



INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE
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Angler News – January 2004



Tasmania

New stocking opportunities in 2004

Thanks to Saltas the IFS has had the opportunity to stock some of the State's waters with Atlantic salmon in reasonable numbers this summer. Many of these fish are now at takeable size and should be of excellent quality for eating.

As with past stockings of Atlantic salmon they are often at their best condition immediately after stocking. It remains to be seen if these fish put on weight with time.

Saltas will be providing the IFS with some much larger salmon in the near future. When these occur anglers will be informed via

Angler News of their whereabouts and size.

To address some of the concerns of anglers regarding trout stockings at Curries River Reservoir, the IFS has commenced a stocking program using adult brown trout captured from the wild.

Over the last few seasons the IFS has electrofished brown trout from streams in the Northeast of the State for stocking in the Waterhouse lakes including Blackmans Lagoon. Anglers in the region have been very happy with the results of these stockings as they have resulted in good growth rates.

This style of stocking will be trialled at Curries River where it is hoped these fish will prove more successful than using hatchery reared fry.



Releasing brown trout fry into Bradys Lake 2003

Waters stocked with trout and salmon in January 2004

Lake	Species	Number	Size (grams)
Trevallyn	Atlantic salmon	450	800
Meadowbank	Atlantic salmon	950	800
Craigbourne	Atlantic salmon	500	800
Craigbourne	Atlantic salmon	2700	120
Curries River Dam	brown trout	770	average 200

Boat ramp and road closures

The Poatina intake boatramp at Great Lake has been closed by Hydro Tasmania. This ramp will remain closed as it has been identified as a safety risk. A new ramp will be put in place at Cramps Bay in the future.

Hydro Tasmania and the Marine Safety Authority (MAST) are undertaking a cooperative project upgrading the launching facilities at some of the Central Highlands' lakes.

The first three launching facilities to be addressed are at Arthurs Lake dam, Swan Bay at Great Lake and Penstock Lagoon.

Hydro Tasmania have notified the IFS that the road into Lake Echo that crosses the river below the dam wall is closed. Work is currently being undertaken on the Lake Echo power station which makes this road hazardous to use. Hydro Tasmania will advise when it reopens.

Angling statistics as collected by the IFS to January 2004

Lake	Number of anglers checked	% bait fishing	% spinning	% trolling	% fly fishing	Number of brown trout	Number of rainbow trout	Number of Atlantic salmon	Number of brook trout
Tooms	278	48	13	23	16	136	54	0	0
Arthurs	244	18	16	30	37	504	0	0	0
Pet	159	60	36	0	4	15	8	22	0
Meadowbank	127	22	11	63	4	7	0	25	4
Burbury	115	0	3	97	0	89	68	0	0
Bronte	87	0	41	17	42	57	4	0	2
Four Springs	83	76	16	2	6	6	31	0	0
Tungatinah	79	74	6	18	2	48	1	0	7
Bradys	64	65	18	3	14	28	2	0	1
Cluny	56	40	23	37	0	12	0	0	0
Brumbys Creek	51	56	22	0	22	11	1	0	0
Binney	49	79	4	13	4	28	3	0	13
Brushy	46	94	4	0	2	6	2	0	3
Craigbourne	24	56	16	8	20	0	1	0	1
Great	20	75	5	10	10	4	5	0	0
Pine Tier	18	61	0	0	39	1	0	0	0
Wayatinah	16	79	7	14	0	5	0	1	0
Penstock	16	0	0	0	100	14	1	0	0
Curries River	16	94	6	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kara	15	88	6	0	6	1	0	1	2
Rowallan	14	43	14	43	0	3	0	0	0
Repulse	14	80	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leake	13	0	15	0	85	5	3	0	0
Little Pine	12	0	0	0	100	9	0	0	0
Tarraleah	11	36	27	0	36	3	1	0	0
Guide	10	57	36	0	7	2	0	0	0
Ada	9	0	44	0	56	8	0	0	0
Waratah	8	13	13	0	75	1	6	0	0
Mossy Marsh	8	0	100	0	0	3	0	0	0
Echo	8	44	11	33	11	0	0	0	0
Lagoon of Islands	7	0	0	43	57	1	0	0	0
Double	7	0	43	0	57	1	0	0	0
Blackmans	7	78	0	0	22	3	1	0	0
Big Waterhouse	6	50	50	0	0	1	0	0	0
Little Waterhouse	5	33	67	0	0	3	0	0	0
Isandula	5	100	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Rivers									
Derwent	64	73	25	0	2	12	0	0	0
Trevallyn Tail Race	40	29	63	3	5	2	1	6	3
Mersey	25	81	15	0	4	8	0	0	0
Tyenna	21	58	42	0	0	2	0	0	0
South Esk	16	100	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Emu	12	83	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nive	9	22	11	67	0	2	0	0	0
Leven	9	80	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Macquarie	5	83	0	0	17	0	0	0	0
Don	5	100	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
35 Other waters	87	33	29	3	34	42	2	0	4

