

Inland Fisheries Service

Midterm Review of the Tasmanian Inland
Recreational Fishery Management Plan
2018-28



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Introduction

Since July 2018, the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) has managed the recreational fishery under the guidance of the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* (Plan 2018-28).

Since the Plan 2018-28 was adopted, some amendments to policies and regulations have been made in response to management strategies.

This midterm review also makes proposals for future management of the fishery based on findings from fisheries performance assessments and protection of natural values.

Fishery Management

Recreational fishing seasons

The boundaries have been updated for the following rainbow trout waters:

- The Weld River (in the north of the State at Harridge Falls) from an imaginary line drawn between the opposite shores of the river located approximately at grid reference E575751 N5443429 and E575760 N5443419 upstream to its source.
- The Weld River (in the south of the State at the confluence of the Huon River) from an imaginary line drawn between the opposite shores of the river located approximately at grid reference E481068 N5232960 and grid reference E481033 and N5232964 upstream to its source.

Further regulation changes that have occurred are:

- Plenty River (adjacent to the Salmon Ponds) is no longer reserved for anglers with disabilities.
- The Arthur River indigenous fish boundary has been moved to the boat ramp to further protect estuary perch.

As a trial, the fishing season for the following reaches of rivers has been extended and now close on the Sunday nearest 31st May each year to support the trout guiding industry during the offseason:

- Brumbys Creek downstream from Weir 1 to the Tinamirakuna/Macquarie River;
- The Tinamirakuna/Macquarie River downstream from the junction with Brumbys Creek and the South Esk River;
- The Meander River downstream from Strath Bridge (on the C735) to the South Esk River; and
- The lower section of the South Esk River downstream from the bridge at Storys Creek Road at Avoca to Beams Hollow upstream from Lake Trevallyn, delineated by a straight line between grid reference E506368 N5406426 and E506467 N5406414.

A new lake was created to supply irrigation water:

- Camden Lake was created in 2019 by the damming of Camden Rivulet. Regulations that were put in place are a five fish bag limit, 300 mm minimum size. Combined daily bag limit of five fish, 300 mm minimum size and can only include two fish exceeding 500 mm. The angling season is from the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest 30th April. Angling is permitted from one hour before sunrise to three hours after sunset. All angling methods are allowed.

Bag and size limits

- The bag limit for lakes Duncan and Lynch was reduce to two fish daily.

Junior Angling Development fisheries

- Lake Waverly was removed from the regulations due to difficulties in enforcing.
- Frombergs Dam was decommissioned by the landowner and will be removed from the regulations.

Fishery Performance Criteria and Assessment

Performance criteria for Assisted Fisheries

Since the development of the Plan 2018-28, a range of trout fisheries have been surveyed and assessed. This has allowed the IFS to adjust the fishery management criteria for several lake fisheries.

Water	Average weight (g)	Catch rate (fish per day)	Large fish (percentage)	Population size (BT) at full lake level
Penstock Lagoon				
Brown trout	> 400 mm 1.35 kg ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.2	> 600 mm 5%	5,000 – 7,000 *
Rainbow trout	> 400 mm 1.4 kg ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.1	> 500 mm 3%	
Four Springs Lake				
Brown trout	> 400 mm 1.25 kg ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.2	> 600 mm 3%	10,000 – 14,000 *
Rainbow trout	> 400 mm 1.4 kg ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.1	> 500 mm 3%	
Lake Crescent				
Brown trout	> 400 mm 2.5 kg ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.2	> 600 mm 50%	3,000 – 5,000 *
Rainbow trout	> 400 mm 2.5 kg ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.1	> 500 mm 5%	
Tooms Lake				
Brown trout	> 400 mm 1.2 kg ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.2	> 500 mm 20%	12,000 – 18,000 *
Rainbow trout	> 400 mm 1.2 kg ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.1	> 500 mm 5%	
Lake Leake				
Brown trout	> 400 mm 1.0 kg ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.2	> 500 mm 30%	12,000 – 18,000 *
Rainbow trout	> 400 mm 1.0 kg ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.1	> 500 mm 15%	
Bradys Chain				
Brown trout	> 300 mm 0.65 kg ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.2	Not applicable	To be determined
Rainbow trout	> 300 mm 0.65 kg ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.1	Not applicable	

Table 1: Fishery performance criteria for identified Assisted Fisheries requiring stocking

*Population targets will be reduced in accordance with lower lake levels and environmental conditions.

