

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8 No. 6

December 1979

SEASONS GREETINGS

The Chairman and members of the Commission would like to wish all readers and anglers the compliments of the season.

TROUT FISHING DISPLAY - LONDON

The Agent-General has advised that a display to illustrate the nature and extent of trout fishing available in Tasmania has received much favourable comment. The Inland Fisheries Commission arranged the display, which was produced by the Tasmanian Film Corporation.

In May, the display is to be shown at a Trade Exhibition in Berlin.

RAINBOW TROUT FRY EXPERIMENTS AT GREAT LAKE

Tests carried out at the experimental zig-zag spawning at Liawenee with rainbow trout eggs this autumn have given promising results. By mid December, the number of fry caught in downstream traps was substantially higher than in the previous year. It is expected that further migrations towards Great Lake would continue until the end of December. The emerging fry were vigorous and in excellent condition.

PENSTOCK LAGOON

Some excellent catches of both brown trout and rainbow trout were reported at Penstock Lagoon in November. One angler caught two brown trout on 25 November - both fish were in excellent condition and weighed 2.7 kg and 3.2 kg.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON WATER LEVEL

The Commission has arranged with the Hydro-Electric Commission to maintain the level of Little Pine Lagoon at the height SL 3302.5 ft for the period 1 January to 3 February 1980. The manipulation of the water level is designed to help reduce the weed, Elodea canadensis, and also maintain the fishery. Anglers have indicated that some of the fish at Little Pine Lagoon this year are in poorer condition than in other years.

LAKE LEAKE

Anglers report that fish are coming close to the shore at Lake Leake and some good fishing from the shore has resulted. In the first week in November, one angler collected a 1.80 kg and 2.0 kg fish in excellent condition on the dry fly in a morning's fishing at Lake Leake.

DEE LAGOON

Evidence of excellent fishing at Dee Lagoon has been reported this year and stocks of rainbow trout in Dee Lagoon have been augmented by the liberation of fin-clipped yearling rainbow trout. Anglers are requested to report catches of fin-clipped rainbow trout from Dee Lagoon and give details of length and weight.

Results from the previous year indicate that very rapid growth occurred in rainbow trout liberated in Dee Lagoon.

BROWN TROUT FISHING IN LOWER GORDON RIVER

Ten anglers reported catching 75 fish in seven days in the first week of November. The fish weighed from 2 - 5.5 kg. Another party of six anglers landed 110 fish in seven days. The fish were about the same weight as that of the previous party's.

UNRESTRICTED IMPORTS OF AQUARIUM FISH

Fisheries administrators throughout Australia are concerned at the large number of species of exotic fishes being imported to Australia annually. They are concerned that feral populations of these fish might be established and so have a detrimental effect on other established fisheries. Further, the diseases which might be brought in by these introductions could pose a threat to the existing aquatic animals.

The Inland Fisheries Commission shares the concern of these administrators, and would seek a reduction in the number of fishes imported from abroad, and that suitable quarantine arrangements be made for those fish that need to be brought into Australia, from time to time.

VANDALISM

Reports of vandalism are disturbing. Recently, pipes have been torn from the toilet at Corra Linn and a fish farmer at Cressy reported damage to his installation and equipment, due to the action of vandals.

Anglers are requested to report any sighting of vandalism to the police.

CARP CONTROL IN VICTORIA

The cost and continuing effort to control an undesirable freshwater fish (carp) in Victoria is a warning against similar possibilities in Tasmania.

In 1978-82 five biologists and four technical assistants are engaged full-time on a carp control programme with a number of techniques, either in current use or under evaluation for possible future implementation. Chemical, electrical, viral or mechanical techniques are proposed. The budget for the project is approximately \$700,000 in 1978-82.

ANGLING LICENCE SALES

Agents report a greater demand for angling licences this year than in the previous year. Agents on the northwest coast, in particular, have asked for increased books to fill their commitments. However, increased costs in operating, including staff salaries and maintenance are a cause for concern.

FIELD STATION

Construction of a laboratory, aquarium and workshop at Liawenee has commenced and good progress is being made with both.

