

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1X No. 3

July, 1980

VALE - PETER WALLACE

Peter Wallace died at Turangi, New Zealand, on 17 June 1980. The Chairman of the Commission referred to the valuable contribution which Mr. Wallace gave to angling administration over a period of almost 25 years as a Commissioner in Tasmania. During that time Mr. Wallace took part in discussions on many changes in fisheries administration in Tasmania. He was an outspoken critic of the destruction of the whitebait fishery and offered many valuable contributions to the management of the fisheries in the central plateau.

ANGLING FEES FOR 1980/81

Following rises in costs and wages, the Commission found it necessary to increase licence fees for the following season, licence fees have not changed since 1976.

The new fees are:-

Full season licence for an adult male	\$15-00
Full season licence for an adult female	\$12-00
Full season licence for a person 10 years but less than 17 years	\$ 1-50
Fourteen consecutive day licence	\$ 6-50
Licence for one day	\$ 3-50

LAKE MACINTOSH

Following representations from the North Western Fisheries Association for an initial and once only liberation of rainbow trout to provide a rainbow fishery of limited duration, the Commission proposes to seed Lake Macintosh with 10,000 rainbow trout fry. There are several constraints on this species becoming permanently established here. The first is the competition from brown trout already in the lake and their number would likely increase. Another constraint which applies to both species is the fluctuation in water level.

BRADYS LAKE FISH FARM PROPOSAL

An Environmental Impact Statement on a trout farm near Bradys Lake has been produced by Tastrout Pty. Ltd. and copies circulated to the angling associations for comment.

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION - LAKE ADA

The Commission has acquired steel for the construction of a foot bridge across the canal between Lake Ada and Ada Lagoon. The bridge would improve access for shore based anglers. Molle Creek Branch has offered to assist in the acquisition of suitable planking - 1 metre 22 mm - for surfacing the bridge. It is hoped to put construction in course in the coming summer.

PET RIVER DAM

The Burnie Branch of the North Western Fisheries Association report many anglers fishing the Pet River dam with success in the past season as many fish were caught, ranging in size from .7 to 1.3 kg. A surprising feature was that, although anglers sighted many galaxias in the lake, they did not observe the trout feeding on them.

The Commission proposes to liberate 10,000 brown trout fry in the Pet River Dam in the spring of 1980. Anglers fishing this water are urged to keep records of the size and numbers of fish taken in the coming season and to forward the information to the Commission.

NORTH WEST COAST RIVERS

Northwest coast rivers fished very well in the past season. The Mersey, in particular, fished well. One angler reported catching 5-6 trout each time he visited the river and another angler caught 114 fish from the river in the 1979/80 season, whereas, in the previous season he caught 32 from the same water.

Other rivers to fish well were the Falls Creek at Wilmot, when the grasshopper was available. Wilmot River and Leven River fished particularly well. At Heilyer, one angler reported taking 9 fish in two visits.

RAINBOW TROUT AT LAKE SORELL

One of the largest rainbow trout caught at Lake Sorell for a number of years was landed during the bad season. It weighed 4 kg. The number of rainbow trout in Lake Sorell is relatively small as the lake is managed as a brown trout fishery.

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS

The Commission has not found sufficient support among anglers to designate any waters as catch and release waters, but, for those anglers wishing to release their catch, the Commission would suggest that they use barbless hooks, which enable the fish to be released and returned unharmed to the water.

BROCHURE OF TROUT FISHING

The Commission is preparing a brochure on trout fishing for distribution to overseas anglers wishing to come to Tasmania. The brochure is designed to provide basic information in response to a first enquiry about trout fishing in Tasmania.

FISH FARM LICENCE - CRESSY FISH FARM

A clause has been added to the fish farm licence at Cressy to ensure that the water in Brumbys Creek is not lowered excessively in dry periods and limits the draw on Brumbys Creek No. 3 Weir to 0.5'. Generally the fish farm draw off effect on No. 3 Weir will be insignificant as the maximum withdrawal is 35 cusecs.

PENSTOCK LAGOON - BROWN TROUT SPAWNERS

Inland Fisheries Commission field staff handled 295 brown trout spawners in No. 2 canal leading into Penstock Lagoon in May this year. The average weight of the fish was 1.6 kg. Besides measuring and weighing a representative sample of the fish, the staff collected and put down 60,000 eggs in the gravel.

