

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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QUEECHY POND

The culmination of nearly ten years of work ended in the week beginning 28th May, 1973, when adult brown trout from Arthurs Lake were liberated in Queechy Pond. Members of the sub-committee set up by the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association to manage the project of building the Queechy Pond are to be congratulated on the success of their long endeavour to construct the pond and to improve it. The good work of Messrs. T. Kerr, J. Rushton and their many helpers will surely be appreciated by the young anglers who will use the pond as an angling training centre in future years. The Commission made rural workers, employed under the Commonwealth Employment Fund available to assist in the final stages of the project.

COCKATOO DAM AT MACHINERY CREEK NEAR GOWRIE PARK

Following notification by the Hydro-Electric Commission that, for safety reasons, it would be necessary to empty the dam, a Fisheries Officer attended and rescued twenty-five brown trout and transferred them to safety. The largest was 6 lb and the smallest $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. When the outlet valve was opened a number of fish went down to the creek which enters Lake Barrington, but others remained in the old creek in the impoundment above the outlet.

PLENTY ROAD

The New Norfolk Council has undertaken some improvements to the access road to the Salmon Ponds. The road became badly cut-up during the heavy rains in April. As the amount of traffic, which includes tourist buses, continues to increase it is clear that the surface warrants sealing to cope with the heavy traffic load.

FLOODS IN THE CENTRAL PLATEAU

Early in April heavy rain fell in the Central Plateau and caused damage to a number of installations. Parts of a new fish trap at Hydro Creek were washed away and, in the space

following the downpour fish were able to pass upstream above the trap. As a result of the flood, all fish trapping operations at Hydro Creek and Liawenee had to be suspended for some days. In the course of the flooding the Hydro-Creek bridge leading to Cow-paddock Pond was washed away.

VANDALISM IN THE HIGHLANDS

Vandals have defaced Commission property at Hydro Creek and stolen equipment. Anglers are requested to watch out for and report any person damaging property in the Highlands so that appropriate action can be taken.

PENSTOCK AND SHANNON LAGOON LEVELS

Following representation from the Minister for Agriculture to the Minister administering the Hydro-Electric Commission Act, further discussions are in course to see whether it might be possible to maintain a higher level of water, in the angling season, in these two lagoons.

Penstock Lagoon fished well for most of the season but anglers' enjoyment towards the end of the season was spoilt when it was necessary to lower the level of the lagoon to supply riparian needs.

In the spawning run from Penstock Lagoon 300 to 350 brown trout made their way up past the No. 1 Weir and were observed spawning between the Nos. 1 and 2 Weirs. The fish averaged about 3 lb with the largest up to 8 lb.

LIVE AQUARIUM FISHES

The United States of America imported 90,000,000 aquarium fish into the country in 1971 and the growth of the import trade has caused a great deal of concern among fisheries authorities in that country.

Already, in some areas, species of exotic fish, which either escaped or were deliberately set free, have become acclimatised in rivers and other waters to the detriment of sport fisheries. A similar situation is evident in Australia and is causing concern.

The keeping of fish in aquaria is a popular and rewarding hobby which gives pleasure to many people. It is

only when exotic fish or other animals are released and wild populations become established that the adverse ecological effects are noticed.

TRANSFERENCE OF ADULT BROWN TROUT

The annual programme of transference of adult wild brown trout from waters in the highlands to lowland storages is in course.

Up until the 18th May, 4,125 adult brown trout have been removed from Great Lake at Liawenee Canal and 550 have been removed from Arthurs Lake at Hydro Creek.

BROWN TROUT OVA COLLECTION

Up until 17th May, 1973, 1,300,000 brown trout ova have been put down at Plenty and Corra Linn hatcheries to meet the needs for the stocking programme in the coming year.

NEW TROUT FARM LICENCE

The Minister for Agriculture has approved, in principle, the granting of a trout licence to Mr. A. Barwick of Huonville, who proposes to build a trout farm near Huonville.

GIANT TASMANIAN FRESHWATER CRAYFISH

Enquiries continue to be received from abroad seeking to import specimens of *Astacopsis gouldi*. The Commission has placed a ban on the export of this animal in order to protect its over-exploitation.

Work carried out by Professor Unestam of Sweden on *Astacopsis gouldi* has indicated that it is not immune to the crayfish disease which is prevalent in Europe and which was responsible for the death of many European crayfish (*Astacus astacus*).

ANGLING AT GREAT LAKE

When fishing at Great Lake on the 4th and 5th May Mr. and Mrs. Smith, committee members of Railton Branch N.W.F.A.,

caught four brown trout and twenty-six rainbow trout, the largest fish being 5 lb. They fished Haddon's Bay and used natural bait. Both have visited Great Lake for many years and have expressed pleasure at the re-establishment of the rainbow trout fishery in this water.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

On 19th May, 1973, four persons were apprehended shooting fish at Barren Creek which flows into Shannon Lagoon. They will be proceeded against on summons.

In Bothwell Court on 25th May, 1973, before Mr. H.N. Solomon P.M., Peter George Harris of Glen Street, Ridgeway, was fined \$50 with costs, amounting to \$2.65 for fishing with an unattended set rod at Lake Crescent on 11th February, 1973. The case was heard ex parte. Mr. M. F. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

TROUT METERS

Trout are one of the most sensitive indicators of pollution. The following report in the journal "New Scientist" may interest anglers.

.....Engineers at a French hydraulic laboratory have found that plain electronics has nothing on trout when it comes to detecting polluted water.

The laboratory at Boran sur Oise, just north of Paris, is an observation post for a waterworks that supplies 400,000 homes in the region. If polluted water reached the works it could cause chaos, but ordinary warning systems are just not good enough.

So the water engineers have built three aquaria, each fed with flowing Oise water running at the normal speed of the river current, and contained one trout. By nature, trout like to swim against the current, but in case they stop swimming, they are spurred on by electric charges. Apparently, eight days of continuous swimming upstream does not cause the fish any harm.

When a trout encounters polluted water, however, it turns back and swims with the current. Each trout is fitted with small electrodes which trigger an alarm whenever the fish travels in the wrong direction.

If only one trout turns tail, the water is probably not polluted - even trout get tired. But if all three swim downstream at the same time, the engineers can be sure that the water is polluted and warn the water works downstream. The scheme has been in operation for several months, preventing polluted water reaching the works and making life generally easier for the water technicians. But it's an uphill job for the poor trout.

D.D. Lynch
Commissioner

5th June, 1973.