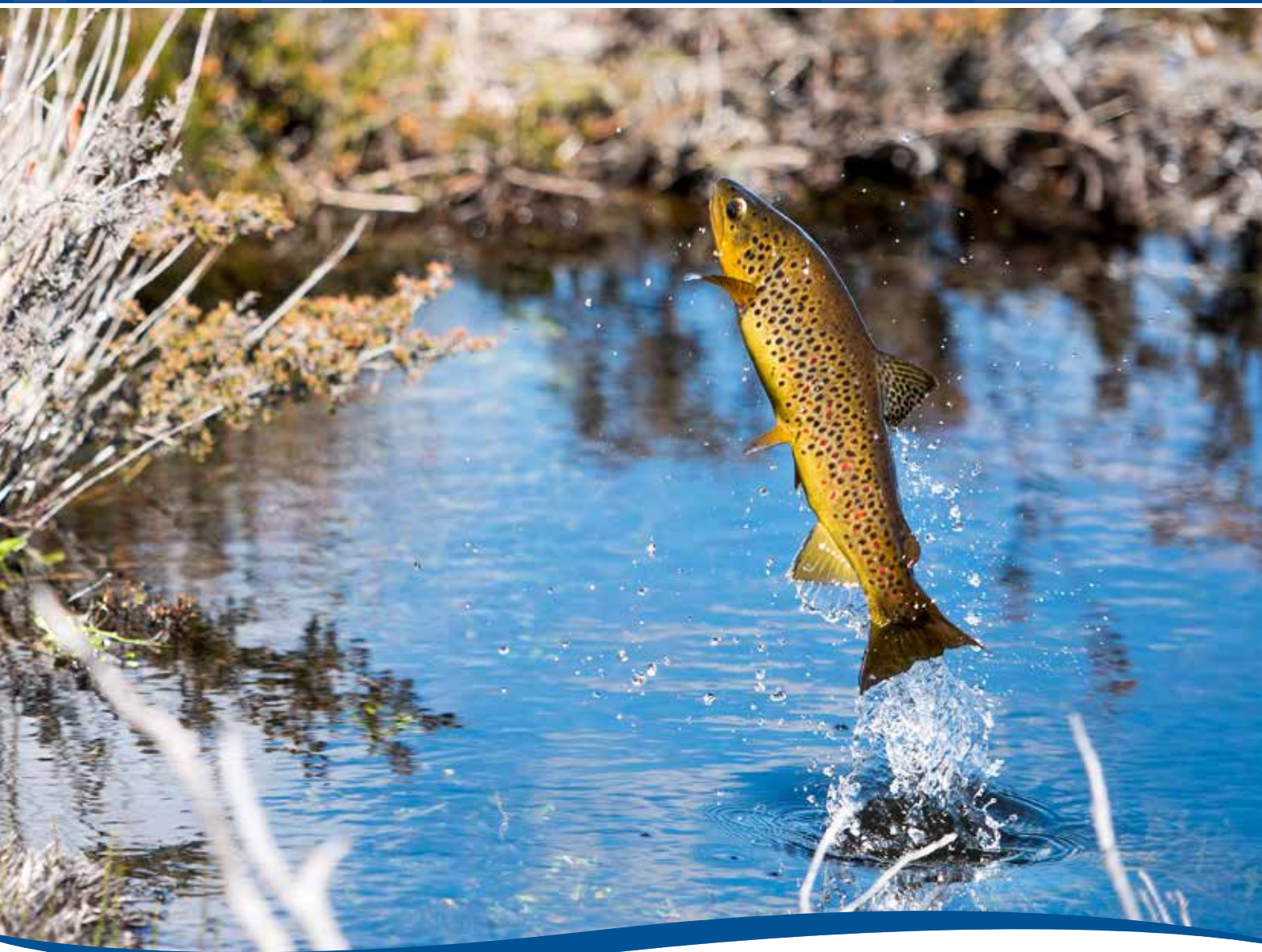


Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28



Minister's message



It is my pleasure to release the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28 as the guiding document for the Inland Fisheries Service.

The Plan is focused on managing our valuable and world class trout fishery and inland fishery resources on behalf of all Tasmanians for the next 10 years. It creates opportunities for anglers, improves access, ensures sustainability and encourages participation.

Recreational fishing is both a traditional Tasmanian pastime and an industry supporting regional economies and providing jobs in associated businesses and tourism enterprises. Tasmania's tradition with trout fishing spans more than 150 years and is enjoyed by local and visiting anglers in the beautiful surrounds our state offers.

A sustainable trout fishery ensures ongoing benefits to anglers and the community as a whole. To achieve sustainable fisheries we need careful management of our trout stocks, the natural values that support them and measures to protect them from diseases and pest fish.

This plan simplifies regulations where possible by grouping fisheries while still maintaining trout stocks for the future. Engagement and agreements with landowners and water managers will increase access and opportunities for anglers.

This plan helps build a fishery that provides for the diversity of anglers and the reasons they choose to fish. I am proud to support a plan that caters for anglers of all skill levels and fishing interests and which maintains a strong and viable fishery for current and future generations.

Sarah Courtney

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

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Executive summary

Tasmania's inland waters offer the chance to catch high numbers of fish, or even the fish of a lifetime. By world standards the fishing pressure is low. Whether you prefer bait, lure or fly fishing, there is something for everyone. Access is available for boating and shore fishing. Good trout fishing can be found within two hours' drive of all Tasmania's major cities.

The Inland Fisheries Service manages the sustainability of recreational fisheries in Tasmania through a combination of regulation and stocking, where required.

Most waters have healthy wild brown trout populations, and rainbow trout have also established but are less widespread. Together, these species make up most of the recreational fishery. Where fisheries have little or no natural recruitment, we support them through stocking.

