

Carp Captures at a Glance

Lake Sorell

January – March (Total)	Adult/Juvenile	Total 1995 to present
3630	1 / 3629	25,548

Lake Crescent

January – March 2011 (Total)	Adult/Juvenile	Total 1995 to present
0	0 - 0	7797

Overview

Lake Sorell

The fish down of juvenile carp continued from January through to March. The end of January saw the removal of all the small single fyke nets from Lake Sorell which had been in place and catching carp since the end of October. The remaining 23 large fyke nets situated in the barrier nets were reversed to capture any juvenile carp that had been residing in the marshy habitat since last summer's spawning event and the three permanent steel traps situated at Kermodes Bay, Kemps Bay and Boathouse Bay were eventually closed towards the end of February. With less fyke nets to check and the reducing pressure of a carp spawning event meant the carp team was able to emphasize their efforts on other methods of capture. It was known that juvenile carp would aggregate together in shallow warm water after a few consecutive days of good weather and direct sunlight. These warm weather events became a very successful method of capture as the carp team would follow the weather and target these aggregations often capturing 400 to 500 carp at a time. On January 27th 15 juvenile carp were implanted with a small radio transmitter and released into Lake Sorell. These fish were tracked regularly and used to determine the movements of the juvenile carp population in the lake. This has given the carp team a further understanding of the juvenile population and also how they interact with the adult population remaining in the lake. It also enables the carp team to quickly locate and target any aggregations that may occur be it feeding or spawning aggregations. During January and February the 5" and 6" Gill nets situated behind the barrier nets as a back-up to prevent carp getting into the marshes were removed. These gill nets had been in for the entire spawning season. On the 4th January a large female full of eggs was captured in the 6" Gill net in Kemps Bay. This female must have jumped the barrier net in

desperation to spawn only to be captured by our gill net. This capture therefore made the use of gill nets behind the barrier nets very worthwhile as even one minor spawning event can produce thousands of juvenile carp. The coming winter months will see the carp team concentrate their efforts on tracking the juvenile fish in the lake and targeting the winter feeding aggregations.

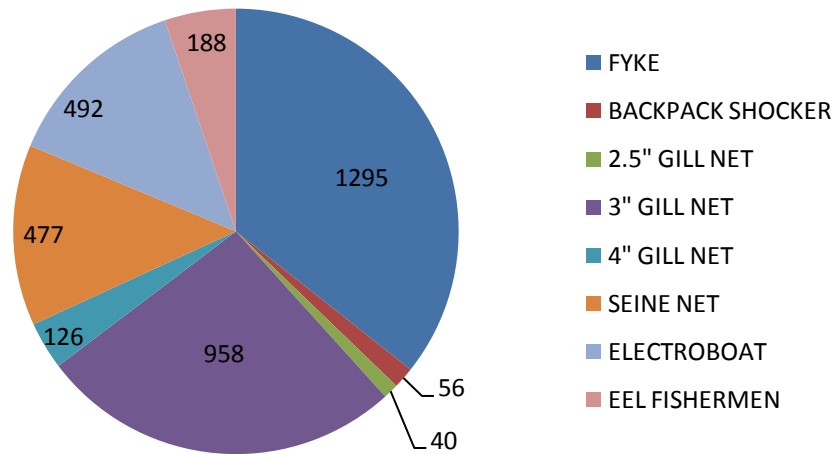


Figure 1: The number of juvenile carp caught and the method used for the period January to March 2011.

Lake Crescent

The Lake Crescent juvenile survey was undertaken at the start of March and, as anticipated, no carp were found. The survey ran for a week and thoroughly covered all areas of Lake Crescent. 40 fyke nets were placed around the lake covering all habitats, from rocky shores to marshland. Large areas of marsh were meticulously sampled with backpack shockers throughout the week and some areas were chosen for spot rotenone treatment. A commercial eel fisherman also fished Lake Crescent from the 6th of January till the 13th of February. He fished with approximately 40 fyke nets positioning them along the eastern marshes in shallow warm water. Despite the intensive effort from the eel fishermen and through our juvenile survey no carp were captured or spotted. This further indicates that Lake Crescent is carp free and has remained so despite ideal spawning conditions for the past two years.

Bycatch Table 1. Lake Sorell

Method	Effort	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Eel	Platypus	Duck
Backpack Electrofishing*	23.65 Hrs	0	0	0	0	0
2.5" Gill Net	25.5 Hrs	0	0	0	0	0
3" Gill Net	113.7 Hrs	175	8	0	0	0
Electroboat*	6.65 Hrs	0	0	0	0	0
Fyke Net **	Constant Soak Time	638	12	1784	0	0
Trap	Constant Soak Time	1	0	0	0	0

* Backpack Electrofishing and the Electroboat do not produce bycatch as they only stun fish for a few seconds and these fish are left and not captured

** Number of nets set in the lake varied between months. Number of nets decreased from approximately 70 at the start of January to approximately 20 at the end of March.

