Inland Fisheries Service

2025-26 Compliance Annual Report



Inland Fisheries Service

2025-26 Compliance Annual Report

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Resources

At peak staffing levels during 2025-26, the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) had three full-time Officers delivering compliance, together with an additional six Officers authorised under the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* (the Act) who delivered compliance as a secondary function of their respective roles.

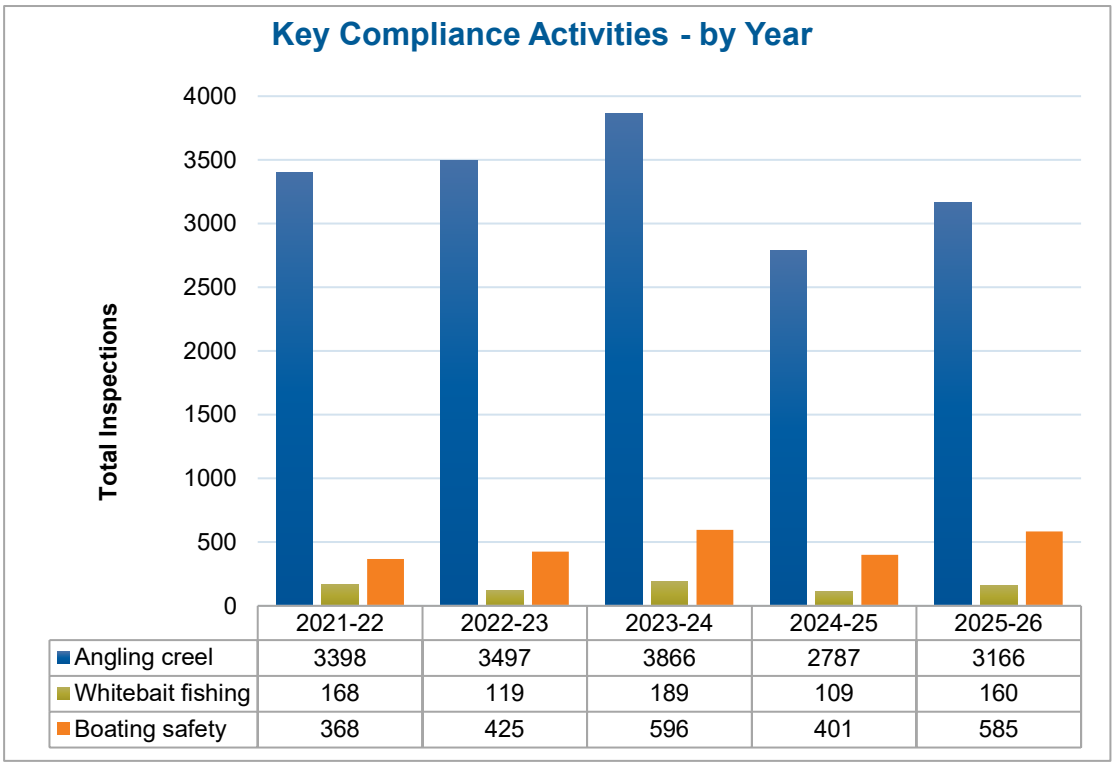
This work included enforcement activities, investigations, prosecutions, as well as education/awareness and public relations activities.

IFS Fisheries Officers enforce a wide range of regulations under the Act and conduct angler creel surveys to help with fisheries assessments. The Compliance Operational Plan guides activities.

The IFS works closely with other State agencies such as Tasmania Police, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) to patrol remote areas and to detect, and respond to, illegal activity.

Inspections Performed

Inspection type	Total in 2025-26
Angling creel	3,166
Whitebait fishing	160
Boating safety	585

