



INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER

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Australian Fisheries Council.

The Australian Fisheries Council which consists of the Ministers responsible for fisheries in each State and various Commonwealth Departments met in Hobart.

Council at this meeting reached several decisions of importance to the freshwater fishery in Tasmania.

First, a ban on the importation of goldfish from abroad was imposed by the Council. The ban was imposed because of the possible disease brought in by imported goldfish to the recreational fishery and to native wild fishes in Australia.

The Council proposes to give further consideration to restricting the number of species of aquarium fishes which may be imported to Australia from abroad to fifty species. In the past there has been little consideration given to the effects which the fishes from other countries might have on the Australian fisheries. This attitude is in direct contrast to the attitude in relation to the introduction of other animals and plants into Australia. Here, stringent conditions are imposed which either prohibit the importation of species or insist on adequate quarantine arrangements being made to safeguard both domestic and wild animals and plants.

Another decision taken was to place a ban on the export of elvers or baby eels from Australia. Tasmania already has a legal minimum length of twelve-inches for elvers. The length was introduced at the request of the Australian Fishing Industry to protect the Australian eel fishery.

An export ban on the Giant Tasmanian Freshwater Crayfish (Astacopsis gouldi) and the Western Australian crayfish (Marron) was imposed for a period of five years. It was felt that the the unwise exploitation of these crayfish should not be encouraged until more is known about them.

Lagoon of Islands

Last year the Commission held discussions with various interests on the future of Lagoon of Islands and, after detailed consideration with the Hydro-Electric Commission it was decided to continue with the present plan of water management in the Lagoon. The level of water to preserve fisheries would be maintained. It will be recalled that, as a result of the wishes expressed by the Angling Associations a brown trout fishery would be developed at Lagoon of Islands.

Tooms Lake

The water level at Tooms Lake was at a low level over most of the summer while maintenance work was carried out at the dam. Further work is scheduled below the dam site where a river gauging weir is planned

Some consideration has been given to the desirability of installing a fish ladder at the low level weir and discussions with the appropriate authorities on this are in course.

Anglers report fishing at Tooms Lake over the year as good with brown trout up to 4 lb being taken and the rainbow trout were slightly smaller. A recent inspection of the spawning streams entering Tooms Lake indicated that it would be advantageous to clear snags across the spawning stream. It is hoped to put this work in course later in the year.

Lakes Pedder and Gordon

Further consideration has been given to the development of the fisheries at these two new storages and it is hoped to put down brown trout ova to raise to the fry stage for liberation in the coming spring.

The Commission is indebted to the Hydro-Electric Commission for the records of sightings of fish in the Gordon and Huon Rivers. It is emphasized that the sightings are by no means exhaustive as some members of the Hydro-Electric Commission's field survey party have sighted fish but have since left the Commission and all sightings are not recorded.

Some information regarding fish in South West
and West Coast Rivers obtained from
H.E.C. Field Parties

Date	River	Location	Species	Nos.	Size
July 1959	Gordon	Approx. 7 miles above mouth	Brown	One	34 inches
1961	Gordon	Approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Butlers Is.	Brown	Approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.	2-9 lbs
1959-63	Gordon	Approx. one mile above mouth	Brown	Approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.	2-5 lbs
1959-63	Gordon	At Eagle Creek	Brown	3	3-5 lbs
Jan. Feb. 1972	Gordon	At Splits Camp upstream of Dennison Junction	Rainbow	6	Up to $\frac{3}{4}$
1962	Gordon	Lower Gordon	Brown	Several	Up to 9
1963-65	Gordon	Lower Gordon	Brown	Several	
1963-65	Gordon	At Eagle Creek	Brown	2	Over 4
1970	Gordon	Butler Is.	Brown	Several	
1963	Gordon	Above present dam	Brown	Several	Small
1965-70	Gordon	At Knob (Strathgordon)	Brown	2	1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
1970-71	Gordon	Gordon Bend	Galaxias	Numerous	
1959-63	Franklin	Approx. 3 miles above Gordon Rvr.	Brown	Several	3-9 lbs
1959-63	Franklin	Near Flat Is. approx. 2 miles below Jane River.	?	?	?
1964-71	Huon	Near Scotts Peak	Brown	Several	Approx. 1lb.
1964-69	Davey	From Port Davey to approx. 2 miles below Crossing Rvr.	Galaxias	Very plentiful in all streams	

