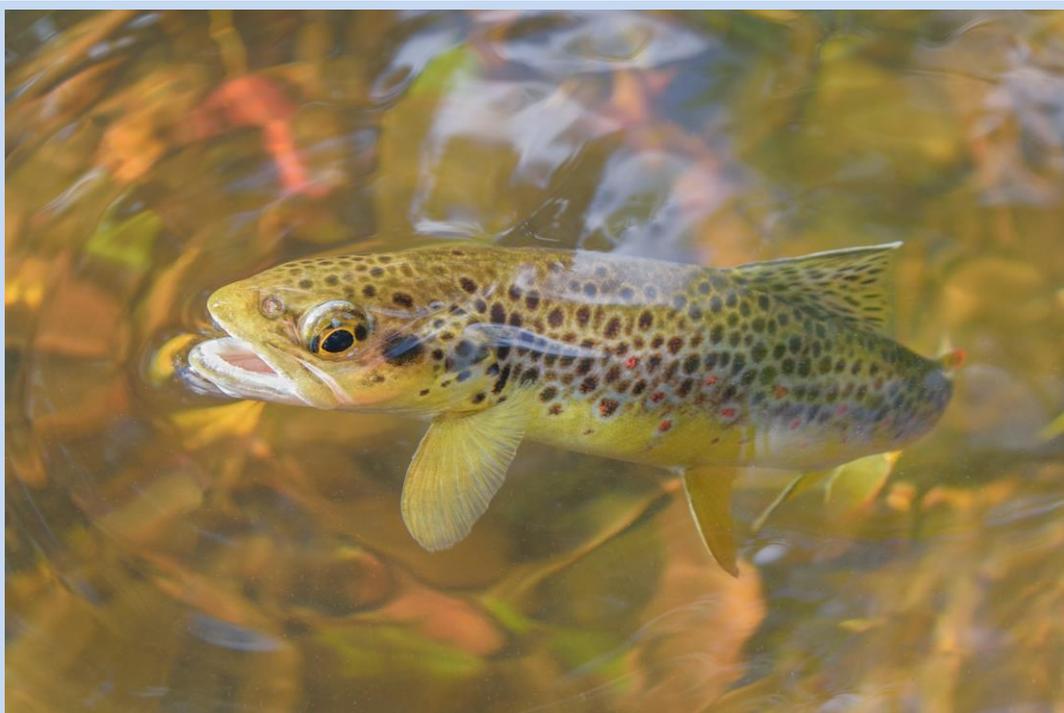


# Inland Fisheries Service

## *Report to anglers*



## December 2018 to February 2019

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### Hot topics

#### ***The start of 2019***

The Christmas and New Year period saw anglers flocking to the Central Highlands to enjoy some great fishing.

Our Officers were on patrol throughout the period, and they saw some fantastic catches. The standout waters were:

Arthurs Lake – After some tough times, we were pleased with how well this water fished. Both lure and fly anglers were catching fish that were in fantastic condition.

Four Springs Lake – There were less anglers, but some impressive bags caught. Fly anglers did well from the shore.

Nineteen Lagoons – Anglers reported plenty of cruising fish from Lake Botsford, Lake Augusta and Lake Ada. Tailing fish were reported at Howes Bay Lagoon and Double Lagoon.

Woods Lake – Saw great catches with one very impressive fish weighing in excess of two kilograms.

yingina/Great Lake – Swan Bay, Haddens Bay and Cramps Bay were the hotspots. One bait angler in Swan Bay caught four good fish ranging between 420 mm and 480 mm in an afternoon session.

#### ***Bushfires***

The Great Pine Tier fire that started on Tuesday 15 January threatened large areas of the Central Plateau. The fire resulted in multiple emergency warnings being issued for Miena, Liawenee, Shannon, Steppes and surrounding areas. Popular fisheries such as Little Pine and Penstock lagoons, Lake Fergus and parts of the Nineteen Lagoons were impacted by fire with access roads closed.

Neil Morrow, Manager Anglers Access has been out to the fire affected areas, assessing damage to anglers access infrastructure and starting the repairs.