The dry conditions necessitated releasing water from Great Lake through Shannon Lagoon and Penstock Lagoon to meet riparian needs and a side effect was to provide exceptionally favourable conditions for brown trout to move up to No. 2 canal. Some fish moved up beyond the fifth baffle. To prevent later strandings, field staff transferred these spawners back to below Pulfords Weir and it is likely that a successful spawning resulted even though there was little flow after riparian needs were satisfied. As usual the Hydro Electric Commission notified the Inland Fisheries Commission of flow changes to No. 2 canal.

FISH DISEASE

The Commission proposes further discussions with interstate fisheries authorities in an attempt to minimise the risk of disease introduction with exotic fish from interstate dealers into Tasmania. The Commission has already had discussions on the legal aspects of the control of diseased fish coming into Tasmania with the Solicitor-General and with the Department of Agriculture.

MEXICAN WALKING FISH

Mexican walking fish is actually an amphibian. A recent accident in Ulverstone, when an axolotl was run over by a car created some interest. The property owner, Mr. Robert Paynton, imported the fish about 20 years ago, and for the last 15 years, they have lived in ponds on his property. An interesting point about the axolotl is that it is a larval form which breeds before assuming the adult form, indeed it only metamorphoses if fed thyrod. The animal is a native of Mexico and the name "axolotl" is the Aztec for "water servant".

The animal is long lived and specimens have been kept in aquaria at schools. Larvae live at water and breathe by three pairs of external gills. In the wild, the animal is black, but a handsome albino form with red gill filaments has been developed in domestication. The male reaches a length of 15-23 cm and the female rather more.

The introduction of exotic amphibians into the wild in Tasmania is not permitted.

BOAT RAMPS

The Commission notes the excellent work carried out by some angling branches in the provision of boat ramps as club projects. New Norfolk Branch has improved boat ramps at Meadowbanks Lake and Lake Binney and the New Norfolk Sportsmens Club has done similar work at Lake Sorell.

The Commission has a standing offer to provide a truck and driver to clubs engaged on these programmes provided adequate notice is given of the requirement for this assistance.

There has been a suggestion to make a concrete boat ramp at Arthurs Lake Dam and the costing of materials for the project is approximately \$1,800.

TRANSFERRENCE OF ADULT BROWN TROUT FROM GREAT LAKE

The annual programme of transferring adult brown trout from Great Lake continued and so far this season, up until the end of May 3,960 fish were transferred to waters lacking spawning facilities.

ANGLING IN JAPAN

In Japan, freshwater angling is provided by stocking fish-out ponds with carp or rainbow trout. The fee to anglers varies between \$1 and \$10 per day. Angling is an extremely popular sport in Japan and anglers from that country have expressed pleasure in the trout fishing in Tasmania. The solitude on Tasmanian streams and the opportunity to catch wild fish are exciting to these visitors.

MIGRATING EEL FISHERY

To encourage catching eels in their best condition, the Commission held a number of discussions with eel fishermen and licences have been issued to operate eel traps to catch downstream migrating eels in certain rivers.

A trap was set in Macquarie River in April and permits for other traps have been issued for Little Swanport River, Tooms River and Prosser River. The gear is designed to avoid catching platypus and other native fauna and it should not interfere with recreational fisheries. As this fishing develops the catching period should become better known.

NEW TROUT WATERS TO BE DEVELOPED

The Commission proposes to stock a lagoon near Tods Corner with rainbow trout. The lagoon is shallow but it did not dry out in the dry conditions experienced last summer. It is proposed to liberate rainbow trout here, and to manage the fishing as a rainbow trout fishery with fly fishing only permitted.

LAKE WARATAH AND WARATAH DAMS

On 9 June the Commissioner and Associate Commissioner French met Warden Jim May, Councillor Rex Barker and Council Clerk Ron Graver at Waratah to discuss the management of a new fishery in Lake Waratah, a new impoundment formed on Waratah River. It is part of a recreational reserve in the centre of town.

Lake Waratah is about 2 hectares in extent. As brown trout are already in this lake, stock would be self-supporting by recruits entering from excellent spawning grounds in Randall Creek.

