

# PENSTOCK LAGOON

## Minutes of the Penstock Lagoon Fishery Management Plan Workshop 5<sup>th</sup> June 2004



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## **Present**

Steve Brass – Hydro Tasmania  
Jim Ferrier – Tasmanian Fly Fishing Association  
Garry France – Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania  
Terry Byard – Freshwater Anglers Council of Tasmania  
Allan Miller – Friends of Penstock  
Stuart Chilcott – Inland Fisheries Service  
Rob Freeman – Inland Fisheries Service

## **1. Overview of the Fishery**

R Freeman discussed the fishery performance summary report for Penstock Lagoon covering the topics of:

- Results from surveys
- Recruitment failure and stock structure
- Size structure
- Harvest and catch rates
- Stocking of fry and adult transfers
- Satisfaction surveys

## **2. Vision**

The general consensus was for the present attributes of Penstock Lagoon to be maintained.

Supplementary to this was the need to maintain a high level of water quality and a quality trout fishery based on good conditioned wild brown trout.

The use of Penstock for camping and the continued use of boats were highlighted.

## **3. Fisheries Management Issues**

### ***Type of Fishery***

Primarily a wild brown trout fishery with a smaller population of rainbow trout. An approximate catch ratio of 4 brown: 1 rainbow was suggested. The fishery should not be dominated by rainbow trout.

Based on fish of very good condition with an expected catch rate of around 1 fish/day based on angler perception rather than monitored by IFS data. Encourage angler feedback by promoting IFS and voluntary creel data.

### ***Bag Limit***

Bag limit of three fish/day inclusive of brown and rainbow trout.

Alter regulations to prevent excessive catch and release by requiring anglers to cease fishing once the bag limit has been reached – as for most other waters.

A general comment that was agreed upon by most participants was for regulations to be more standardised across the whole state fishery, but also allowing for some individual water management if required.

### ***Size Limit***

One size limit for both species (brown and rainbow) – 420 mm was recognised as being currently successful for brown trout at Penstock Lagoon. Consequently, participants suggested that a 420mm size limit for brown and rainbow would be an acceptable

compromise. It was recognised that for rainbow trout this would mean that potentially large fish (by weight) would need to be returned.

### ***Recruitment***

A preference was stated for recruitment to the fishery to be from natural recruitment rather than a stocked fishery. However, all participants recognised the inherent difficulties and risk involved in achieving this goal, as this would require the excessive use of turbid water from Shannon Lagoon over a potentially a six month period for brown trout or eight months if rainbow trout were also accommodated. This strategy would also lead to highly variable recruitment due to highly irregular flows in the spawning canal.

The use of adult brown trout transfers was not supported beyond this season 2004/05 as they had only initially been introduced to fill a sizeable gap in past recruitment that would fill completely this year. The success of this measure however, was acknowledged as having achieved the desired outcome.

Concern was expressed over some rainbow trout being egg bound, as there was now no area for them to adequately spawn. Some shore spawning had been observed.

### ***Monitoring of the Fishery***

Continued monitoring of the fishery under the Fisheries Performance Assessment program.

Encourage angler feedback by promoting IFS and voluntary creel data collection and reporting.

A yearly overview report on the fishery was suggested.

## **4. Water Management**

Consideration is given to alternate strategies for water level management to maximise winter flushing and maintain summer levels.

The need for some form of water quality management was highlighted. It was thought that Hydro Tasmania could be encouraged to maintain Penstock Lagoon in their regular Hydro – Lake Survey program as this had identified past problems and would provide a valuable historical record if any water quality problems reoccurred.

## **5. Boating**

Strong consideration is given to establishing a new boat ramp in the area immediately north of Ladys Walk, where a rocky outcrop existed. New roading and parking areas would be required.

Consideration be given to closing the existing boat ramp at the northern camp ground to minimise the movement of boat through the sand bar area at the canal/s mouth. However, the use of this boat ramp for campers who moored their boats or launched them as a 'cartopper', may be acceptable provided that an alternate boat ramp for other uses was provided, and movement of boat through the sand bar area was minimised.

The Hydro representative suggested that all boating issues be dealt with by the Hydro as part of its overall Statewide strategy for Hydro assets with consideration of the recommendations within the fishery management plan and in consultation with MAST and IFS.

Suggestions for minimising boating issues were:

- limiting motor size;
- limiting boat size;
- restricted boating zones; and
- the need to enforce current or future regulations.

## **6. Signage**

Promote establishment of a wider strategy to erect signage to promote water, tourism, education and regulations.

## **7. Camping**

As a general principle, allow for the continuation of camping at low use levels.

General support to maintain the existing northern camp ground.

Restrict or stop camping at some areas on the western shoreline as more people are using vehicles to access wetter areas and causing wheel ruts, track braiding and formation of new vehicle tracks. This needs to be addressed as there is increasing patronage of this area.

A strategy to limit vehicle access should be considered.

Toilet waste disposal is a concern in some areas and is not consistent with the current policy of shack owners having to install septic systems to minimise environmental degradation and nutrification. Suitable toilet facilities should be made available to campers to be consistent with this policy.

## **8. Other Matters**

Assistance by anglers is considered when undertaking some fisheries management task.

Concern over the large number of swans on the lagoon and their potential impact on weed beds.