Assisted Fisheries

Table 2 outlines the number of fisheries performance assessments undertaken at assisted fisheries in the past five years compared to what were planned for the life of the Plan 2018-28.

Identified Assisted Fisheries	No. of surveys planned	No. of surveys done to date
Four Springs Lake	4	2
Penstock Lagoon	4	3
Tooms Lake	2	1
Lake Leake	2	1
Lake Crescent	2	1
Bradys Chain of Lakes	2	2

Table 2: Schedule of identified Assisted Fisheries for fishery performance assessments and those completed to date.

Wild and Naturally Recruiting Fisheries

Table 3 outlines the number of fisheries performance assessments undertaken at wild and naturally recruiting fisheries in the past five years compared to what were planned for the life of the Plan 2018-28.

Identified Wild and Naturally Recruiting Fisheries	No. of surveys planned	No. surveys done to date
Arthurs Lake	2	1
Woods Lake	2	1
Bronte Lagoon	1	1
Little Pine Lagoon	1	1
Shannon Lagoon	1	1
Talbots Lagoon	1	1

Table 3: Schedule of identified Wild and Naturally Recruiting Fishery performance assessments and those completed to date.

Table 4 outlines other fisheries performance assessments during the life of the Plan.

Other fisheries performance assessments	No. of surveys still to be done	No. of surveys to date
South Riana Lake	1	1
Curries River Reservoir	1	1
Cascade Dam	0	1
Northwest Rivers	0	1
Camden Lake	0	1
West Coast brook trout	1	1
Blackmans Lagoon	1	0
Big Waterhouse	1	0
Rostrevor Reservoir	1	0
Lake Sorell	2	0

Table 4: Schedule of other fishery performance assessments and those completed to date.

Recreational Salmonid Stocking

Fish stocks

Brook trout for Clarence Lagoon and Tyndall Creek have been sourced from wild stock in the Langdon River on the West Coast.

Reserves and conservation areas

Big Lagoon on Bruny Island had a regulation change from being an Assisted Fishery and is no longer stocked with trout due to an unreliable water level and warming conditions.

Further initiatives undertaken during the life of the Plan 2018-28

- The Meander River, above Huntsman Lake, was seeded with 50 ripe adult rainbow trout from the Liawenee Canal spawning run in both September 2021 and 2022. The aim was to create a naturally recruiting population of rainbow trout in Huntsman Lake.
- Silver Plains Creek and Mountain Creek were each seeded with 50 ripe adult rainbow trout from the Liawenee Canal spawning run in both September 2022 and 2023. The aim was to maintain the naturally recruiting population of rainbow trout in Lake Sorell that had been depleted by carp management activities.
- Surveys of Langdon River indicated a small self-sustaining population of wild brook trout. Some of these fish have been harvested to stock Tyndall Creek, to build another wild population and Clarence Lagoon; refer to https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/media/publications/West_Coast_Brook_Trout_Assessments_2022.pdf

Fishing for Non-salmonid Species in Inland Waters

Estuary perch

Estuary perch (*percalates colonorum*) is declared to be a protected fish under the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995*.

Angler Access

Major Angler Access projects that have been undertaken so far in the life of the plan are:

2018-19

- Reconstruction of the Lake Rowallan boat ramp through the Recreational Boating Fund.
- A flex mat boat ramp at Tungatinah Lagoon through the Recreational Boating Fund.
- Repairs to the Brushy Lagoon Road and dam wall.
- Dredging of the Brushy Lagoon boat ramp and repairs to the Tooms Lake and Lake Leake boat ramps.
- Grading and resurfacing of both Little Pine Lagoon boat ramps.
- Upper Meander River access tracks – Jackey’s Creek to Meander Dam.
- Entered an MOU with the Van Dairy Group for sustainable management of Talbots Lagoon.
- Recreation plan for Camden Lake.