This *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* (Plan 2018-28) is the primary document for fisheries management planning. It sets regulations and stocking policy for the next 10 years. Two existing fishery management plans, the *Western Lakes Fishery Management Plan 2002* and the *Great Lake Fishery Management Plan 2004*, will be reviewed and the outcomes will update the Plan 2018-28.

River fisheries have wild and naturally recruiting trout populations. Fluctuations in river trout populations are well known and linked to environmental and climatic events. The frequency and severity of these events and their influence on the trout population appear to be increasing. To assist recovery and sustainability, a five fish daily bag limit applies to all rivers in Tasmania, with a minimum size of 220 mm.

Lake fisheries are grouped into three management categories: Wild and Naturally Recruiting, Wild and Overpopulated, and Assisted. This ensures sustainability, limits the need for individual fishery management and minimises the number of regulations.

We manage most Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries through a 12 fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 300 mm. We manage most Assisted fisheries through a five fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 300 mm and only two fish over 500 mm. Wild and Overpopulated fisheries are managed by a 20 fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 220 mm.

To achieve larger fish sizes, or support heavy fishing pressure, some waters require tighter regulation as an Assisted fishery exception. Penstock Lagoon and Lake Crescent are examples with a two fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 400 mm and only one fish to be taken over 500 mm.

Performance criteria are established for identified fisheries. These criteria guide management and ensure the fisheries meet anglers' expectations. We use angler and in-lake surveys to assess trout populations and evaluate fishery performance against the criteria. These results inform regulation and stocking.

We support the development of junior angling opportunities. Clubs and associations have developed waters specifically for junior angling. We formally identify these waters as Junior Angling Development fisheries for anglers younger than 18 years. There is a two fish daily bag limit with a minimum size of 300 mm and no more than one fish over 500 mm.

Our annual stocking plan is guided by our translocation policy, native fish conservation plans, performance criteria, estimated catch rate and harvest, and the presence or absence of pest fish for each stocked water. We use adult wild brown trout transfers from Central Highlands' spawning runs for stocking major waters. Farm dams and remote lagoons are stocked with juvenile brown trout reared from wild harvested ova. We source Atlantic salmon, brook trout and rainbow trout from commercial fish farms.

The distribution of pest species and disease pathways brought about by fishery management activities are a biosecurity risk for the State's inland fisheries. We use best practice when undertaking stocking and fieldwork in inland waters to prevent the spread of disease and pest species. We commit to developing and implementing a biosecurity strategy applicable across the recreational and commercial salmonid industries.

Brook trout and Atlantic salmon have not established in the wild, but we stock and regulate fishing for them to add variety to the fishery. There is a two fish daily bag limit on brook trout and a five fish daily bag limit on Atlantic salmon in Tasmanian inland waters.

We manage selected waters near regional towns as open-all-year fisheries. To improve angler access to the open-all-year sections of the rivers Leven and Derwent, the upstream boundaries are extended. The open-all-year section of the River Leven extends downstream from where Whisky Creek enters, giving an extra 4.5 km of river available for all-year angling than the previous section provided. The open-all-year section of the River Derwent extends downstream from the New Norfolk Bridge, increasing this section by 15.5 km. A feasibility assessment will be undertaken into the extension of the angling season into May for some lowland rivers.

The method of angling is regulated and at the majority of waters, now including Huntsman Lake, we allow the use of bait, lure and fly fishing. At selected waters, only artificial and/or fly fishing are allowed.

We will review the conservation measures for, and status of, the small and isolated population of estuary perch in the Arthur River. This is the only known location of this species in Tasmania.

Angling infrastructure and basic facilities are required to increase participation levels and improve the fishing experience. The Anglers Access Program (AAP) continues to maintain, improve and create angler access to inland waters. The provision of accessible fishing platforms and toilets at major fisheries to encourage angler participation, regardless of gender or ability, are important elements of the AAP.

This Plan 2018-28 guides the operations of the Inland Fisheries Service.



Introduction

The responsibilities of the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) include: the regulation and promotion of our recreational fishery, the control of pest fish, the protection of native freshwater fauna, and the management of the commercial freshwater fishery. The *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* (Plan 2018-28) guides the management of the recreational fishery.

While the plan outlines new regulations, it does not give effect to the changes. To enact the changes the Inland Fisheries subordinate legislation will be amended.

1.1 Inland Fisheries Service's vision

It is our vision to have sustainable, vibrant and healthy inland fisheries that are the envy of Australia and the world.

1.2 The Tasmanian recreational trout fishery

Tasmania's wild brown trout fishery, established in 1864, is one of the best in the world. From accessible areas to remote wilderness, there are opportunities for all anglers.

Our wilderness fishing is unique, with thousands of lakes and tarns offering fishing like nowhere else. Large, popular, productive fisheries can be found in the Central Highlands. Resident and sea-run trout are a feature of our rivers and estuaries.

Tasmania's inland waters offer the chance to catch high numbers of fish, or even the fish of a lifetime. By world standards the fishing pressure is low. Whether you prefer bait, lure or fly fishing, there is something for everyone. Access is available for boating and shore fishing. Good trout fishing can be found within two hours' drive of all Tasmania's major cities.

The recreational fishery is based on the introduced salmonid species of brown, rainbow and brook trout and Atlantic salmon. Most waters have healthy wild brown trout populations. There are some waters where trout can't breed naturally. We stock these as part of our stocking program.

1.3 Consultation and development of the plan

For the last 10 years, the IFS has managed the fishery under the guidance of the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2008-18* (Plan 2008-18).

Since the Plan 2008-18 was adopted, we have made some amendments to its policies and regulations in response to changes in the fishery and requests from anglers and other stakeholders.