COMMERCIAL WHITEBAIT FISHERY

The commercial catch of whitebait in 1942 was 90,000 kg. It rose to 450,000 kg by 1947 and, then, through over-fishing, declined to 145,000 kg in 1948. In 1970, the catch had further declined to 4,000 kg and 1974 the catch was only 2,800 kg.

Following a closed season, test netting by commercial fishermen in 1977 gave very poor catches. Fishermen using two scoops took only 340 kg between 16 August and 19 September of that year.

Although there has been some indication of a slight improvement in the abundance of whitebait, the Commission is of the opinion that it would be unwise to open a season for whitebait, at this stage.

WHITEBAIT OFFENCE

Patrick Edward Garland of Mynyrd was fined \$220.00 with \$8.10 costs on seven whitebait netting counts at Burnie Court on 9 November 1979. The offences occurred in the Inglis River on 19 December 1978.

REGULATIONS FOR THE MIGRATING EEL FISHERY

The Commission proposes to introduce regulations to control the fishery for migrating eels. Potentially, this fishery could add to the economy of the country, without the damaging side effects of killing native animals, such as platypus, water rats and certain aquatic birds. The proposals have been discussed with members of the Eel Fisherman's Association.

STOCKING LOCAL STORAGES WITH EELS

Commercial eel fishermen have requested permission to stock farm dams and other waters with eelers. It is worth pointing out the situation in Victoria, where eels were first put into Lake Snarput. Their owners, Eels Pty. Ltd., presumed that the eels would stay there. However, the eels went exploring and finished up in golf club dams, rivers and lakes in the Ballarat area, with the result that eels were where they should not be.

Victorian anglers are concerned at the escape of the eels to waters where they are unwanted. In Tasmania, a similar situation may occur, and to prevent this, careful consideration has been given to all applications to transfer eels within the State.

BRONTE PARK CHALET

Dennis Miss and his wife have improved the Chalet at Bronte and have made it most suitable for anglers.

Anglers are enthusiastic about the warm welcome from the Proprietor and the comfortable accommodation at this Chalet. The Chalet is most conveniently situated close to the major angling spots in the central plateau.

AUDIT FEES

The Treasury has imposed a fee of \$300 on the Inland Fisheries Commission for the annual audit.

FACILITIES FOR ANGLERS AND CAMPERS AT LAKE GORDON

The Ragged Basin Road (Compartment 17) is currently closed during week-days to anglers, because there is insufficient room for anglers towing caravans or trailers to pass oncoming, loaded logging trucks on this road. Inexperienced anglers would be unable to back their trailer-towing vehicles and the logging trucks would also be unable to back.

DEATH OF MR. ALAN WALKER

Mr. Alan Walker, a veteran angler, died recently. He was an influential member of the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers Association and a regular contributor to the Annual Report of that Association. Mr. Walker was a benefactor of the Salmon Ponds. Exhibits donated by Mr. Walker have added to the attractiveness of the Ponds.

PROSECUTIONS FOR FISHERIES OFFENCES

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 19/10/79 before Mr. G.H. Bryan, Stephen Leonard Gladwell of South Australia was charged with fishing without a licence on 17 May 1979. The charge was heard ex parte. He was convicted and fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

David Shaw of South Australia was charged with fishing without a licence at Great Lake on the same day. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

Leonard Charles Read of Kiah Ave., East Devonport, and Reginald Bessell of the same address, were both charged with -

1. wilfully disturbing fish
2. using a light to take fish
3. taking fish by means other than rod and line
4. taking fish from closed waters

The offences occurred at Kimberley Creek, Great Lake, on 23 June 1979.

On the first charge they were fined \$70 each, with costs of \$8.10, on the second charge \$10, and on the third charge \$10 with a special penalty of \$10 each, and, on the fourth charge a conviction was recorded. The charges were heard ex parte.

Stuart James Reynolds of Royal George was charged with -

1. wilfully disturbing fish
2. taking fish by means other than rod and line
3. taking fish from closed waters.

On the first charge he was fined \$75, on the second charge \$30, and on the third charge a conviction was recorded. Costs of \$8.10 were imposed and the case was heard ex parte. The offences occurred at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell, on 24 April 1979.