There has been no problems reported with fisheries performance but there are large blackened areas. Depending on rainfall in the coming months, there could be increased nutrients and sediment making the lagoons cloudy and at risk of algal blooms.



An aerial photo of the fire still burning in early February 2019.

### **The year of the World Fly Fishing Championship**

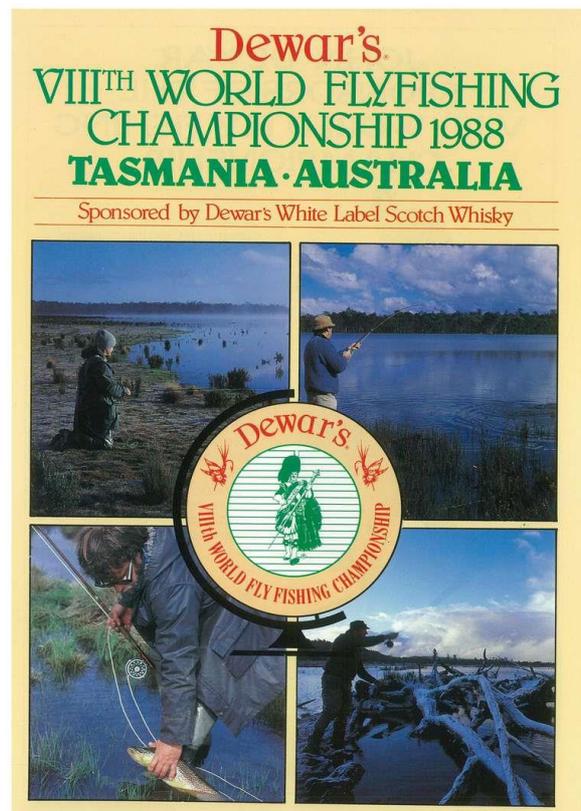
This year, on behalf of Australia, Tasmania will host the 39th World Fly Fishing Championship.

From 2 to 6 December competitors from up to 30 countries will experience fishing for Tasmania's wild brown trout.

This will be the second time Tasmania has hosted the championship. In 1988, competing anglers fished three venues, Little Pine and Bronte lagoons and London Lakes. The competition was shore based with anglers wading set beats. The local angling community who volunteered their support still talk about the friendships made and the camaraderie of the event.

Now the event is held across five venues. Competing anglers will fish from boats on Little Pine and Penstock lagoons and Wood Lake and wade beats on the Meander and Mersey rivers.

Again, the Championship will be a great opportunity for local volunteers to see the best fly fishers in the world and make lifelong friendships.



World Fly Fishing Championship 1988 brochure

### **Temporary changes to support the World Fly Fishing Championship**

In support of the World Fly Fishing Championship, there will be some temporary regulation changes for the competition waters that aim to keep any disruption to a minimum.

The lake venues of Little Pine Lagoon, Penstock Lagoon and Woods Lake, will be closed to recreational fishing for the duration of the event from midnight on Sunday 1 December to midnight on Friday 6 December 2019 inclusive.

The competition sections of the river venues will be closed to recreational fishing, from midnight on Sunday 24 November to midnight on Friday 6 December 2019 inclusive.

- The Mersey River downstream of the Olivers Road (on the C 138) bridge to Hoggs Bridge ( on the C 153).
- The Meander River downstream from the Huntsman Lake dam to Barretts Bridge, Long Ridge Road (on the C 166).

You can read more information about the temporary regulations on the [IFS website](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au) ([www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)) or phone us on 1300 INFISH (463474).

If you are interested in supporting the event yourself, head to the [World Fly Fishing Championship 2019](http://www.wffc2019.com) website ([www.wffc2019.com](http://www.wffc2019.com)) and contact a member of the organising committee.

### **Carp Management Program update on Lake Sorell**

There has been great progress over the past 12 months. Winter 2018 created good inflows, flooding the wetlands in Lake Sorell. These high and rising levels provided perfect spawning cues for carp as the temperature increased through late spring and early summer 2018.

Even with the ideal conditions recent surveys did not find juvenile carp and only 39 adults have been caught for the 2018-19 season.

We now estimate there are less than 20 carp left. Eradication remains likely within the next 18 months.

