

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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Rainbow trout fry liberation

In November 910,000 rainbow trout fry were liberated from the Commission hatcheries at Salmon Ponds, Plenty and Corra Linn, St. Leonards. In addition, 4,200 yearlings from Salmon Ponds were liberated.

Liberation of brook trout

One thousand one hundred brook trout, approximately six inches in length were liberated in the Derby Hole late in November, 1974.

European carp

Legislation has been enacted by both Houses of Parliament and Royal Assent is expected within the next few days to empower the Inland Fisheries Commission to deal with the menace posed by the introduction of European carp into farm dams in Northwestern Tasmania.

The provisions of the new Act are some of the most drastic ever introduced into the Statutes into Tasmania and create a new division in the Fisheries Act which empowers the Governor to declare a certain fish to be a fish to which the particular division applies.

This Section of the new Act applies to all inland waters and the occupier of the land is the person deemed to have possession of any fish occurring in land occupied by that person. The Bill provides that no

person shall keep, consign or release any of the European carp into a water in Tasmania. The Bill is wide ranging and covers all situations where European carp might occur in the State.

It has been found that persons have brought fish into Tasmania without permission and the presence of fish was not detected for some time after their entry.

Severe penalties are proposed for offences under this Act because such an offence can do irreparable damage to the whole ecosystem of the State, to the trout fishery and to the deterioration of the water quality of a number of town supplies.

The whole tragic disaster in the Murray-Darling System and the present threat to the Snowy Mountains trout fishery were caused by the irresponsible action of one individual.

A person discovering a declared fish (European carp) on his property is required to give information in writing to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries so that the existence and location of the fish may be determined and appropriate action to control or remove the fish put in course.

Again, a severe penalty is provided for a breach of this clause of the Act.

Officers of the Commission have power to enter, seize and remove fish from any place at any time.

A Section of the Act empowers the Minister to put in course the killing of fish where it is not practicable to catch and remove them.

In the case of European carp there is a wide range of sizes of fish present and it is impracticable to drain storages because the water may be required for other purposes and also because the fish may obtain entry into other waters.

To successfully remove the menace posed by the introduction of carp in dams, a total kill is essential.

Eel fishing Regulations

At a recent meeting of anglers at Poatina a unanimous vote of confidence was expressed in the Commission's eel fishing regulations and anglers present representing all angling organisations in the State pressed for no change to present fishing regulations regarding commercial eel fishing in Tasmania.

Poaching at Gordon River

Fisheries inspectors have made two visits to the Gordon River in November to investigate complaints of netting in the area.

The officers took the opportunity of inspecting the licences of a number of anglers on the occasion of the two visits.

Plenty fish trap

A flash flood early in December destroyed the fish trap on the banks of the Plenty River. Owing to the expense of repairing the trap it was decided to discontinue trapping operations on the Plenty River.

Should it be necessary to undertake any further trapping of spawners in the Plenty River, a temporary fish trap will be erected for the purpose.

Angling licence fees

The Commission considered representations from a women's organisation regarding alleged discrimination against women anglers and decided that at the next revision of inland angling licence regulations, provision would be included for women anglers to pay the same licence fee as male anglers.

Maintenance at the Salmon Ponds

The Commonwealth R.E.D. Scheme has made available funds to employ five unemployed persons to assist with the maintenance of the Salmon Ponds.

They commenced work on the 18th November and are engaged on general maintenance and ground work as well as assisting with caring for the fish.

Inspection of Western Lakes

The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. D.D. Lynch, accompanied Messrs. D. Steane, Lands Department, C. Peck, Tasmanian Fly Fishers' Club and Mr. R. Dickson on a horse-back inspection of the lakes to the west and north of Lake Augusta.

The opportunity was taken to inspect the Ouse River and James River and the shack sites at Lake Augusta.

Further inspections of other parts of the Central Plateau are contemplated and of Week's Flats near Lake Barrington.

Seasons Greetings

The Commissioners and Staff take the opportunity of thanking anglers for the co-operation received during the past year and to wish them all the Season's Greetings.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

11th December, 1974