

# INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8 No. 4

August 1979

### OPENING OF 1979/80 ANGLING SEASON

The opening was one of the most successful in recent years, partly due to the fine weather in most places. The best areas were in the Bronte system where all waters - Bradys Lake, Lake Binney, Tungatinah, Pine Tier Lagoon, Clarence Weir, Lake Echo and Mossy Marsh - fished well. The one exception here was Bronte Lagoon which, because of its low levels, was little patronised by anglers. Inspectors examined 81 anglers in this system and they had caught 86 fish. One party of anglers fishing at the northeast corner of Bradys Lake caught nine trout - eight brown and one rainbow. The best brown trout here was 430 mm long and 840 g in weight. A feature of the angling at Bradys Lake near the whitewater, was the high proportion of rainbow trout in the catch. It is thought that some of these fish (300-400 mm long) had been liberated in the previous year in Dee Lagoon and moved down into Bradys Lake.

At Lake Pedder and Lake Gordon the weather, in contrast to other parts of the State, was unpleasant. It was cold and it rained most of the day. Nevertheless, trophy-sized brown trout (up to 5.9 kg) were caught. The most popular area was the Huon Inlet.

In Lake Gordon, anglers caught brown trout up to 1.5 kg in weight. Lake Sorell again fished well, with brown trout up to 470 mm long and 1220 g in weight. Near Lake Sorell, approximately 1000 brown trout spawners remained up Mountain Creek.

At Arthurs Lake, brown trout up to 440 mm long and 1000 g were landed and, at Little Pine, fish up to 1400 g and 550 mm long were landed. The fish at Arthurs Lake and Little Pine Lagoon had not fully recovered from spawning and were in poor condition. Brown trout were still spawning in Hydro Creek and Jacobs Creek at Arthurs Lake.

Farm dams stocked with adult brown trout, which were transferred from the Central Plateau, were again popular with anglers, more so than some of the estuaries. However, anglers fishing the Derwent caught fish up to 1850 g in weight and 540 mm long.

In the northwest, an angler using the fly took his bag in Adams Creek near Natone on opening day. The largest fish reported from the Mersey was 2.8 kg. A party of four anglers fishing the Mersey on opening day caught 18 brown trout up to .9 kg. Mr. R. Ling of Ulverstone caught four brown trout in the Gawler Dam.

Rivers in the north of the State were quiet. The North Esk at Hoblers Bridge did not live up to its past reputation and at Brumby Creek the opening was quiet.

#### LAKE KARA

The Commission adopted a suggestion by the Northwestern Fisheries Association that Lake Kara be stocked with brown trout. A liberation of 10,000 brown trout fry is planned for September this year.

#### MERSEY AND LEVEN RIVER

Some anglers reported varying success in these two rivers in the 1978-79 season. Two successful anglers were R. Wilson who landed 70 brown trout from the Mersey River at Weegen and D. Corbett who landed 90 from Leven River at Gunns Plains.

#### ARTHURS LAKE

Following the increased size and condition of brown trout at Arthurs Lake, it is proposed not to transfer adult brown trout from this lake in the winter of 1980. However, inspectors will count brown trout spawners in tributaries.

#### PRESTON POND

The Preston Pond is managed by three angling branches in the Ulverstone district. In September 1978, 2000 brown trout fry were placed in a pond at South Preston. On 15 June, 106 fingerling brown trout were netted and transferred to the Gawler River at the bridge above the Gawler Dam. The fish averaged in size from 7 - 15 cm in length at the time of their liberation at Gawler.

Branches have constructed a second rearing pond and this will be stocked in September 1979 with brown trout fry.

## PENSTOCK LAGOON

Approximately 100 brown trout spawners moved up Penstock Lagoon but were unable to pass up above Pulfords Bridge. Accordingly, the Commission planted 60,000 brown trout ova in the spawning gravel above the bridge to provide compensatory recruits.

## DONATION OF SURPLUS STOCK

Sevrup Fisheries Pty. Ltd. made available surplus yearling rainbow trout on the basis of "as is where is", free-of-charge, at Bridport, to the Inland Fisheries Commission for stocking various waters.

The following waters were stocked in July - Lagoon of Islands 20,000, Little Blue Lagoon 2,000, Lake Chipman 2,000, Lake Cethana 20,000, Little Waterhouse Lake 10,000.

The Commission appreciated this generous donation. The fingerlings ranged in size from 50 to 70 mm long and the largest were put into Lagoon of Islands.

## LAKE SORELL

Anglers fishing from boats, or travelling in boats, at Lake Sorell are again reminded that they should consider the angler fishing from the shore and keep at a distance of at least 100 metres from shore fishermen.

## TROUT FRY FOR FARM DAMS IN NORTHWESTERN TASMANIA

The Northwestern Fisheries Association has accepted the task of collating requests to stock farm dams in the northwest part of Tasmania and the President, Mr. G. Rogers, would be pleased to receive requests for stocking prior to 1st December 1979.

## BROWN TROUT SPAWNING RUN, MOUNTAIN CREEK, LAKE SORELL

Approximately 9,000 brown trout spawners moved up Mountain Creek during the past spawning season. The wide size range of fish in the run was indicative of good year class representation. Congestion in the run resulted in superimposition of ova.

