

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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POACHERS AT LAGOON OF ISLANDS

Once again it is disturbing to report that poachers have been detected interfering with spawning rainbow trout at Mary Creek, Lagoon of Islands and as a result legal proceedings against three men for poaching rainbow trout are in course.

Excellent flows of water following heavy rain in late September and early October have resulted in good runs of fish in Mary Creek. The Commission staff handled 134 rainbow trout spawners on the 22 September at Mary Creek and collected in excess of 100 000 good quality eggs.

A sample of 60 fish were weighed and measured and scales taken for age determination.

Earlier 60 000 ova from an early run of spawners were put down in Mary Creek. Later, effective spawning occurred in gravel around the lagoon shore.

TWO BOOKS FOR ANGLERS

1. The Commission provided funds for the publication of a 'Handbook on Tasmanian Freshwater Fishes' to be put in course. The Commission has guaranteed the sale of 313 copies. Anglers are urged to buy their copy of this booklet from the Commission at a cost of approximately \$3. It is expected the publication will be available in February 1981!

2. Through the good offices of the Inland Fisheries Commission and several other bodies, a scientific publication has been produced dealing with Tasmanian lakes. The publication gives a wealth of useful information on the surface area, depth and shore line of the lakes and other data which may be useful for anglers.

Anglers will find a lot of information in this book which is not readily available elsewhere. There are about 100 copies of the publication available at a cost of \$4.

The publication is entitled 'Morphometric Analysis of Tasmanian Freshwater Bodies' and the authors are J. A. Peterson and J. E. Missen. Anglers should not be put off by the title of the publication.

INTRODUCTION OF UNWANTED EXOTIC FISH

On a number of occasions the Commission has alerted anglers to the danger of unwise introduction of exotic fish. This may seem strange in that the Inland Fisheries Commission is responsible for fisheries based on trout fisheries which are themselves exotic fish. However, trout are considered to be desirable introductions. It is the undesirable introductions which have caused considerable disquiet in recent years in Australia. The Readers Digest of September 1980 on pages 69-73, has an article by Annie O'Grady entitled 'Alien Threat to our waterways', and anglers are directed to read this account of the acclimatization of exotic fishes, particularly in Northern Australia. Here some rivers have been colonised by fish deliberately released from fresh water aquaria. The liberated fish have multiplied to the disadvantage of native and useful freshwater fish.

REDUCED SCALE OF ACTIVITIES

Owing to decreased funds available, the Commission has to restrict its activities in order to effect a saving of \$49 000 in the current financial year. The Commission proposes to institute economies wherever possible and anglers are asked to be patient with the Commission in this regard. The Commission proposes to discontinue the transference of adult brown trout from Great Lake in the coming winter. Other economies are proposed in all phases of the Commission's activities.

SALMON PONDS

It is proposed to introduce an admission fee of 60 cents per person or \$2.00 per family groups for visitors to the Salmon Ponds as from 1st November 1980.

FISHERIES PROTECTION

Patrols at trouble spots at appropriate times acted as a deterrent to would be offenders. So that anglers may be aware of inspectors activities, a summary of recent successful court cases is set out on page 3.

Court Date	Offender	Nature of Offence	Fines & Costs in \$
1.8.80	Robert John Steward	Shooting trout	190.00
11.7.80	Garth Maxwell Munday	Whitebaiting	90.00 8.10
29.7.80	Richard David Tilzey	Unlicenced angling	75.00 8.00
1.8.80	Elwin Percy Phillips	Taking trout out of season by net & light	120.00 4.05
1.8.80	Cyril Rex Wearne	Taking trout out of season by net & light	140.00
1.8.80	Graeme Charles Allen	Shooting trout in closed waters	140.00 8.10
5.8.80	John Wayne Warren	Taking trout from closed waters by hand	160.00 8.10
17.9.80	Barry Edwin McGowan	Disturbing spawning trout & taking fish by hand from closed waters	155.00 8.10
22.9.80	Wayne John Bellinger	Taking trout from closed waters by hand & disturbing spawning trout	35.00 8.10
29.9.80	Glenn Andrew Lamont	Shooting trout with a spear gun	95.00 8.00

LITTLE PINE LAGOON

The Commission has taken up with the Lands Department, the possibility of acquiring land around Little Pine Lagoon, within the 1009 metre contour. Little Pine Lagoon is one of the famous trout fisheries in Australia and carries a good head of fish and is readily accessible from a good road. The possibility of the fishery being damaged would be reduced if the Inland Fisheries Commission or Lands Department had control of the land around the lagoon.

ACCESS TO THE LEVEN RIVER AT GUNNS PLAINS

Following a field inspection on the 20 August 1980 which was attended by representatives of the Ulverstone and Penguin Municipal Councils, bush walking clubs, Inland Fisheries Commission, Angling Associations and the Lands Department, a public meeting was held at the Penguin Council Chambers and satisfactory arrangements were discussed to permit anglers to have access to the Leven River at Gunns Plains. The property is owned by General Jones Pty. Ltd., and ratification of the agreement is awaited.

FISH OUT PONDS

From time to time the Commission receives proposals from interested parties seeking to establish fish out ponds in Tasmania. The Commission is canvassing the views of anglers on these proposals and would like to hear reasons for and against the proposals so that the matter can be thoroughly considered.

CALVERTS LAGOON

The Commission tested the water at Calverts Lagoon to see if it was suitable for liberating brown trout. When the water was analysed it showed an extremely high PH of 9.1 i.e. it was very alkaline. Experiments with brown trout fry in water from Calverts Lagoon showed a mortality of over 50% over a period of three days. Acting on these results, the Commission did not liberate brown trout fry in the lagoon this year.

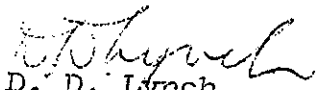
YABBIES

A native yabbie, Geocherax gracilis, has caused some damage to installations at the Cressy Irrigation Scheme and methods of control are under consideration by the Rivers and Water Supply Commission. The yabbie burrows to a depth of 2.5 m and its tunnels cause water seepage and wash aways. The Commission's experience in controlling the yabbie with Cherax Destructor, has been made available to the Rivers and Water Supply Commission in attempts to control this local yabbie.

NEWSLETTER

The rising costs of paper, ink and labour required to produce the newsletter has caused the Commission to consider how costs could be reduced. The newsletter is a vehicle for transmitting information to anglers and it is a matter of concern that some anglers appear not to be aware of the contents. The Commission would like the co-operation of angling associations in devising the most effective means of distribution of the newsletter and any advice or suggestions to improve the dissemination of the contents of the newsletter, together with reducing costs would be appreciated.

Inland Fisheries Commission
127 Davey Street
HOBART TASMANIA 7000


D. D. Lynch
COMMISSIONER