

The reopening of Lake Crescent

1 July 2004



INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE
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Angler News – June 2004



Tasmania

To All Freshwater Anglers

Lake Crescent Opening

I would like to take this opportunity to remind anglers of the pending re-opening of Lake Crescent to trout fishing.

Since 1995, the lake has been closed due to the presence of European carp. However, owing to the dedicated work undertaken by IFS staff, the risk of catching or translocating carp has been reduced to a very low level. Consequently, this has allowed the Service to assess the risk of opening the lake to the public as acceptable, providing that a number of restrictions are placed on the use of the fishery and associated activities.

I would therefore like to make it clear that the fishery will be open to the public under the following conditions.

Camping

- No camping on Crown land adjacent to Lake Crescent. This includes the 'Island', Interlaken Reserve area and the reserve areas along the western and southern shores.
- All public camping will be limited to the Dago Point and Silver Plains camp grounds at Lake Sorell.
- Camping on private land will be at the discretion of the landowner, however, all landowners will be encouraged to direct campers to the camp grounds provided at Lake Sorell.

Fishing

- Season dates 7th August 2004 – 1st May 2005.
- Daylight fishing only (*from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset, according to sunrise and sunset times as published in the daily newspapers*).
- Artificial lures only.
- Daily bag limit – 5 fish.
- Minimum size limit 220mm.
- All inflowing waters (including Interlaken Canal) will be closed as previously managed.
- Fishery managed for large to trophy size brown and rainbow trout.
- A reminder that the use of fish or any part of a fish as bait, is prohibited. The species of native galaxid (fish) that occurs in this area is wholly protected.
- The Lake Sorell fishery will be managed under its existing regime (12 fish/day, 220mm minimum size limit and artificial lure only).

Boating

- Only one boat ramp will be available. Located at the Lake Crescent outflow canal. A 5-knot speed limit will be in place for the entire outlet canal. There is also a submerged water management structure at the mouth of the outflow canal. When passing through this area, boat users should use caution and trim outboard motors up. These matters will be signposted.
- A 5-knot speed limit will be in place for the entire outlet canal. This will be signposted.
- The launching of boats at the outflow canal will cease when the lake level falls to 802.5 m **OR** the supply of water for downstream users cannot be reasonably met (*due to silt being stirred up by boats which may unduly block the outlet screens*).
- Boat users are strongly advised to take great care while boating on both lakes Sorell and Crescent, as numerous shallow reefs and large individual boulders are known to occur throughout both lakes.
- The Inland Fisheries Service has a number of marked survey points throughout lakes Sorell and Crescent. These survey points are marked with orange buoys – **they are not navigation markers**. This matter will be signposted at the boat ramp.
- Fish traps and carp exclusion fences will be in use throughout lakes Sorell and Crescent, including adjacent marsh areas. These will be marked with buoys and signs.

The Inland Fisheries Service encourages the distribution of Angler News and the information contained within it. When distributing this material the IFS asks that the source be acknowledged as being Angler News.

The reopening of Lake Crescent (continued)

- Initially, the number of boats on Lake Crescent is likely to be high and boat owners are requested to be patient when using the boat ramp, and to show courtesy to other boat users and shore anglers. Under Marine and Safety Tasmania regulations, it is an offence to travel more than 5 knots when within 60 metres of any shoreline; or any boat underway, at anchor, moored, or engaged in fishing or rowing.

Carp Management

- Any person capturing a carp or suspecting the presence of carp activity, should immediately report or deliver the captured carp to one of the Inland Fisheries staff that will be on duty.
- If you capture a carp and a staff member is not available, a secured container will be provided at the Inland Fisheries Service field station - Laycock Drive, Lake Crescent. You should leave your daytime and after hours contact details, along with any relevant information.
- You may be required by Inland Fisheries staff to leave the area you are fishing owing to carp management actions. Please accept such a request with courtesy and understand, that it is in the best interest of the long term future of the Tasmanian fishery.
- Lake Crescent and/or Lake Sorell may, if required, be closed to the public without notice – following instruction from the Director of Inland Fisheries.

