

## INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

### NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X11 NUMBER 5

JULY 1983

#### WHITEBAIT

A spate of whitebait offences have caused the Commission a great deal of time, effort and expense over the past year and a number of successful prosecutions have been launched.

Magistrate D.H. Jackson found Patrick Edward Garland guilty in the Burnie Court of Petty Sessions on 25 February 1983. An appeal by Garland to the Supreme Court of Tasmania for a review, heard in Burnie on 20 May 1983 by the Chief Justice the Hon. Sir Guy Green, was dismissed.

At the Burnie Court of Petty Sessions on 10 June 1983, Chief Stipendiary Magistrate P. Sproule found Patrick Edward Garland guilty on three charges relating to whitebait and he was fined \$50 with costs of \$47 on the first charge; \$25 on the second charge; and \$50 on the third charge.

Following consideration of this case, it was agreed that it would be desirable to repeal redundant provisions of Fisheries Regulations relating to whitebait. Accordingly, the provisions have been repealed in regulations which are in the course of being made.

The amendment regulations are as follows:

- (a) By defining "bank or shore of an inland water";
- (b) to prevent the issue of a licence to take whitebait commercially;
- (c) by making it an offence to take or possess whitebait without a permit;
- (d) by increasing the penalties for certain offences;

- (e) by empowering the Commission to seize certain nets the possession of which is an offence under regulation 16 of those regulations; and
- (f) to remove certain references to whitebait in those regulations.

#### LAGOON OF ISLANDS AND RIPPLE CREEK DIVERSION

Further discussions have been held between the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission on the above project. Drop structures are to be installed in the 900 m of channel from the cutting to the edge of the lagoon. The width of the canal and its direction are yet to be determined. The matter of turbidity was considered and it is proposed that turbid water could be diverted into Woods Lake until such time as clear flow is evident. This would not upset the ecological balance of Lagoon of Islands.

In the arrangements, Jacks Creek will be permanently diverted to Lagoon of Islands except when there is excess flow and on these occasions water would be allowed to enter Woods Lake.

A problem at present unresolved is the provision of suitable spawning gravel for the new spawning channel.

The option for developing fisheries in Lagoon of Islands are particularly bright as the flow regime would provide flows of water suitable for brown trout and/or rainbow trout spawners.

#### TERRENCE WAYNE WADLEY

Complaints against Terrence Wayne Wadley were heard by Magistrate K.M. Dockray in the Launceston Court of Petty Sessions on 1 and 31 March, 30 May and 5 July 1983.

Crown Counsel, Mr H.T. Faulds, appeared for the Inland Fisheries Commission and Mr D. Porter appeared on behalf of the defendant.

The court decisions were as follows:

1. Take fish by means other than rod and line contrary to Regulation 4(3)(a) of the Inland Fisheries Regulations 1973. Dismissed.
2. Wilfully disturb spawning fish contrary to Section 44(2)(A) of the Fisheries Act 1959. Dismissed.
3. Take fish from closed waters contrary to Regulation 8(1)(d) of the Inland Fisheries Regulations 1973. Dismissed.
4. Refuse to allow search contrary to Section 24(1)(b) of the Fisheries Act 1959. Conviction recorded.

5. Obstruct an officer contrary to Section 24(1)(d) of the Fisheries Act 1959. Convicted. Fined \$75 and court costs of \$67-10. Thirty days to pay, in default 29 days imprisonment.
6. Unlawful assault contrary to Section 35(1) of the Police Offences Act 1935. Convicted. Fined \$75 with \$15-10 court costs. Thirty days to pay, in default 18 days imprisonment.
7. Complaint for condemnation. Order for condemnation of boat and articles subject of the complaint. Order that a Certificate of Condemnation be issued.

The Magistrate further ordered that the defendant pay \$300 Counsel fees.

The Magistrate ordered the condemnation of the following articles:

1. 1 x 4 metre "Savage" aluminium boat.
2. 1 x 25 hp "Mercury" outboard motor.
3. 1 x 4.5 hp "Mercury" outboard motor.
4. 1 x "King" boat trailer.
5. 2 x pairs of green waders.
6. 2 x yellow life jackets.
7. 2 x rod holders.

