

# INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

## NEWSLETTER

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### RAINBOW TROUT EXPERIMENT AT DEE LAGOON

In November, two thousand, two hundred and twenty rainbow trout, between 5 and 10 cms in length, had a pelvic fin removed and were placed in Dee Lagoon. The object of the experiment is to get confirmation of the age and growth rate of fish caught in Dee Lagoon. Anglers are requested to examine their catches at Dee Lagoon and forward details of length, weight, date of capture and a scale sample from fish to the Inland Fisheries Commission for examination.

### WHITEBAIT RUNS

Encouraging runs of whitebait have been reported from the rivers of Northwest Tasmania, the Northeast and Derwent and Huon Rivers. Samples of whitebait were examined and the rivers in the Northwest were found to contain mainly species of Galaxias, while, in the Derwent River, there was a mixture of equal quantities of the whitebait known as Lovettia sealii and species of Galaxias. The best run of whitebait occurred in the Huon River.

### OFFENCES

Offences against whitebait regulations were detected at Stanley (3), Derwent River (2) and Bridport (1). Prosecutions against offenders are pending.

### BRISEIS MINE HOLE AT DERBY

The Commission has received information that it will be many years before the hole reaches the stage where it would be necessary to rescue fish. As a result, anglers can look forward to catching brook trout, already present in this storage, for some time.

### NO CHANGE IN SALE OF BREAM LAW

The Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority has supported the Inland Fisheries Commission view that bream is to be regarded as a sporting fish and should not

be offered for sale.

#### LITTER REMOVAL

The Commission has received a quotation from the Longford Council of \$780 p.a. on a fortnightly basis or \$1,560 p.a. on a weekly basis, to remove litter from Brumby Creek area. Anglers are requested to keep areas clean and not to deposit refuse near our major fishing resorts.

The excellent work of the New Norfolk Sportsmen's Club at Lake Sorell and Smithton Branch of the Northwestern Fisheries Association at Lake Mikany are two recent examples of clubs which have entered the list of clubs which are already active in helping to keep angling resorts clean.

#### ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS AND THE COMMISSION

As there have been changes in membership of angling associations and their Executives, the Commission considers it desirable to circulate a statement of the functions and duties of the Commission, angling associations and associate commissioners. Realising the need for an understanding of these matters a concise statement was put out following a meeting on 26th March, 1966. It outlined the operational procedures of the Commission and of the angling associations.

The Inland Fisheries Commission is responsible to the Government, through the Minister, and is charged with the maintenance, control, protection and regulation of the salmon fisheries and the fisheries in inland waters. The Commission has the responsibility of carrying out research and investigation of any matters relating to fisheries and to inland waters. Further, the Commission has to collate, publicise and disseminate information with regard to freshwater fish and inland waters. The Commissioner of the Inland Fisheries Commission has to organise and direct the technical and administrative work of the Commission. It was decided that the matters to be reported to the Association be agreed upon at each meeting and this was the beginning of the newsletter.

Associate Commissioners attend Commission meetings and carry out certain inspections. They are free to exercise their judgement without being compelled to support the wishes of a particular group of anglers. The three angling associations received status under the Fisheries Act in that an Associate Commissioner is resident in each angling district, but there is nothing in the Act to require an Associate Commissioner to carry out the wishes of a particular angling association but

Associate Commissioners should, and do, amplify the Associations views on various matters.

The function of the angling associations, other than as set out in their various Constitutions, might well be to co-operate with the Commission in its various activities in developing, promoting and maintaining inland fisheries.

#### ATTENDANCE AT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The Commission reaffirmed its current procedure whereby the Chairman attended an Executive Meeting of an angling association at least once per year and more frequently should there be a major matter of policy which needed discussion or amplification at the angling association level.

#### DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

The Commissioner proposes to visit the three angling associations to discuss matters arising from his overseas inspection and discussions on fish farming.

#### TROUT FARM APPLICATION

Considerable investigational work is to be done on an application for a licenced trout farm at Brumbys Creek. The Commission is currently examining this information and, also, an environmental impact study has been put in course. A decision on the application has been deferred.

#### "A WORLD APART"

It is understood that the Tasmanian State Library and the Agent-General's office in London are obtaining copies of the television film "A World Apart". This would be valuable in promoting trout fishing in Tasmania.

#### SEIZED GEAR

The Law Reform Commission has recommended that the automatic confiscation of firearms and nets be not automatic. The Inland Fisheries Commission takes the view that no hardship has been caused in the past through the confiscation of this sort of gear for offences committed against the Fisheries Act. There has been an increase in the use of firearms to take fish when they are vulnerable to poaching at spawning time, and the Commission would seek to retain the automatic forfeiture of firearms and nets, in the case where offenders are convicted.

## LAGOON OF ISLANDS

The Lagoon of Islands was a joint venture by the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission for the purposes of satisfying riparian rights to owners who lost water through the northern diversion of Great Lake. The Commission's interest is met by a guarantee of a minimum level of water at all times so that the safety of trout will be protected.

## TROUT FARMS

The Commission is aware of opposition to trout farms in Tasmania from:

The Fly Tyers Club of Tasmania, the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers Association, the Northwestern Fisheries Association, the Victorian Fly Fishers' Association and the Devonport Branch of the Northwestern Fisheries Association.

Advice from the Environmental Protection Authority of Victoria and the Pollution Control Commission of New South Wales indicated that, with proper safeguards, fish farming should not pose any threat to a wild fishery, provided the water receiving the discharge was large enough to assimilate the effluent which may be discharged into it.

The Health Division has indicated that no communicable diseases of man will be spread from fish to man, or vice versa, or are likely to be in the effluent that may reach a natural water course from a fish farm. A fish farm would not pose any problems of public health concern.

A word of caution should be noted regarding the operation of a fish processing plant near a body of water providing a recreational fishery.

## OPEN DAY AT LIAWENEE

The annual open day at Liawenee was held on 8th October and was attended by approximately 2,500 persons. It was an outstanding success. Visitors saw the collection of rainbow trout ova and were able to see approximately 600 wild rainbow trout.

#### SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 20th October, before Mr. M. Hannan, Robert Wayne Swindells of Bothwell, pleaded guilty to taking fish from Scotch Bobs Creek, Arthurs Lake, on 6th May 1978, and taking fish with a gaff. A further charge of illegally disturbing spawning fish was withdrawn. A conviction was recorded on the first charge. On the second charge he was fined \$60 with a special penalty of \$15, with costs of \$8.

#### COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO ANGLERS

The Commissioner and Associate Commissioners and staff would like to take the opportunity of wishing trout anglers throughout Tasmania, the compliments of the season.

This is the last newsletter for 1978. The next newsletter will be Volume 8 No. 1 and is scheduled for issue in March 1979.

(D. D. Lynch),  
Commissioner

27th November, 1978