratus</u> Johnston	Yes	Lakes Sorell and Crescent
Climbing galaxias	<u>Galaxias brevipinnis</u> Gunther	No	Coastal & central Tasmania; mainland Australia; New Zealand
Mud galaxias	<u>Galaxias cleaveri</u> Scott	Yes	Coastal Tasmania
Swan galaxias	<u>Galaxias fontanus</u> Fulton	Yes	Upper reaches of Swan River
Clarence galaxias	<u>Galaxias johnstoni</u> Scott	Yes	Clarence Lagoon; upper end of Clarence River
Jollytail	<u>Galaxias maculatus</u> (Jenyns)	No	Coastal Tasmania, mainland Australia; New Zealand; South America
Dwarf galaxias	<u>Galaxias parvus</u> Frankenberg	Yes	Lake Pedder and upper reaches of connected tributaries
Pedder galaxias	<u>Galaxias pedderensis</u> Frankenberg	Yes	Lake Pedder and upper reaches of connected tributaries
Saddled galaxias	<u>Galaxias tanycephalus</u> Fulton	Yes	Arthurs Lakes and connected Woods Lake and upper end of Lake River
Spotted galaxias	<u>Galaxias truttaceus</u> Valenciennes	No	Western central plateau and coastal Tasmania; mainland Australia
Shannon paragalaxias	<u>P. dissimilis</u> (Regan)	Yes	Great Lake and connecting Shannon and Penstock Lagoon
Great Lake ^{paragalaxias} galaxias	<u>P. electroides</u> McDowall and Fulton	Yes	Great Lake and connecting Shannon Lagoon
Julian paragalaxias	<u>P. julianus</u> McDowall and Fulton	Yes	Western lakes of central plateau
Arthurs paragalaxias	<u>P. mesotes</u> McDowall and Fulton	Yes	Arthurs Lake and connecting Woods Lake and upper end of Lake River
Eastern little galaxias	<u>Galaxiella galaxias pusilla</u> (Mack)	No	A few populations in north-east Tasmania, mainland Australia

At Scottsdale Court of Petty Sessions on 11 March 1980 before Mr. B. Zeeman, Adrian Paul Dunham of Ridgely pleaded guilty by endorsement to charges of -

1. fishing without a licence - fined \$50
2. fishing with an unattended set rod - fined \$20 with costs of \$8.10

Andrew Ian Crown of Ridgely pleaded guilty by endorsement to the same charges. He was fined \$20 on the first charge, \$20 on the second charge and costs of \$8.10 were imposed.

Garry William Atkins of Ridgely was charged with the same offences. He was fined \$50 on the first charge, \$20 on the second charge and costs of \$8.10 were imposed. The charges were heard ex parte. The offences occurred at Little Waterhouse Lagoon on 4 January 1980.

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 21 March 1980, Mr. J. P. Morris, Magistrate, commented that he took a very serious view of anglers falsely representing to be licensed and mentioned the time and cost involved to the Inland Fisheries Commission in re-interviewing persons regarding this offence.

Inland Fisheries Commission Senior Inspector, Mr. W. F. Duncan, informed the Court that charges of fishing without a licence and falsely representing to be licensed had increased by nearly one hundred per cent in the period August 1979 to March 1980, over a corresponding period in 1977/79.

Peter Raymond Street of West Moonah, pleaded guilty by endorsement to charges of -

1. fishing without a licence - fined \$20 with costs of \$8.10
2. fishing with an unattended set rod at Woods Lake on 6 January 1980 - fined \$30.

David Edward Street of Toora Court, Ravenswood, Launceston, pleaded guilty by endorsement to charges of -

1. attempting to take fish by means of deadlines - fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10
2. using more than one rod and line - fined \$30
3. unattended set rod at Woods Lake on 6 January 1980 - fined \$30

Thomas Lionel Ford of Forster Street, New Town,
pleaded guilty by endorsement to -

1. fishing without a licence - fined \$70 with \$8.10 costs
2. falsely representing to be licensed - fined \$80
3. giving a false name and address at Lake King William on
27 December 1979 - adjourned sine die.

At Launceston Court of Petty Sessions on 24 April 1980,
before Mr. M. Zeeman, Michael Anthony Bennett of Trevallyn was
found guilty at an ex parte hearing of fishing without a licence,
and taking fish by means other than rod and line (deadlines) at
Piper River on 17 November 1979.

On the first charge he was fined \$25 and, on the second
charge, he was fined \$40. Costs of \$8.10 were imposed.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

6 May 1980