In the summer of 1978/79 sampling showed that brown trout fingerlings were abundant on the Silver Plains shore.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal proceedings are to be taken against two men for taking fish during the closed season at Laughing Jack Lagoon. Inland Fisheries Commission inspectors seized 52 fish and two rifles in an anti-poaching patrol here.

## LAKE LEAKE

Some anglers appear to be unaware that the Inland Fisheries Commission is the instrumentality responsible for managing the fishery at Lake Leake.

## FACILITIES FOR ANGLERS AND CAMPERS AT STRATHGORDON

An Interdepartmental Committee set up to consider the development of tourist facilities in the Strathgordon region has listed priorities for development, as funds permit. The priorities are -

1. At Teds Beach there is need of a formed launching area and, possibly, a jetty with boat mooring facilities at the end
2. West of Edgar Dam area, i.e. opposite the airstrip, a good boat access and retrieval facility is required for use in adverse weather
3. The Ragged Basin road (Compartment 17) is to be extended and improved; pit toilets, parking area and a launching ramp are to be provided.

## CONTROL OF CARP IN VICTORIA

It is noted that funds of \$½ million have been provided for the control of carp in Victoria. Funds are to be expended on investigating the effectiveness of various means of control and on the employment of staff to carry out necessary investigations.

## CURRIE RIVER DAM

The Currie River dam is filling but it is not expected to reach full supply level this year, unless there is substantial rainfall in the spring. The Rivers and Water Supply Commission has received a number of suggestions for recreational use of the storage but has made no firm decision, at this stage.

The Inland Fisheries Commission has suggested that consideration be given to establishing a recreational fishery for brown trout in the storage.

#### PROSECUTIONS

On 17 July a further adjournment to Burnie Court on 7 September was granted to Patrick Edward Garland of Wynyard regarding charges relating to alleged whitelait offences of 18 December.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 26/6/79 before Mr. D. Burton, Thomas Galloway Spencer of Launceston pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing with two rods at Lake Pedder on 27/1/79. He was fined \$30.00 with costs of \$8.10. A charge against Cecil William Black of Victoria of being in possession of natural bait at Lake Pedder on 9 March 1979 was adjourned sine die.

At Smithton Court of Petty Sessions on 28 June 1979 before Mr. P. G. Crisp, Michael Vivian Hardy of Stanley, at an ex parte hearing, was charged with -

1. Taking whitebait when not licensed - Fined \$20.00
  2. Having a scoop net under his control without an identification tag - Fined \$20.00
  3. Using an oversize net - Fined \$20.00
  4. Having an oversize net under his control - Fined \$20.00 with costs of \$8.10
  5. Having scoop net not conforming with regulations - Fined \$20.00  
Malcolm Mervyn Gillie of Irishtown was charged with -
1. Taking whitebait when not licensed - Fined \$20.00
  2. Using a scoop net without an identification tag - Fined \$20.00
  3. Being in possession of whitebait when not licensed - Fined \$50.00 with costs of \$8.10.

Alfred Lionel Smedley of Forest pleaded not guilty to charges of -

1. Taking whitebait during a closed season - Fined \$50.00
2. Using a whitebait net without an identification tag - Dismissed

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 20 July 1979 before Mr. G. Bryan, Arthur John Gamble of Bicheno, pleaded guilty by endorsement to charges of -

1. Wilfully disturbing fish where they are accustomed to spawn - Adjourned sine die
2. Taking fish by means other than rod and line - Fined \$30.00
3. Taking fish from closed waters - Conviction recorded. Costs of \$8.10 were imposed.

Terry Edwin Anderson of Latrobe, pleaded guilty by endorsement to charges of -

1. Using more than one rod and line - Fined \$30.00 with costs of \$8.10.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 8/8/79 before Mr. Brettingham-Moore, Cecil William Black of Victoria, was charged with being in possession of natural bait in an artificial water. The offence occurred at Lake Pedder on 9/3/79. He was fined \$20.00 with costs of \$8.10.

#### LAND DEPARTMENT RESERVES

The Lands Department has advised on the use of various titles to apply to reserves as specified in the Crown Land Act 1976. The Lands Department has supplied the information set out below and it is printed here because of its interest to anglers.

#### Nomenclature

#### Remarks

Protected area

Remain unchanged for large multi-use areas such as Central Plateau Protected Area and the proposed Arthur-Pieman Protected Area. Involves lands reserved principally for land conservation purposes but which, in addition, has capability for effective use for selected public recreation and amusement purposes and also controlled resource utilization.

State Recreation Area

To apply to existing reserves, formerly known as "regional parks" such as St. Helens Point, Humbug Point, Gordons Hill and Conningham. This type of reserve caters for varied recreation pursuits requiring careful management, and for land conservation.

Nomenclature

Remarks

Coastal Reserve

This is a term to be applied to tracts of coastland which require reservation under the Act in order to be suitably managed.

River and Lake Reserves

To be defined as appropriate.

(D. D. Lynch),  
Commissioner

August 1979