

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER

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Experimental Zig Zag spawning channel at Liawenee

The Inland Fisheries Commission has completed the excavation and headworks for new artificial spawning grounds for rainbow trout at Great Lake on the southern side of Liawenee Canal.

The long spell of fine weather and the co-operation of the Hydro-Electricity Commission in restricting water flow in Liawenee Canal during construction facilitated the completion of stage one of the project.

The new spawning grounds incorporate a novel design in that the channel follows a zig zag course to enable the greatest length of spawning ground to be located in a fixed area of land.

The new spawning channel is trapezoidal with a bottom width of 2 metres, depth of 1 metre, and length of zig zag of 1220 metres. There is a tail race of 130 metres.

At the appropriate time, water from Liawenee Canal may be diverted by means of a small weir to a control gate which can regulate the flow into the new channel. The water returns to Liawenee Canal via a refurbished channel or tail race about .5 km nearer Great Lake.

A screen at the exit to the tail race is designed to keep brown trout from using the new spawning grounds. As this species is more aggressive and successful in Great Lake than rainbow trout, it is not in need of assistance for propagation.

The second stage of the project is the removal of channel spoil and the deposition of suitable gravel to augment existing materials in the channel. Next summer it is hoped to erect screens in Liawenee Canal so that rainbow trout spawners could be diverted to the new grounds at the appropriate time.

Several factors have contributed to the deterioration of Liawenee Canal as a spawning ground for rainbow trout. The raising of the level of Great Lake lessened the length of the canal available for spawning purposes. The construction of fluming in the canal and the scouring of gravel lessened the value of the canal for spawners.

The new channel is situated above the projected rise in water level of Great Lake should an extension of the existing dam at Miena be put in course in the future.

The Tasmanian Government, through Mr. Eric Barnard, Minister for Agriculture, and the Inland Fisheries Commission provided funds for stage one of the project.

Phreatoicids for Brumbys Creek

Several hundred phreatoicids were collected from Camerons Lagoon near Great Lake on 5th April, 1976, and transferred to the Duck Hole at Brumbys Creek. Many of the phreatoicids were in pairs and in a copulating position and should conditions be suitable for them they could breed and survive in Brumbys Creek.

Calverts Lagoon

The investigation into Calverts Lagoon is continuing. A sample of water was taken recently from the Lagoon to test whether any chemicals had been liberated by a bloom of algae. The results of the analyses are not as yet to hand. It is proposed to take water samples for testing at quarterly intervals.

Canadian Pond Weed at Little Pine Lagoon

The Commission has under consideration several methods to reduce the quantity of Canadian Pond Weed at Little Pine Lagoon.

One method involves manipulating the level of water at the lagoon to expose the weed either in the summer or in the winter to achieve a heat or cooling. Heavy and continued rainfall frustrated attempts to keep the water level low to expose the weed last winter.

Research in New South Wales has shown that either method is advantageous in controlling the weed to a certain extent in irrigation channels. A second method of control under consideration is by using chemicals which have a minimum effect on aquatic animals and the costing of this method of attack is being investigated further.

No change in regulations at Lakes O'Dell and Kay

Regulations are to remain the same for Lakes O'Dell and Kay. Following objections from two angling associations to a suggestion that fly fishing only be permitted, the Commission decided not to change the regulations applying at Lakes O'Dell and Kay. These waters will continue to be open to anglers using all kinds of lures including natural bait.

Restrictions in the Derwent River fishery

It is proposed to open that section of the Derwent River between Lake King William and the basin near Lake St. Clair at the same time as the opening of the rainbow trout fishing season. A number of anglers have put this suggestion to the Commission. In addition, the Commission proposes to close that area 50 metres below the radial gates at the basin downstream in the Derwent, permanently as protection for the spawning run of rainbow trout in the Derwent River.

Fish mortality at the Blythe River

The Department of the Environment has launched legal proceedings against a company for breaches of regulations regarding the quality and quantity of effluent discharged into the Blythe River.

Although brown trout were killed at the time the effluent entered into the Blythe River, it is not possible to launch two prosecutions for the same offence.

Carp eradication in Victoria

A recent press release indicated that the Victorian Ministry for Conservation proposes to spend \$300,000 over the next three years on a project to control the European carp in Victoria.

Vandalism at Lake Kara

The Lake Kara project committee is incensed at the destruction caused by vandals who pulled down signs and smashed glass skylights at the shelter shed at Lake Kara.

It was noted that one man was given a gaol sentence for offences against anglers camping at Lake Kara.

Access road to Corra Linn

Because of the dangerous condition of the road into Corra Linn the Commission has, with most reluctance, been forced to notify the public that the access to Corra Linn will be closed at the onset of bad weather. Winter rains will make the access road dangerous to the public. The Commission has made repeated overtures to the St. Leonards Council to effect repairs to the road. The Government has offered the Council support on a dollar for dollar basis to repair the road, but the Council was not in a position to accept the proposal.

Overseas visit to study eels

The Premier has granted permission for the Commissioner to make an overseas visit to study the managements and research of eels.

The Commissioner is to attend a Symposium on Eel Research and Management in Finland and inspect the eel fisheries in Northern and Southern Ireland, Holland and New Zealand.

Recent visitor inspected our trout fisheries

Professor H. R. MacCrimmon, of Canada, recently visited Tasmania and inspected the trout fisheries with the Commissioner. Professor MacCrimmon is an authority on the distribution of salmonids and he was impressed with the extent and quality of the trout fishery in Tasmania.

Lake Pedder and South-West Tasmania

The Commission has been advised that the Hydro-Electric Commission proposes to retain control of the land around MacPartlans Canal which joins Lake Pedder and Lake Gordon and also to retain control of the ground around Edgar Pond.

The Inland Fisheries Commission would have access to working on the fisheries in these two lakes and it is proposed to consider development of Edgar Pond as a trout fishery.

The Commission would like to see the spawning streams crossing the Scotts Peak road at the corner of Lake Pedder to be excluded from the South West National Park Plan as it maybe necessary at times to take action to manipulate the fish population in the spawning streams in this area.

Co-operation from other authorities

An officer of the National Parks and Wildlife Service detected a person using ring nets to take freshwater crayfish

and a Police Officer detected men using spears to take trout.

Proceedings will be instituted against the offenders.

Large trout from Lake Pedder

On 10th March, a 5.8 kg brown trout was caught at Lake Pedder by Walter Kelkaiuck of Glenorchy and on the 8th January, Roy Hayton, aged 12, caught a 3 year old brown trout in the Serpentine area of Lake Pedder. This fish was a male and it had spawned once. It was 71 cm long and weighed 7.2 kg.

An examination of other brown trout recently caught at Lake Pedder showed that they were feeding on galaxias, yabbies and dragon fly nymphs.

Commission's opposition to stream alteration

The Commission has opposed the clearing of the Tyenna River by a developer as it would cause discolouration and interference with one of the principal spawning areas of the Derwent System.

Goldfish at Westbury

As a result of a request from the Westbury Branch N.T.F.A. an inspector treated a dam (60 metres by 100 metres by 1 metre deep). The dam was situated near the Birralea Road and it was considered that in time of flood the fish in it might escape into nearby rivers.

A count by Branch members showed a kill of approximately 5,000 goldfish and 12 rainbow trout.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner.

23rd April, 1976