It is proposed to sell the equipment through the Supply and Tender Department.

#### IMPORTATION OF SALMONID EGGS

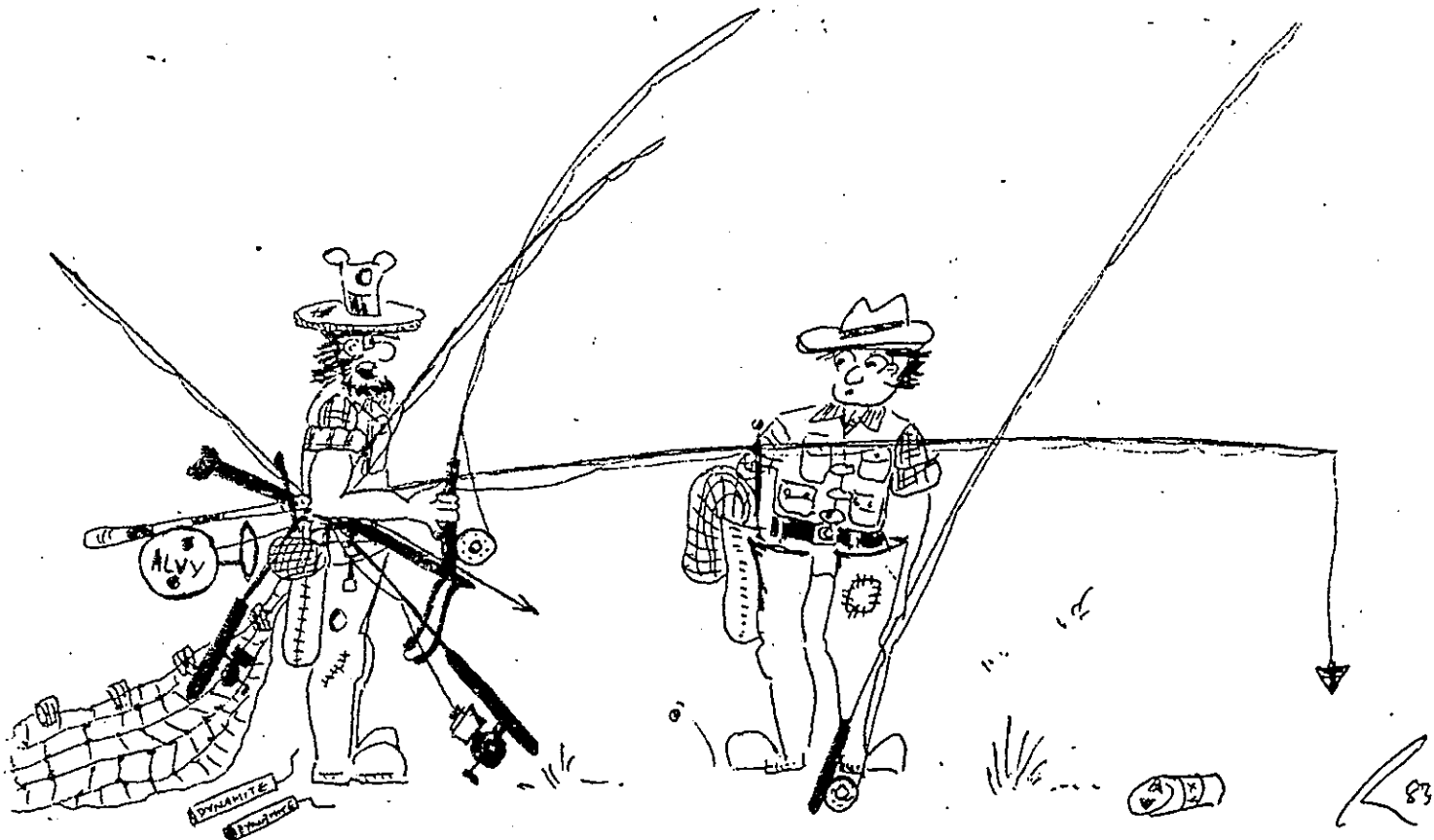
The long term plan is to test the possibility of setting up a salmon farming industry in Tasmania.

