

Season set to open 5th August 2006

Inland
Fisheries
SERVICE



If the size and condition of the brown trout in the spawning runs this year is any indication this season will produce good fish.

Many of the rainbows stocked over the last couple of years at a number of the waters opening 5 August will have grown to a good size by now. Lake Leake, Tooms Lake, Curries, Lake Meadowbank and Lake Barrington all hold these fish.

The Bradys chain of lakes should also fish well early with brook, brown and rainbow trout all having been stocked there recently.



A beautifully coloured female brown trout from the spawning run at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake, indicative of the good condition of fish in this years spawning runs.

Release of the Draft Whitebait Fishery Management Plan

The Inland Fisheries Service has prepared and recently released for public comment, a Draft – Whitebait Fishery Management Plan. Public notices calling for public comment were placed in the three regional newspapers on Saturday 24 June 2006.

The Plan provides background information on the whitebait fishery, and establishes objectives and recommendations for future management of the recreational fishery.

The Plans' primary aim and focus is to achieve long-term sustainability by ensuring the conservation of stocks while providing better opportunities for fishers. This has been accomplished by a combination of the maintenance of the bag limits, river rotation and an extended season.

The Plan includes other aspects of the fishery such as the sea-run trout fishery, a commercial fishery and the potential for aquaculture.

Some of the key recommendations of the Plan are as follows:

- Extend the current four week season to a six week season to allow fishers greater opportunity to catch their seasonal limit and thus avoid poor fishing conditions when the rivers are in flood.
- Maintain the existing daily bag limit at 1 kg and the seasonal and possession limit at 10 kg.
- Open the Mersey and Leven rivers each season for the first time and the closure of Franklin Rivulet.
- Introduce an open/close rotation system on the smaller rivers that provide low escapement of whitebait, to help conserve stocks.
- Investigate the feasibility of a fishery monitoring program to help ensure the long term sustainability of the fishery.

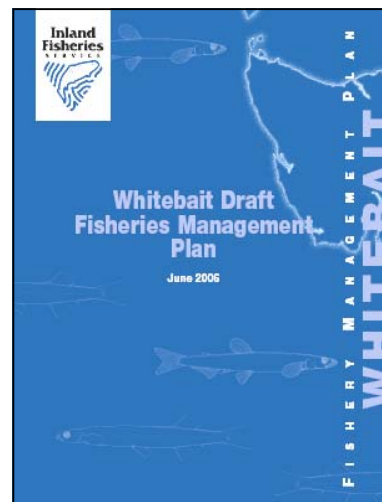
- Amend the regulations so that it is clear that fishers must be within 8 metres of their net and prohibit the use of natural vegetation as any part of the net to help conserve riparian vegetation.
- Examine the possibility of amending legislation to provide the Director of Inland Fisheries greater flexibility in determining the season duration and waters open for fishing.

The Plan will be reviewed after 5 years with some recommendations of the Plan being subject to available funding.

The Plan is available from Service Tasmania Shops in Smithton, Burnie, Devonport, Launceston, Scottsdale and Hobart, and the Service's Hobart offices, or by visiting the Service's website at www.ifs.tas.gov.au.

For those interested, the Service must receive **written comment by the 21st of July**. Comment can be sent by either email to infish@ifs.tas.gov.au, or posted to the Inland Fisheries at **PO Box 288, Moonah 7009**.

For further information contact **Dave Jarvis** on **6233 2458**.



Angler News – July 2006

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE
PO BOX 288 MOONAH 7009 PHONE 1300 INFISH



Tasmania

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

When distributing this material the IFS requests that the source be acknowledged as being Angler News.

INLAND FISHERIES SERVICE
PO BOX 288 MOONAH
7009 PHONE 1300 INFISH

Waters stocked since June 2006

Lake	Average Size (grams)	Species	Numbers
Great Lake	25	rainbow trout (wild)	2000
Penstock Lagoon	1250	brown trout (wild)	450
Great Lake	24	rainbow trout (wild)	2000
Craigbourne Dam	9000	Atlantic salmon (domestic)	101
Great Lake	24	rainbow trout (wild)	2000
Craigbourne Dam	3500	rainbow trout (domestic)	100
Craigbourne Dam	750	brook trout (domestic)	150
Curries River Dam	100	brown trout (wild)	600
Brumbys Creek	1250	brown trout (wild)	130

Tagged Trout

Tim Farrell
 Rob Freeman
 62 333 348
tim.farrell@ifs.tas.gov.au
rob@ifs.tas.gov.au

Trout Stocking

Tim Farrell
 62 333 348
tim.farrell@ifs.tas.gov.au

Website and Angler News

Tim Farrell
 62 333 348
tim.farrell@ifs.tas.gov.au

Communications and Marketing

Neil Morrow
 62 338 930

Compliance Activities

Viv Spencer
 Senior Inspector
 0408 145 768
viv.spencer@ifs.tas.gov.au

Carp Management

Chris Wisniewski
 62 334 808
chriswi@ifs.tas.gov.au

Whitebait Fishery Management Plan

Dave Jarvis
 62 332 458
davej@ifs.tas.gov.au

Angling Licence Enquiries and Information

62 334 140
infish@ifs.tas.gov.au

2006 brown trout spawning runs

At the start of June a sample of the spawning adult brown trout were measured at Great Lake as part of the annual monitoring program. Just over 200 fish were sampled and in general the fish were in good condition. This year the average weight of fish had gone up by 76 grams and the length had risen by 17 mm. There has been a steady increase in the average weight and length of measured fish in the last 5 years or so.

Due to low rainfall the spawning run at Arthurs Lake has been delayed with a sample of fish measured at the start of July. The 200 fish weighed and measured were mostly males indicating that it is still early in the run. The average weight for the fish sampled was nearly 1 kilo, 92 grams heavier than last year and the biggest for some time. The average length of the fish had decreased by 23 mm indicating the condition of the fish has improved as well.

	Number sampled	Average length (mm)	Minimum length (mm)	Maximum length (mm)	Average weight (g)	Minimum weight (g)	Maximum weight (g)
Arthurs Lake							
Males	146	457	264	540	1035	230	1570
Females	54	435	337	512	852	400	1400
Combined	200	452			984		
2005 averages		429			892		
Change		- 23			+ 92		
Great Lake							
Males	102	487	370	554	1243	580	2000
Females	118	462	412	531	1174	820	1880
Combined	120	474			1204		
2005 averages		457			1128		
Change		+17			+76		