Inland Fisheries Service Infrastructure

- Users of Lake Crescent should keep clear of all water management and screening infrastructure.
- Fish traps and carp exclusion fences will be in use throughout lakes Crescent and Lake Sorell, including adjacent marsh areas. Anglers are required to keep well clear of any such structures. The opening of Lake Crescent is under *Controlled Fish* legislation, heavy minimum fines are mandatory for offences under this legislation. Any such structures will be clearly marked and signposted.
- A reminder that no fishing is permitted within 100m of any Inland Fisheries fish trap or similar infrastructure (refer to the Angling Code).

Contact Details

- Inland Fisheries Service – Lake Crescent Field Station
Laycock Drive, Lake Crescent. Phone/Fax 62540058 Mobile 0418 566272
- Inland Fisheries Service – Head Office
6b Lampton Avenue, Derwent Park (Hobart), 6233 4140
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- After Hours 0418 566272: 0408 145768

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind anglers that both lakes Crescent and Sorell are fisheries that have been under considerable environmental stress since the early 1990's. This follows a succession of years of well below average rainfall in-conjunction with lower lake levels to meet carp management and irrigation requirements.

At present, turbidity levels are elevated and lake levels are only moderately high. Consequently, the water of both lakes is very 'dirty'. Lake levels are only just bordering onto the marsh areas and, unless there are good winter rainfalls, it is unlikely that adjacent marshes will be significantly inundated. Both these matters, along with the suite of angling restriction imposed, will potentially impact on the ability of anglers to consistently catch trout. Anglers should therefore be well aware that their fishing experience will be affected by these circumstances and that catch rates are expected to be very low. Moreover, the size of the Lake Sorell trout population has declined markedly owing to the altered environmental state of the lake. However, on the good news front, trout stocked into Lake Crescent over the past three years are doing extremely well, with a number of brown trout in the 2-4kg range available to anglers.

Please also note that, initially, the number of boats on Lake Crescent is likely to be high and boat owners are requested to be patient when using the single boat ramp available and to show courtesy to other boat users and shore anglers. As an angler, your attitude in this matter will determine the quality of your experience and that of others anglers.

In conclusion, the Service has been working very hard at controlling carp numbers, as well as establishing and implementing both catchment management and water management plans for lakes Sorell and Crescent. I hope that during the coming season you will be able to have an enjoyable fishing experience at Lake Sorell and particularly Lake Crescent.

Should you require any further information please contact Rob Freeman, Ph 62 333348, mobile 0419 123733

Yours sincerely



John Diggle
Director of Inland Fisheries

Adult Trout Transfers to the Mersey River

In light of recent concerns raised by the anglers of the NW coast regarding the perceived poor performance of some river fisheries, the Service has undertaken a trial stocking of 700 individually tagged adult brown trout into the Mersey River to help gauge the merits of stocking adult fish into a river environment.

The fish were released on the 21st of June 2004 at two separate locations. The first 350 fish were released at Union Bridge (Highway C137 - near Mole Creek) the second release taking place at the Latrobe Bridge (Highway B19).

Interested anglers were at both sites to view the release of these fish.



Anglers watch 350 tagged brown trout being released at Latrobe

Anglers are encouraged to report the capture of these tagged fish during the 2004/05 angling season along with details of the following information:

tag number, location of capture, the number of untagged trout caught, trout length and trout weight.

All anglers who report the above information will be entered into a draw for a worthy prize with the winner announced during the 2004/05 angling season.

Anglers are also encouraged to 'spread the word' on these stockings as the number of tags returned to the Service along with the above relevant information will help determine the merit of these type of river stockings.

For further information on this project, contact Dave Jarvis on 6233 2458.