Issues raised by anglers inform the way we manage the fishery. The peak body for freshwater angling in Tasmania, Anglers Alliance Tasmania (AAT), represents clubs and associations as well as unaffiliated anglers. Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania Inc (TGALT) represents guiding, private fisheries, accommodation and tourism related activities in the freshwater fishery. We consult with both AAT and TGALT on potential fishery management changes. Anglers also get a voice in management decisions through direct communication with us, which can be verbally or in writing.

We incorporated new initiatives, including suggestions from anglers, in the Issues Paper: Proposals for the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28*. This paper was released in May 2017 and AAT distributed it to representative clubs and associations. We also made the Issues Paper available for comment on our website, www.ifs.tas.gov.au. Comments closed on 16 June 2017. We received eleven submissions and they informed the *Draft Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* (Draft Plan 2018-28).

The Draft Plan 2018-28 was available for public comment for an eight-week period from 19 October to 18 December 2017. During this time, presentations of the Draft Plan 2018-28 were made to AAT, Southern Tasmania Licensed Anglers Association and Quamby Fly Fishers Club. A public meeting was held in the Central Highlands at Miena on 18 November 2017. Nineteen submissions were received from individual, club and corporate contributors and they have informed the Plan 2018-28.

The Inland Fisheries Advisory Council reviewed each stage of the Plan 2018-28 and provided advice to both the Minister and the IFS.

I.4 Partnerships and key relationships

There are diverse stakeholders with an interest in the recreational inland fisheries, including:

- Anglers
- Angling industry
- Government (Federal, State and local)
- Media
- Private enterprises and landowners

The IFS interacts, consults and partners with these stakeholders in a variety of ways. The outcome informs the direction of fishery management. Providing current information, communicating regularly and promoting aspects of the management of the fisheries are important to the relationship we have with each stakeholder.

2

Fishery management

Brown trout were successfully introduced into Tasmania in 1864, establishing a wild (naturally recruiting) population. This species forms the basis of the recreational fishery.

Atlantic salmon were introduced in 1864 but have not established in the wild.

Continuing attempts to establish brook trout since the 1880s has been unsuccessful in most waters. It is unclear if any of the brook trout fisheries have a level of natural recruitment.

Rainbow trout were introduced in the late 1890s and have established in the wild but are less widespread than brown trout.

We support fisheries that do not have reliable natural recruitment with stocking. We ensure the sustainability of fisheries through regulation.

2.1 Fishery management planning

This Plan 2018-28 will be the overarching planning tool for fishery management activities for the coming 10-year period.

There are two fisheries management plans that support the Plan 2018-28:

- *Western Lakes Fishery Management Plan (2002)*
- *Great Lake Fishery Management Plan (2004)*

These two management plans will be reviewed and update the Plan 2018-28.

2.2 Recreational fishing seasons

We apply recreational fishing seasons to individual waters. Typically, we base the fishing season on the dominant species of salmonid present.

2.2.1 Brown trout

Tasmania is best known for its brown trout fishery, and the species has established in most rivers and lakes. Natural recruitment sustains these fisheries.

Brown trout spawn from April to July. The fishing season is closed during this period to protect spawning fish.

REGULATION:

- *The majority of Tasmanian inland waters are open between the first Saturday of August and the Sunday nearest 30 April*
- *Lake Mackintosh and Lake Rosebery are open between the first Saturday of August and the Sunday nearest 31 May*

2.2.2 Rainbow trout

After the introduction of rainbow trout in the late 1880s, a further introduction occurred during the 1900s. They have established in some rivers and lakes where natural recruitment sustains the fisheries.

Rainbow trout spawn from September to October. The fishing season is closed during this period to protect spawning fish.

REGULATION:

The following waters, managed for rainbow trout, are open between the Saturday nearest 1 October and the Sunday nearest 31 May:

- *Dee Lagoon*
- *Lake Rowallan*
- *Lake Skinner*
- *Upper Mersey Lakes Rainbow Fishery (Lake Meston, Lake Youd and Junction Lake)*
- *River Leven – upstream of the bridge on Loongana Road*
- *Mersey River above Lake Rowallan*
- *Section of the Weld River in the north of the State*
- *Section of the Weld River in the south of the State*

2.2.3 Brook trout

Brook trout have a history of introductions to various waters in the Tasmanian fishery since the 1880s. The species failed to establish in most rivers and lakes due to the dominance of brown trout.

Limited natural recruitment may occur at Clarence Lagoon and lakes Plimsoll, Selina and Rolleston. Where brook trout fisheries occur, we supplement them through stocking.

Brook trout spawn from May to July. The fishing season is closed during this period to protect spawning fish.

REGULATION:

The following waters, managed for brook trout, are open between the first Saturday of August and the Sunday nearest 30 April:

- *Lake Plimsoll*
- *Lake Rolleston*
- *Lake Selina*
- *Clarence Lagoon*

2.2.4 Atlantic salmon

Atlantic salmon have had a history of introductions to various waters in the Tasmanian fishery since 1864. The species failed to establish in rivers and lakes and is only maintained in aquaculture.

There are no waters where the fishing season is specifically managed for Atlantic salmon.

2.2.5 Open all year

We manage selected waters near regional towns as open-all-year fisheries.

These fisheries are sustainable either through stocking or successful natural recruitment among the resident trout populations.

The number of waters managed as open-all-year fisheries is limited to maintain the tradition of an open and closed season.

To improve angler access to the open-all-year sections of the rivers Leven and Derwent, we are extending the upstream boundaries. The open-all-year section of the River Leven now extends downstream from where Whisky Creek enters (E 422710 N 5442177 (ADG 94)). The open-all-year section of the River Derwent extends downstream from the New Norfolk Bridge.

