



# ANGLER NEWS

August 2008

## 2008/09 season off to a good start

The weather conditions varied from light snow and cold winds in the highlands to beautiful sunny weather in most other parts of the State.

During the weekend IFS compliance officers checked 596 anglers that caught a total of 444 fish. Ten anglers were cautioned for minor fisheries offences.

Most waters produced good conditioned fish although due to late spawning runs in highland lakes, some fish were still recovering.

The most popular waters were the lowland lakes and lagoons stocked by the Service such as Four Springs Lake and the newly formed Huntsman Lake. Some rivers were also popular with the Derwent producing some large searun brown trout up to 3.8 kg.

In the Highlands Woods Lake was popular with several anglers catching their bag of five fish. Many anglers also fished the Bradys Chain of lakes with large numbers of fish being landed. Penstock Lagoon produced rainbow trout of around 1 kg and in exceptional condition.

On the North West Coast 40 anglers were checked at rivers lakes and dams with the best catch rate at Pet Dam. A large number of undersized rainbow trout were caught and released, most of these fish will be of legal size later in the season.

In the North of the State Curries River Dam, Four Springs, Brushy Lagoon and Lake Huntsman were popular waters and produced some magnificent fish.



Compliance officers in the North checked 128 anglers for 103 fish, the largest being a rainbow trout from Four Springs Lake of about 3 kg. Four Springs Lake also produced some good conditioned brown trout up to 2 kg. Seven anglers were checked at Brushy Lagoon for 17 Atlantic salmon, all around 1 kg.

Every second angler spoken to at Four Springs said they had decided not to go to Huntsman Lake because of the expected crowd, but in fact the crowd was at Four Springs with some anglers driving in turning around and leaving because of the numbers. Vehicles were once again parked up to 100 metres out along the road as the car park was packed with fifty vehicles and trailers. Huntsman Lake performed above expectations with some superb brown trout being caught by boat and shore anglers. Most fish caught were full to overflowing with worms. Adult brown trout transferred from Great Lake and resident river fish caught at Huntsman Lake were all in top condition.

All in all it was a top weekend with anglers being very happy with their catch and looking forward to the season ahead.

## The Tasmanian Trout Expo 2008 - August 30 & 31

The Tasmanian Trout Expo is in its third year and will be held at the Cressy District High School on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 August 2008. This two day event and offers the opportunity to showcase trout fishing to Tasmanians and visitors through a family orientated experience, providing interactive and display-style activities. A host of activities and displays feature all things to do with trout fishing.

A fishing competition will be held at Brumbys Creek over the weekend with five fish, one brown and four rainbow tagged for the event. The lucky angler who catches the brown trout will receive \$10,000 in cash. An additional \$5,000 in prizes are available for different divisions of the competition.

Gates to Brumbys Creek open at 7 am and the fishing competition starts at 8 am. For more information visit the Tasmanian Trout Expo website at [www.tasmaniantroutexpo.com.au](http://www.tasmaniantroutexpo.com.au)

*Janet Lambert with a fine brown trout from Four Springs Lake taken on opening weekend.*

## Win \$10 000 worth of tackle

If you buy or renew a Full Season Angling Licence by 30 October 2008, you will automatically go in the draw to win three prizes of \$5000, \$3000 and \$2000 worth of fishing tackle. This promotion is being sponsored by Tasmania's leading fishing tackle stores and industry partners - members of the Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA). The winners names will be drawn from the Inland Fisheries Service Licence holder database in November and announced in early December 2008.

## Didymo Prevention – Tasmanian forum and workshop

The IFS, in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Water, and Hydro Tasmania, hosted a combined information forum and practical workshop, on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 August, on the invasive freshwater pest alga, *Didymosphenia geminata* (didymo or Rock Snot), targeting senior management, policy, scientific and technical staff responsible for natural resource management in Tasmania.

Dr Cathy Kilroy, from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), New Zealand, who is an expert on didymo, lead the forum and workshop. Dr Kilroy provided a profile of the pest species, latest research findings and how the problem has been approached in New Zealand. Dr Kilroy led a discussion regarding the potential impacts of didymo in Tasmania with input from the relevant national and state government authorities. The forum was designed to raise awareness, provide an opportunity for information sharing within government and to encourage discussion that will assist in the development of prevention strategies and response plans here in Tasmania.

Tasmania not only supports ideal habitat for didymo but is at higher risk due to its popularity as an international trout fishing destination. The State is a favourite venue for national and international fly fishing competitions and in 2009, Tasmania will host the Whitewater World Cup, bringing together kayakers (and their equipment) from all around the world.

## Fishing from a canoe and kayak prohibited at Pet Reservoir

Anglers are reminded that boating at Pet Reservoir is prohibited due to its main use as a domestic water supply storage. Boating includes the use of canoes and kayaks.

The Burnie Council has notified the IFS that anglers have been fishing from canoes recently and asked that the ban on boating at the reservoir be adhered to.

**Full Season Licence holders get Free Entry to the Salmon Ponds on presentation of their licence throughout the 2008-09 season (valid 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009). This is being sponsored by the Salmon Ponds, Heritage Hatchery and Gardens.**

## Stocking since July 2008

Water	Number	Species	Weight (grams)
Mersey River	150	brown trout	1 200
Dee Lagoon	5 300	rainbow trout	20
Lake Rowallan	10 500	rainbow trout	30
Great Lake	30 000	rainbow trout	30
Pet Reservoir	2 100	rainbow trout	39
Guide Reservoir	2 100	rainbow trout	39
Blackmans Lagoon	500	brown trout	200
Little Waterhouse Lake	200	brown trout	200

## New and refurbished facilities for anglers with a disability

The Plenty River adjacent to the Salmon Ponds has a newly established area with facilities reserved for anglers with a disability. Risdon Brook Dam had an upgrade of its facilities ten months ago but has been too low to fish until now. To fish these areas that are out of bounds for able bodied licensed anglers you will need a Tasmanian Transport Access Scheme permit and a current angling licence.

After opening up the Plenty River a couple of years ago for anglers with a disability, work on providing safe accessible facilities has now been completed. These facilities were funded by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program with the project implemented by IFS and Paraquid Tasmania. Three platforms have been built that provide safe and accessible fishing on one of Tasmania's most productive rivers. The pools that the platforms overlook are home to more than the occasional escapee rainbow trout and a mixed size range of resident brown trout.

Risdon Brook Dam has featured facilities for anglers with a disability since 1996. The original three bays have been reduced to two, improved and now provides greater access to the water. Although completed during the last angling season low water levels at the reservoir have meant the facilities have not been useable until the last couple of weeks.

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