

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8 No. 3

SPAWNING RUNS OF BROWN TROUT

The prolonged spell of dry weather throughout the autumn resulted in the absence of spates in many spawning streams. Consequently, runs of brown trout so far in the many highland streams are lower than in previous years.

BOAT LAUNCHING SITES AND CAMPING AREAS, GREAT LAKE

At the end of May and in early June, the Lands Department cleared ground for use as camping sites and boat launching sites at Great Lake. These facilities were provided at the following places:

Brandum Creek
Brandum Bay
Little Lake near the old Chalet site
Haddons Bay southern shore

STRAIGHTENING OF BRANDUM CREEK

The opportunity was taken whilst Great Lake level was low to undertake some straightening of Brandum Creek to prevent spawning fish being stranded at time of low water level. The Lands Department provided assistance in this project.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AT SILVER PLAINS, LAKE SORELL

A number of authorities have agreed to make a contribution of \$600 towards improvement and extension of the road to Silver Plains at Lake Sorell.

LAKE ROWALLAN

A request was received from an Association to maintain Lake Rowallan as a rainbow trout fishery, even though the good spawning grounds available in the Mersey River above Lake Rowallan make it inevitable that the brown trout already present will breed here and its numbers build-up in the next few years. The Hydro-Electric Commission proposes to carry-out further maintenance at Lake Rowallan and this operation may cause the postponing of the proposed liberation of 10,000 rainbow trout fry this year.

BOATING AT LAKE SORELL

Fly fishermen have complained about the activity of some other anglers who use motor boats on Lake Sorell. They claim that the drivers operate their craft at high speeds causing wave action which disturbs fish near the shore. Persons using boats for travelling in Lake Sorell are urged to consider the other angler, who may be inconvenienced.

BROOK TROUT OVA

Three hundred and fifty-one thousand brook trout ova were collected from 360 two-year-old brood fish at the Salmon Ponds. The brood fish were the survivors of eggs on hand when the brook trout were killed by vandals in 1977. This year was the first time eggs were collected from this group of fish.

The eggs were small, 18,800 to a litre, but were of a better colour because of the improved diet used.

LIBERATION OF BROOK TROUT

Approximately 1,000 brook trout yearlings weighing 80-85 grammes in weight are scheduled for release from the Salmon Ponds during this winter.

WATER RATS

Acting under a permit issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Commission officers caught and transferred eight water rats from the Salmon Ponds to other places during the Autumn. The water rats which killed 11 brook trout spawners, are a continuing hazard to the fish at the Salmon Ponds.

WHITEBAIT OFFENCE

Mr. P. Garland of Wynyard appeared and pleaded not guilty to eight charges relating to alleged whitebait offences at Wynyard Court on 11th May, 1979. The hearing was adjourned to Burnie Court for hearing on 20th June, 1979, when a further adjournment was granted.

IMPROVEMENTS TO CORRA LINN

The road from the Launceston-Blessington road to the river at Corra Linn has been constructed and a gravel surface provided. Associated works on culverts, table drains and the removal of hydro-electric power pole were carried out at the same time. This access road is used by many visitors.

EEL FISHERY

The Inland Fisheries Commission has received proposals for the harvesting of elvers both for sale in other States and abroad and for use in selected storages in Tasmania. It is proposed to have discussions with the Eel Fishermen's Association on the development of the elver fishery.

CALVERTS LAGOON

The acquisition of Calverts Lagoon by the Lands Department and its development as a limited recreational area has been the subject of discussions between the Department and the Inland Fisheries Commission. It is proposed that the lagoon be used as a fly fishing water for brown trout and that the Commission continues to manage the fishery on the basis of fly fishing only.

Access to the lagoon does not now require a special permit from the Lands Department.

The Lands Department proposes to manage the lagoon and its environment as a quiet area with a strong emphasis being placed on nature conservation. Power boating and shooting will be prohibited in the area.

PROPOSED PUBLIC FISHERY AT SANDFLY

The Commission has received representations for the construction of a dam on private property at Sandfly for development as a fishery for brown trout for persons using fly and spinner gear. The Commission has referred the matter to the S.T.L.A.A. for consideration as a joint venture by angling clubs in the area.

ON THE SPOT FINES FOR FISHERIES OFFENCES

Recently the Commission investigated the possibility of introducing on the spot fines for Fisheries offences. There is no such thing as "on the spot fines" in Tasmania although that is the common name applied to a system of infringement notices well-known to errant motorists. Such a system requires legislative backing and for such a system to operate in respect of fisheries offences, legislation would be necessary, either by amendment to the Fisheries Act 1959 or by introducing or amending some other Act.

To justify such legislation, it would be necessary to show that the existence of a problem relating to fisheries offences, which could not be resolved satisfactorily by the present legislation but which could be resolved satisfactorily by such a system. After considering all aspects of the proposal the Commission considered it undesirable to proceed with the proposal, as it would impose other administrative problems and would incur costs which would outweigh other advantages.

TAKING SPAWNING FISH

Already a number of offenders have been apprehended concerning the taking of spawning brown trout in highland streams.

Anglers are requested to be alert to watching for this type of offence and to alert the Inland Fisheries Commission when they have information regarding proposed offences of this nature.

TAKING OF FRESHWATER CRAYFISH (LOBSTERS)

Anglers are reminded that the only permissible way of taking freshwater crayfish is by use of bait (meat) on a piece of string attached to a pole. No hooks are permitted. A hand net may be used in conjunction with the above gear. The use of ringnets, set nets, cages or traps are not permitted in the taking of freshwater crayfish.