REGULATION:

The following waters are open all year:

- *Brushy Lagoon*
- *Craigbourne Dam*
- *yingina/Great Lake other than Canal Bay*
- *Huntsman Lake*
- *Huon River downstream from the Huonville Bridge*
- *Lake Barrington*
- *Lake Burbury*
- *Lake Meadowbank*
- *Lake Pedder*
- *Lake King William*
- *North Esk River and kanamaluka/River Tamar downstream from the Lower Charles Street Bridge on the North Esk River*
- *Pioneer Lake*
- *South Esk River and kanamaluka/River Tamar downstream from the West Tamar Road Bridge on the South Esk River*
- *River Leven downstream from Whisky Creek E 422710 N 5442177 (ADG 94)*
- *River Derwent downstream from the New Norfolk Bridge*

2.2.6 Fishing times

The fishing times at some waters are restricted to one hour before sunrise to three hours after sunset. This discourages camping, fires and associated activities, meeting the needs of land managers while maintaining fishing opportunities.

REGULATION:

The following waters have the regulated fishing time of one hour before sunrise to three hours after sunset:

- *Brushy Lagoon*
- *Craigbourne Dam*
- *Curries River Reservoir*
- *Four Springs Lake*
- *Huntsman Lake*
- *Lake Crescent*
- *South Riana Dam*
- *Talbots Lagoon*

2.2.7 Proposal to extend the season to the end of May for some rivers

We will assess the feasibility of opening reaches of selected rivers in May, for example Brumbys Creek and the lower reaches of the South Esk and Macquarie rivers.

2.3 Bag and size limits

Regulating the number and size of fish taken from a fishery ensures it remains sustainable.

A daily bag limit sets the maximum take of an angler. This helps to manage the total harvest and performance of the fishery.

Minimum size limits are set for fisheries to protect breeding stock. The size limits also help us to manage the harvest and performance of the fishery.

2.3.1 Lakes and lagoons

Lake and lagoon fisheries are grouped into three management categories. We group these fisheries to:

- ensure each fishery performs as well as possible
- limit the need for each lake and lagoon to have unique regulations
- minimise the total number of regulations that apply to our fisheries

There are some exceptions where specific regulations are needed to manage an individual water to ensure its sustainability and performance.

The three management categories are:

- Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries
- Wild and Overpopulated fisheries
- Assisted fisheries

The regulations that apply to each management category are specified below.

Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries

These fisheries are sustained through natural recruitment and are unlikely to be overfished by anglers.

The majority of Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries are managed by a 12 fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 300 mm.

Many lakes and lagoons in Tasmania are in this category (such as Arthurs Lake, Bronte Lagoon, Lake Echo, Lake Mackintosh and Lake St Clair). If the water is not discussed below then the following regulations apply.

REGULATION:

- *minimum size limit 300 mm*
- *a daily bag limit of 12 fish including five (5) only Atlantic salmon and two (2) only brook trout*

Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries exception

yingina/Great Lake has a maximum of three rainbow trout that may be included in the 12 fish daily bag limit. This is to protect the wild rainbow trout population.

REGULATION:

- *brown trout – minimum size limit 300 mm*
- *rainbow trout – minimum size limit 400 mm*
- *a daily bag limit of 12 fish including three (3) rainbow trout only*

Wild and Overpopulated fisheries

These fisheries have an abundance of spawning opportunities that provide prolific natural recruitment. As a result, they are overpopulated.

Wild and Overpopulated fisheries are managed by a 20 fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 220 mm. This management approach allows anglers to catch and take a greater number of fish without undermining the sustainability of the fishery.

REGULATION:

- *minimum size limit 220 mm*
- *a daily bag limit of 20 fish*

Waters with a 20 fish daily bag limit and a 220 mm minimum size are:

- *Huntsman Lake*
- *Lake Burbury*
- *Lake Gordon*
- *Lake King William*
- *Lake Pedder*

Assisted fisheries

We supplement these fisheries by stocking or regulation to ensure their sustainability and achieve our performance criteria.

This category of fishery may be subject to:

- variable or no natural recruitment
- high angling pressure
- important natural values

We manage most Assisted fisheries through a five fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 300 mm and only two fish over 500 mm.

REGULATION:

- *a daily bag limit of five (5) fish including two (2) brook trout only*
- *minimum size limit 300 mm*
- *only two (2) fish to be taken over 500 mm*

Waters with a daily bag limit of five fish with a 300 mm minimum size and only two fish over 500 mm are:

- *Big Lagoon (Bruny Island)*
- *Big Waterhouse Lake*
- *Blackmans Lagoon*
- *Bradys Lake*
- *Briseis Hole (Derby Mine Hole)*
- *Brushy Lagoon*
- *Craigbourne Dam*
- *Curries River Reservoir*
- *Dee Lagoon*
- *Four Springs Lake*
- *Guide Reservoir*
- *Gunns Lake*
- *Lake Barrington*
- *Lake Binney*
- *Lake Dulverton*
- *Lake Duncan*
- *Lake Isandula*
- *Lake Kara*
- *Lake Leake*
- *Lake Lynch*
- *Lake Mikany*
- *Lake Plimsoll*
- *Lake Rolleston*
- *Lake Selina*
- *Lake Skinner*
- *Lamberts Dam*
- *Lauriston Reservoir*
- *Little Lake*
- *Little Pine Lagoon*
- *Little Waterhouse*
- *Meadowbank Lake*
- *Pawleena Reservoir*
- *Pet Reservoir*
- *Pioneer Lake*
- *Risdon Brook Reservoir*
- *Rossarden Dam*
- *Rostrevor Reservoir*
- *Shannon Lagoon*
- *South Riana Dam*
- *St Clair Lagoon*
- *Talbots Lagoon*
- *Tooms Lake*
- *Tungatinah Lagoon*
- *All waters within Western Lakes except those in the Nineteen Lagoons area*
- *Woods Lake*

Assisted fishery exceptions

Many anglers fish at Penstock Lagoon which, coupled with limited recruitment, means the fishery relies on stocking and specific regulation. The fishery is known for producing larger fish, with some over 600 mm. In recent years, the fishery has not met the expectation of anglers due to the amount of fishing taking place. Meanwhile, the stocking rate is capped to protect natural values.