Due to ongoing carp eradication activities, we have decided that Lake Sorell will remain closed below its high water mark until at least early 2020.

### **Trout Weekend 2019**

Trout Weekend is back for 2019. From 10 am until 3pm over Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May at the Liawenee field Station, yingina/Great Lake

Come with your family, enjoy displays, demonstrations, the ever-popular junior angling pond, and see the hundreds of wild brown trout on their annual spawning run.

There is something for everyone at Trout Weekend.

Keep your eye on [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au) for more information.

### **The IFS Photo Competition is back**

We want your best Tasmanian trout fishing photos.

Entries for the Tasmanian Trout Fishing Photography Competition 2018-19 are accepted until 5pm on Tuesday 30 April 2019.

We are looking for photos of trout, families, kids, female anglers and scenery shots.

There are cash and gear prizes on offer

- 1st Place: \$500
- 2nd Place: 1 x pair Neoprene waders (Fly 'n Dry)
- 3rd Place: 10 x Lures (Hueys Lures) 4th place 10 x Lures (Huey Lures).

You can submit up to six images with a maximum size of 5 MB each.

Images will be showcased and the winner announced at Trout Weekend 2019.

Download the entry form from [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)



2018 Photo Competitions 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winner – Lake Rosebery  
PHOTO: A Sweeney

## **Anglers Access**

### ***Craigbourne Road to remain open***

On Saturday 1 December 2018, the Southern Midlands Council published a Public Notice seeking feedback on a proposed permanent closure of a section of the Craigbourne Road.

The road closure would have resulted in no public access to the eastern side of the dam, restricting access to the western side only.

The Council discussed the proposal at meeting of 23 January. Neil Morrow, Manager Anglers Access made representation to the Council.



An angler at Craigbourne Dam

The Council voted unanimously to keep Craigbourne Road open to the public.

The IFS thanks the community for their overwhelming support in keeping this important public access open for anglers and other recreational users.

Anglers accessing the dam should respect private land and adhere to the access rules at all times.

### ***Recreational Boating Fund (RBF)***

MAST completed an upgrade of the Tungatinah Lagoon boat ramp on Friday 8 March.

Funded through the RBF and Hydro Tasmania with support from the IFS. the project involved realigning the ramp, consolidating the base and sheeting with Flexmat concrete sheets.

The navigation light has been repositioned to reflect the new alignment.

The new ramp will allow boats to be launched down to 3.3m below FSL. The old gravel ramp allowed launching down to 2.5m below FSL.



An angler launching a boat from the upgraded ramp

The IFS is supporting a 2019 RBF application for the installation of a pontoon at Lake Leake.

### **Cumbungi control at Four Springs Lake**

On Tuesday 8 January 2019, we went with Anglers Alliance Tasmania to Four Springs Lake to see the results of the cumbungi control done in January 2018.

We surveyed the eight sites sprayed last year. At two of the sites, eradication was 100% successful. The remaining six sites have small areas of regrowth. These have been re-treated with low toxicity biactive herbicide.

The highlight was that the largest area, which was treated by manually slashing the stems 150 mm below the water surface in January and March, resulted in 100% eradication.

We will survey all sites again in January 2020.



Before and after shots of the area treated by manual slashing. AAT executive member John Broomby admiring the work.

### **Native Fish Conservation**

#### **Saddled Galaxias at Woods Lake**

We did a follow up survey for the Saddled galaxias at Woods Lake in early December 2018. This species is normally common within Woods Lake but during a routine survey in October 2018, we didn't find any. This is unusual.

In the December survey, we found just 13 individuals. This is a 73% decline in the average number captured across the long term monitoring over the past 20 years. We will keep a close eye on this species.

#### **Floods Creek**

In late January, we did a survey on behalf Tasmanian Irrigation at Floods Creek. The survey was looking for redfin perch and trout.

Using backpack electro-fishers we surveyed 1.5 kms of the creek. The irrigation pond was surveyed with fyke nets. Other than a small number of eels and the freshwater crayfish *Astacopsis franklinii*, no other fish were found.

Unfortunately, we have not found Swan galaxias at this site since 2012.

