

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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1981-82 LICENCE FEES

Licence fees for the coming season will be as follows:-

A licence for an adult male	\$15
A licence for an adult female	15
A licence for approved pensioners	10
A licence for Tasmania Police	10
A new licence to replace lost or destroyed licence	2

The new scale of fees do four things:-

(a) they increase the fee payable for the issue of a licence to an adult female (being a female person who has attained 17 years of age) so that the fee is now the same as that payable for the issue of a licence to a male person who has attained that age;

(b) they abolish the existing fees payable for the issue of licences to juveniles (persons who have attained 10 years of age but have not attained 17 years of age);

(c) they abolish 14 day licences and 1 day licences;

(d) they increase the fees payable for the issue of licences to pensioners and to members of the police force and for new licences to replace lost or destroyed licences.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON

Little Pine Lagoon is an internationally known trout fishery visited by elite fly fishermen from abroad as well as by the more skilful Tasmanian trout anglers. It has considerable tourist appeal and is conveniently located close to a good highway.

Recently, the property on which Little Pine Lagoon is situated, has changed hands and the new owner has commenced developing the land in a manner which could damage the fishery by siltation from run-off from land now under cultivation and eutrophication of the lagoon by animal excreta.

Following complaints from anglers and shack owners about restricted access to the fishery, the Commission took steps to preserve the fishery and anglers rights by seeking to acquire the land around the lagoon. On the 29 June 1981, the owner was served with a notice to treat so that approximately 358 hectares of land, up to the 1009 metre contour, as shown in the attached plan, are being acquired for public, recreation and amusement purposes.

In June 1981 a further complication arose when the owner permitted a slurry log road to be built. The road goes from the Marlborough Highway towards Lake Fergus and passes very close to the current water level of Little Pine Lagoon. The damage to the soil could have considerable adverse effects on the fishery, the spawning of trout and trout food. If the mayfly nymphs are lost, then Little Pine Lagoon will be finished as a fly fishing water.

In discussions with various parties and other actions, the Commission is seeking ways and means to overcome the problem.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON - UNLICENCED FISHERMAN FINED

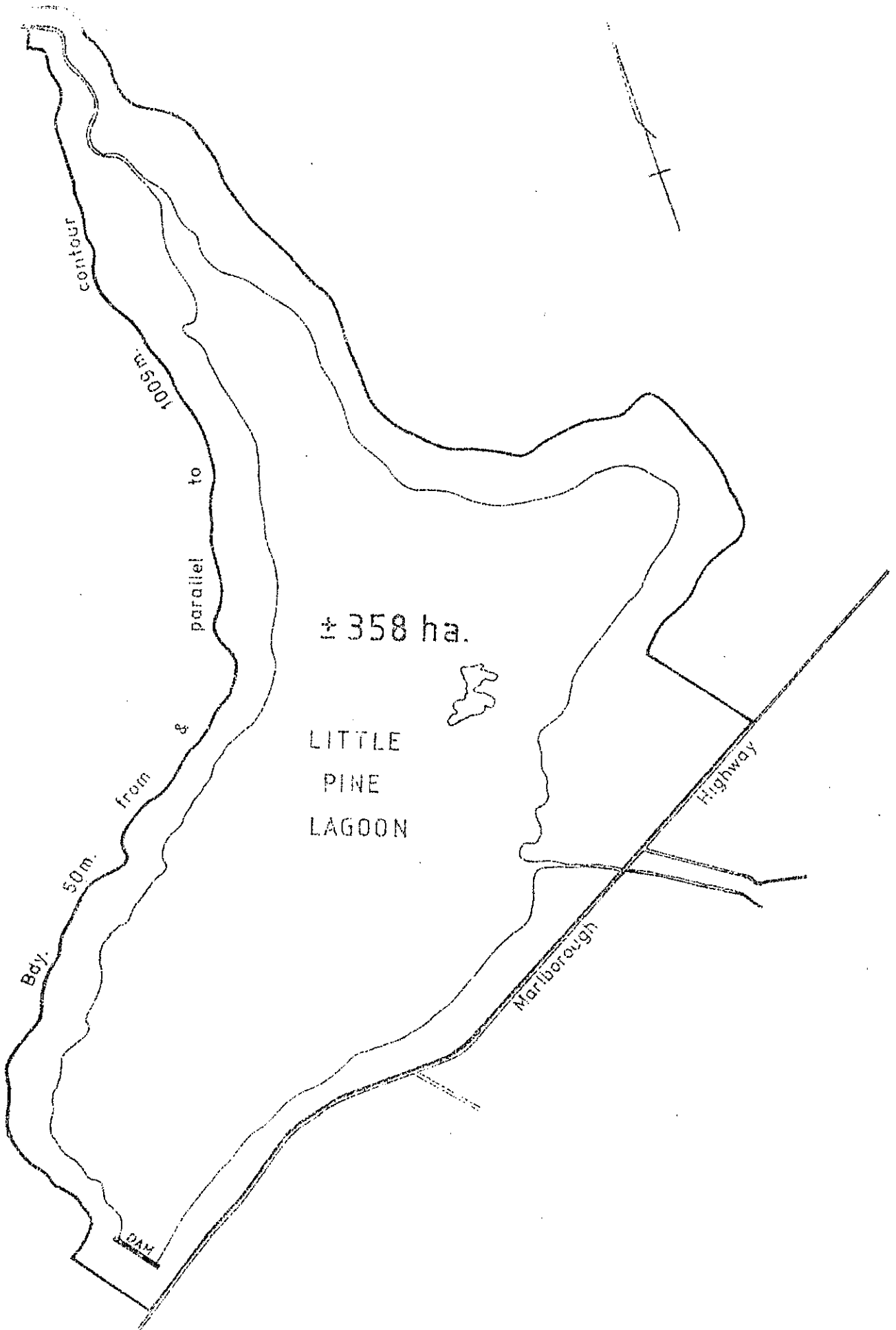
In the Hobart Court of Petty Sessions on the 25 June 1981 before Mr. E. Sikk, Peter Henric Thiessen was charged with fishing at Little Pine Lagoon on the 16 March 1980 without a licence.

