

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 No. 5

September, 1978

WESTERN LAKES

For safety reasons, the Lands Department has found it necessary to close the access to the Western Lakes from time to time due to adverse weather conditions. So that anglers may be informed of this procedure, the Commission proposes to take up the matter with the Lands Department so that an early warning system can be devised, if practical.

SHACK SITES AT DAGO POINT, LAKE SORELL

The Lands Department has arranged for shack sites to be allocated to angling clubs at Lake Sorell. It is proposed to give improved access to these sites and to lease them for an indefinite period. Sites are not to be fenced and are not to be made available to other than recognised angling clubs.

BOAT RAMPS - LAKES PEDDER AND GORDON

An inspection was made on 29/8/78 by Messrs. Bridges, Petterwood, Duncan and Causby who listed priorities for improvements which would benefit tourist anglers.

PRIORITY 1

(a) A new ramp could be ideally situated in Strathgordon Bay adjacent to the Bundeena wharf. If necessary, a road could be run through the car park to a point further away from the Bundeena or, (b) Ted's Beach could be upgraded by providing a new road behind the existing toilet block to the Northern end of Ted's Beach and providing a turning circle and car park and a ramp for large boats.

It is considered that one of the above is essential to cater for anglers, tourists etc. staying at Strathgordon. The ramps at Sprent Basin and McPartlans Canal are ideal but situated too far from Strathgordon

PRIORITY 2

EDGAR DAM - (a) the existing ramp is dangerous and requires a rock filled breakwater constructed to protect the ramp and the turning circle extended to the beginning of the ramp or (b) a new ramp constructed at the end of a track which runs off opposite the air strip entrance. A couple of small trees would need to be removed.

PRIORITY 3

IXL Compartment 17 road - Lake Gordon

This is situated approximately 2 km from the Gordon Road and is well protected. A car park and some improvements to the turning circle are required. However, these should present no problems. Trees in water would need to be marked with red reflectors or buoyed. Some trees may need to be removed.

PRIORITY 4

Scotts Peak -- (a) Present ramp is unprotected and a submerged concrete pile near the entrance to the ramp is a hazard. The ramp requires a breakwater and the pile a buoy, or, (b) Construct a new ramp in the small inlet adjacent to the proposed Bundeena moorage. The inlet is well protected.

PRIORITY 5

The car park at the ramp near McPartlans Canal could be extended when machinery was in the area at some time.

FISH FARM LICENCES

The Commission held discussions with the Health Department and the Department of the Environment regarding fish farm licences, and the viability of conducting an Environmental Impact Study. From discussions so far, it appears that, if fish farms are properly conducted, there is no risk to human health. No diseases from fish are thought to pose a problem to human health and water quality should be to a standard acceptable to the Department of Public Health.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL BY THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner is attending a Symposium on Atlantic salmon held in Edinburgh and is visiting fish farms in European countries and discussing the management of fish farms with various authorities. The Commission will inspect fish farms and discuss with the various Government authorities the control of fish farms and hygiene, the certification of ova for import and export and whether the import of trout ova were permitted. The Chairman would visit a number of research institutions in the course of his visit.

The Commissioner has been requested to make available, for an historical exhibition and publicity, one of the egg trays used in the early import to Tasmania of Atlantic salmon.

LAKE DULVERTON

A comprehensive report on angling catches at Lake Dulverton has been supplied by Mr. F. Mancy of the Oatlands sub-Branch. It is noted that larger brown trout continue to be caught in Lake Dulverton in the current season. It is proposed to review the stocking of Lake Dulverton in February and anglers are advised to let Mr. Mancy know details of catches which they may make at Lake Dulverton.

TOOMS LAKE

Anglers reported successful fishing in Tooms Lake in the last season and already some fine brown trout have been caught in this water.

ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION OF YABBIES

The Commission has confirmed the presence of the yabbie, Cherax destructor, in several farm dams in southern Tasmania. Further, the yabbie was released in Rushy Lagoon, Cremorne, in August of this year. The Commission has in course investigations to confirm the extent of this yabbie and to examine methods of control. The Minister for Primary Industry has put in course an Order for the yabbie to be a noxious fish for the purposes of the Fisheries Act.