The importation of salmonid eggs from a New South Wales hatchery is scheduled for July 1984. It was not possible to carry out necessary tests to allow the safe importation of eggs before that date.

One essential test involves the examination of ovarian fluid from the brood stock which is only available at spawning time.

Arrangements are in course to draw up a suitable protocol for the importation of Atlantic salmon eggs on a once only basis. The importation of any salmonid eggs into Australia is prohibited because of the risk of fish diseases entering with the eggs.

With acknowledgement to Warren Ross, Southern Fly Fishers,  
Volume 16, Number 12, June 1983.



BEEN THAT BLOODY LONG BETWEEN TRIPS MATE... GUNNA MAKE  
THIS UN A WINNER

#### DAGO POINT DEVELOPMENT

The three launching ramps as well as the marina are now virtually completed at Dago Point. There remains minor clearing up to be done which could wait until next year. Further, the navigation aids to mark the reefs in Lake Sorell are in course.

#### LAKE SORELL AND LAKE CRESCENT

Following an Inter-Departmental Committee report from a meeting convened by the Commission, the management of Lake Sorell and Lake Crescent and possible amending legislation have been discussed with the Minister for Inland Fisheries.

#### BRADYS LAKE INTERNATIONAL SLALOM CANOE COURSE

Further discussions are planned between the Inland Fisheries Commission and the Minister for Inland Fisheries to safeguard the 'Shannon Rise' type of phenomenon and trout breeding in the Whitewater leading to Bradys Lake.

The Tarraleah Anglers Branch have proposed a boat ramp be put in use for anglers. Further, consideration has been given to removing the wires and poles that have caused so much damage to fishing gear. The Whitewater is a recognised fly fishery of importance as well as an important breeding site for fish as well as a migratory route for fish in the Bronte chain of lakes.

#### REARING PONDS

The proliferation of rearing ponds throughout the State was considered recently. The Commission recognises the value of these as an activity focus maintaining interest in a branch for anglers but a well designed central hatchery would be the most efficient way of providing larger fish.

#### SIGN FOR SALMON PONDS

The Commission has arranged for the Department of Main Roads to erect a sign at the junction of the Glenora and Lyell Highway to indicate the Salmon Ponds.

#### NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICERS

On 29 May 1983, two officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service intercepted two persons for allegedly disturbing and

taking spawning fish at Hydro Creek. Following a high speed chase the alleged poachers crashed near Penstock Lagoon. Subsequently, charges have been laid against a New Norfolk man and a Jericho man for taking 71 brown trout from Hydro Creek.

#### CENTRAL PLATEAU MANAGEMENT PLAN

The maintenance of tracks should be upgraded to provide reasonable access for users. There are a number of bog holes on four wheel drive tracks which will be passable by tipping trailer loads of stones on them.

Car tracks from Lake Augusta have not had sufficient maintenance since their initial construction. There is merit in extending four wheel drive access in some areas such as the Talinah track between Talinah and Talleh lagoons. Other tracks which could be developed are past Pillans to Lake Gwendy and past Julian Lakes towards First Bar Lake.

Adequate sign posting should be put in place to say whether walking only or four wheel drive vehicles have access to Lake Flora and Lake O'Dell. Access by vehicle could be allowed as least as far as Lake Baillie during the summer.

If public shelters were available in remote areas such as Lake Field, Pillans Lake and Lake Antimony, then there would be less incentive for four wheel drive vehicles to enter these areas.

Helicopters should be permitted to land only at sites where vehicle access is permitted except in the case of an emergency or for departments to carry out their official responsibilities.