## Woods Lake Fishery Performance Assessment

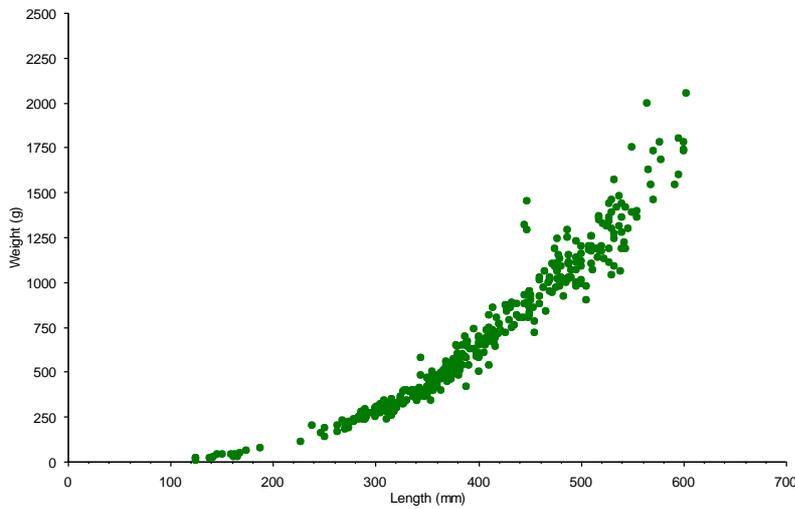
During the first week of October, we surveyed the brown trout population at Woods Lake.

Over two nights we captured 368 brown trout.

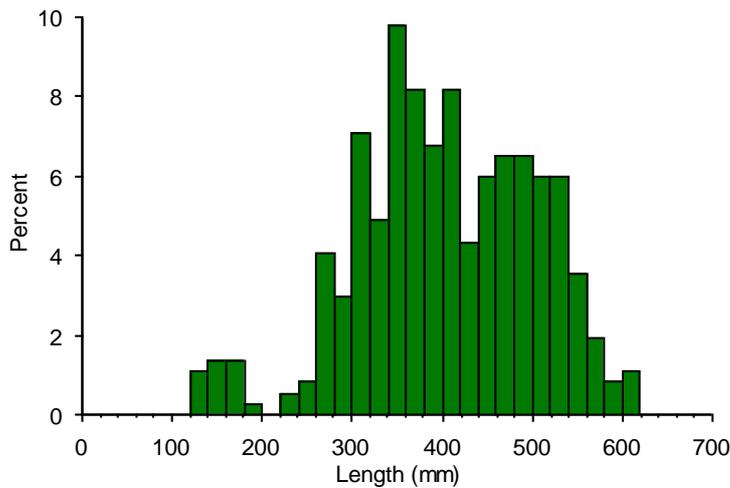
The average weight for fish over the legal size limit of 300 mm was 804 grams with an average length of 427 mm.

The growth of fish was good across all lengths, with approximately 20 percent of fish measuring in excess of 500 mm.

There was a strong cohort of fish centered around a peak of 360 mm length, with 37 percent of fish measuring 300 – 400 mm.



Length/weight regression for brown trout captured 2018  
(Linear growth equation  $Y = -10.363 + 2.803 * X$ ;  $R^2 = 0.982$ )



Length frequency for brown trout 2018.

n=368

Go to the IFS website ([www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)) to watch video on Woods Lake and our management.

### Hatchery

#### Salmon Ponds

The brown trout fry (from yingina/Great Lake) and rainbow trout fingerlings (domestic stock from Huon Aquaculture Group Ltd) grew well and were stocked out by the end of December 2018.

The rainbow trout fingerlings, averaging 10 grams, were sold and stocked in to private farm dams for private fishing. We stocked the brown trout fry into private North West farm dams open to public fishing, angling club dams and other public fisheries. (See the fry-stocking list below).

