

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER

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Lake Dulverton

In the current season anglers from many parts of Tasmania have visited Lake Dulverton to enjoy the excellent fishing provided by adult brown trout which have been transferred from highland waters each year for over 10 years.

The Commission is sympathetic to the proposal to repair the dam wall, the cost of which was damaged in the November flood. The crest elevates the water level about 0.3 metre (1 foot).

The Oatlands sub-branch of the Bothwell Branch has offered to assist the aquatic club in the project.

Zig Zag spawning channel at Liawenee

The excavation for a new zig zag spawning channel at Liawenee Canal is in course. The new canal is trapezoidal - 7 feet bottom width, 3 feet high and over 4,000 feet long.

Water from Liawenee Canal will be diverted by means of headwork controls near the stripping shed to the zig zag canal and leave via a refurbished old spawning canal to re-enter Liawenee Canal.

Following the completion of excavation, culverts and headworks including control gates will be constructed. The bed of the zig zag canal will be covered with gravel.

Rainbow trout are to be beneficiaries from the new spawning grounds. The raising of the level of Great Lake and alterations to Liawenee Canal have restricted the grounds available to rainbow trout spawners.

No. 1 Weir, Brumbys Creek

The Commission has considered a proposal to make an experimental liberation of rainbow trout fry above the No. 1 Weir at Brumbys Creek in the spring of 1976.

A few rainbow trout are caught each season in Brumbys Creek and anglers have requested that supplies be increased.

Shrimps for Brumbys Creek

Sampling of Brumbys Creek in 1964 failed to find shrimps (phreatoicids) and it is proposed to transfer shrimps from the upper reaches of the Macquarie River to Brumbys Creek at the area known as the Duck Hole.

Lakes ^{KAY}~~Piera~~ and O'Dell

The Commission has received a request to restrict angling to fly fishing only in Lakes ~~Piera~~^{KAY} and O'Dell. The matter has been referred to the three Associations for their views on the proposal.

European carp eradication programme

Dams in the Stowport-Yolla area were retreated in January and February 1976 and no carp were found, so it is now presumed that the carp eradication programme carried out by the Commission has been one hundred per cent successful.

In the course of this year's programme, another dam was treated where it was suggested that carp may have been released, but only tench were found.

The Commission is grateful for the co-operation given to its staff by the landowners during the programme. It is proposed to make brown trout fry available in the coming spring to restock the dams treated in the programme which contained trout.

Penstock Lagoon

The Commission has been advised by the Hydro-Electric Commission that the alterations in course at Penstock Lagoon are expected to be completed by the end of March. At that time the new operating level of Penstock Lagoon would be 3,017 feet and in the coming season it is expected that the level would, as far as possible, be static during the height of the angling season from December to February.

The Hydro-Electric Commission has advised that, owing to the need to protect the storage from flooding, it has undertaken works on all levies around Penstock Lagoon.

Outbreak of disease in a goldfish farm in Victoria

It is pertinent to note that fisheries authorities in several States were concerned at a recent outbreak of disease in the Boolarra goldfish farm. The outbreak was responsible for haemorrhagic septicaemia in the goldfish.

The organism, which is water-borne, possesses strains that are pathogenic to various fish and frogs. It is thought that the diseased fish were imported from Japan.

Following the outbreak of the disease, a further outbreak occurred at another farm in New South Wales, which received a supply of fish from the Boolarra Fish Farm.

The outbreak of disease strengthens the view taken by the Commission that imported goldfish into Australia from abroad should be prohibited. Since 1972, Tasmania and New South Wales have prohibited the importation of goldfish from abroad.

An overseas visitor's view on Tasmanian fisheries

Mr. Mike Weddell, of Northumberland, England, the world fly-casting champion, visited Tasmania recently and reported that the trout fishing here is fantastic. He was surprised at the average size of wild trout and claimed that Tasmania would have to have the best wild fishing in the world.

Minister's visit to Western Lakes

On December 31st, Mr. Eric Barnard, Minister for Agriculture, accompanied the Commissioner and Associate Commissioner D. Bridges on an inspection of the western part of the Central Plateau. The party travelled by helicopter and had a detailed look at Lake Fergus, Lake MacKenzie, Lake Meston and Lake Olive and inspected Lakes Flora, O'Dell, Botsford, Carter, Pillars and Julian.

The party took the opportunity of inspecting the tracks near Lake Augusta to see what improvements needed to be made to provide reasonable access for anglers to the lakes west of Lake Augusta.

The Minister was impressed with the amount of water available to anglers in this area and with the beauty of the area and the possibility for use as recreation. The party saw a

number of fish in Lake Fergus and a big brown trout caught at Lake Augusta.

Fishing in the Central Plateau

In December, anglers caught brown trout between 2 and 3 kg at Lake Augusta.

South Esk fishing

Anglers enjoyed good fishing in the South Esk River in the summer months. Good conditioned brown trout were caught at Llewellyn.

Pending Court cases

Pending cases are listed for hearing against a person for netting in Lake Leake and for another person shooting fish in the Piper River.

Recent Court cases

At Bothwell Court on 19th December, 1975, at 10.30 a.m. before D. Burton, S.M. -

Neville Wayne Richardson, Launceston, appeared and pleaded guilty to two charges of -

1. Falseley representing to be a licensed angler
2. Fishing without a licence

The first charge was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders and the second charge was proven and the defendant was fined \$50 plus \$2.65 costs.

Garry James Roworth, Wynyard, appeared and pleaded guilty on one charge of fishing with two rods at Boundary Bay, Great Lake.

He was found guilty and fined \$20 plus \$2.35 costs.

Peter Charles Collins, Burnie, appeared and pleaded guilty to three charges of -

1. Discharging a firearm - he was found guilty and fined \$40
2. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish - a conviction was recorded
3. Taking brown trout from closed waters - a conviction was recorded and he was fined \$40

A special penalty of \$5 for each of two fish taken was also imposed and costs were \$2.35.

Fisheries Officer N. J. Maroney prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

Robin David Dawe, professional fisherman of Gladstone, appeared in the Scottsdale Court of Petty Sessions on 13/1/76 and pleaded guilty to charges of fishing without a licence and using more than one rod and line at the same time.

Mr. J. R. Rex S.M. imposed fines of \$50 on the first charge and \$25 on the second charge with \$2.60 costs.

The offences took place at Little Waterhouse Lagoon on 23/8/75.

Inland Fisheries Commission Inspector Mr. N. J. Maroney conducted the prosecution.

Thomas Triffit, Campbell Town, appeared on 16th February 1976 at the Campbell Town Court before Mr. K. N. Dockray S.M. on a charge of fishing in the Elizabeth River on 15th November 1975, while not being a licensed angler. The case was heard ex parte. He was fined \$50 with \$2.35 costs.

On a further charge of using a deadline he was fined \$25.

Evidence for the Inland Fisheries Commission was given by Fisheries Inspector N. Maroney. Senior Inspector M. F. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

Threat of goldfish in Tasmania

The Commission agreed to a request from the Westbury Branch to remove goldfish which were placed in a 2½ million gallon dam at Westbury, which overflows into Quamby Brook.

The Branch has requested that the goldfish be removed because when winter rains come the overflow is directed into the brook and thence into the Meander River.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

27th February, 1976