Lake Crescent is a trophy fishery that has limited recruitment, so the fishery relies on stocking and specific regulation. The fishery is known for producing larger fish with many over 600 mm. The stocking rate is capped to protect natural values and support this fishery's trophy status.

Camerons Lagoon and Bruisers Lagoon have limited recruitment, so they rely on stocking and specific regulation. These are very small lagoons that receive stockings of adult brown trout of 50 and 80 fish respectively. Many anglers fish these lagoons because of their location and reputation for having the occasional big fish.

REGULATION:

- *a daily bag limit two (2) fish*
- *a minimum size of 400 mm*
- *only one (1) fish to be taken over 500 mm*

The Western Lakes area known as the Nineteen Lagoons is subject to the following specific regulations:

- *A daily bag limit of five (5) fish including two (2) brook trout only, minimum size limit 300 mm and only two (2) fish to be taken over 500 mm:*
 - *Lake Ada (including Ada Lagoon), Lake Augusta, Lake Kay*
- *A daily bag limit of two (2) fish with a minimum size of 420 mm:*
 - *Carter Lakes, Double Lagoon, Emma Tarns, Howes Lagoon Bay, Lake Agnes, Lake Baillie, Lake Chipman, Lake Flora, Lake Paget, Little Blue Lagoon, O'Dells Lake Rocky Lagoon, Sandy Lake, Second Lagoon, Talinah Lagoon and Third Lagoon*
- *A daily bag limit of one (1) fish with a minimum size of 500 mm:*
 - *First Lagoon, Lake Botsford, Lake Dudley and Tin Hut Lake*
- *A daily bag limit of zero (0) (catch and release):*
 - *East Rocky Lagoon*

During the lifespan of the Plan 2018-28, a review of the *Western Lakes Fishery Management Plan (2002)* will occur. This may mean changes to bag and size limits of the above Assisted fishery exception.

2.3.2 Rivers

River fisheries continue to be affected by a range of climatic and environmental factors (such as drought, floods and cormorants preying on fish). The frequency and severity of these climatic events, and their negative influence on the trout population, appear to be increasing.

While many of these events are outside our control, we think it is important to address the health of trout populations in rivers. Regulation change is the best way we can respond to these factors and assist our fisheries to be sustainable.

A five fish daily bag limit applies to all rivers in Tasmania.

REGULATION:

- *A daily bag limit of five (5) fish*
- *Minimum size limit 220 mm*

2.3.3 Species-specific limits

Brook trout

Brook trout fisheries in Tasmania rely on stocking. Due to high native fish conservation values and/or long transport distances, we stock low numbers. There is a two fish daily bag limit on brook trout in all Tasmanian inland waters.

REGULATION:

- *A daily bag limit of two (2) brook trout for all inland waters, including Clarence Lagoon, Lake Plimsoll, Lake Rolleston and Lake Selina*

Atlantic salmon

Due to the variable availability of ex-brood or surplus Atlantic salmon from commercial fish farms and high transport cost, we need to manage this limited resource. There is a five fish daily bag limit on Atlantic salmon in all Tasmanian inland waters.

REGULATION:

- *A daily bag limit of five (5) Atlantic salmon for all inland waters*

2.3.4 Junior Angling Development fisheries

We support the development of junior angling opportunities. We recognise the important work angling associations and clubs do to get young people involved and interested.

Clubs and associations have developed waters specifically for junior angling. We formally identify these waters as Junior Angling Development fisheries where the taking of any fish is permitted only by a person under the age of 18 years.

As these fisheries require stocking, usually with fish from commercial fish farms, there is a need to regulate to share this limited resource.

There is a two fish daily bag limit with a minimum size of 300 mm and no more than one fish over 500 mm at identified Junior Angling Development fisheries.

REGULATION:

The following waters are regulated as Junior Angling Development Fisheries:

- *Bushy Park Estate Dam*
- *Frombergs Dam*
- *Hiscutt Park Pond*
- *Lake Waverley*
- *Taylor's Dam*
- *Angling is only permitted by Junior Angling Development Fisheries for people under 18 years of age*
- *A daily bag limit of two (2) fish with a minimum size of 300 mm and only one (1) fish over 500 mm*

2.4 Permitted angling methods

The Tasmanian inland fishery has three permitted categories of angling method:

- All – being bait, lure and fly fishing
- Artificial – being lure and fly fishing only
- Fly – being fly fishing only

All methods are permitted in Tasmanian inland waters except for those identified below.

Waters within national parks including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) are regulated as 'artificial only'. This includes the:

- *Central Plateau Conservation Area*
 - *Exceptions are Lake Augusta and Lake Mackenzie where bait fishing is permitted using a hand-held rod*
- *Walls of Jerusalem National Park*
- *Mount Field National Park*
- *Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park*
- *Franklin Gordon National Park*
- *South West National Park*

The waters regulated as 'artificial only' include:

- *Bronte Lagoon*
- *Brumbys Creek and all its tributaries between No. 1 Weir and Saundridge Road*
- *Dee Lagoon*
- *yingina/Great Lake at Tods Corner and Canal Bay*
- *Lake Crescent*
- *Lake Leake*
- *Lake Sorell*
- *Monpeelyata Canal between the Ouse River Weir and Lake Echo*
- *Risdon Brook Reservoir*
- *The canal and waterways leading from Bronte Lagoon and discharging into Bradys Lake*

The waters regulated as 'fly fishing only' are few but highly popular for their size, and these include:

- *Bruisers Lagoon*
- *East Rocky Lagoon*
- *Howes Lagoon Bay*
- *Little Pine Lagoon*
- *Lake Kay*
- *Penstock Lagoon*
- *Rocky Lagoon*
- *Second Lagoon*
- *Deep Creek Cut (from Little Pine Lagoon to the Ouse River)*

3

Fishery performance: criteria and assessment

We undertake surveys of anglers fishing or fish populations to determine the status of fisheries. The information collected is used to measure the performance of the fishery against set criteria.