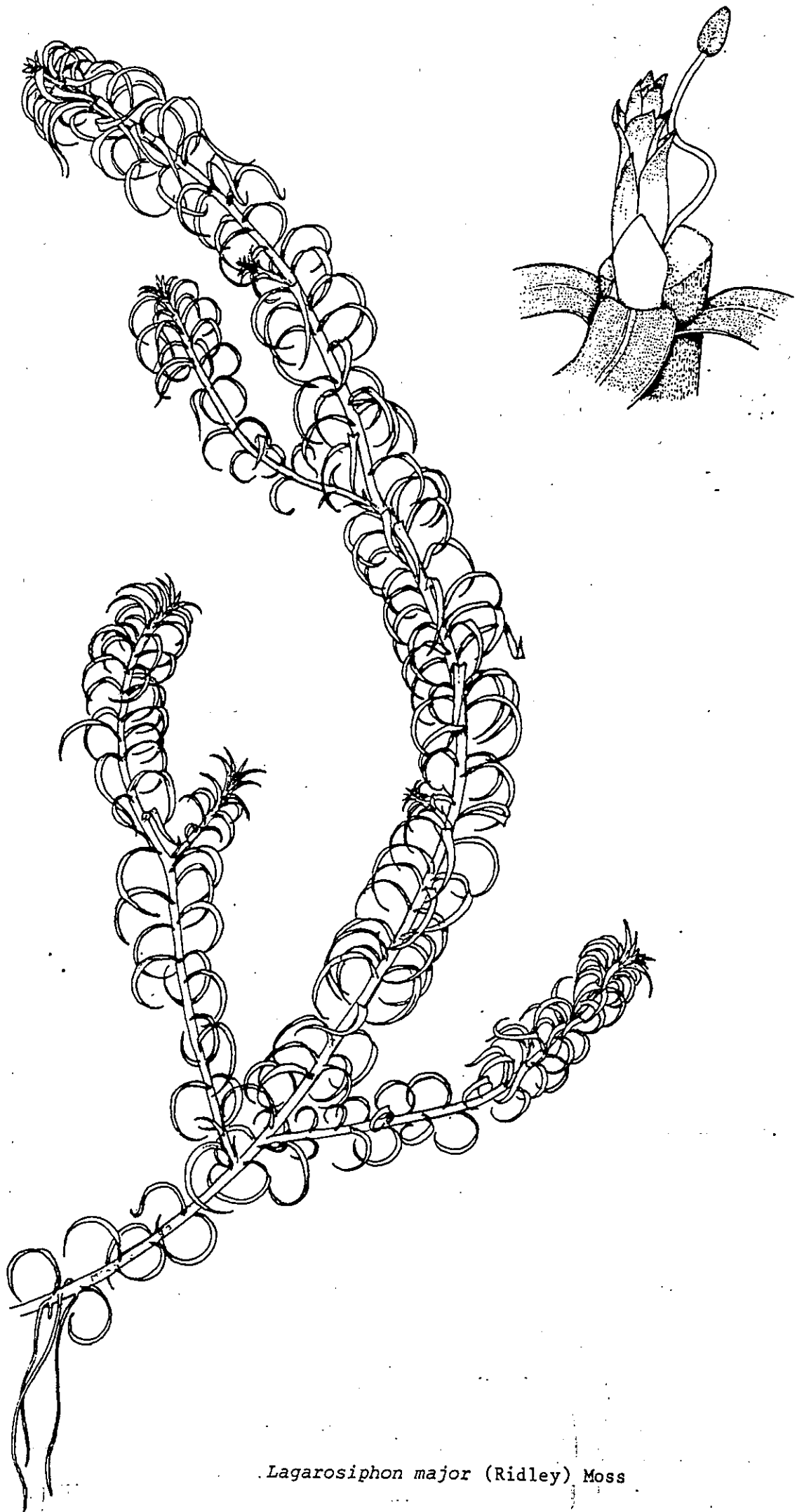
#### LAGAROSIPHON

An infestation of the aquatic weed Lagarosiphon (Lagarosiphon major) has been located in an ornamental pond in Hobart. This is the first record of this species "in the wild" in Tasmania.

