



ANGLER NEWS

September 2008

Anglers Access Project Progress Report

Anglers Access projects around the state continue to progress. Negotiations with landowners along the Huon and Macquarie rivers are currently being completed. The Project Manager has been encouraged by the positive responses from most landowners and their willingness to accommodate anglers. The cooperative approach to riparian management has been welcomed by private and public land managers such as Parks and Wildlife Service, Crown Lands and Forestry Tasmania.

Infrastructure improvements continue with the installation of new fencing, culvert and stile at No. 2 Weir at Brumbys Creek resolving a persistent access problem for both anglers and the neighbouring landowner. Assistance from Hydro Tasmania has been greatly appreciated. The relocation of another stile to accommodate fence realignment by the Research Farm has been completed. Landowners on the Macquarie River are now proactively approaching the IFS to acquire and install stiles at strategic locations, hopefully a sign of things to come as the IFS works to develop relationships with landowners on behalf of all anglers.

The latest batch of stiles manufactured by Martin Boyd and his capable team at HB Engineering in Launceston are constructed of lighter gauge steel than the original stiles, are hot dip galvanised and have a new fixing system. These are all considerable improvements on the first version.

Interpretative signs are currently being installed on the Derwent system lakes and the West Coast lakes. These signs and accompanying Anglers Access brochures and maps will be completed prior to Christmas in time for the influx of interstate and international anglers and the school holiday season.



The IFS would also like to thank Gunns Ltd, Hydro and MAST for the joint funding of improvements to boat launching and parking areas at Pine Tier Lagoon, Bronte Lagoon, Lake Echo and Arthurs Lake .

One of the new stiles improving access to fisheries around the State.

2008 whitebait season starts Wednesday 1 October

The 2008 whitebait recreational season opens Wednesday 1 October and runs till Tuesday 11 November . The cost of a whitebait licence this year is \$25.50. Licences are available now from Service Tasmania shops and selected agents (primarily large fishing tackle stores). See the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code 2008-09 for details of the rules and regulations as well as waters open for this season.

The 2007 whitebait fishery saw 641 licensed whitebait fishers take part in the annual season. However, this represents a 42% decline in participation when compared to the 2006 season. Results from our species composition creel survey and catch/effort postal survey suggests the 2007 season was far less productive than that of previous years which may explain this decline in license sales. Typically, catch rates were much lower State-wide than previous years which was possibly due to the significant rainfall events just prior to the commencement of the season. Subsequently, the whitebait schools most likely delayed their migration upstream until much of the freshwater cleared later in the season.



A good haul of whitebait, although they were few and far between during the 2007 season

Catches did increase towards the end of the season which coincided with some good 'runs' of common jollytail and spotted galaxias. However, these catches were still far less consistent than that of the previous year. **(continues over the page)**

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.

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 August 2008

Water	Number	Species	Weight (grams)
Pet Reservoir	1486	brown trout (adipose fin clipped)	63

These fish have been clipped to identify them for future evaluation of the fishery. This stocking is in response to observations of recruitment failure at Pet Reservoir for brown trout

Inaugural Brushy Lagoon Fishing Competition— 25 Oct 08

On Saturday 25 October the inaugural Brushy Lagoon Fishing Competition will be held. This event is to raise money to develop and improve Brushy Lagoon as a recreational area.

The competition starts at 10 am with a 3 pm finish followed by a weigh-in. The weigh-in station will be at the dam wall boat ramp and will be co-ordinated by Fishcare volunteers. A free sausage sizzle and soft drinks will be provided at the prize presentation at 3.30 pm.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Senior and Junior categories, lucky draws, family prizes and competitor prizes are all on offer.

A \$5 entry fee per angler or \$10 for the family is all that is required for entry to the competition. Registration forms are available from both boat ramps on the day from 8.30 am

All proceeds of entry fees go towards the future development of Brushy Lagoon as a recreational area.

This event is proudly supported by the Inland Fisheries Service, Anglers Alliance Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, Westbury Fishing Club, Devonport Anglers Club, Longford Fishing Club, Tasmanian Fishing and Boating News and Tasfish.com.

For more information contact:

Longford Fishing Club
Todd Lambert 0427 888 691

Devonport Anglers Club
Peter Maloney 0419 871 131

Westbury Fishing Club
David Rybarczyk 0400 929 174

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Unlike 2006, southern rivers, particularly the River Derwent, produced extremely poor catch rates during 2007. In the 2006 season, the River Derwent produced the highest catch rates State-wide (up to 450 grams of fish per hour fished) due to some large runs of *Lovettia sealli*. However, *Lovettia* were rarely seen in the river throughout the 2007 season and this most likely explains the lower catch rates observed. In contrast, fishers who visited some of the least popular waters such as the Huon River and Deep Creek reported higher average catches of 250-550 grams per hour fished during 2007.

The IFS would like to thank all whitebait fishers who returned their postal survey forms and congratulate Mr. Hector Douce for winning the \$200 prize draw.

Thanks also to those fishers who allowed IFS staff to sample their catch as part of our species composition. Survey forms will be issued with the 2008 whitebait licence in order to continue data collection on the fishery.

Seniors Week fishing activities

Fishcare volunteers are hosting a number of events to encourage seniors to take up fishing. These events will be held during the first week of October which is Seniors Week.

In the South an introduction to fishing session will be held at Apex Park, Huonville on October 1 from 11 am to 2 pm. In the North West there will be a session at the Cam River above the Bass Hwy bridge on Friday 3 October from 1.00 to 3.30pm. Bring fishing gear if you have some and dress for the weather. RSVP by September 26 to Tess McNeill on 6233 9073 for the Southern event or Damian Heran on 6432 3898 for the Northwest event.

What to expect? Get some tips on the latest fishing rules, rigging gear, casting, and responsible handling and returning of fish. These activities are for those who have always wanted to try but thought it too hard and for experienced fishers too!

**Tagged Trout
Trout Stocking
Website
and Angler News**
Tim Farrell
6261 8035
tim.farrell@ifs.tas.gov.au

**Communications
and Marketing**
Sarah Graham
6261 8075
0408 478 897
sarah.graham@ifs.tas.gov.au

Carp Management
Chris Wisniewski
6261 8062
chriswi@ifs.tas.gov.au

Native Fish
Dave Jarvis
6261 8053
davej@ifs.tas.gov.au

**Compliance
Activities**
Viv Spencer
Senior Inspector
0408 145 768
vivs@ifs.tas.gov.au

**Angling Licence
Enquiries
and Information**
6261 8050
infish@ifs.tas.gov.au

www.ifs.tas.gov.au