Brown trout spawners at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell

	Number sampled	Average length (mm)	Minimum length (mm)	Maximum length (mm)	Average weight (g)	Minimum weight (g)	Maximum weight (g)
Lake Sorell							
Males	154	400	241	557	750	180	1720
Females	80	410	252	522	814	260	1400
Combined	234	403	241	557	772	180	1720
2003 averages	200	440	214	550	966	120	1740
Change		-37			-224		

This years spawning run at Lake Sorell was delayed because of low flows at Mountain Creek earlier in the winter. A routine weigh and measure of over 200 fish was undertaken on the 21st of June.

As can be seen from the table above, there has been an overall decrease in the average length and weight of fish in the run.

The decrease in size is far more evident in male fish (not shown above). The reason for this is the large number of newly matured male fish in the run, probably only three years old.

Overall the condition of fish in the run was fair. The condition of fish in the lake is definitely much better than the late 1990's when the overall condition was poor to very poor.

Waters stocked in June 2004

Water Stocked	Size (grams)	Species	Number
Meadowbank dam	5000	Atlantic salmon*	200
Curries River Reservoir	1100	brown trout	1000
Mersey River	1100	brown trout	730

NB. Lake Barrington will be stocked with Atlantic salmon at a similar size and number to those used at Meadowbank Dam towards the end of July.

*Trophy Atlantic salmon kindly donated by SALTAS

Prosecutions from October 2003 to June 2004

Offences that were proceeded with by summons are listed below.

Offender (Place of offence)	Offences Summary	Total Fine Plus Costs & Special Penalties \$
Shaun Robert William BAINES – Newstead (Arthurs Lake)	Produce licence of another person Fish without a licence Unattended set rod Use strike indicator	638-60
Derek Anthony WALL – Glen Huon (Glen Huon)	Take freshwater crayfish Possess freshwater crayfish	638-65
Trent Robin BIFFIN – South Launceston (Sandbanks Creek, Great Lake)	Use light to take fish Disturb spawning fish Other than rod and line Closed waters	538-65 1 600-00 (special penalty)
Nathan James IRWIN – Trevallyn (Sandbanks Creek, Great Lake)	Use light to take fish Disturb spawning fish Other than rod and line Closed waters	538-65 1 600-00 (special penalty)
Joshua Thomas WATERS - Riverside (Sandbanks Creek, Great Lake)	Use light to take fish Disturb spawning fish Other than rod and line Closed waters	538-65 1 600-00 (special penalty)
Terrence Scott WHITE – Glenorchy (Tooms Lake)	Use strike indicator	138-65
Rodney Andrew WILLIAMS – Carrick (Tooms Lake)	Unattended set rod Obstruct an officer	538-86
Damien Paul HAIGH – Austins Ferry (Tyenna River)	Unlicensed Falsely represent to be licensed	238-65
Wayne Geoffrey COLE – Heybridge (Cam River)	Take whitebait Possess net Obstruct an officer	1 538-65
Darren Lee WOODS – Sassafras (Mersey River)	Take whitebait Possess net	538-85
Jason RICHARDSON - Primrose Sands (Lake Repulse)	Unattended set rod	138.85
Garry Wayne SMITH – West Moonah (Derwent River)	Take whitebait	288.85
Robert Frank WILTON – New Norfolk (Tungatinah Lagoon)	Use strike indicator	138.85
Shane Christopher ROUGHLEY – Burnie (Romaine Creek, Burnie)	Take protected fish	638-85
Richard VAN DAM – Launceston (Launceston)	Have <i>Cherax destrucutor</i>	789-00
Mark Raymond WALL – Devonport (Forth River)	Take whitebait Possess net	1 238-85
Ian Joseph CLARKE – Turners Beach (Forth River)	Take whitebait Possess whitebait	838-85
Gerard David CASTLES – Devonport (Brushy Lagoon)	Unlicensed Take prohibited fish	638-85
James Albert LINCOLN – Hamilton (Lake Repulse)	Unlicensed	238-85
Jonathon Paul EDWARDS – New Norfolk (Tungatinah Lagoon)	Possess assembled rod	238-85
David RANDALL – Smithton (Duck River)	Take whitebait Possess net	538-85
Patrick John ODEGAARD – Wynyard (Inglis River)	Possess net	338-85
Jonathon Leigh AINSLIE – Christmas Hills (Duck River)	Take whitebait	538-85
Adam Harry BUSHBY – Kings Meadows (Farm Dam, Campbell Town)	Possess controlled fish – Cherax	238-85