Water	Date	Species	Stock	Number	
Third Lagoon	1-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	500	
Lake Chipman	1-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	1 500	
Lake Dudley	1-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	1 500	
Rostrevor Reservoir	12-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	10 000	
Lamberts Dam - Railton	15-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	5 000	
Mitchelsons Dam	15-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	5 000	
South Riana Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	45 000	
McKenna Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	500	129 West Ridge Rd E420032 N5448063,
Radcliff Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	1 000	716 Camena Rd West Pine E414342 N5446185,
Rockliff Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	500	164 East Sassafras Rd Sassafras E457231 N541235
Shephard Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	500	74 Natone Rd Stowport E410383 N5447513,
Skirving Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	1 000	91 Skirvings Rd (Greens Creek Rd) E462102 N5428584 (500) E 462130 N5428871 (500) E462161 N5429109 (500),
Knapman Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	750	473 West Ridgley Rd West Ridgley E398272 N5444050

Brown trout fry stockings from the Salmon Ponds Hatchery Nov 2018 – Feb 2019

#### Rainbow trout spawning

In January, we inspected the zig-zag and long channels of Liawenee Canal, yingina/Great Lake. These are supported spawning habitat reserved for rainbow trout. We support their spawning to boost the population within yingina/Great Lake. The inspection showed good numbers of fry had successfully hatched. We collected a small number of these wild rainbow trout fry and stocked them into Little Blue Lagoon in the Western Lakes. We carried the fry in oxygenated bags and they released well.

### Lamprey and juvenile eels (elver)

We catch and stock migrating elver and lampreys from two Hydro Tasmania catchments:

- Meadowbank Dam in the River Derwent
- Trevallyn Tailrace in the kanamaluka/River Tamar

The lamprey run at Meadowbank Dam started in October and peaked in December. Overall we caught 2 414 kg of lamprey for the 2018-19 season.

In November, we began to catch elver using nets set in the Trevallyn Tailrace and in December from a trap at the base of Meadowbank Dam. By 6 February we had caught 1 308 kg of elver across both sites.

We completed all environmental stockings, Commercial Freshwater Fishing Licence (CFFL) holders received their industry elver allocations of 50 kg per licence and 180 kg of surplus elver were sold to Victoria.

Source	Receiving water/CFFL number	Weight (Kg)	Ave Weight (g)	Numbers	Head/Kg	Date
T	South Esk River	100	2.63	38 023	380	8/11/2018
T	Lake Rowallan	38	2.63	14 449	380	8/11/2018
T	Lake Burbury	60	2.71	20 690	369	24/11/2018
T	Lake Pieman	80	2.71	27 586	369	24/11/2018
T	Meadowbank Lake	150	2.15	69 767	465	6/12/2018
M	Lake Sorell	15	3.49	4 298	287	18/12/2018
M	Lake Sorell	13	3.58	3 631	279	18/12/2019
M	Meadowbank Lake	15	3.52	4 261	284	19/12/2018
M	Meadowbank Lake	2	3.52	568	284	20/12/2018
M	Meadowbank Lake	2	3.52	568	284	22/12/2018
M	Meadowbank Lake	3	3.52	852	284	23/12/2018
M	Meadowbank Lake	40	3.52	11 364	284	1/01/2019
M	CFFL 6	50	2.25	22 222	444	3/01/2019
M	CFFL 1	50	2.25	22 222	444	3/01/2019
M	Meadowbank Lake	65	2.97	21 886	336	6/01/2019
M	CFFL 21	50	2.25	22 222	444	7/01/2019
M	CFFL 22	50	2.25	22 222	444	8/01/2019
M	CFFL 24	50	2.25	22 222	444	10/01/2019
M	Meadowbank Lake	35	2.76	12 681	362	10/01/2019
M	CFFL 9	50	2.15	23 256	465	14/01/2019
M	CFFL 11	20	2.15	9 302	465	14/01/2019
M	CFFL 26	50	2.39	20 921	418	15/01/2019
M	CFFL 11	20	2.39	8 368	418	15/01/2019
M	CFFL 11	10	2.64	3 788	379	16/01/2019
M	Meadowbank Lake	20	2.64	7 576	379	16/01/2019
M	Sales	90	2.21	40 724	452	29/01/2019
M	Meadowbank Lake	50	2.21	22 624	452	31/01/2019
M	Sales	90	2.21	40 724	452	06/02/2019

Elver stockings (M=Meadowbank Dam, T-Trevallyn Tailrace)

### Carp Management Program

#### **Hot weather and low catches**

The rising water temperatures and high lake levels in December resulted in ideal environmental conditions for catching carp. Carp respond to these cues, which trigger the fish to push into shallow marsh edges looking for spawning sites.