3.1 Performance criteria for Assisted fisheries

Tasmania is known for its self-sustaining populations of wild brown trout. However, there are several Assisted fisheries that rely on stocking and regulation to maintain the desirable level of fishery performance. To manage the fisheries that have high angler numbers, and to meet anglers' expectations, we set performance criteria (see Table 1 below). The performance criteria relating to population size only apply to brown trout (BT), because assessing the population of rainbow trout is unreliable.

| Water | Average weight (g) | Catch rate (fish per day) | Large fish (percentage) | Population size (BT) at full lake level |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Penstock Lagoon | | | | |
| Brown trout | > 400mm 1.5kg ± 0.1 | 1.0 ± 0.2 | > 600mm 5% | 11 000 – 14 000 * |
| Rainbow trout | > 400mm 1.4kg ± 0.2 | 0.3 ± 0.1 | > 500mm 3% | |
| Four Springs Lake | | | | |
| Brown trout | > 400mm 1.5kg ± 0.1 | 1.0 ± 0.2 | > 600mm 3% | 14 000 – 18 000 * |
| Rainbow trout | > 400mm 1.4kg ± 0.2 | 0.5 ± 0.1 | > 500mm 3% | |
| Lake Crescent | | | | |
| Brown trout | > 400mm 2.0kg ± 0.1 | 0.4 ± 0.2 | > 600mm 15% | 6 000 – 10 000 * |
| Rainbow trout | > 400mm 1.5kg ± 0.2 | 0.2 ± 0.1 | > 500mm 5% | |
| Tooms Lake | | | | |
| Brown trout | > 400mm 1.2kg ± 0.1 | 1.0 ± 0.2 | > 500mm 30% | 15 000 – 22 000 * |
| Rainbow trout | > 400mm 1.2kg ± 0.2 | 0.5 ± 0.1 | > 500mm 15% | |
| Lake Leake | | | | |
| Brown trout | > 400mm 1.2kg ± 0.1 | 1.0 ± 0.2 | > 500mm 30% | 15 000 – 22 000 * |
| Rainbow trout | > 400mm 1.2kg ± 0.2 | 0.5 ± 0.1 | > 500mm 15% | |
| Bradys Chain | | | | |
| Brown trout | > 300mm 0.75kg ± 0.1 | 0.8 ± 0.2 | Not applicable | To be determined |
| Rainbow trout | > 300mm 0.75kg ± 0.2 | 0.3 ± 0.1 | Not applicable | |

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

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

3.2 Performance assessment

To ensure we achieve and maintain the performance criteria for stocked waters, we consider several factors:

- environmental conditions of the fishery (water levels and general productivity)
- status of threatened freshwater fish (if applicable)
- size, condition and structure of the existing trout population
- availability of suitable fish for stocking (number and size)
- the harvest of trout by anglers over the previous season/s

We assess these factors by:

- monitoring threatened fish populations
- sourcing information where available on environmental conditions
- gathering and collating harvest and catch-rate data
- in-situ surveying of trout populations

We gather information about environmental conditions from a range of sources. These sources include long-term climate outlooks and various assessments carried out by the IFS, organisations and groups.

We assess trout populations and progress against fishery performance criteria through in-lake population and angler surveys. A time series-based schedule provides up-to-date, measurable and meaningful data. The following outline provides this structure.

3.2.1 Assisted fisheries

Identified Assisted fisheries with no natural recruitment: We will undertake at least four surveys within the 10-year period, with the first two surveys conducted in sequential years to examine population structure and catch per unit effort (CPUE). We will undertake a population estimate for at least one year, and measure survival of at least one stocked cohort.

Identified Assisted fisheries with limited natural recruitment: We will undertake at least one survey every five years to examine stocking success, population structure, size and CPUE.

Identified Assisted fisheries with natural recruitment: We will undertake at least one survey every five years for Woods Lake and one survey over the ten year period for Shannon and Talbots lagoons to examine population structure and CPUE (see Table 2 below).

| Identified Assisted fisheries | No. surveys |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Four Springs Lake | 4 |
| Penstock Lagoon | 4 |
| Tooms Lake | 2 |
| Lake Leake | 2 |
| Lake Crescent | 2 |
| Bradys system | 2 |
| Woods Lake | 2 |
| Shannon Lagoon | 1 |
| Talbots Lagoon | 1 |

Table 2: Schedule of identified Assisted fisheries for fishery performance assessments

3.2.2 Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries

Arthurs and yingina/Great lakes: We will undertake at least one survey every five years to examine population structure and CPUE. (See Table 3 below)

Bronte and Little Pine lagoons: We will undertake one survey in 10 years to examine population structure and CPUE. (See Table 3 below)

Performance criteria for the identified Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries will be developed from the results of these fishery performance assessments, angler surveys and other sources over the 10 year period.

| Identified Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries | No. surveys |
|--|-------------|
| Arthurs Lake | 2 |
| yingina/Great Lake | 2 |
| Bronte Lagoon | 1 |
| Little Pine Lagoon | 1 |

Table 3: Schedule of identified Wild and Naturally Recruiting fisheries for fishery performance assessments

4

Recreational salmonid stocking

We recognise the value of maintaining wild fisheries as they are best suited to our environment and provide a much sought-after angling experience that is increasingly rare in other fisheries. We only stock waters when wild populations are not adequately maintained by natural recruitment and we use wild fish whenever possible.

