



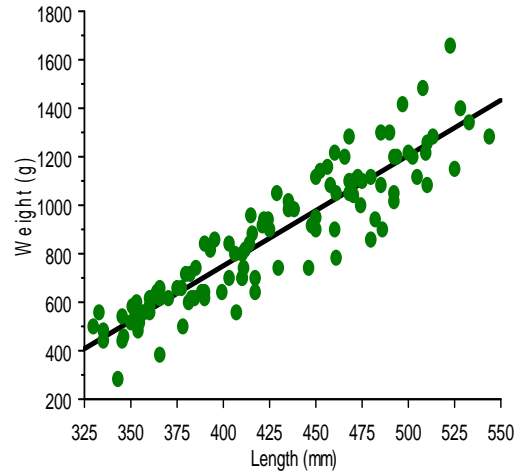
Lake Ada - Fisheries Performance Assessment

As part of the Fisheries Performance Assessment program (FPA), the Fisheries Management Branch is continuing to survey important fisheries around the State. The most recent of these surveys was carried out at Lake Ada during early February 2004. Preliminary results of this survey are summarised below.

In total 112 brown trout were captured over two days, which was a much higher catch per unit effort than might be expected for this water. The sample consisted of 53 males, 45 females and 4 immature fish. No rainbow trout were present in the sample despite the sporadic capture of these fish by anglers. The average weight for all fish sampled was 863 grams with fish in excess of 420 mm in length averaging 1 100 grams. The largest fish sampled was a male of 1 660 grams and 523 mm in length.

Fish of 420 mm or greater, represented 50 percent of the catch while fish in excess of 500 mm represented 8 percent. Fifty three percent of fish had a condition factor of 1.1 k or greater which equates to a condition factor range of fair – excellent, although these categories are often arbitrary.

Preliminary analysis of length data suggest that recruitment of fish has generally been consistent, with good numbers of fish across a wide range of size classes and no significant gaps between individual length cohorts.



The relationship between length and weight for all fish in the sample.

The relationship between length and weight indicates relatively consistent gains in weight across all lengths of brown trout sampled (330 mm – 544 mm).

A more comprehensive analysis of this survey, including age/growth information as determined from the analysis of otoliths ('ear' bones), and other FPA indicators, will be published later in the year.

	Count	Average Weight (g)	Range Weight (g)	Average Length (mm)	Range Length (mm)
Combined (all fish sampled)	112	863	280-1660	425	330-544
Male	53	976	560-1660	450	360-544
Female	45	737	380-1300	392	330-505

Length and weights for combined sample, male and female brown trout – Lake Ada February 2004. (NB the total sample also includes 4 immature fish).

The Inland Fisheries Service encourages the distribution of Angler News and the information contained within it.

When distributing material contained within this newsletter the IFS asks that the source be acknowledged as being Angler News.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE
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Angler News – February 2004



Tasmania

Licensing Review Project

This year, the Service began a review of the angling licence and its current licensing system, which is likely to continue over the next couple of years. The aim is to apply a marketing context to the whole area of licences and licensing, to take stock of the impact of past changes, and improve our overall business management and licence product.

Over past years, a suite of changes have been made to the licence and licensing system. These include licence fee increases, new categories (eg seniors, additional rod), 12 month season and an annual licence from date of purchase, new look licence card and paper licence, and renewal forms. There have also been administrative changes within the Service (eg computerised financial system, new angler database) as well as changes to the distribution and sale of licences, including an expansion of agents (*Service Tasmania outlets*), introduction of a renewal process and expanded electronic payment options.

Licence expiry change

The change back to a fixed term licence was announced by the (then) Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Bryan Green, on 29 August 2003. He explained that the annual licence had been introduced to coincide with some Tasmanian fishing waters being opened for year round fishing. However, it was not supported by Tasmanian fishing tackle retailers and was no longer the preferred option for administrative reasons within the Service. The return to a fixed term licence was supported unanimously by the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council.

Unfortunately for some anglers, the return to a fixed term licence has led to confusion regarding the validity of the licence expiry date and for a small group, there has been a perceived loss of value due to a shortened licence period.

The Service is attempting to counter this by the following strategies:

- If your licence expires in April, May, June or July this year, it will automatically be extended until 31 July 2004 (the end of the 03-04 season). You will be sent a letter within the next few weeks providing you with an exemption permit to fish during this period and you will also be sent a licence renewal notice prior to the start of the 2004-05 season.
- If your licence expires in August to December 2004, you will be sent a renewal notice one month prior to the expiry date. Your new licence for 2004-05 season will expire at the end of July 2005.

Renewal process

The renewal process, which has operated over the past two years, will continue this year. Improvements will be made to the licence card, the angler database and the mail logistics system, as a result of the review. For instance, the Service will provide a better quality plastic card this year and will send out renewal notices at least one month prior to the licence expiry date.

You can help us by contacting the Service on (03) 6233 4140 if any of your contact details from 2003-04 season have changed.

For any further feedback about licences or the licensing system, please contact Sarah Burton on 6233 8930 or 0408 478 897, or email sarahb@ifs.tas.gov.au.

Lagoon of Islands Fisheries Management Plan

The Lagoon of Islands Fisheries Management Plan kicked off in the last week of January with a stakeholder meeting at Liawenee. Representatives were invited from the three regional Angling Associations along with a representative from Hydro Tasmania, Freshwater Angling Council of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Fly Fishing Association, Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania along with two anglers with a broad knowledge and history of angling at the Lagoon.

The next step is to prepare a Draft Fisheries Management Plan which will be presented to the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council for comment.

The draft plan will be released for public comment mid year, following which the plan will be presented to the Minister for endorsement.

For further information please contact Dave Jarvis on 62332458 or email on davej@ifs.tas.gov.au.

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Tagged Trout

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Compliance report

Compliance staff have once again had a busy month apprehending several offenders for offences such as fishing without a licence, trolling from a motorised boat at Lake Leake, using bottles or cans as strike indicators, using three rods as well as being in possession of (*Cherax destructor*) yabbies.

Other defendants dealt with in court during the month were: Garry Wayne Smith of West Moonah was charged with, attempting to take whitebait when unlicensed. Convicted and fined \$288.85. Shane Christopher Roughley of Burnie was charged with taking freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*). Convicted and fined \$638.85 .

Several other minor matters where the defendant hadn't paid an infringement notice, were also dealt with in a court of Petty Sessions during the month.

Compliance have also conducted several joint patrols with Police and Nature Conservation Officers where offenders were charged with offences such as having a loaded firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm in a public street.

Compliance also assisted with the clean up Australia day in the Central Highlands. This project had been organised by Mike Cousins the local Parks officer from Liawenee. Sixty large bags of rubbish from a ten kilometres section of the Lake Highway.

Trout stocked in February 2004

Lake	Species	Number	Size (grams)
Crescent	Rainbow trout	5000	15
Repulse	Rainbow trout	15000	15