



ANGLER NEWS

JULY 2007

Trout Season Opening - Status Report on Inland Fisheries

The 2007-08 Angling Season starts this Saturday 4 August with the opening of all brown trout waters. It promises to be another bumper season with the widespread stocking of waters over recent years by the Inland Fisheries Service, as well as recent adult stockings at certain locations in preparation for the season opening.

Considering the continuing low rainfall in catchments throughout the State which has resulted in low water levels at some locations, and so anglers can get the best result for their effort, the Service has made the following suggestions as a guide for the start of the season.

For the moment, anglers might wish to consider alternative locations to Craigbourne Dam, Tooms Lake and Woods Lake until conditions improve. The lake level at Craigbourne is 5 meters below the boat ramp, making boat launching difficult. The water is also very low and discoloured at Tooms Lake with the boat ramp being barely serviceable and the report from Woods is also discouraging for the opening weekend. The water levels at lakes Burbury, Echo and King William are also low and access for boats at Great Lake is limited to Boundary Bay.

Conditions appear to be improving at Lake Leake with a reasonable rainfall in the catchment during June and July. It is now only 1.5m below full and rising at a rate of 1cm per day, and the water clarity is good. The lake has rainbow, brown and brook trout on offer with the Service having stocked it with yearling brook and rainbow trout annually for the last 4 years.

Lake levels at Meadowbank Dam are sufficient for boat launching and this water has been stocked with 800 Atlantic salmon of varying sizes since January, making it a good option for anglers on opening weekend.

In the Highlands, Arthurs Lake is a popular fishery, and was amongst fisheries with the highest catch rates in the State last season. Water levels at Arthurs are adequate at the moment with the majority of boat ramps being useable. Great Lake should also fish well despite the low level as good catches of well conditioned fish have occurred there over winter.

Penstock Lagoon received a transfer of 500 adult brown trout in May, and is another good option in the Highlands.

Hydro Tasmania, in conjunction with the Service and Anglers Alliance Tasmania, recently developed and implemented a Recreational Plan for Penstock Lagoon. In particular, the boat ramp and access road to the camping area on the north-western shore have been upgraded and improved.

The pick of waters for anglers heading to the Highlands for the start of the season, has to be waters in the Bradys chain of lakes. Bradys Lake has been stocked with a variety of fish in preparation for the season and water levels here are reasonable and rising. It received 40 large Atlantic salmon, with an average weight of 8 kg, 6,000 brook trout of takeable size (350 g) and 1,600 adult brown trout transferred from Great Lake and weighing around 1.13 kg.

Lake Barrington in the North West also received 590 Atlantic salmon in preparation for the start of the season, 40 of which are trophy sized at 8 kg. Many rainbow trout fingerlings have been stocked over the last two seasons and these will be of takeable size or better this year. Lake Kara has received 300 adult browns.

Other waters worth a look in the North include Four Springs, which received adult brown trout this year and will benefit this season from stockings of young rainbows in previous years, as well as Curries River Dam and Brushy Lagoon. Brushy Lagoon is fast becoming the place to go to catch an Atlantic salmon. Anglers are reminded of the five fish bag limit for Atlantic salmon in waters where they are stocked.

Early in the season, a visit to local rivers is also worthwhile. For instance, good numbers and size of sea runners have been reported in the Derwent River on the tail of whitebait species, which have commenced their annual migration (although the recreational whitebait season does not open until October). Similarly, the Huon, Trevallyn tail race, Great Forester, and Forth Rivers should provide a reasonable bounty; while the Mersey and Inglis rivers were recently stocked with 300 and 700 adult brown trout, and are likely to be popular fishing destinations for locals.

Go trout fishing and *Catch the Passion* this season in Tasmania's world renowned trout fishery – right at your backdoor.