Most of the carp caught this season were caught in gillnets. Since 2016, the proportion of carp caught in gill nets has continued to increase but the actual number of carp caught has decreased. This reflects the decreasing number of carp in Lake Sorell. Gillnet effort peaked in December in response to ideal weather conditions and increased carp movement.

Catch rates also peaked in December, with 23 carp removed.

In late December, three carp were caught in the Silver Plains marsh in the gillnet behind the barrier net. We then targeted the area with increased netting and electro-fishing. In late January, another carp was caught in a gillnet behind the barrier net.

Juvenile recruitment surveys started in December and will continue each month until March. The surveys involve intensive backpack-electrofishing in the high-risk marsh areas; Kermodes, Silver Plains, and Robertsons. We survey the areas from the marsh fringe to the lake edge. Importantly, we have found no evidence of spawning or juvenile carp; this is a great result for the Carp Management Program.

At the start of 2019, the carp catch rates dropped with only five carp caught in January and one in February. We now estimate that less than 20 carp remain. By the end of February, all fishing nets, traps, and set gear was removed.

Heading into next spring, the chance of carp spawning is much lower as few carp remain and those left are stunted in size and maturity and half the males are affected by the “jelly-like” gonad condition potentially rendering them sterile.



One of the four carp, which pushed into a barrier fyke, net this season, in response to warming water temperatures and rising lake levels.

### Compliance

#### **Compliance Statistics from 1 July 2018 to 31 January 2019**

During this period there were:

- 2 534 angling licence inspections.
- 111 whitebait licence inspections.
- 445 recreational vessel inspections under Marine and Safety legislation.
- 4 commercial fishing inspections.
- 5 search warrants executed.
- 8.5 kilograms of whitebait seized.
- 8 whitebait nets seized.
- 3 lobster traps seized.
- 2 cray rings seized.
- 6 defendants convicted of 32 offences in the Magistrates Court.
- 122 offences detected and dealt with via Infringement notice and/or Infringement Notice endorsed as a Conditional Caution notices.
- \$20 609 in court fines.
- \$15 301 in infringement notice fines.
- 15 notices of disqualification are current, preventing offenders from holding a recreational whitebait licence.

Our Compliance Operations in this report have focussed on the tail end of the whitebait season and angler checks in the Central Highlands. We have also worked with the Commercial Eel Fishing sector, threatened species protection (giant freshwater crayfish) and pest fish prevention.

We are currently submitting court files from the 2018 whitebait season that will involve charges for 35 offences.

Compliance operations have issued 58 Infringement notices and 60 Infringement Notices endorsed as Conditional Cautions for 118 offences since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. This includes:

- 54 Offences committed under the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995*; and
- 64 Offences committed under the *Marine and Safety Authority Act 1997*

We have inspected 2 534 angling licences with 97.9% of people complying with all Inland Fisheries rules.

Boating safety continues to be of concern. So far this season we have checked 445 vessels. Of these, 23 people (5.17% of vessels checked) were failing to wear their PFD while motoring and 20 vessels (4.49% of vessels checked) did not carry the minimum required safety equipment.

### Magistrates Court Offence Convictions

Prosecution offences (Magistrates Court)	Number
Induce another person to commit an offence under the <i>Inland Fisheries Act 1995</i> .	3
Take excess whitebait	1
Use net other than landing net or seine net at inland waters	2
Possess net other than landing net or seine net at inland waters	2
Take whitebait without a whitebait licence	2
Possess whitebait without a whitebait licence	3
Fail to comply with Ministerial order under the <i>Inland Fisheries Act 1995</i> relating to the taking of whitebait	1
Hinder officer under the <i>Inland Fisheries Act 1995</i>	1
Make false or misleading statement	1
Take protected fish	6
Possess freshwater crayfish	9
Take fish without a licence	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