2019-20

- Toilets constructed at Bradys Lake, Bronte Lagoon, Four Springs Lake, Lake Augusta, Lake Sorel, Little Pine Lagoon, Penstock Lagoon (x2), Tungatinah Lagoon and Woods Lake.
- Develop List map database for all angler access infrastructure across the State.
- Parking and access on East Diddleum Road on the St Patricks River and at Porters Road on the Meander River.
- Reconstruction of the Darwin Dam boat ramp and construction of the Thureau Hills at Lake Burbury with MAST.
- Low level flex mat boat ramp constructed at Craighourne Lake.
- Upgrades to Woods Lake and Gunns Marsh Road with Hydro Tasmania.

2020-21

- Fisherman’s Trail formalised at Pumphouse Point, Lake St Clair.
- Floating pontoon installed at Cramps Bay, yingina/Great Lake with MAST.

2021-22

- Establishment of carpark and easements for access at South Riana Lake.
- Developed angler access at Camden Lake including 1.5 km of walking tracks.
- New boat ramp at Dee Lagoon in conjunction with MAST and Hydro Tasmania.
- Supported the Norther Midlands Council with upgrades to Tooms Lake Camping area.
- Cleared encroaching scrub from the Pillans Lake four-wheel drive track.
- Upgraded Swan Bay yingina/Great Lake ramp parking area and access road.

2022-23

- Improved access, developed campgrounds and extended the boat ramp carpark at Woods Lake.
- Upgraded roads to Double Lagoon and Lake Kay.
- In partnership with MAST and Tasmania Irrigation replaced buoy line at Craighourne Lake.
- Upgraded the boat ramp at Pioneer Lake with MAST.

Proposals for the future

Recreational fishery

- Undertake performance assessments for Curries River Reservoir, Blackmans and Big Waterhouse lagoons, South Riana Lake, Lake Sorell, Rostrevor Reservoir and set performance criteria.
- In consultation with the trout guides, review river fishing season extension on Brumbys Creek, Tinamirakuna/Macquarie, Meander and South Esk rivers.
- Remove Frombergs Dam as a Junior Angling Development fishery from the regulations.
- It is proposed that wild brook trout sourced from Langdon River should continue to be used for small stockings of the Tyndall Creek and Clarence Lagoon. Future surveys to check the success of this strategy should be undertaken and performance criteria set for Clarence Lagoon.
- Due to the low stocking rate, a zero-bag limit regulation is proposed for Clarence Lagoon.
- Review the long-term viability of the brook trout fishery including the size and source of brook trout stock to be used in lakes Plimsoll, Rolleston and Selina.
- An assessment of Lake Crescent indicates that there is a good head of trout. Natural recruitment from Agnew's Creek appears to have been successful over the past few years due to wet conditions. With the removal of the Interlaken Canal carp screens in August 2023, natural recruitment from Lake Sorell into Lake Crescent will also provide stock. No future stocking of Lake Crescent or Lake Sorell will be required.
- A desktop review of yingina/Great Lake including brown and rainbow trout spawning runs, compliance app data, Angler Diary data, postal questionnaire with a regulation review of bag and size limits, seasons and reduced complexity of regulations.
- To protect the threatened species no future stocking of salmonids into Shannon Lagoon is recommended.
- An assessment of native fish populations in waters stocked with trout in the Nineteen Lagoons.
- Undertake a review of trout stocking and bag limits as part of the *Western Lakes Wilderness World Heritage Area Fisheries Management Plan*, specifically Double Lagoon which has capacity for a higher bag limit.
- Due to the small population and restricted distribution, it is proposed that estuary perch be listed nationally as threatened species. This proposal has been supported by the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council.

Angler Access projects

- Huntsman Lake jetty
- Silver Plains, Lake Sorell access and boat ramp
- Four Springs Lake circumnavigation track
- Pieman River boat ramp upgrade
- Little Pine Lagoon boat ramp upgrade
- Lake Mikany boat ramp upgrade
- St Patricks River anglers access project
- Northeast anglers access including Ringarooma, Brid, Great Forester, Little Forester, Weld and George rivers. Waterhouse lakes, Cascade Dam, Frome Dam, Valley Ponds and Pioneer Lake
- Access tracks to yingina/Great Lake
- Shannon Lagoon roadside track upgrade
- Curries River Reservoir access



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