Mr. Sam Mollard appeared for the defendent and suggested there was no case to answer, as Thiessen owned the property and could have been fishing for bream.

Mr. N. Maroney of the Inland Fisheries Commission stated that he saw Thiessen fishing from the dam wall. Mr. B. Cassidy, also of the Inland Fisheries Commission, stated that he saw Thiessen fishing and interviewed him. Thiessen admitted not having a licence and claimed he did not need one as he owned the property. Mr. V. Dell of the Lands Department gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. H.T. Foulds of the Solicitor-General's Department prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

The Magistrate found Thiessen guilty and imposed a fine of \$50-00 with \$8-10 court costs. The defendent was given 28 days in which to pay.



contour

1000m.

to parallel & from

50m.

Bdy.

DAM

± 358 ha.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON

Marlborough Highway

Highway

TODS CORNER ROAD

The wood salvage programme at Great Lake has caused some deterioration in the road to Tods Corner and anglers are asked to be patient whilst this programme is in course so that eventually the road may be repaired and put into an acceptable condition for vehicles and trailer borne boats.

OPEN DAY AT LIAWENEE

A successful open day was held at Liawenee on 24 May 1981. Approximately 2 000 visitors attended the field station where they inspected the laboratory and saw some of the projects being carried out by the Commission. Visitors also watched a demonstration of egg collecting and marking of adult brown trout from the spawning run.

BROOK TROUT

The second attempt in 1962 to establish populations of wild brook trout in Tasmania has not brought grounds for optimism.

Apart from the limited success at the Derby Mine Hole and Clarence Lagoon, where brook trout grew well, the programme to establish brook trout has been a failure. From an experimental rearing pond at Wilmot only 7.5% of the fish survived for liberation in Lake No Where Else near Sheffield.

After reviewing the programme since 1962, the Commission decided to undertake a three year stocking programme at Lake No Where Else using brook trout fry. At the end of this programme this storage and Clarence Lagoon would be reviewed.

BOAT LAUNCHING SITES AT GREAT LAKE

As the programme of salvaging timber, during the period when Great Lake is low, has been in course the Hydro-Electric Commission and Forest Resources have improved sites for launching boats at Reynolds Neck and Cramps Bay. Further, when the Lake Highway is re-aligned to accommodate the elevated water level in Great Lake, a number of sites will become available for boat launching as listed below.

Doctors Creek
 Elephant Rock
 Half way between Pine Tree Rivulet and Brandum Bay
 Brandum Bay
 Middle Brandum Bay
 Brownie Bay
 Stoney Creek just north of Reynolds Island

LAKE MACKINTOSH

Members of the Commission carried out an inspection of Lake Mackintosh with the President and Secretary of the Rosebery Anglers Club.

