

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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FISH FARM LICENCES

Fish farm licences have been issued by the Minister for Primary Industry to J. & J. Theiss at Holwell & to Tasmarine 1 at Oyster Cove. The farm at Oyster Cove consists of a cage structure situated in saltwater.

BRIDGE OVER ADA CANAL

Steel to be used in the construction of a bridge over Ada Canal is now on site. The Commission is grateful to Mr Ian French for arranging the acquisition of the steel which weighs over one tonne. He also transported it to the site. It is hoped that abutments and piers can be erected by the Lands Department in late summer or autumn.

EDGAR POND NEAR LAKE PEDDER

The Commission gave further consideration to the trout fishery at Edgar Pond. Following the emigration of brook trout, which were liberated in the pond, the Commission examined the age of resident brown trout caught in the pond. The details are set out in the Table below.

Details of length, weight and age of brown trout from *Edgar Pond*

No.	Fork length cm	Weight g	Age
1	44.8	1130	4+
2	38.5	790	2+
3	37.5	740	2+
4	40.5	950	3+
5	41.0	1000	3+
6	40.5	990	3+
7	40.5	975	3+
8	<u>36.5</u>	<u>650</u>	2+
Average	40.0	900	

Summary

No.	Average length cm	Average weight g	Age
-	-	-	1+
3	37.5	727	2+
4	40.6	979	3+
1	44.8	1130	4+

An examination of the table shows that brown trout grow at a relatively slow rate as compared with brown trout in Lake Pedder. As the many brown trout in Edgar Pond and their slow growth rate casts doubt on the success of pursuing the development of Edgar Pond as a brook trout fishery, the Commission proposes to develop the brown trout fishery here.

The necessity of erecting a ladder to facilitate the upstream movement of brown trout into Edgar Pond will be further investigated this coming autumn and winter.

LAGOON OF ISLANDS

A proposal put up by the Southern Tasmanian Licenced Anglers Association to divert water to Lagoon of Islands is worthy of serious consideration. The Commission proposes to discuss the matter with the Hydro-Electric Commission.

BREISES LAKE AND CASCADE RIVER

An Inland Fisheries Commission officer accompanied a member of the Scottsdale Branch on an inspection of Breises Lake, at the end of December. Breises Lake is approximately 7 km west of Derby and enters into the Cascade River. Access to the lake is via a gravel road which begins south of Derby. The lake is formed by a concrete and rock filled dam, approximately 40 metres high and 200 metres long, with two spillways of approximately 8 metres each. At the time of the inspection water was flowing over the spillways. Large logs were in the water at the mouth of the eastern spillway and there were no screens to prevent outward movement of fish or debris. The lake itself had clear water and a number of dead trees and stumps remained. Light to dense timber and scrub around the foreshore permitted fishing from only a few sites along the shore. A boat launching site is on the dam.

An inspection of the Cascade River was difficult because of the thick scrub. In an inspection near the Forestry road and bridge, seven brown trout of about 120 mm in length, showed up over a distance of 150 metres of clear water. The bottom of the Cascade River contained suitable gravel for spawning so that adequate recruitment from natural propagation would occur in the lake.

TROUT SALVAGE AT LIAWENEE

On the 2, 3 and 4 February 1981, field staff electro-fished sections of the Liawenee Canal above the Lake Highway and transferred the brown trout and rainbow trout to Shannan Lagoon and Penstock Lagoon. About 95% of the catch was brown trout and the size was advanced fry stage. The fish were liberated as follows:-

2.2.81	1 350	Shannan Lagoon
3.2.81	800	Penstock Lagoon
4.2.81	130	Penstock Lagoon
Total release	2 280	

The salvage operation was conducted in conditions of high temperatures.

ELVER TRANSFERS

In addition to the project which has been in course for several years, of transferring elvers from the stop-log gallery in Trevallyn Power Station to the North Esk River, an additional portorage operation was put in course at Meadowbank Dam. Here, the elvers were caught in hand nets and transferred above the dam. In all, 300 000 elvers were transferred above Meadowbank Dam in February.

MORTALITY OF BROOK TROUT AT SALMON PONDS

During the high water temperatures at the Salmon Ponds in January 1981, a mortality occurred among the adult brook trout when they were under stress conditions. The position was aggravated when vandals removed a plug which permitted some of the brook trout to escape into the Plenty River.

ANGLING REPORT - PENSTOCK LAGOON

Several mainland anglers enjoyed excellent sport at Penstock Lagoon. John Philbrick, a regular visitor to Penstock Lagoon from the mainland, caught 27 trout, consisting of 23 brown and 4 rainbow trout, in eight days angling.

MAYDEN A ANNUAL ANGLING COMPETITION

The Maydena Angling Club conducted a successful angling competition

over the long weekend of the 24, 25 and 26 January 1981. The arrangements made by the club, including the facilities for weighing in at both Lake Pedder and Maydena, were excellent. The competition attracted between 900 and 1 000 people and there were 530 entrants who weighed in a total of 794 fish. The total cleaned weight of the fish was 2 086 kg.