Crayfish may be taken, provided they are not in berry, during the same period as the brown trout fishing season, i.e. the Saturday nearest the first Saturday in August and the Sunday nearest the last Saturday in April.

IMPORTATION OF SALMON

Representation from authorities in Canada, New Zealand and New Guinea recently has been received to permit the importation of salmon or trout flesh into Australia. Since February 1955 there has been a prohibition on the entry of salmon and trout eggs or flesh into Australia unless the fish have been treated in a manner which will ensure the inactivation of infectious disease organisms which may be present in the fish.

This ban applies to all species of salmon and trout. As the viral diseases which cause extensive damage to salmonid fisheries elsewhere have not been detected in Australia, fisheries authorities here have adopted a conservative approach to keep the diseases out of this country.

IMPORTATION OF GRASS CARP

There has been a resurrection of the proposal to import grass carp, Ctenopharyngodon idella, into Australia for the purpose of controlling aquatic weeds, particularly in irrigation drains on mainland Australia.

A recent seminar was held in Canberra to discuss the proposal on a national basis. The Inland Fisheries Commission proposes to send representatives to a similar seminar which is scheduled to be held in Tasmania later this year.

FERAL POPULATIONS OF TILAPIA

It is disturbing to find that two feral populations of Tilapia have been established in Australia. One is at the Tingalpa Reservoir, Doughboy Creek, Queensland, and the other is at the cooling storage, Heazlewood, Gippsland, Victoria. Both areas have well-established populations of Tilapia. The unplanned introduction of exotic species of fish or other animals could have disastrous results.

QUARANTINE PROPOSALS

Discussions are being held regarding the possibility of more suitable quarantine arrangements being put in course for holding and inspecting incoming exotic fishes. The number of aquatic fish continues to rise. Between December and May 1979 960,000 live imports arrived at Melbourne Airport. Many of the species imported are capable of existing in the wild in Australia.

COURT APPEARANCES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST INLAND
FISHERIES REGULATIONS

At Huonville Court of Petty Sessions on 21st May, 1979,
before Mr. M. Hannan, S.M., at an ex parte hearing Michael
John Nicholls of Huonville was charged with -

1. Taking whitebait by a scoop net without a licence -
He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.
2. Using a scoop net not marked with an identification
tag - A Conviction was recorded.

The offences occurred in the Huon River on 11th December, 1978.

Graham Ronald Barton of Huonville was charged with similar
offences on the same day in the Huon River. He pleaded guilty
by endorsement on -

1. Taking whitebait by a scoop net without a licence -
He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.
2. Using a scoop net not marked with an identification tag -
A conviction was recorded.

The defendants were apprehended by Sen. Const. Williams
and First Class Constable Gyselman.

Mark Jordan Woolley of Glen Huon, pleaded guilty by
endorsement to -

1. Fishing without a licence - He was fined \$50 with
costs of \$8.10.
2. Falsely representing to be a licensed angler -
Adjourned sine die
3. Giving a false name - He was fined \$30.
The offences occurred at the Russell River on 3.3.79.

At Smithton Court of Petty Sessions before Mr. Crisp
on 22.5.79, Ian John Ollington, Forest, was charged with -

1. Attempting to take whitebait whilst unlicensed -
Fined \$30.
2. Using a whitebait net without identification tag -
Fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

Peter Leslie Jackson, Irishtown, was charged with -

1. Attempting to take whitebait whilst unlicensed -
Fined \$20.
2. Using a whitebait net without identification tags -
Fined \$20.
3. Possession of whitebait -
Fined \$50 with \$8.10 costs.

Proceedings against Alfred Lionel Smedley of Forest, Malcolm Mervyn Gillie of Irishtown and Michael Vivian Hardy of Stanley, were adjourned to Smithton Court of Petty Sessions on 28th June, 1979.

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 25th May before D. Burton S.M., Richard Maxwell Ralph of George Town pleaded guilty by endorsement to -

1. Fishing with an unattended set rod -
Conviction recorded.
2. Fishing with two rods at Great Lake on 23.2.79 -
Fined \$40 with costs of \$8.10.

Gregory Mervyn Nutting of George Town pleaded guilty by endorsement to -

1. Fishing with an unattended set rod -
Conviction recorded
2. Fishing with two rods -
Fined \$40.
3. Fishing without a licence in Great Lake on 23/2/79 -
Fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

Grant Andrew Bissett of Sulphur Creek, pleaded guilty by endorsement to -

1. Fishing without a licence -
Fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10 with a special penalty of \$30 (\$5 for each of six fish).
2. Falsely representing to be licensed at Woods Lake on 5th November 1978 - Fined \$50.

John Vernon Stokes of South Forest, pleaded guilty by endorsement to -

1. Failing to produce an angling licence within 14 days -
Fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 19th June 1979 before Mr. M. Hannan S.M., Michael Darcy Oakford of Montagu Street, New Norfolk, pleaded guilty by endorsement to possession of natural bait (wattle grubs) at Lake Pedder on 24th April, 1979. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries, Mr. D.D. Lynch, stated that it was an offence under both Inland Fisheries Regulations and National Parks and Wildlife Service Regulations to take live animals into Lake Pedder. Anglers at Lake Pedder are required to use artificial lures only.

Dale Anthony Williams of Chesterfield Court, Wantirna, Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Pedder on 4th March, 1979. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

(D.D. Lynch)
Commissioner.

13th June, 1979.