It was noted that the lake has about 11 metres to rise before reaching full supply level. At present there is little shore fishing available but there are good conditions for spinning. The Commission noted that spawning grounds to Lake Mackintosh were excellent in the upper reaches of the Mackintosh, Fury, Vale and other small rivers. Further, fish from Lake Mackintosh could proceed through the tunnel to Lake Murchison and spawn in the Murchison River. The factor operating against Lake Mackintosh being a top line fishery, is that it could be drawn down from full supply level to minimum operating level within three weeks. The rapid draw down is not a favourable characteristic for a good fishery.

LAKE ROSEBERY

The new Lake Rosebery, with a relatively static water level, promises to be one of the best fisheries in the Pieman Scheme. It is conveniently located near Tullah, has very good spawning facilities from its tributary streams and there is a resident population of brown trout which has been in the rivers for many years. The presence of the brown trout is the main reason why the Commission has declined to develop it as a rainbow trout fishery. Brown trout are the more aggressive competitor of the two species and experiences in a number of waters in Tasmania has shown that numbers of brown trout, which are harder to catch, increase fairly rapidly whereas the population size of rainbow trout declines.

RIVER GAUGING WEIRS

The Inland Fisheries Commission proposes to re-erect a portable fish ladder on the Duck River gauging weir and another portable ladder on the Rubicon River for use in the coming summer. These ladders will be installed to collect additional information to that gained in experiments carried out in the previous year. If the experiments are successful, then it is hoped to build permanent structures at both these gauging weirs and at other weirs. The Rivers and Water Supply Commission has been most co-operative in this venture.

WAYATINAH LAGOON

Wayatinah Lagoon is now at full supply level and anglers reported catching good conditioned fish before the season closed.

FISH EATING SNAKES AT TOOMS LAKE

It was noted that 24 brown trout were found in the stomachs of two black snakes killed at a tributary to Tooms Lake earlier this year. Several years ago, snakes at Great Lake were found with native fish in their stomachs.

EARLIER CLOSING PROPOSED FOR RAINBOW TROUT WATERS

It has been suggested that waters managed as rainbow trout fisheries be closed at the end of April to protect spawning streams from the action of poachers. A number of anglers have expressed the view that it is too cold to fish in May and they would not be disadvantaged if the season were closed one month earlier.

INLAND ANGLING LICENCES

The attention of all anglers is drawn to the need to hold an inland angling licence in all waters in Tasmania. Recently, five interstate anglers were fined for fishing without licences at Lake Pedder. The Commission has received support from one angling association on its policy requiring a Tasmanian inland angling licence to fish Tasmanian waters.

VANDALISM

Recent acts of vandalism are the cause of concern to the Commission. On 28 March 1981, a sign at McPartlan Canal was found defaced and needs replacement. On 1 April 1981, a recently installed fish screen at Snowy River was found to be shot up and 303 bullets were found close by. The screen had to be replaced.

Anglers are urged to report the names of persons committing acts of vandalism to Commission property.

BROWN TROUT SPAWNING - LAKE PEDDER

Brown trout commenced spawning in the tributaries to Lake Pedder in mid April. Their progress upstream was assisted by the heavy rains falling between the 16 and 21 April. Details of the spawning runs are set out below.

	<u>Clear Water Creek</u>	<u>Twin Creek</u>	<u>Red Tape Creek</u>
Number of fish	32	38	24
Distance checked	100 m	100 m	75 m
Water temperature	6°	6°	not taken
Estimated weight	1 - 3 kg	1 - 3 kg	500 g - 2 kg
Date inspected	21.4.81	21.4.81	21.4.81

FISHERY AT LAKE PEDDER

Some useful records of fishing in Lake Pedder have been received from various anglers. The catch listed below is an example of the useful information forwarded to the Commission from an interested angler.

Season 1975-1976	No records kept	
Season 1976-1977	Records incomplete Total - 106 10 trips Heaviest for season Average of heaviest	6.58 kg 5.56 kg
Season 1977-1978	Average weight of 133 Heaviest for season Average of heaviest	4.60 kg 9.28 kg 6.19 kg
Season 1978-1979	Average weight of 82 12 trips Heaviest for season Average of heaviest	4.61 kg 8.33 kg 5.54 kg
Season 1979-1980	Average weight of 92 10 trips Heaviest for season Average of heaviest	4.22 kg 7.20 kg 5.57 kg
Season 1980-1981	Average weight of 94 13 trips heaviest for season Average of heaviest	3.38 kg 5.85 kg 5.10 kg

This angler has taken full details of every fish landed and also the condition factor.

Towards the end of the season there was an excellent hatch of mud eye. Other anglers found that galaxias, G. peddarensis, were not as common as in previous years, however, there were good runs of this small forage fish near McPartlans Canal.