Included among the competitors were visitors from Victoria, Queensland and Germany. The prize for the average weight of fish caught was won by Mr. R. Richards of Waratah, his brown trout weighed 2.62 kg cleaned. The prize for the largest fish caught, weighing 6.65 kg, was won by Miss M. Wood of Deloraine.

It was pleasing to receive excellent co-operation from the anglers and officials taking part in the competition which brought so much enjoyment to many people.

LIAWENEE SPAWNING CANAL

On the 3 January 1981, the zigzag spawning channel at Liawenee was closed to the low water in Liawenee Canal.

Since the start of the rainbow trout fry migration on the 25 November 1980, approximately 150 000 rainbow trout fry entered the traps. The fry ranged in size from 20-45 mm fork length. The fry fed on live food in the channel and did well on it.

A total of 118 female and 86 male spawners were introduced to the channel on the 25 September 1980. After twelve days, spawning had been completed and the adults were removed. Two females were found to have failed to spawn. After approximately 40 days incubation the eggs hatched. Fry began to migrate in significant numbers 20 days later. During the initial migration peak lasting 15 days, 38% of the total fry catch migrated downstream. At the end of the run, fry were liberated around the shores of Great Lake as the low flow of water in Liawenee Canal would have put them at risk here. The liberation details are set out below.

Records of fecundity, spawning behaviour, redd sites, egg fertility, egg survival and daily fry migration have been retained for analysis.

Date	No. of fry	Where liberated
25.11.80 - 5.1.81	141 290	Liawenee Canal
22.12.80	800	Brandums Bay
23.12.80	1 050	Duck Bay
24.12.80	1 890	Canal Bay
25.12.80	1 900	Canal Bay
26.12.80	430	Canal Bay
30.12.80	860	Canal Bay
31.12.80	350	Canal Bay
1.01.81	310	Duck Bay
2.01.81	530	Canal Bay
3.01.81	150	Boundary Bay
4.01.81	55	Boundary Bay
5.01.81	90	Christmas Bay
Total release	149 705	

ACCESS TO LAKE FERGUS

The Commission and the Lands Department are continuing discussions with the aim of providing a more suitable access to Lake Fergus.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON

As a matter of urgency, the Commission is seeking the acquisition of land around Little Pine Lagoon so that this famous fishery may be preserved from destruction by unwise land use. The Commission is taking this action following extensive discussions and inspections with the Lands Department and further discussions with University research workers and a highland property owner.

FLOWERDALE RIVER

Flowerdale River is one of the rivers which often gives anglers satisfaction because of its large brown trout. On the 14 December 1980 the river provided angling excitement for the 20 to 30 anglers who fished near Flowerdale Flats. One angler caught 5 brown trout in one half hour* fishing. In all, 120 brown trout were landed during the afternoon. The fish ranged in size from .45 to 1.3 kg (1-3 lb). In addition, one eel weighing 5.4 kg (12 lb) was caught. The most successful anglers used floating worms as a lure in the rising stream.

RECENT COURT CASES

A summary of recent court cases is set out for information. Further cases are listed for hearing.

<u>Court Date</u>	<u>Offender and Address</u>	<u>Nature of Offence</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Costs</u>
15.12.80	Craig Douglas Wicks Ulverstone	Using more than one rod and line	conviction recorded	
15.12.80	David William Homan Ulverstone	Using more than one rod and line	conviction recorded	
8.12.80	Stephen John Undy Rosebery	Fishing in closed waters	20-00	8-10
19.12.80	Peter Lindsay Beard Bothwell	Taking fish in closed waters. Taking fish other than rod and line. Disturbing spawning fish.	50-00	8-00
19.12.80	Neil John Monks Bothwell	Taking fish in closed waters. Taking fish other than rod and line. Disturbing spawning fish.	30-00	8-00
18.12.80	Terence Alfred Harris Savage River	Using more than one rod and line	50-00	8-10
18.12.80	Lee John Morrison Montello	Fishing without a licence. Using more than one rod and line.	150-00	8-10
18.12.80	William Ralph Fielding Riana	Fishing without a licence	50-00	8-10
18.12.80	Norman Lindsay Eaves Somerset	Fishing without a licence	50-00	8-10
18.12.80	Rodney Mark Stitz Somerset	Taking fish other than rod and line	50-00	8-10
22.12.80	Peter Gee Dilston	Fishing without a licence	30-00	8-10
22.12.80	Christopher Williams George Town	Possession of fish in closed season	139-00	8-10
22.12.80	Steven John Peters Launceston	Possession of fish in closed season	228-00	8-10

<u>Court Date</u>	<u>Offender and Address</u>	<u>Nature of Offence</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Costs</u>
10.2.81	Graham Charles Allen Don	Taking fish other than rod and line. Having possession of a net in inland waters.	110-00	4-05
10.2.81	Gerald Rodney Gleeson Turners Beach	Taking fish other than rod and line. Having possession of a net in inland waters.	110-00	4-05

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