There are other storages at Waratah which make the area interesting for trout fishermen. Magnet No. 1 dam is the largest storage with a surface area of 324 hectares, it is the only storage here with rainbow trout. It has a gravel spillway and has a fish screen which prevents rainbow trout moving out. The approximate surface areas of other storages close to Waratah are - Town dam 3.2 hectares; McKay's dam 202 hectares and Six Mile dam 5 hectares.

ANGLING FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Through the courtesy of the Rotary Club of Lindisfarne, a fishing day was held on 20 April for spastic children. The day was a great success and the children got much enjoyment from catching the fish provided for the occasion by the Inland Fisheries Commission.

ROAD TO SILVER PLAINS - LAKE SORELL

The Inland Fisheries Commission is a contributor to the maintenance of Silver Plains road. The Commission takes the view that the use of this road by the heavy log-laden trucks would not only cause a rapid deterioration of the road surface, but could create a serious hazard to other road users. For these reasons and unless the road is improved, the Commission has grave reservations about the wisdom of opening the Silver Plains road to log trucks.

TROUT MORTALITY AT COOEE CREEK

The death of brown trout, up to 1 kg in weight, at Cooe Creek in March has been investigated. At the time of the report, it was claimed that the pH of the water was of the order of 9 and 10. However, the accuracy of these readings could not be confirmed. The Department of the Environment is continuing investigations into the incident.

DEE LAGOON

An angler who fishes Dee Lagoon regularly, reported catching 72 trout for the season, of these, 42 were rainbow trout and 30 were brown trout. Thirty-one of the rainbow trout, i.e. 74%, had been fin clipped - in other words they were part of the liberations made by the Commission over the last two years. Most of this anglers fishing took place in the southern area of Dee Lagoon.

The Commission has apprehended anglers for illegal practices in this area and it continues to monitor the activities of persons seeking to carry out illegal activities here.

RECENT COURT CASES

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 23 May 1980 before Mr. J.P. Morris, Maurice Lyell Mahoney of Shepherds Road, Railton, pleaded guilty by endorsement to a charge of permitting his licence to be used in a way calculated to deceive an officer. The offence occurred on or about 16 February 1980. He was fined \$60-00 with costs of \$9-00.

Raymond John Mahoney of Payne Street, Acton, Burnie, pleaded guilty by endorsement to:-

1. Fishing without a licence - \$60-00 with costs of \$8-00.
2. Falsely representing to be licenced - \$75-00.
3. Stating a false name and place of abode - adjourned sine die.

The offences occurred at Great Lake on 16 February 1980.

Allan David Walsh of Enniss Avenue, Railton, pleaded guilty by endorsement to:-

1. Taking fish by means other than rod and line (i.e. deadlines) - Fined \$40-00 with costs of \$8-00.
2. Using more than one rod and line at one time - Fined \$40-00.

The offences occurred at Woods Lake on 2 March 1980.

Bruce George Stephens of Cockers Road, Railton, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing with more than one rod and line. He was fined \$40-00 with costs of \$8-00.

The offence occurred at Woods Lake on 2 March 1980.

Gregory Byron Triffit of Cook Street, Ouse, appeared and pleaded not guilty to a charge of fishing without a licence, a second charge of falsely representing to be licenced, and a third charge of stating a false name, and a fourth charge of stating a false place of abode. The charges were adjourned for hearing at Bothwell Court on 25 July 1980.

At Hobart Court of Petty Sessions on 25 May 1980 before Mr. J.P. Morris, Mark Alfred Wilson of Nubeena Crescent, Tarooma pleaded guilty by endorsement to:-

1. Fishing without a licence - Fined \$40-00 with costs of \$8-00.
2. Falsely representing to be licenced - Adjourned sine die.
3. Producing a licence of another person - adjourned sine die.

The offences occurred at Lake Pedder on 17 February 1980.

Peter Joseph Machin of Lucas Street, Kingston, pleaded guilty by endorsement to lending his licence to another person on or about 22 February 1980. He was fined \$50-00 with costs of \$8-00.

Geoffrey Stephen Baker of Martin Avenue, Triabunna, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using more than one rod and line at a time. The offence occurred at Lake Pedder on 23 February 1980. He was fined \$40-00 with costs of \$8-00.

Rodney Kerry Smith of Athol Street, Lutana, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing with two rods. The offence occurred at Lake Pedder on 5 April 1980. He was fined \$40-00 with costs of \$8-00.