The plant has demonstrated a capacity for exceedingly rapid growth and cold tolerance. It must be considered a major potential threat to our dams and water systems.

Further infestations could reach us from the mainland (possibly via aquarium supply houses) or from New Zealand, brought in by returning visitors. In New Zealand it is a serious pest in some water storages.

In appearance Lagarosiphon is more or less mid way between the aquatic plants Canadian pond weed (Elodea canadensis) and Dense water weed (Egeria densa). The leaves are almost as long as those of Egeria, but narrower and more pointed. They have a distinct downward curl forming half or three-quarters of a circle.



*Lagarosiphon major* (Ridley) Moss

Superficially the leaves appear to be in whirls like Elodea and Egeria, but on closer inspection they are clearly seen to arise individually from the stem.

Any suspected incidence should be reported immediately to the Mount Pleasant Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Launceston. Confirmed infestations must be destroyed.

To send specimens for identification: shake off excess water, place in a polythene bag with a moist piece of towel and send on a Monday.

#### LIBERALISATION OF FISHING REGULATIONS

There are a number of lakes which have remarkably vigorous self supporting populations of rainbow trout as well as brown trout.

The Commission proposes to give consideration to modifying the closed season for both species of trout to the following times - May, June, July and August or May, June and July. Under this arrangement certain recognised spawning areas for either species may be closed for extended times.

The problems in preserving either a brown trout or rainbow trout fishery is the different spawning periods for the two species. When the season is open, both species of fish may be taken legally by anglers.

A relic population of rainbow trout has been maintained at Lake Sorell but in recent years there has been evidence that this species is surviving despite the fact that it has little protection at spawning time other than the safety of a permanently closed water in Mountain Creek.

An extended open season would obviously pose difficulties in imposing enforcement in that poachers may claim that their catch was taken from open waters when, in fact, it was taken from spawning tributaries.

These matters are to be discussed with the three Angling Associations so that all points of view may be considered.

#### LITTER

There has been cause for concern at the amount of litter in some places such as Haddens Bay at Great Lake. Anglers are urged to take home refuse or to use the nearest Council tip.

#### PROSECUTIONS

Listed are recent court cases. Further cases are pending for hearing.



<u>COURT DATE</u>	<u>OFFENDER AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>NATURE OF OFFENCE</u>	<u>FINE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
10.6.83	Jason CHALLENGER 1 Woorin Street Chigwell	Fishing without a Licence.	50-00	15-10
10.6.83	Lee William BRODRIBB 10 Moorina Crescent Chigwell	Fishing without a licence.	50-00	15-10
10.6.83	Christine THOMPSON 2 Winifred Place Austins Ferry	Fishing without a licence. Falsely representing to be licenced. False name and address.	50-00 50-00	15-10 recorded
13.4.83	Patrick Edward GARLAND 35a Hogg Street Wynyard	Possession of whitebait. Obstructing an officer.		adjourned sine die adjourned sine die
21.6.83	Terrance James CAMPBELL 21 St Leonards Road St Leonards	Using more than one rod and line. Unattended set rod.	20-00 20-00	15-10
7.7.83	Barry Ernest KETTLE 27 Madden Street Burnie	Possession of whitebait. False name and address.	25-00	adjourned sine die 31-10
6.7.83	John Ernest BALFOUR 117 Gunn Street Devonport	Fishing without a licence. Falsely representing to be licenced.	60-00 60-00	15-10
19.7.83	Allan Trevor DORNAUF 7 May Street Bridport	Using more than one rod and line.	35-00	15-10
19.7.83	Craig Dennis BREADMORE 3 Ravenswood Road Launceston	Using more than one rod and line.	35-00	15-10
9.2.83	John Trevis PRIOR 5 Indigo Court Ravenswood	Take fish by means other than rod and line. Take fish from closed waters. Fishing without a licence.	35-00 35-00 25-00	15-10 15-10

D.D. Lynch,  
COMMISSIONER