

The sun shines on Open Weekend



INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE
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Angler News – May 2004



Tasmania

This years IFS open days were recently held at the Liawenee facilities. The weather proved to be exceptionally mild and as a result good crowd attendances occurred for both days. Crowd numbers were around 3000. IFS staff were kept busy ensuring all aspects of the event went smoothly.

Those who attended got to see trout aggregations, underwater video of trout in the canal, fish stripping, fly tying and casting displays, live Tiger snake handling, huge SALTAS Atlantic salmon and a great range of trade exhibits. There were also many raffles, an abundance of food stalls, the Great Lake Fire Brigade display and fish painting by Stan Griffiths. The kids enjoyed the hands-on stripping, fishing in the trout lagoon and Laurie the Lobster. Tasmanian Helicopters also ran scenic flights on both days.



The retail stalls did a roaring trade

IFS staff also produced a wonderful array of information displays including live fish aquaria, magnificent specimens of giant freshwater crayfish, monster Lake Crescent fish, poster information, equipment displays and provided advice to anyone interested in discussing any aspect of IFS work.



Fly tyers displayed their craft



Minister Steven Kons happily assists with the fish stripping

IFS are also grateful for Lofty and Wigston lures for free hand-outs and Spot On and Fishing Gear who provided prizes and equipment. Free passes to the Salmon Ponds facility were also given out. Thanks also to the Longford angling club and volunteer fire brigade for successfully coordinating car parking and gate control.

Work for IFS staff was not just restricted to public displays, adult fish transfers for the restocking program continued over the weekend.

All-in-all the weekend proved to be a great success with positive feedback from the public and participants. Hopefully we will be as lucky next year with the weather.



Laurie Lobster engaged in conversation

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.

Trout Lagoon fires again

Action a-plenty has again been at the forefront with the IFS Trout Lagoon education program. Thousands of children have flocked to the Trout Lagoon at both Agfest 2004 and the Services Liawenee Open Weekend. New comers plus lots of old hands returned for the fun of learning how to fish. IFS staff fielded a large range of questions about Tasmania's freshwater fishery and helped the children refine their fishing techniques.



Minister Steven Kons watches the excitement at Agfest 2004



The Trout Lagoon is always a popular part of IFS displays, this time at last months Open Weekend

Lots of prizes and give aways were on hand. The spot the sticker competition is again being run over the next few months with the Brook Trout sticker being the one to show on your vehicle. There are over \$2000.00 worth of prizes to be won in the three draws. So get the sticker on the back of your car for the chance to win!

Thanks to the Australian Fishing Tackle Association (AFTA), 'Spot On' The Fishing Connection, Wigstons Tassie Devil Lures, Plano Tackle Systems, Tas Fishing and Boating News and Trevor Hawkins for their great support and sponsorship.

2004 brown trout spawning runs

As of the first week in June the IFS has undertaken two of the three weigh and measures of spawners in the highlands, Arthurs and Great Lake. Lake Sorell will be monitored at Mountain Creek in the next couple of weeks if there is sufficient rainfall.

The below table shows the average weights and lengths of the fish sampled. The change from the 2003 averages is also indicated. As is evident in the table, fish have decreased in average size and length at Arthurs but increased at Great Lake.

	Number sampled	Average length (mm)	Minimum length (mm)	Maximum length (mm)	Average weight (g)	Minimum weight (g)	Maximum weight (g)
Arthurs Lake							
Males	99	435	288	544	883	300	1610
Females	101	397	308	506	722	360	1570
Combined		435			802		
2003 averages		437			916		
change		- 2			- 114		
Great Lake							
Males	103	470	335	530	1132	430	1840
Females	105	445	319	508	1057	650	1590
Combined		457			1100		
2003 averages		445			1020		
change		+ 12			+ 80		

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**Lagoon of Islands
Fisheries Management
Plan**

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**Penstock Lagoon
Fishery Management
Plan**

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Waters stocked during May 2004

Water Stocked	Size (grams)	Species	Number
Bradys Lake*	1100	brown trout	1910
Penstock Lagoon	1100	brown trout	750
Lake Crescent	1100	brown trout	1000
Lake Kara	1100	brown trout	350
Rocky Lagoon	1100	brown trout	100
Brushy Lagoon	200	brown trout	160

Please note that here are a couple of waters left to stock with adult brown trout transfers for this year. These transfers will occur within the next few weeks. * indicates the remainder of the 5000 planned to be stocked there this year

Great Lake Fishery Management Plan

The Great Lake Fishery Management Plan (FMP) has been finalised and signed off on by the Minister Steven Kons. The plan was officially released on Saturday 22nd of May 2004 at the IFS' Liawenee Open Weekend.

One hundred and fifty copies of the plan are available to the public through Service Tasmania shops at Hobart, Rosny, Glenorchy, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. Copies will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

The plan will also be available online in the next few weeks (mid June). To access the plan there will be a link on the front page of the IFS' website www.ifs.tas.gov.au.



Blue-green algae blooms at Craighourne

Just before Easter this year Craighourne Dam was closed to the public and therefore to anglers for fishing. This step was taken as a precaution against toxic blue-green algae.

Whilst there have been a number of blooms in recent months only low levels of toxins have been detected. The dam is now officially open to the public again. Regular water testing suggests that there were low levels of toxins produced from the algae bloom but they haven't persisted.

Eating or coming into contact with fish is thought to be of a low risk as there has been no evidence to the contrary.

Angler News will provide notification of future closures

Penstock Lagoon Fishery Management Plan

The Penstock Lagoon Fishery Management Plan kicked off in the first week of June with a stakeholder meeting at Liawenee. Representatives present were from the Freshwater Anglers Council of Tasmania, Fly Fishing Association of Tasmania, Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers Association, Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association, Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania and a representative from Hydro Tasmania.

The next step is to prepare a draft Fishery Management Plan that will be presented to the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council for comment. The draft plan will be released for public comment later in the year, following which the plan will be presented to the Minister for endorsement.

For further information please contact Rob Freeman 6233 3348 or e-mail rfreeman@ifs.tas.gov.au