Gerrard Whitolk Markowicz of Radcliffe Crescent, Rosetta, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using a lure other than an artificial fly in Little Pine Lagoon on 16 March 1980. He was fined \$80-00 with costs of \$8-00.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 27th May 1980 before Mr. J.P. Morris, Brian Charles Franz of Eothen Lane, Kilsyth, Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing in prohibited waters. The offence occurred at Sandfly Creek, Lake Pedder, on 12 April 1980. He was fined \$40-00 with costs of \$8-00.

At Burnie Court of Petty Sessions on 17 June 1980 before Magistrate D.H. Jackson, Mark Andrew Berechree of Church Street, Wynyard, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing at Lake Pedder on 19 April 1980 without being licenced to do so.

David West of Leatherwood Avenue, Savage River, was convicted for possession of natural bait at Dee Lagoon on 5 February 1980 at a water preserved for the use of artificial lures only. He was fined \$40-00 with costs of \$4-05.

Terrence Alfred Harris of Philosopher Street, Savage River, appeared on similar charges and was fined \$40-00 with costs of \$4-10. The offence occurred at Dee Lagoon on 5 February 1980.

Desmond Gordon Sutton of Fenton Street, Devonport, appeared and pleaded guilty to possession of natural bait at Dee Lagoon on 3 March 1980. He was fined \$30-00 with costs of \$8-10.

Stephen Russell Harris of Kain Place, East Devonport, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using more than one rod and line at Great Lake on 22 March 1980. He was fined \$40-00 with costs of \$8-10.

At Launceston Court of Petty Sessions on 18 June 1980 before Magistrate K.W. Dockray, Victor Norman Maher of Hume Street, Mayfield, at an ex parte hearing was fined \$80-00 with costs of \$8-10 for using more than one rod when fishing at Arthurs Lake on 22 March 1980.

Brian Leslie Crooks of Paringa Avenue, Newnham, at an ex parte hearing was fined \$35-00 on each of two charges, with costs of \$8-10. He was charged with attempting to take fish by means other than rod and line, and having an unattended set rod at Arthurs Lake on 12 April 1980.

Richard Alfred Crooks of Parua Road, Launceston, pleaded guilty at an ex parte hearing to a charge of fishing with two rods at Arthurs Lake on 12 April 1980. He was fined \$30-00 with costs of \$8-10.

Dean Clark of Murphy Road, Doncaster, Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to an ex parte hearing of being in possession of natural bait in an area reserved for artificial lures. The offence occurred at Lake Sorell on 31 March 1980. He was fined \$15-00 with costs of \$8-10.

Mark Stuart Dennis of Anstey Street, Longford, pleaded guilty to:-

1. Taking fish from closed water - Adjourned sine die.
2. Taking fish by means other than rod and line - Fined \$40-00.
3. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish - Adjourned sine die.

A special penalty of \$5-00 for each of two fish taken (\$10-00) was imposed. Costs of \$4-10 were also imposed. The offences occurred at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell on 22 April 1980.

Ross Morgan Jones of Eskdale, Pownana, pleaded guilty to:-

1. Taking fish from closed water - Adjourned sine die.
2. Taking fish by means other than rod and line - Fined \$40-00.
3. Throwing stones for purpose of taking fish - Adjourned sine die.
4. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish - Adjourned sine die.

A special penalty of \$5-00 for each of two fish taken (\$10-00) was imposed. Costs of \$8-10 were also imposed. The offences occurred at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell on 28 April 1980.

In the Devonport Court of Petty Sessions on 25 June 1980 Graeme Charles Allen on Don Post Office, via Devonport, appeared before Mr. D.H. Jackson and pleaded guilty to charges relating to Inland Fisheries offences.

On a charge of disturbing spawning fish he had a conviction recorded. He was fined \$30-00 with \$8-10 costs for shooting fish, \$60-00 for using a light to take fish and \$20-00 for taking fish from a closed water. A further charge of taking fish by means other than a rod and line was adjourned sine die.

In addition, a special penalty of \$10-00 for each of three trout taken was imposed. The offences occurred at Brandum Creek, Great Lake on 26 April 1930.

Acting Senior Inspector, V.R. Spencer, of the Inland Fisheries Commission prosecuted.

D.D. Lynch,
COMMISSIONER

Inland Fisheries Commission,
127 Davey Street,
HOBART, TASMANIA