

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8 No. 2

WHITEBAIT

The Circular Head Branch of the Northwestern Fisheries Association is concerned at the possible exploitation of whitebait by commercial interests.

The view of the Commission is that the present status of the whitebait fishery is such that it would be unwise to permit commercial exploitation of the species at this stage.

PERCH AT LAKE LEAKE

The presence of perch at Lake Leake has been the cause of concern for some time. The Commission had a preliminary investigation into the possibility of making a kill of perch at Lake Leake using a fish killing chemical known as rotenone. Preliminary discussions with the Department of Public Health indicated that no objection would be raised to the use of rotenone at Lake Leake by that instrumentality. Lake Leake has a volume at full supply level of 15000 acre/feet (1.82 million cubic metres) and the Snow River has a flow of 28 litres per second (20 cusecs). It is estimated that at a concentration of .5 parts per million, about 18,200 litres of rotenone would be required for a treatment of the Lake and Snowy River at full supply level. However, if a lower concentration (1 ppm) was used, 2,240 litres of rotenone would be needed. The cost involved of purchasing chemicals alone range from \$18,000-\$136,000 at the respective dose rates. Further, the logistics of carrying out the operation would be difficult in that a complete kill at the one period would be necessary to avoid escapement of fish. The lake could be restocked with a desirable species of fish within a fortnight, if supplies of fish were available.

However, at this stage, the Commission feels that the cost benefit of eradicating perch by chemical means from Lake Leake would not be favourable.

YABBIE ERADICATION PROGRAMME

The field programme to remove yabbies from storages near Cremorne and Hawley commenced on 12th March and finished on 27th March. The programme was successful but the dams will be re-examined to confirm this view.

IMPROVEMENTS TO BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES AT LAKE GORDON

The Forestry Commission has placed litter bins around the launching ramp at Lake Gordon and visitors are requested to use them in order to keep the site tidy.

Camping sites have been cleared at Lake Gordon. The sign on the Gordon River road directs the way to the launching sites which are in the Ragged Basin area. The access is through a former IXL timber road near the Boyd River at the 24 mile peg on the Gordon River road. There are three launching sites on this access road.

IMPORTATION OF TORTOISES AND TERRAPINS

The Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association has expressed concern at the importation of these animals into Tasmania. It is illegal to do so under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, unless granted a permit by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

ELECTROFISHING SURVEY - COLLIER CREEK

A number of trout taken from Collier Creek during the recent electrofishing survey was disappointing. The Commission would be pleased to hear from any angler who has a knowledge of the history of the fishery in this creek. The knowledge may be useful in the assessment of the reasons for the few numbers of fish present.

FINES FOR ANGLING OFFENCES

In the February/March newsletter, a report was given of recent fishing offences, for which fines amounting to \$3,422.00 were imposed and costs of \$249.30 incurred. An examination of the fines shows that, in many cases, the fines imposed were relatively light, in comparison with the offence committed and the cost of detecting the offence.

In the Bothwell Court on 23rd February, 1979, before Mr. D. A. Burton S.M., John Jones of New Town faced charges of wilfully disturbing spawning fish, using a light to take fish and taking twelve brown trout from water flowing into Arthurs Lake. Mr. N. Maroney said in evidence that the offences were committed at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake, on 18th June, 1978, at 12.30 a.m.

Jones was convicted on all charges and on the first charge he was fined \$40 with \$8.10 costs, on the second charge he was fined \$60 and on the third charge he was fined \$40 with a special penalty of \$60. The Magistrate stated that he viewed the charges seriously. The hearing was heard ex parte. Senior Inspector M. F. Duncan prosecuted.

At George Town Court of Petty Sessions on 8/3/79 before Mr. K. Dockray, Thomas John Curran of George Town pleaded guilty by endorsement to a charge of taking whitebait when not being licensed and having whitebait in his possession during a closed season. On the first charge he was fined \$50, and the second charge was adjourned sine die.

Leonard Miller Logan of George Town, pleaded guilty by endorsement to taking whitebait when not being licensed and to having whitebait in his possession. On the first charge he was fined \$50, and the second charge was adjourned sine die.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 20th March before Mr. G. Bryan, Colin John Plant of Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to charges of being in possession of a graball net at Lake Pedder. He was fined \$40 with costs of \$8.10 and his nets were forfeited.

Ian James Adderson of Ridgley and Roderick Neil Adderson of Burnie, pleaded guilty to a charge of being in possession of graball nets at Lake Gordon. The defendants were represented by Mr. S. Dixon. They were found guilty and fined \$25 each with costs of \$8.10. The nets were forfeited.

John Stephen McPherson of Ulverstone, pleaded guilty to charges of using more than one rod and line at a time at Lake Pedder. He was fined \$40 with \$8.10 costs.