The Commission proposes to distribute an identification sheet for the yabbie and to give reasons why it should be removed from Tasmania. The Commission has already refused a number of requests from persons wishing to farm yabbies in Tasmania and to introduce them from elsewhere. The yabbie, Cherax destructor, does not occur in Tasmania and its introduction could have a disastrous effect on the local species of yabbies, including our freshwater crayfish. Furthermore, yabbies are extremely destructive in farm dams where they burrow holes in walls and allow water to escape.

FIELD DAY AT LIAWENEE

It is proposed to hold a field day at Liawenee in October so that visitors may have the opportunity of viewing the spawning run of the Great Lake trout.

ACCESS TO WOODS LAKE

Following requests by the Commission, a property owner at Bothwell agreed to unlock the gate at the Steppes-Interlaken road to permit anglers to have access to Woods Lake.

EEL FISHERY

The Commission proposes to call tenders to have an exclusive right to catch eels at the following places: the Ouse River at Ouse, the Ringarooma River at Boobyalla, the Prosser River below the lower dam, the Huon River at Egg Island between the first and eastern shore.

COMMERCIAL FISH FARMS FOR TROUT

The Premier advised that the "status quo" remains with the Inland Fisheries Commission and that the Commission should keep control of commercial trout farms in Tasmania.

DERWENT RIVER

Reports of sightings of brown trout in the Derwent River have been more frequent this year and it appears that one of the best runs of sea-run brown trout for a number of years moved up the river this year. There have been reports of illegal catches of brown trout in the Taroon area, in nets.

MYCOBACTERIUM IN QUINNAT SALMON IN VICTORIA

The Victorian Health Department found that the bacterium present presented no public health risk and found that it is probably widely distributed in natural waters in Australia.

RECENT PROSECUTIONS

In the Bothwell Court on 23rd August, 1978, before Mr. L. White and Mr. J. Bignell, Clarence David Hampton of Rossarden pleaded guilty to the following charges.

1. Using a light for the purposes of taking fish.
2. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish.
3. Taking eight rainbow trout in a water flowing into Lagoon of Islands.

On the first charge he was fined \$60. On the second charge he was fined \$60. On the third charge a conviction was recorded with a special penalty of \$240. (Total \$364).

Two further charges against the defendant of obstructing an officer in the lawful execution of his duty and taking fish by means other than a rod and line were adjourned sine die.

First Class Constable Burgess of Bothwell Police, who prosecuted, told the Court that the defendant had been intercepted by Fisheries Inspector B. Cassidy at Mary Creek, Lagoon of Islands, at about 11.20 p.m. on 22nd August, 1978, but had run away. He was subsequently intercepted at a road block set-up by Cressy Police and apprehended by First Class Constable Burgess and Inspector Cassidy at about 4.20 a.m. the following morning at Poatina.

The defendant was allowed three months to pay (in default 78 days imprisonment).

At Bothwell Court on August 25th, 1978, before Mr. T. Holt, S.M. - Kevin John Murfett of Ogden St., Burnie, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using more than one rod and line at a time and fishing with an unattended set rod. On the first charge he was fined \$50.00, \$8.00 costs, and on the second charge he was fined \$50.00. Further charges of obstructing an officer in the execution of his duty and stating a false name and address were adjourned sine die. The offences occurred at Clark Point, Great Lake, on 22nd April, 1978.

Dale Francis Sharman of Ironcliff Rd., Penguin, pleaded guilty by endorsement to taking fish from Kimberley Creek and also to taking five fish by means other than a rod and line in a closed water. On the first charge he was fined \$75 with \$8.00 costs. On the second charge a conviction was recorded together with a special penalty of \$10 for each of five fish. Further charges of wilfully disturbing spawning fish and using a light to take fish were adjourned sine die. The offences occurred on 13th May, 1978, at Kimberley Creek, Great Lake.

Ricky Ian Fielding, Mission Hill Rd., Penguin, pleaded guilty by endorsement to taking fish from Kimberley Creek and also to taking five fish by means other than a rod and line in a closed water. On the first charge he was fined \$75 with \$8.00 costs. On the second charge a conviction was recorded, together with a special penalty of \$10 for each of five fish. Further charges of wilfully disturbing spawning fish and using a light to take fish were adjourned sine die. The offences occurred on 13th May, 1978, at Kimberley Creek, Great Lake.

Senior Inspector M. F. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

22nd September, 1978