MANAGEMENT OF JUVENILE ANGLING PONDS

Juvenile ponds have been a feature of trout fishing in Tasmania for a number of years. The procedures for the management of the ponds are that a club accepts responsibility for selecting the ponds and the Commission makes fish available. The club manages the pond and supervises the fishing.

There are few places where Regulations have been made to define a juvenile pond, for example at Brumby Creek. Most ponds for juveniles are not listed in Inland Fisheries Regulations as the club managing the pond can exercise flexibility in management.

POACHING

The Commission was concerned to learn of poaching at Brandum Creek in May. Further in May, two persons were detected with 29 brown trout at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell. Proceedings are to be taken against these men.

A summary of court cases is set out for information. Further cases are listed for hearing.

Concern has been expressed at the low penalties imposed for breaches of the whitebait fishery regulations in the Mersey River.

Court Date	Offender and Address	Nature of Offence	Fine	Costs
19.12.80	Tony John Fowler Glenorchy	Take fish other than rod and line. Take fish from closed water. Disturb spawning fish.	124-00	8-10
19.12.80	David Arthur Bennett Chigwell	Take fish other than rod and line. Take fish from closed water. Disturb spawning fish.	124-00	8-10
10.2.81	Graham Charles Allen Don	Take fish other than rod and line. Possession of a net.	110-00	4-05

Court Date	Offender and Address	Nature of Offence	Fine	Costs
10.2.81	Gerald Rodney Gleeson Turners beach	Take fish other than rod and line. Possession of a net.	110-00	4-05
16.3.81	Kerrol John Barker Wynyard	Take whitebait. Scoop net not tagged.	40-00	8-10
17.3.81	Janet Margaret Connolley A.C.T.	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
17.3.81	William Alfred Connolley A.C.T.	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
17.3.81	Tony Cario Launceston	Using more than one rod.	20-00	8-10
18.3.81	Kevin Reginald Tuthill Quoiba	Using more than one rod.	20-00	8-10
18.3.81	Ross Bengtell Latrobe.	Take whitebait.	20-00	8-10
18.3.81	Elwin Lindsay Miller Latrobe	Using more than one rod.	20-00	8-10
26.3.81	Shane Michael Anderson Togari	Take whitebait. Possession of whitebait.	100-00	8-10
27.3.81	David Burns South Australia	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
27.3.81	Geoffrey Kevin Mills Victoria	Fishing without licence	50-00	8-10
27.3.81	Geoffrey Samuel Goodman New South Wales	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
27.3.81	Andrew Ossewayer New South Wales	Possession natural bait in artificial water.	20-00	8-10
30.3.81	Patrick Edward Garland Wynyard	Take whitebait. Possession of whitebait. Using scoop net.	150-00	8-10
9.4.81	Malcolm Allen Richardson Swansea	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
27.4.81	David Edwin Stitz Somerset	Using more than one rod.	50-00	8-10

<u>Court Date</u>	<u>Offender and Address</u>	<u>Nature of Offence</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Costs</u>
27.4.81	Christopher Nichols Zeehan	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
6.5.81	Rex William Shepard Ulverstone	Fishing without licence.	60-00	8-10
11.5.81	Peter Anthony Vandartel New South Wales	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
11.5.81	Peter Leonard Browne New South Wales	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
11.5.81	Neville McDonald New South Wales	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
11.5.81	Roxley Thomas Saunders Loire	Using more than one rod. Fishing without licence.	70-00	
11.5.81	Beverley Edna Parker A.C.T.	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
11.5.81	William John Parker A.C.T.	Fishing without licence.	50-00	8-10
12.5.81	Geoffrey Arthur Thorpe Luceston	Disturbing spawning fish.	75-00	8-10
12.5.81	Rodney John Nichols North Hobart	Disturbing spawning fish.	75-00	8-10
12.5.81	Gordon Leslie Mules Morningson	Assembled rod and reel Take fish closed water.	50-00	8-10
12.5.81	Ernest Albert Kingston Warrane	Assembled rod and reel Take fish closed water.	50-00	8-10
12.5.81	Mark Harris Launceston	Discharge firearm.	30-00	8-10
17.6.81	Allan John Williams Risdon Vale	Fishing without licence.	20-00	8-10
18.6.81	Gary John Gittus New Norfolk	Take fish closed water Using natural bait.	50-00	8-10
17.6.81	Athol Roy Cannon Rosetta	Using more than one rod.	30-00	8-10

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