Allan Denzell Adams of Launceston, pleaded guilty to charges of using natural bait at Lake Pedder. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

Lawrence John Ford of North Hobart, pleaded guilty to a charge of lending his fishing licence to another person. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

David George Stalker of Montrose, pleaded guilty to fishing without a licence, falsely representing to be licensed, producing the licence of another person. He was fined \$130 with costs of \$8.10.

At New Norfolk Court of Petty Sessions on 27th March, 1979, before Mr. G. H. Bryan S.M., Jeff. David Smith of Bendigo, Victoria, at an ex parte hearing, was charged with fishing with two rods at Lake Pedder on 3rd January, 1979. He was convicted and fined \$40 with costs of \$8.10. The defendant was given 14 days to pay, in default 10 days in gaol.

At Huonville Court of Petty Sessions on 2nd April before Mr. Matterson, Michael Lance Lovell of Huonville, was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10 for fishing without a licence in the Huon River on 12th December, 1978. The hearing was heard ex parte.

At Devonport Court of Petty Sessions on 4th April before Mr. Temple-Smith, Graham John Cooper was charged with taking whitebait in a closed season and being in possession of whitebait when not licensed. The defendant pleaded guilty. He was represented by Mr. Michael Walsh. Both charges were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act.

On 20th April at Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions before Mr. E. Sikk, S.M., nineteen anglers were fined a total of \$937 plus \$145.80 costs.

Malcolm Robert Hunt of Claremont, appeared and pleaded guilty to being unlicensed at Lake Sorell on 28th October, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

Michael Wesley Wylie, pleaded guilty by endorsement to (1) being unlicensed at Lake Ada on 2nd December, 1978, - fined \$50
 (2) using natural bait in artificial lure area - fined \$25
 (3) using two rods - fined \$25 with costs of \$8.10.

Brian Maxwell Knowles, Ulverstone, appeared and pleaded guilty to being (1) unlicensed - fined \$50
 (2) using natural bait in artificial lure area - fined \$20
 (3) using two rods - fined \$20 with costs of \$8.10
 The offences occurred at Lake Ada on 2nd December, 1978

Herbert Charles Cox, Turners Beach, pleaded guilty by endorsement to being (1) unlicensed - fined \$50, (2) using natural bait in artificial lure area - fined \$25 with costs of \$8.10. The offences occurred at Lake Ada on 2nd December, 1978.

Phillip John Kirkham of Launceston, pleaded guilty by endorsement to being (1) unlicensed - fined \$50, (2) falsely representing to be licensed - fined \$25 with costs of \$8.10. The offences occurred at Arthurs Lake.

Terence Templar, Penguin, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing while unlicensed -- fined \$50, and to being in possession of six brown trout whilst not being licensed at Woods Lake on 5th November, 1978. The case was adjourned sine die. A special penalty of \$112 was imposed, with costs of \$6.10.

Darrel Arthur Bolch of Burnie, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using two rods in Fore Bay, Tarraleah pipeline, on 10th February, 1979 - fined \$25 with costs of \$8.10.

Stephen Arnold Frost, of Westbury, pleaded guilty by endorsement to failing to produce an angling licence within fourteen days. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

Danny Edward Walsh of Deloraine, was found guilty of fishing unlicensed at Great Lake on 13th January, 1979. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10. The case was heard ex parte.

David Kenneth Lynch of Westbury, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using two rods at Great Lake on 2nd December, 1978. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

Kenneth Gregory Bricknell of Bushy Park, pleaded guilty by endorsement to being unlicensed at the canal between Bradys Lake and Lake Birney on 4th November, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

Lloyd Vincent Rogers of Launceston, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using two rods at Bradys Lake on 4th December, 1978. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

William Anthony Ingram of Devonport, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using natural bait in Little Lake on 22nd December, 1978. He was fined \$20 with costs of \$8.10.

Andrew William Orr, of Ulverstone, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing while unlicensed and to using natural bait in a water reserved for artificial lures - fined \$50 on the first charge and \$20 on the second charge with costs of \$8.10. The offences occurred in Little Lake on 22nd December, 1978.

Simon John Clifford of Hawley pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing while unlicensed - fined \$50 - and to using natural bait in artificial lure area - fined \$20 with costs of \$8.10. The offences occurred at Little Lake on 22nd December, 1978.

Stewart John Middap of Launceston, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using two rods at Great Lake on 7th January, 1979. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

Barry Albert Robinson of Launceston pleaded guilty by endorsement to using two rods at Arthurs Lake on 17th February, 1979. He was fined \$30 with costs of \$8.10.

Kelvin Wakefield of Bushy Park pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing while unlicensed in the canal between Bradys Lake and Lake Binney on 4th November, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.10.

A charge against Craig John Mitchell of Launceston for using two rods at Lake Augusta on 2nd December, 1978, was adjourned sine die to Launceston Court.

Senior Inspector M. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

23rd April, 1979