John Diggle
Director, Inland Fisheries Service

FISH4CASH

2007-08 Angling Season Promotion

Over the first six months of the season, six tagged fish will be released into waters around the State. Each fish is worth \$1000 cash to the angler who returns the tag together with the whole fish and current licence details to the Service before the end of July 2008. Details of the timing and exact location of each fish release will be published in **Angler News** and on the Service website (www.ifs.tas.gov.au) along with the latest results of the competition.

Installation of boat ramp signs

During July Fisheries Compliance Officers have been braving icy temperatures and inhospitable terrain to install the first of a series of 25 boat ramp signs around most of the major waters in the central highlands.

The signs are part of the recommendations of the Access Plan and are coordinated with directional signage being installed by DIER and Councils as well as interpretative signs being installed by IFS. The Central Highlands Council has funded the signs themselves with installation costs being covered by IFS. The signs being installed at Lakes Echo, King William and Great have an open/closed feature that will assist in informing anglers when water levels dictate that boatramps are unsafe to use.

The signs also incorporate the isometric symbol for angling, which will inform visitors that trout fishing is promoted on these waters. We hope that this initiative will assist anglers finding boat ramps that are often blended in to the surroundings and keep them informed regarding their safe use.



IFS inspector Rob Maclaine installing one of the new signs

Stocking since June 2007

| Water | Number | Species | Weight (g) |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------|------------|
| Bradys Lake | 6 000 | brook trout | 350 |
| Lake Leake | 8 000 | brook trout | 40 |
| Bradys Lake | 40 | Atlantic salmon | 8 000 |
| Lake Barrington | 40 | Atlantic salmon | 8 000 |
| Great Lake | 5 333 | rainbow trout | 11 |
| Pawleena Reservoir | 100 | brown trout | 800 |
| Curries River Dam | 5 000 | brown trout | 20 |
| Four Springs Lake | 6 750 | brown trout | 20 |
| Bronte Lagoon | 15 000 | rainbow trout | 11 |

Invitation to all angling clubs—AAT meeting 19 August

Anglers Alliance Tasmania (AAT) believes that the structural organisation of angling clubs in Tasmania is at a critical stage of development and is seeking immediate action to strengthen its foundation.

In particular, AAT points to decreasing support for the three regional umbrella Associations in the North, North West and South – as indicated by the recent drop in number of affiliated clubs - and notes the difficulty in filling Committee positions.

This diminution is occurring whilst other areas of the recreational fishery, including individual angling clubs, the peak angling organisation and the fishery itself, appear to be thriving.

Since January 2006, the overall structure, representation and organisation of angling clubs in Tasmania has undergone significant change with the formation of AAT as a peak body endorsed by Government and licensed anglers.

Already, AAT has achieved positive changes to Tasmania's recreational inland fishery that are benefiting anglers, fishery management and stakeholders of the resource. Its establishment has forged a new relationship between the angling community and government as a whole.

At its last meeting, the AAT Committee discussed the important issue of Club structures and membership, and it was resolved that immediate action should be taken. As a result, the AAT is inviting representatives of all Tasmanian Angling Clubs (up to two members from each) to attend a watershed meeting to discuss the future of Clubs.

The Service, which is in total support of this action by AAT, will host the meeting at its New Norfolk office, provide a tour of the new hatchery facility and give the official government perspective. As such, the Service recognises the vital role of AAT in representing the views of the angling community; acknowledges the importance of maintaining the State's extensive club network; and is grateful for the benefits provided by individual angling clubs in their support of fisheries management activities and promotion of trout fishing over the years.

The Service urges Angling Clubs to get behind the AAT, to consider ways in which club membership and structures can be improved, and to take this opportunity to shape the future representation of Clubs in the State.

The meeting will be held on Sunday 19th August at the Inland Fisheries Service, 17 Back River Rd, New Norfolk. It will commence with a tour of the new Hatchery at 10.30 am followed by a light lunch at 12.30 pm, and group discussion from 1.30-3.30 pm. RSVP to eo@anglersalliance.org.au by Thursday 16 August.

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