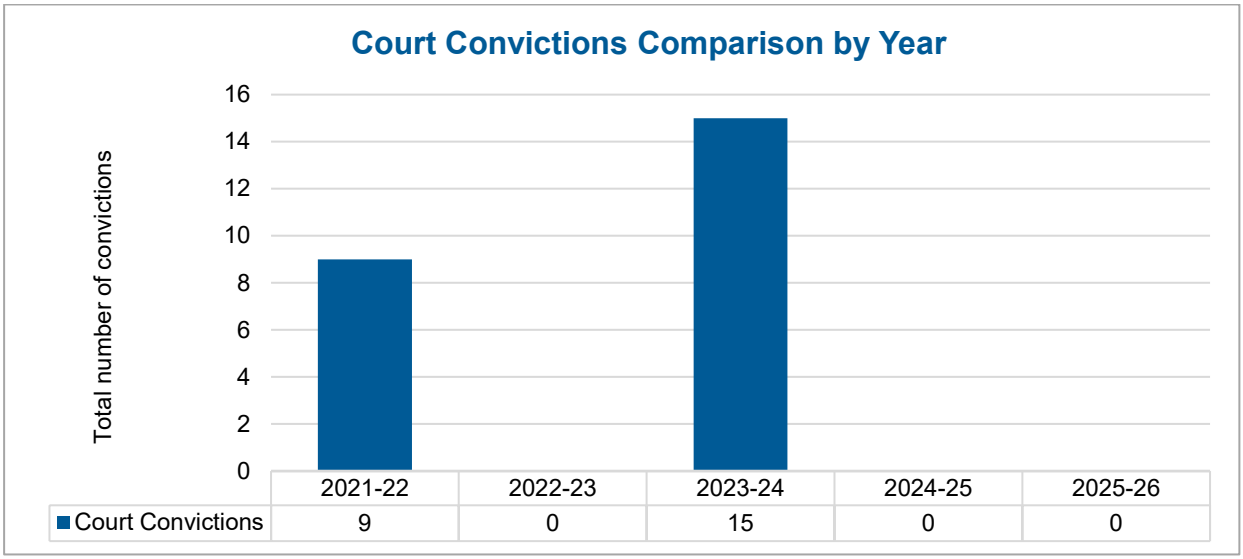


	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Angling creel	3398	3497	3866	2787	3166
Whitebait fishing	168	119	189	109	160
Boating safety	368	425	596	401	585

Breakdown – Court Convictions

Prosecution offences (Magistrates Court)	Number
Total	**0**

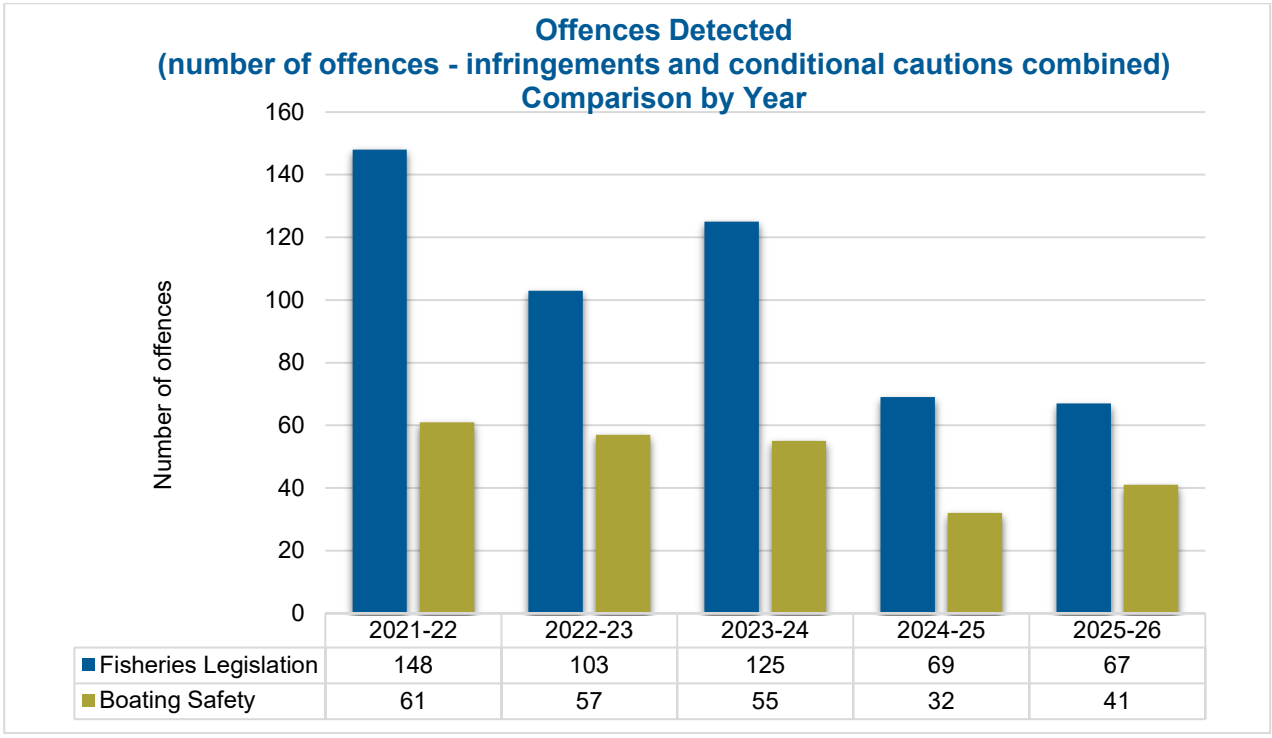
*NOTE – all *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* offences were made infringeable in 2019.