Date	River	Location	Species	Nos.	Size
1969	Serpentine & L. Pedder		Galaxias	Few	
1960-70	Mackintosh, Pieman & Murchison	Above and below their junction	Trout	One	2½ lb.
1960-70	Murchison	Above junction	Lampre'	Some	
1971	Pieman	At Stringer Creek	Brown	Large Nos.	½ to 1
Nov. 71	Pieman	" " "	Whitebait	Large Nos.	
Nov. 1971	Pieman	" " "	Brown	Large	½ to 1
Nov. 1971	Pieman	" " "	Brown	2	¾ lb.
Jan. Febr. 72	Pieman	" " "	Brown	8	3-8 lbs

Assistance to Rural Employment

The \$14,000 made available to the Commission for the relief of rural unemployment has been put to good use and men have been employed to work at the Salmon Ponds, Lake Kara, Liawenee Canal, Little Pine Lagoon and Latrobe. Ulverstone Ponds and Queebhy.

Rural workers have carried out assistance at Liawenee Canal, improving the long channel for the spawning fish to move up, effecting repairs to the bottom screen, building an extension to the garage, building a petrol store and tool shed, doing the fencing at the road in front of the camp site, improving the road down to the bottom screen, making extensions to the garage so that vehicles can be parked under cover in the winter, improving the access and turning facilities at Little Pine Lagoon.

At Hydro Creek improvements were made to the water diversion towards the trapping site, improvements were made to the trapping site and the area below the screen across the Hydro Creek itself.

At Corra Linn the hatching house has been painted. windows painted. scrubbing of land is in course and is about half completed. The water race has been cleaned out. the lining of the porch of No. 2 cottage and the laundry is nearly completed.

At Latrobe scrubbing of the block belonging to the Commission is in course. the Juvenile Pond has been improved at Ulverstone and work is in course at Lake Kara.

There is work to be done erecting fences between the cottages at Corra Linn and fencing paddocks at Corra Linn so that the area can be kept tidy by grazing.

To improve the efficiency of the work force a second chain saw was purchased and is being used at Lake Leake cleaning the obstructions from Snow River. At Snow River improvements have been made to the trapping site to facilitate the catching and counting fish.

The rural grant has enabled the Commission to effect many repairs, which, otherwise, would not have been done and the labour force, in the main, has comprised a number of very willing and, in some cases, skilled workers.

At Plenty the painting of the house occupied by Mr. A.F. Jones is in course. the painting of the kiosk has been completed. the painting of the inside of the hatching house is continuing as a "wet day" job. Further concreting of ponds remains to be done.

Fisheries requirement at Deep Creek Cut

The Hydro-Electric Commission cooperates with the Inland Fisheries Commission to maintain a flow of water down Deep Creek Cut at certain times of the year.

Deep Creek Cut, from Litte Pine Lagoon to Lake Echo runs for about one mile in a gully to deep creek and then to the Ouse River. A dam on the Ouse River diverts water into Montpeelyata Canal ten to eleven miles from Lake Echo. The canal is flumed, box cut and earth in parts. A chute $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Lake Echo is impassable for trout moving upwards from Lake Echo. Spawning brown trout and rainbow trout collect below this chute and it is necessary to salvage them from time to time. Brown trout fry salvage is necessary in the earthen channel.

The requirement to maintain a flow of water down the Deep Creek Cut was introduced to maintain the young brown trout fry alive in the summer time.

Theft of brook trout

Serious pillaging of brook trout has occurred at the Salmon Ponds, Plenty. The theft of the fish has been reported to the Police.

