Responsible Boating

Penstock Lagoon is very shallow with an average depth of approximately one metre. When you accelerate in shallow water the underwater wash from the propeller jet stirs up silt and mud clouding the water. When the sediments settle again they can smother aquatic plants and degrade habitat. Disturbance and muddying of the water also spooks feeding fish. To avoid environmental damage to weed beds and increasing turbidity in the lagoon, a 5 knot speed limit applies to the whole lagoon. One boatramp is located on the western shore.

Remember

- Check your wash - if it's white it's all right - if it's brown slow down.
- Fishing from a boat within 100 metres of an angler fishing from the shore is prohibited unless the boat is securely moored.
- Do not park on or obstruct the boat ramp.

Code of Conduct

- Be aware of and comply with fishing regulations.
- Respect the rights of other anglers and users.
- Protect the environment.
- Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.
- Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated or transferred into other water bodies.

Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

CONTACT DETAILS
17 Back River Road,
New Norfolk, 7140
Ph: 1300 INFISH
www.ifs.tas.gov.au

BL10547

EDITION 3

Penstock Lagoon Anglers Access

REGION: CENTRAL

Neil Grose

Inland Fisheries Service

Inland Fisheries Service

Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

Background

Penstock Lagoon was originally constructed in 1916, as water storage and intake for the now decommissioned Waddamana power station. Throughout its history, Penstock has been a fly fishing water of high repute. The lagoon is no longer used for electricity generation but its water quality and quantity is managed by Hydro Tasmania and the Inland Fisheries Service to ensure the future of the fishery.

Penstock Lagoon offers a variety of habitats, from weedy marshes to forested rocky shores. Angling is restricted to **fly-fishing only.** It has much to offer anglers whether it is fished from the shore or a boat. Water levels are highest in spring but overall do not vary greatly. Much of the lagoon is shallow with some submerged timber and rocks. Boat operators should be wary of these hazards and **always observe the 5-knot speed limit.** Owing to its small size and popularity, anglers are advised to respect the needs of other users.

Tourism Tasmania

Camping

Two designated camping areas and one boat ramp exist on the western shore. Campers are encouraged to bring portable toilets or be sure to walk at least 100 metres from the water, dig a 15 centimetre hole and bury waste with the toilet paper. The maximum period for camping or caravans is 14 days.

Access Rules

An access easement 10 metres above the full supply level extends around the eastern shore of the lagoon for foot access only. Above the easement is private property.

- Keep to formed tracks.
- Do not litter – take your rubbish home.
- Stay within easement margins.
- Do not stray into paddocks with stock.
- Respect private land – if in doubt ask permission.
- Shooting is prohibited.
- Camping only in designated areas.
- Firepots only.
- Do not cut standing trees.

Angling Notes

Early in the season when water levels are high, sight fishing to brown trout in the shallow weedy margins on the western shore provides good fishing. During spring, blind casting around the rocky shores can also be successful as trout are often found chasing small native fish (galaxias) that spawn on the rocks. As the weather warms up, from November onwards, prolific hatches of mayfly and caddis occur and offer good dry fly fishing. Fishing with wet flies while drifting around the lagoon in a boat is productive throughout the season.

William Horan

Fishery Management

Penstock Lagoon is managed as a Premium Wild Trout Fishery. There are no reliable spawning facilities and only limited natural recruitment. Regular stocking by the Inland Fisheries Service of both brown and rainbow trout maintains populations.

Angling Regulations

To fish in any open public inland water in Tasmania you must hold a current Inland Angling Licence unless you are under 14 years of age. A summary of the regulations are contained within the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code.

Please note:

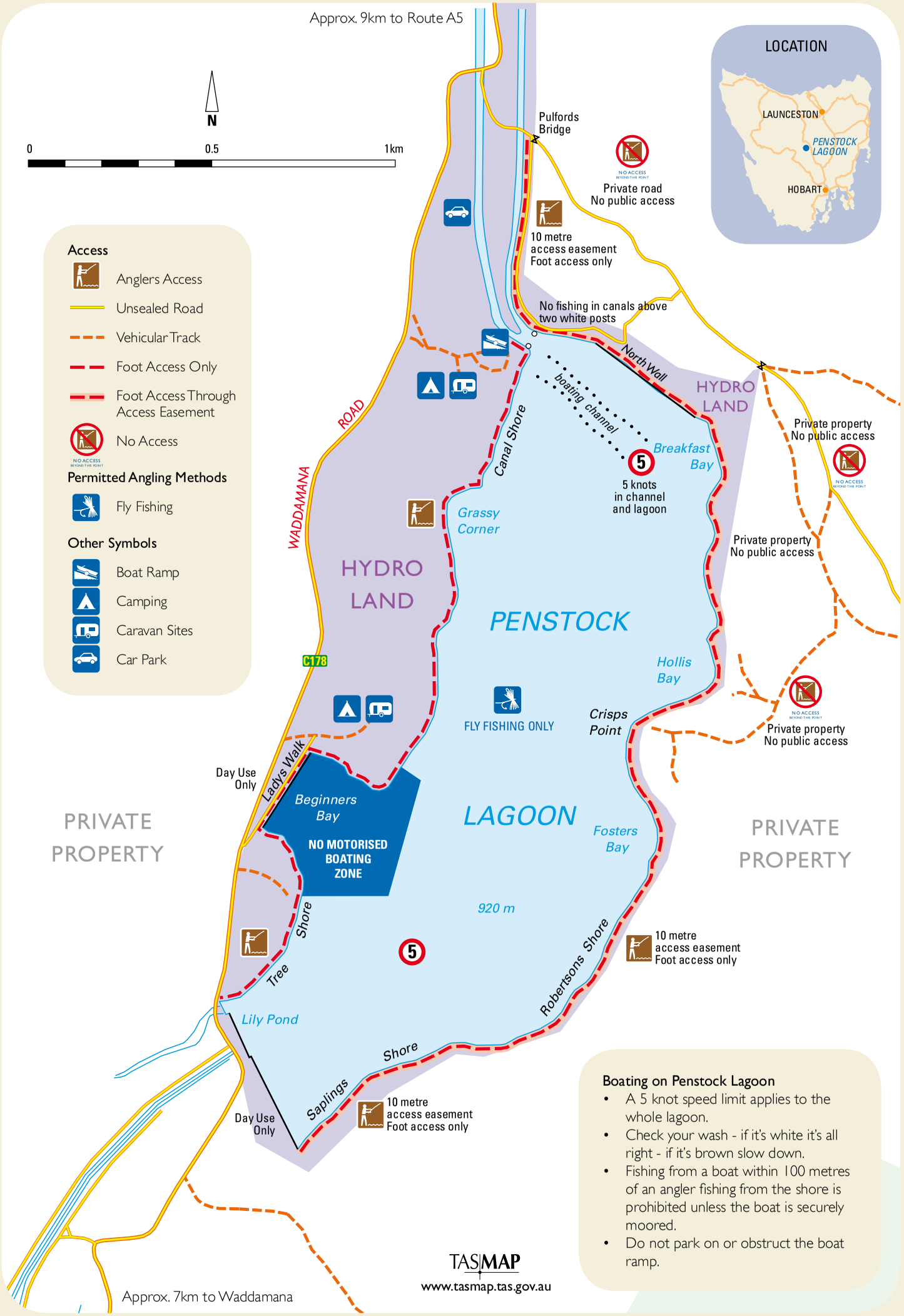
Fishing is prohibited in the canals above two white posts on opposite banks of the canals.

Penstock Lagoon is a designated fly fishing only water.

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Brown trout	420 mm	3*
Rainbow trout	420 mm	3*

*Combined daily bag limit of 3 fish

Method	Season
Fly fishing	From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April.



Boating on Penstock Lagoon

- A 5 knot speed limit applies to the whole lagoon.
- Check your wash - if it's white it's all right - if it's brown slow down.
- Fishing from a boat within 100 metres of an angler fishing from the shore is prohibited unless the boat is securely moored.
- Do not park on or obstruct the boat ramp.

Environmental and Cultural Values

There are four vegetation communities found within the Penstock Lagoon Reserve. Cabbage Gum Woodland (*E. pauciflora woodland*), *E. rodwayi* forest and woodland highland grassy sedge-land and highland Poa grassland. Many of the large trees have habitat value and their protection is paramount for native animals in the area – **Please do not cut standing trees.** Both the grassy communities are Threatened Native Vegetation Communities in Tasmania. **Vehicle access is not permitted in these areas,** keep to formed tracks.

A number of native fish species inhabit Penstock Lagoon including the climbing galaxias (*Galaxias brevipinnis*) and the spotted galaxias (*Galaxias truttaceus*). The State and Commonwealth listed threatened species, the Great Lake paragalaxias (*Paragalaxias eleotroides*) and the Shannon paragalaxias (*P. dissimilis*) are also present. Short-finned eel (*Anguilla australis*) occur in low numbers.

Hydro Tasmania
The power of natural thinking

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme

A project funded by the Australian Government
Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme

Alliance Tasmania Inc Anglers

Protect Our Waters

Recreational anglers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

- Do not bring live or dead fish, fish products, animals or aquatic plants into Tasmania.
- Do not bring used fishing gear or any other freshwater recreational equipment that may be damp, wet or contain water into Tasmania. Check, clean and dry your fishing equipment.
- Do not transfer any freshwater fish, frogs, tadpoles, invertebrates or plants between inland waters.
- When moving between waters check your boat, trailer and waders for weed and other pests that may be transferred.
- Do not use willow (which is a plant pest) as a rod support as it has the ability to propagate from a strike.

- *Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings immediately to the Inland Fisheries Service.*
- *Report illegal activities to: Bushwatch 1800 333 000.*

Peter Havery