Many decades of stocking experience and research have shown that stocking rivers that have wild populations does not improve angling success and often makes it worse. Stocking will only be used in river fisheries in the following circumstances:

- when there is clear evidence that natural recruitment has failed
- the river is in a condition that can sustain a viable trout population

We consider the impacts on native fish and conservation values when stocking with trout and salmon.

4.1 Planning

We develop an annual stocking plan guided by:

- The IFS Policy for the *Translocation of Freshwater Fish in Tasmania* (February 2016)
- The IFS Recovery Plan: *Tasmanian Galaxiidae 2006-10*
- The objectives of the fishery (see section: *Performance criteria for Assisted fisheries*)
- The presence or absence of pest fish (e.g. redfin perch)
- The harvest from the fishery
- The estimated catch rate of the fishery

4.2 Fish stocks

4.2.1 Wild brown trout

We use adult wild trout transfers from Central Highlands' spawning runs to stock assisted fisheries.

Experience has shown that stocking with smaller hatchery and triploid fish in larger waters is unreliable. In some years, few or no fish stocked reached the minimum takeable size.

Ova and milt are stripped from wild brown trout, grown at the Salmon Ponds and stocked as fry in smaller waters that are not feasible for adult transfers.

4.2.2 Rainbow trout, brook trout and Atlantic salmon

We use fish sourced from commercial fish farms to stock assisted fisheries with rainbow trout, brook trout and Atlantic salmon.

Most rainbow trout used for stocking are triploid. This is to maximise growth potential and to reduce the risk of contaminating any existing wild stock through crossbreeding.

When stocking brook trout, we prioritise lakes Plimsoll, Rolleston and Selina and Clarence Lagoon.

When stocking Atlantic salmon, we prioritise Brushy Lagoon, Craigbourne Dam, Lake Barrington, Lake Kara, Meadowbank Lake, Pioneer Lake and Junior Angling Development fisheries.

4.3 Managing stocking to protect native fish and other aquatic fauna

We have a statutory responsibility to protect and manage native fish and salmonid fisheries. The stocking of salmonids is guided by the IFS Policy for the Translocation of Freshwater Fish in Tasmania.

4.4 Farm dams

We stock farm dams in accordance with the *IFS Policy for the Translocation of Freshwater Fish in Tasmania* (February 2016) and the *IFS Assessment Criteria and Guidelines – Private Dam Stocking for Public Fishing, Angling Club Activities and Exclusive Fishing*.

4.5 Reserves and conservation areas

Waters within regions that have significant environmental values, such as the TWWHA, RAMSAR wetlands, national parks and conservation areas, require special consideration in terms of stocking.

Identified high conservation-value waters include:

- Big Lagoon
- Big Waterhouse Lake
- Blackmans Lagoon
- Clarence Lagoon
- Lake Crescent
- Little Waterhouse Lake
- Penstock Lagoon
- Shannon Lagoon
- Stocked waters within the Nineteen Lagoons area of the Western Lakes

5

Biosecurity

Fishery management activities have biosecurity risks. Stocking and other field activities are potential pathways for diseases, pests (including invertebrates, algae and unwanted fish) and non-target salmonid species between water bodies.

To reduce the spread of diseases and pest species, measures and protocols apply to stocking and any other activity that creates risk. This issue is relevant to both the recreational and commercial salmonid industries.

The following guides are adhered to:

- *The IFS Policy for the Translocation of Freshwater Fish in Tasmania (February 2016)*
- *A Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens (March 2010)*

We use best practice when undertaking stocking and fieldwork in inland waters, to prevent the spread of disease and pest species. We commit to developing and implementing a biosecurity strategy applicable across all sectors.

6

Fishing for non-salmonid species in inland waters

While the focus of this Plan 2018-28 and the State's fishery is on the introduced salmonid species, there is more to the fishery of Tasmanian inland waters than just trout and salmon. There are several native and introduced species targeted by anglers.

6.1 Black bream

Black bream are indigenous to Tasmania and are found in most estuaries except for the southwest and west coasts.

Anglers can fish for black bream in waters listed under Schedule 1 – *Waters for Taking Indigenous Fish of the Inland Fisheries (Recreational Fishing) Regulations 2009* with two rods without the need for an angling licence. In all other inland waters, an inland angling licence is required.

There is a 10 fish daily bag limit, with a minimum size of 250 mm from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail (caudal fin).

REGULATION:

- *A daily bag limit of 10 black bream with a minimum size of 250 mm*

6.2 River blackfish

River blackfish are indigenous to Tasmania and are naturally found across the north and northwest of the State in rivers and lakes. They have been introduced into the Huon River and River Derwent catchments.

An angling licence is required to take river blackfish. There is a 12 fish daily bag limit for river blackfish, with a minimum size of 220 mm independent of the salmonid daily bag limit.

REGULATION:

- *A daily bag limit of 12 river blackfish with a minimum size of 220 mm independent of the salmonid daily bag limit*

6.3 Short-finned eel and long-finned eel

Short-finned and long-finned eels are indigenous to Tasmania and are found statewide.

An angling licence is required to take eels. There is a 12 fish daily bag limit for eels with a minimum size of 300 mm and a possession limit of 24 eels at any one time.

REGULATION:

- *A daily bag limit of 12 eels with a minimum size of 300 mm and a possession limit of 24 eels at any one time*

6.4 Estuary perch

Estuary perch are indigenous to Tasmania and the only existing population is found in the Arthur River. It is a small and isolated population. Recent studies indicate that recruitment of stocks to the population is not regular.

Anglers are encouraged not to target this species and, if captured, to take every effort to not injure a fish when releasing it back into the Arthur River.