Breakdown – Total Offences Detected

Type	Defendants		Offences		Value*	
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	$	% of total
Court Convictions	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Infringement Notices Fisheries	19	18.4	23	21.3	7,995	**24.2**
Infringement Notices Boat Safety	18	17.5	19	17.6	3,895	**11.8**
Conditional Cautions Fisheries	44	42.7	44	40.7	16,210	**49.1**
Conditional Cautions Boat Safety	22	21.4	22	20.4	4,920	**14.9**
Total	**103**	**100**	**108**	**100**	**33,020**	**100**

*NOTE – 50 per cent of infringement revenue is retained by the IFS and directed back into fisheries management priorities.



Breakdown – Infringement Offences (Inland Fisheries – Fishing)

Offences	Infringement Notice Offence	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)	Infringement notice offences endorsed as Conditional Caution	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)
Fish whilst unlicenced	8	0.25	17	**0.54**
Use more than one rod or more than the permissible baits, lures or flies at a time from inland waters other than Lakes Augusta or Mackenzie	3	0.10	2	**0.06**
Take fish by means other than an artificial fly in defined inland waters	3	0.10	0	**0.00**
Possess rod/reel/line at inland water without licence	2	0.06	6	**0.19**
Fail to comply with a Ministerial order	1	0.03	4	**0.13**
Possess assembled rod reel and line when taking of fish prohibited	1	0.03	3	**0.10**
Take fish by means other than rod and line	1	0.03	0	**0.00**
Use fish as bait in non estuarine inland waters	1	0.03	0	**0.00**
Possess bait or lure not wholly artificial in or within 100m of defined inland waters	0	0.00	2	**0.06**
Fail to remain 8 metres from a set rod	0	0.00	1	**0.03**
Possess rod and line of another while fishing or use a prohibited strike indicator	0	0.00	1	**0.03**
Total	**20**	**0.63**	**36**	**1.14**

Breakdown – Infringement Offences (Inland Fisheries – Whitebait)

Offences	Infringement Notice Offence	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)	Infringement notice offences endorsed as Conditional Caution	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)
Attempt to take whitebait without licence	1	0.63	0	**0.00**
Fail to attach defined tag on whitebait net	0	0.00	5	**3.13**
Possess or use non permitted net in on bank of inland water	2	1.25	2	**1.25**
Total	**3**	**1.88**	**7**	**4.38**

Breakdown – Infringement Offences (Inland Fisheries – Other)

Offences	Infringement Notice Offence	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)	Infringement notice offences endorsed as Conditional Caution	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)
Deal with applicable fish without or in contravention of a fish dealers certificate	0	N/A	1	N/A
Total	**0**	**N/A**	**1**	**N/A**

Breakdown – Infringement Offences (Boating Safety)

Offences	Infringement Notice Offence	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)	Infringement notice offences endorsed as Conditional Caution	Detection Rate (total/number of checks undertaken)
Fail to wear approved life jacket on motor boat under 6 metres while under power	17	2.91	14	**2.39**
Fail to wear life jacket on lightweight craft	1	0.17	4	**0.68**
Exceed 5 knots in speed limited waters	1	0.17	0	**0.00**
Fail to carry, properly store, keep ready for immediate use, and maintain in good order mandatory safety equipment	0	0.00	4	**0.68**
Total	**19**	**3.25**	**22**	**3.75**



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