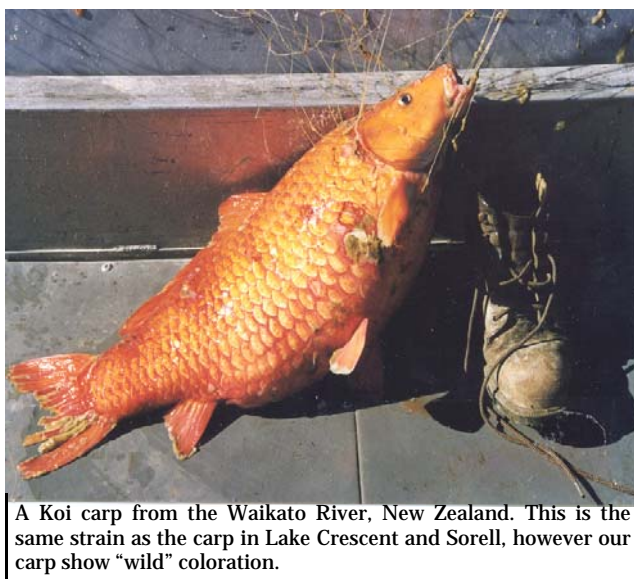
Application of carp control techniques across the Tasman

By Johlene Kelly, Environment Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

Koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are the only strain of carp present in New Zealand waterways and have been implicated with reducing water quality in both lakes and rivers as well as impacting on native fish and invertebrates. This has resulted in Koi now being classed as a noxious pest under New Zealand Biosecurity legislation. Koi have managed to establish a limited distribution in the North Island of New Zealand with some populations recently found in northern areas of the South Island.

Due to this limited spread, agencies here in New Zealand feel we have an opportunity to control or potentially eradicate Koi from many areas. With this in mind, we looked to our Australian counterparts for inspiration on techniques that have been tried and tested in the war on common carp in Australian waters. We were specifically interested in those techniques that have potential to be used in New Zealand to help us achieve these goals. The current status of Koi knowledge in New Zealand is limited so our primary goal is to source techniques that will enable us to learn about the biology and spawning behaviour of Koi.

Word had reached us that the Inland Fisheries Service of Tasmania (IFS) had developed and were using some impressive techniques for eradication of common carp in lakes Crescent and Sorell.



A Koi carp from the Waikato River, New Zealand. This is the same strain as the carp in Lake Crescent and Sorell, however our carp show "wild" coloration.

Their radio tracking programme was of particular interest as it was thought such methods could help us to fill our knowledge gaps.

A plan was hatched to visit Tasmania and work with the carp team at IFS to see if their methods may have the application we were after in New Zealand.

In November 2003 I arrived in Tasmania to work with the team for two weeks to get a "hands on" approach to their eradication process. With October and November being an active period for carp and spawning, it was certainly an opportune time

to be working with the IFS carp team. We chased many tracker fish, netted many aggregations along with implanting transmitters and documenting fish details and crucial information. I also had an opportunity to spend time in the Hobart office discussing statistical techniques for population estimates and exploring other methods that help the team target their resources accurately to bring them closer to their goal of eradication. The carp team's thorough approach, dedication and innovation were inspirational and helped make what we in New

Zealand have sometimes seen an insurmountable problem seem very achievable.