We will review the status of this fishery and the conservation measures to protect the estuary perch population during the Plan 2018-28.

REGULATION:

- *A daily bag limit of zero (0) estuary perch for all inland waters*

6.5 Redfin perch and tench

Redfin perch and tench are introduced to Tasmania, and they are widespread and considered a pest.

An angling licence is required to take redfin perch and tench. There is no daily bag or size limit.

6.6 Whitebait

Whitebait is indigenous to Tasmania and is found in rivers statewide. The whitebait season runs from 1 October until 11 November each year.

A separate whitebait fishing licence is required to take whitebait. There is a daily catch limit of 2 kg and a total catch and possession limit of 10 kg for the season. Gear and water restrictions apply.

REGULATION:

A person must not:

- *take more than 2 kilograms of whitebait on any one day; or*
- *take more than 10 kilograms of whitebait during the currency of the licence; or*
- *have possession of more than 10 kilograms of whitebait at any one time*

7

Infrastructure

7.1 Anglers Access Program

The Anglers Access Program (AAP) aims to maintain, improve and create angler access to inland waters. It includes boat ramps, car parks, signage, navigation hazard warnings, tracks, roads, stiles, amenity blocks and moorings.

Providing infrastructure for anglers and others is becoming more important as community expectations for basic amenities and facilities increase. Angling infrastructure and basic facilities are required to increase participation levels and improve satisfaction with the fishing experience.

To protect angler safety there are some access limitations in respect of private land, Marine and Safety Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania and Tasmanian Irrigation exclusion zones.

Priorities

- Enhance and develop accessible fisheries close to population centres
- Improve facilities at key fisheries to encourage and support female participation
- Negotiate access to new fisheries associated with irrigation infrastructure development
- Negotiate access to private farm dams for public fishing
- Maintain communication with anglers
- Maintain and enhance anglers' access projects
- Develop strategic partnerships to maintain and improve access

8

World Fly Fishing Championship 2019

On behalf of Australia, Tasmania has secured the rights to host the 39th FIPS Mouche World Fly Fishing Championship in December 2019. The event will use five competition venues.

We will consider temporary regulation changes to support the event.



Glossary

The following definitions apply to this document:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| AAT | Anglers Alliance Tasmania; peak body for inland angling organisations in Tasmania |
| Adult | salmonids greater than 300 g in weight |
| Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| Bait | a product wholly or partially derived from animal product that is capable of being affixed to a hook and intended to attract fish |
| Black bream | <i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i> |
| Brook trout | <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> |
| Brown trout | <i>Salmo trutta</i> |
| Catch rate | a measure of the number of fish caught over a set period |
| CPUE | catch per unit effort; a measure of catch rate where effort can be time or gear, such as a set number of nets or length of nets |
| Commercial hatchery | a salmonid fish farm licensed under the <i>Inland Fisheries Act 1995</i> |
| Daily bag limit | the number of fish permitted to be taken by an angler in one day at a water |
| Diploid | fish that are fertile and have an unaltered set of two chromosomes |
| Domestic | fish reared from hatchery brood stock |
| Estuary perch | <i>Percaletes colonorum</i> |
| Fingerling | salmonids 6 - 50 g in weight |
| Fly fishing | fishing using an artificial representation of any fly, insect or small organism |
| Fry | salmonids 1 - 5 g in weight |
| Galaxiidae | a family within the order Galaxiiformes, four genera of which are found in Tasmania: <i>Galaxias</i> , <i>Paragalaxias</i> , <i>Neochanna</i> and <i>Galaxiella</i> |
| Harvest | the number of fish taken from a water by anglers |
| IFS | Inland Fisheries Service |
| Indigenous fish | native fish |
| Lake/lagoon | an area of water surrounded by land; also includes reservoir, dam and pond |
| Long-finned eel | <i>Anguilla reinhardtii</i> |
| Lure | an artificial object intended to attract fish |
| Measuring fish | the length of a fish is measured from snout to the fork in the tail, except for bream which are measured from snout to the tip of the tail; units are millimetres (mm) |
| Ova | salmonid eggs |
| Rainbow trout | <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> |
| RAMSAR | Convention on Wetlands of International Importance - an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands |
| Redfin perch | <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> |
| River/Creek | water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river |
| River blackfish | <i>Gadopsis marmoratus</i> |
| Salmonid | belonging to or characteristic of the family Salmonidae, which includes the salmon, trout, whitefish and northern hemisphere grayling |
| Short-finned eel | <i>Anguilla australis</i> |
| Tench | <i>Tinca tinca</i> |
| TGALT | Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania Inc |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Translocation | the movement of fish from one water to another |
| Triploid | a fish that has three sets of chromosomes in each cell |
| TWWHA | Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area |
| Whitebait | adults of the endemic species <i>Lovettia sealii</i> but also refers to juvenile developmental stage of Galaxiidae species returning to the freshwater sections of rivers |
| Wild | any fish not artificially bred |
| Yearling | salmonids 5 l - 300 g |

10

References and Disclaimer

Reference list

Inland Fisheries Service 2016, *Policy for the Translocation of Freshwater Fish in Tasmania*, Final Version, 22 February 2016

Inland Fisheries Service 2014, *Assessment Criteria and Guidelines – Private Dam Stocking for Public Fishing, Angling Club Activities and Exclusive Fishing*

Inland Fisheries Service 2006, *Recovery Plan: Tasmanian Galaxiid 2006-10*

Inland Fisheries Service 2004, *Great Lake Fishery Management Plan*

Inland Fisheries Service 2002, *Western Lakes Fishery Management Plan*

NRM South 2010, *A Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens*

Disclaimer

The *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* is not a comprehensive account or precise statement of the law. The legislation covering Tasmanian inland fisheries is contained in the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* and subordinate legislation, which can be accessed online at <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/>