Any angler who may be able to assist in tracking down the culprits should make the information available to the Inland Fisheries Commission as soon as possible.

Eel fishery

The revenue from the eel fishery for the 1972-73 season has risen to \$633. There is now an expanding fishery with overseas interests wishing to obtain eels from Tasmania.

The Commission is watching the position closely and the effect which it might have on the Commission's ability to supervise the fishery and to prevent any adverse effect on trout fishery.

Metrication

In the provision of the Inland Fisheries Regulations it is hoped to have all measurements stated in the metric system in accordance with the overall plan for the adoption of this system within Australia and it is hoped that the target date of the opening of the season can be achieved.

Leave of absence

Mr. P. Wallace has been granted leave of absence by the Commission from the 8th April until the 30th July, 1972. During the absence of Mr. Wallace anglers who would normally take up matters directly with Mr. Wallace should refer these matters directly to the Inland Fisheries Commission. 127 Davey Street. Hobart.

Laughing Jack Lagoon

On the 16th March, 1972, the Hydro-Electric Commission advised that Laughing Jack Lagoon would be taken down to a minimum level of 2470 feet giving about one square mile of water.

The early salvage of fish was undertaken by the Tarraleah Branch and, subsequently, officers of the Inland Fisheries Commission completed the task.

The low level weir worked well and provided about ten feet of deep water upstream of which the trout were able to survive. In all 727 brown trout were salvaged from below the main weir. Some fish were up to 5 lb in weight. At the same time the opportunity was taken to effect repairs to the low level weir at a cost of \$150 to the Commission.

The screen at Laughing Jack is about eighty feet below the surface level and this poses cleaning problems. It is difficult to clean wood and debris from the screen without lowering the level of the Lagoon. The coffer dam, built in 1965, allowed water to be held back to meet the fishery needs. The Lagoon is shallow, the deepest part ten feet near the coffer dam and this tapers off to zero within one mile of the coffer dam.

The Hydro-Electric Commission had men at the Lagoon to clear and fall trees from the area just north of the dam and they also took the opportunity of improving access of boats to the dam. Commission officers, camped at the site, prevented poaching occurring at just below Laughing Jack Lagoon one evening during the salvage operation.

Kalangadoo Road

The Commission paid \$232 as its share towards the improvement of the Kalangadoo Road on the Swansea/Lake Leake Road.

Access to No. 1 Weir, Cressy

It is pleasing to report that fencing of the new access road to No. 1 Weir has commenced. The new access will make excellent fishing available to all licenced anglers who use artificial lures.

Lake Rowallan

On the 8-9th April 1972, 400 rainbow trout died in Lake Rowallan during a period when the level of the lake was low. The exact cause of death is unknown.

Anglers report that the fish caught there have been in good condition and examination of the roe has indicated that an earlier spawning run could occur in that area than in some other parts of Tasmania.

Anglers reports indicate that blackfish are doing well in Lake Rowallan.

Clyde Water Trust

A meeting between the Trust and members of the Inland Fisheries Commission was held to discuss the control of water levels in Lake Sorell and Lake Crescent with a view to safeguarding fish at certain times during the year.

Carp

A report has been received that carp have been caught at Brady's Lagoon. Any angler who can furnish any further reports are requested to advise the Commission.

Corra Linn

The Commission is grateful to Mr. H.R. Diprose for his generous donation of machinery hire and labour in cleaning out the casting pond and digging out a dump pit at Corra Linn at the cost of \$108.

Public Access to Corra Linn

It is with regret that the Commission has to put up gates at the two entrances to Corra Linn and restrict the entry of the public to the hours of daylight only.

The Commission took this action in restricting entry at night to the grounds at Corra Linn in order to ensure the safety of the families who are there at night whilst their husbands are in the field.

The Commission does not propose to tolerate the behaviour of drunken youths who use objectionable language and threaten its employees late at night. On a recent occasions it was necessary to seek police assistance to cope with this behaviour.

D.D. Lynch
Commissioner
10th May. 1972.