# Inland Fisheries Service

## Report to anglers

Dec 2018 to Feb 2019

Offences	Infringement Notice Offence	Infringement notice offences endorsed as Conditional Caution	Total	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)
Taking acclimatised or indigenous fish without an angling licence	16	8	24	0.95%
Possessing assembled rod, reel and line without an angling licence	2	6	8	0.32%
Possess or use net other than landing net or seine net at inland waters	3		3	0.12%
Not complying with Ministerial order about taking fish-closed water	0	7	7	0.28%
Taking > 2 salmon > 500mm in length	1	0	1	0.04%
Using bait in artificial only water	0	1	1	0.04%
Fishing with more rods and lines than endorsed on licence	4	2	6	0.24%
Possess whitebait without whitebait licence	1		1	N/A
Take undersized fish-regulation 16(1) and (2)	2	1	3	0.12%
Fail to wear PFD on vessel under 6 meters while underway	21	2	23	5.17%
Use motor boat without licence	2	1	3	0.67%
Fail to wear PFD on kayak while underway	2		2	0.45%
Exceed 5 knot speed limit in restricted area	0	4	4	0.90%

<b>Offences</b>	<b>Infringement Notice Offence</b>	<b>Infringement notice offences endorsed as Conditional Caution</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Detection Rate</b> (total/number of checks undertaken)
Fail to carry minimum safety equipment	1	19	20	4.49%
Fail to comply with directions of officer	1		1	0.22%
Fail to register motor boat	2		2	0.45%
Fail to affix registration label	0	4	4	0.90%
Fail to display registration number	0	5	5	1.12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>122</b>	

### **Club events, meetings and dinners**

#### December 2018

- International Fish Passage Symposium, Albury
- Australian Visiting Journalist Program - Hosting Kirk Deeter, the editor for Trout, Trout Unlimited's quarterly magazine, and editor-at-large for Field & Stream magazine. His stories have appeared in Garden & Gun, The Drake, 5280, Fly Rod & Reel, Fly Fisherman, Big Sky Journal, Salt Water Sportsman, and Trout, among other places. He lives in Pine, Colorado.

#### January 2019

- Bronte Fly Fishing School

#### February 2019

- IUCN Australian Freshwater Fish Global Assessment Workshop, Melbourne
- Australian Visiting Journalist Program - Hosting Martin Cottis, British fly-guide and instructor.

### Stockings between 16 November 2018 and 28 February 2019

Water	Date	Species	Stock	Number	Origin	Type	Weight (g)
Bushy Park Estate Dam	23-Nov-18	rainbow trout	Domestic	50	Salmon Ponds	triploid	900.00
South Riana Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	45 000	Salmon Ponds	diploid	0.70
McKenna Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	500	Salmon Ponds	diploid	1.00
Radcliff Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	1 000	Salmon Ponds	diploid	1.00
Rockliff Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	500	Salmon Ponds	diploid	1.00
Shephard Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	500	Salmon Ponds	diploid	1.00
Skirving Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	1 000	Salmon Ponds	diploid	1.00
Knapman Farm Dam	22-Nov-18	brown trout	Wild	750	Salmon Ponds	diploid	1.00
Little Blue Lagoon	9-Jan-19	rainbow trout	Wild	308	Liawenee Canal	diploid	3.00

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Inland Fisheries Service

# Trout Weekend



Liawenee, yingina/Great Lake  
Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May 2019  
10am - 3pm daily

Entry by donation  
Proceeds to the  
Fisheries Habitat  
Improvement Fund

Please note that this is an alcohol,  
smoking and dog free event.

- Come and see hundreds of brown trout on their annual spawning migration in our Central Highlands
- Watch wild trout being stripped of eggs
- Learn about fisheries management
- Kids can try their luck at the junior angling pond and maybe catch a trout for dinner
- Pick up some tips at the trout smoking demonstrations
- Discover the wonders of our native freshwater species
- Take a helicopter ride and get a bird's eye view of the Central Plateau and yingina/Great Lake
- Talk with trout fishing experts and practice your casting skills
- Discuss and buy fishing equipment at the trade exhibits



Learn about the World Fly Fishing Championship  
coming to Tasmania in late 2019

More information?  
1300 463 474  
[www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)