By their enthusiastic operating methods and open sharing of information, the IFS carp team have given us some very powerful techniques to include in our arsenal against Koi. We hope that we too may reach the level of success achieved by the IFS carp team in Tasmania.

Victorians follow Tasmanian lead on carp control

By Melody Jane Waterways Project Coordinator at Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Murray Burns, Senior Fisheries Officer, Horsham

As most anglers are aware, common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) have made themselves at home in almost all river systems in Victoria, resulting in significant impacts on water quality, biodiversity, habitat, recreational fishing values affecting tourism and regional economies.

Until recently, the Glenelg River in South West Victoria was one of the last carp-free large river systems in the State. However, in early 2001 carp were discovered in Rocklands Reservoir. Subsequent surveys have shown that a large population exists within the reservoir but has not become established in the river downstream.

We are now faced with a challenge similar to that of the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service in lakes Crescent and Sorell – to prevent carp spreading throughout the rest of the system and impacting on the river's quality and fishing values.

To minimise the risk to the Glenelg River system, we need to reduce the size of the population within Rocklands Reservoir. At present we know very little about the population's behaviour. We need to know where and when they are spawning, and identify preferred habitat areas. These are crucial information gaps, and little can be done to manage the population until some answers are found.

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Victorians follow Tasmanian lead on carp (continued)

We had heard that the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) were having some success using radio transmitters to track carp in lakes Crescent and Sorell for subsequent removal, and decided it would be worth looking at what was being done and any possible applications in Rocklands Reservoir.

So in mid-June 2003 we ventured south and spent three days at the lakes tracking fish, netting out aggregations and looking at some of the other initiatives the IFS has implemented to control carp within the lakes. One thing can certainly be said for the IFS - they are taking the carp issue very seriously. Closing a high profile water such as Lake Crescent to the public, and the manpower and resources being deployed to tackle the problem is testament to the active management by the IFS.

For us, one of the most apparent benefits of the radiotracking program was the number of ways the tracking information can be used. Obviously locating carp and removing them has an immediate impact on the number of carp in the lakes, but by restricting spawning there is the potential to drastically reduce the recruitment of new individuals, presenting a more long-term management option.

Compliance report

Police, Nature Conservation Branch Compliance officers, the local Parks and Wildlife ranger and Inland Fisheries officers conducted several patrols in the Central Highlands during the Australia Day long weekend.

It was pleasing to see most people were conducting themselves in a responsible manner.

During a road check near Lake Augusta on Saturday the following cautions were issued: four for having alcohol open in a vehicle, one for not displaying a front number plate, one for not carrying a drivers licence, two for speeding, one for having a dog in a W.H.A. without a permit and one for possessing natural bait.

The local Police Officer was also kept busy during the weekend attending several minor car accident scenes.

Additionally, being able to identify preferred spawning areas as the IFS have done and fencing them off to deny carp access is a huge step in controlling their numbers.



Melody Jane with a Tasmanian carp

So what have we learnt from our Tasmanian counterparts? Well, we were so impressed that one week, several rolls of film and one drowned digital camera later we plan to undertake a similar project in Rocklands Reservoir. Although submerged trees and logs may mean removal of carp is not as effective as in lakes Crescent and Sorell, the use of radio transmitters appears the most cost efficient and reliable means

of gaining crucial information on carp population behaviour, in particular identifying key spawning areas. This project commenced in October 2003 and has been funded by the Fisheries Revenue Allocation Committee (FRAC) through funds generated by the sale of Victorian Recreational Fishing Licences.

In closing we extend our thanks to Inland Fisheries Service staff for their hospitality, advice and providing us with information about the carp program in Tasmania.

Throughout January several \$200 Infringement Notices have been issued for fishing without an angling licence.

Outboard motor bracket found

In the November edition of Angler News we reported that an angler had lost his outboard motor bracket on the road to the Western Lakes which was pointed out to him by Compliance officers.

The outboard motor bracket has been found and the angler who lost it can retrieve it by phoning Ross Goldsmid on 62277295.

Thankyou to Ross for taking the time to let us know.