Infringement notices

Offence	Number
Fish without a licence	12
Unattended set rod	3
Use strike indicator	2
Take more than 1kg whitebait	1
Use net to take whitebait	1
Take whitebait without a licence	1
Use outboard motor in Lake Leake	2

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Fisheries Management
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Fishery Management
Plan**

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Carp update – the hard work is paying off

Lake Crescent

It has been a long slog but we are finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. To have reduced the numbers to a point where the lake will be reopened brings a great deal of satisfaction and something that we have strived to achieve over the past nine and a half years.

At the start of spring 2003 the estimated number of remaining adult carp in Lake Crescent was at 30 plus or minus 10. We have caught 25 mature females since then and now believe that there are less than a handful left. We wait with much anticipation for this coming spring to see what it brings. After now having removed 7754 carp from the lake it will be interesting to see how close our estimates are. We believe they are reliable.

Last spring amongst the 25 females that were captured we found two sites where spawning had occurred. These sites were treated and the eggs were killed. Surveys for juveniles in the months to follow the spawning season have not shown any successful recruitment in Lake Crescent.

As this article is being written Lake Crescent is on the verge of breaking out of the main water body and into marshes that are already holding a large volume of water. During autumn we constructed a number of exclusion fences with a trap contained in each. The traps are positioned at all the key points that carp use to enter the marshes where they prefer to spawn in spring. Most of these sites are where drains feed fresh water from the marshes to the main lake body. Experience has shown us these areas are attractive to carp. With the rising levels the traps may come into play fairly soon.

It is hoped that these exclusion fences and traps will assist us, along with the other methods we use to prevent any spawning and catch the last female.

Lake Sorell

Lake Sorell is a slightly different ball game in that there are a lot more marsh areas and therefore opportunities for the carp to spawn. Because of it's catchment area the lake level is harder to control and preventing carp finding a suitable spawning site is more difficult than Lake Crescent. 2300 carp have been captured in Lake Sorell, 372 in the past year.

The majority of these fish coming from a successful recruitment that occurred in the spring of year 2000. That recruitment taught us a major lesson because at the time it was thought that very few adults remained in this lake. In February surveys located juvenile carp at one isolated site in Lake Sorell. The area was contained using fine mesh and a total of 43 juvenile carp were caught using fyke nets and backpack electrofishers. The site was then treated to kill any that remained.

In 2001 an exclusion fence was built across Duck Bay to prevent the carp accessing what was known to be the most preferred spawning location in the lake. This was of great success in that it pushed the fish to less preferable (for them) sites. This past autumn we went all out and continued to build exclusion fences around the lake and now have them at ten different locations. Large areas like the whole front of Kermodes Marsh have been blocked to prevent carp access.

At the time of writing Lake Sorell is at 804.00 metres ASL and rising fast. It is over into the marshes at most points. There are still some large areas of marsh that the trout can access and this includes the majority of both Silver Plains and Robertson's marshes. It looks like Lake Sorell is going to fill in the coming months.

Over the past nine and a half years no populations of wild carp have been found outside of lakes Crescent and Sorell. It appears the containment strategy has worked. Carp numbers have now been reduced to a level that Lake Crescent can be reopened but we will have to live with carp in these lakes a little longer as lot of hard work remains to catch the last few. The exclusion fencing prohibits trout from accessing large feeding areas at some sites but is vital that anglers see the long term goals of ridding these waters of carp above short sighted vision of quick return of the trout fishery. Hopefully in the near future we can have both.

We are looking forward to seeing you out on Lake Crescent and hope you catch a thumper. Good luck from the Carp Team.



Installing a trap at Robertsons Marsh, one of many at Lake Sorell