Table 2. Lake Crescent

Method	Effort	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Eel	Platypus	Duck
Backpack Electrofishing	9 Hrs	0	0	0	0	0
2.5" Gill Net	-	0	0	0	0	0
3" Gill Net	-	0	0	0	0	0
Electroboat	-	0	0	0	0	0
Fyke Net (40 Nets)	116 Hrs	32	30	461	0	0
Trap (5 Traps)	-	0	0	0	0	0

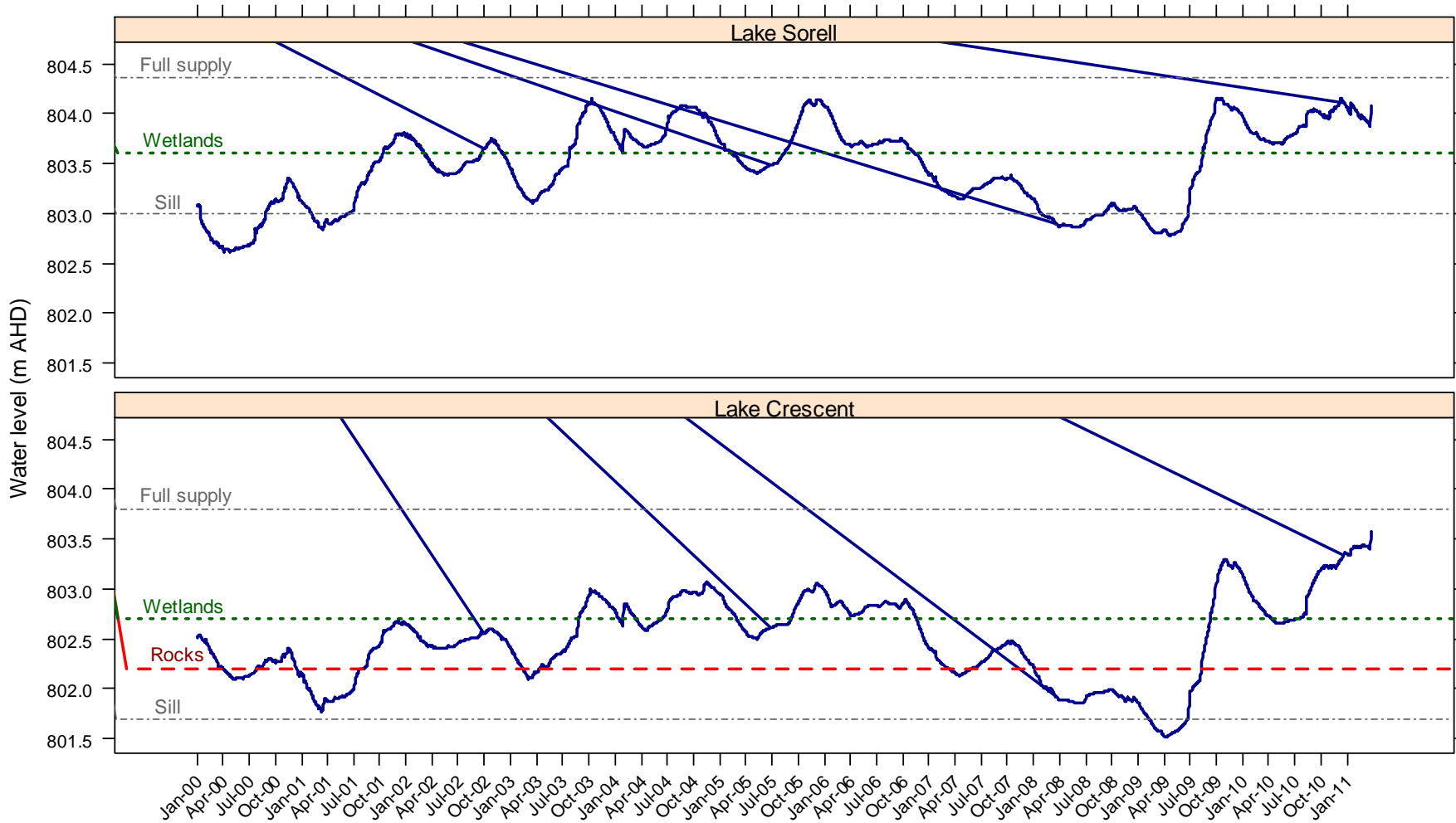
Water Management

The Carp Management Team (CMT) record lake levels and water release data when appropriate and store all data accordingly. Figure 4 represents historical lake levels.

Table 3. Water Release Data (Oct – Dec 2010)

Month	Lake Sorell release (ML)	Lake Crescent release (ML)
January	-	852.159
February	-	624.271
March	-	577.91
TOTAL	-	2054.34

* Note: There is no continuous flow monitoring of the Lake Sorell release



Carp Management Photos 2010-11



Figure 1. A big haul of juvenile carp caught on the electro-boat



Figure 2. Juvenile carp in shallow water caught in gillnets



Figure 3. A successful shallow water targeting event



Figure 4. A mature female carp caught on the electro-boat