Steven Paul Lane of Ouse was charged with -

1. taking fish by using a firearm
2. wilfully disturbing spawning fish
3. taking fish by means other than rod and line.

The first charge was adjourned sine die, on the second charge he was fined \$75 with \$8.10 costs, and on the third charge he was fined \$10 with a special penalty of \$20. The defendant pleaded guilty to charges (2) and (3). The offences occurred at Laughing Jack Lagoon on 16 June 1979.

Ronald John Duggan of Savage River pleaded guilty to similar charges. On the first charge he was fined \$40, on the second charge \$75, and on the third charge \$10 with \$8.10 costs and a \$20 special penalty.

Donald Guy Richardson of Lumeah Ave., Lenah Valley, was charged with being in possession of an assembled rod and reel on the shore of a closed water. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10. The charge was heard ex parte. The offence occurred at Lake Sorell on 10 June 1979.

At New Norfolk Court on 30/10/79 before Mr. E.E. Sikk, Gregory David Williams of Bridgewater and Michael John Rhodes of Bridgewater, pleaded guilty to charges of -

1. taking fish by means other than rod and line -
Fined \$20 with costs of \$4.05 each and \$9.00 each special penalty.

They pleaded not guilty to further charges of -

2. possession of graball net on the shore of an inland water -
Adjourned sine die
3. possession of three brown trout during a closed season -
Adjourned sine die
4. taking brown trout during a closed season -
Adjourned sine die
5. placing a net in the water to hinder the free passage of fish - Dismissed.

The offences occurred in the Jordan River on 14 July 1979.

At Bothwell Court on 23/11/79 before Mr. I.R. Matterson, Thomas William Hibbs of Somerset was charged with -

1. taking fish with a light - Fined \$60.00
2. wilfully disturbing spawning fish - Fined \$75.00
3. taking fish from a water flowing into Great Lake - Fined \$70.00
4. taking fish by means other than rod and line - Fined \$70.00

A special penalty of \$5.00 for one fish was imposed, plus costs of \$3.00. The charges were heard ex parte.

Noel Francis Clifford Bradshaw of Gormanston, Jeffrey William Steele of Queenstown and Jan William Steele of Queenstown were charged with -

1. using a gaff to take trout - Fined \$30.00 each
2. using a firearm to take trout - Fined \$120.00 each
3. wilfully disturbing spawning fish - Fined \$75.00 each
4. taking fish by means other than rod and line - Fined \$120 each.

A special penalty of \$5 for each of 42 fish was imposed for each defendant, as well as costs of \$8.00 each. The offences occurred at Laughing Jack Lagoon and the charges were heard ex parte.

Alfred Keith Pearce of New Norfolk, pleaded guilty to charges of -

1. using a gaff to take trout
2. using a firearm to take trout
3. wilfully disturbing spawning fish
4. taking fish by means other than rod and line

The case was adjourned to 25 January 1980.

Kerry John Jones of Launceston, and Gregory Roy Barnard of Launceston, were charged with -

1. using a light to take fish - Fined \$60.00 each
2. wilfully disturbing spawning fish - Fined \$75.00 each
3. taking fish from a water flowing into Lake Sorell - Fined \$100 each
4. taking fish by means other than rod and line - Fined \$70 each.

A special penalty of \$5 for each of 10 fish was imposed on each defendant. Costs of \$8.00 were imposed. The offences occurred at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell. The charges were heard ex parte.

Denis Wayne Whitely of Meander, was charged with -

1. wilfully disturbing spawning fish - Fined \$75.00
2. using a light to take fish - Fined \$60
3. taking fish by means other than rod and line - Fined \$80
4. taking fish from a water flowing into Great Lake - Fined \$70

A special penalty of \$5 for each of five fish was imposed, with costs of \$3.00. The costs were heard ex parte.

Donald Dalton of Invermay was charged with -

1. giving a false name - Fined \$50
2. giving a false address - Fined \$50
3. producing the licence of another person - Fined \$60
4. falsely representing to be a licensed angler - Fined \$60
5. being unlicensed - Fined \$75
6. using more than one rod and line at a time - Fined \$60
Costs of \$3.00 were imposed

The charges were heard ex parte and the offences occurred at Great Lake.

(D. D. Lynch)
Commissioner