

Hydro Generation

The Yingina / Great Lake catchment is supplemented by diversions from the Ouse River in the west and from Arthur's Lake in the east. Augusta Dam stores the headwaters of the Ouse River; the outflow is picked up a few kilometres down the river and conveyed to the lake via Liawenee Canal. Water from the lake flows through a 5.7 km long headrace tunnel situated beneath the Great Western Tiers, down a 2.7 km long penstock and a 110 m deep vertical shaft into an underground power station at Poatina.

Poatina is Tasmania's second largest power station comprising five 51.6 MW and one 54.5 MW turbines operating under a head of 835 metres and produces approximately 12% of Hydro Tasmania's hydro generation capacity.

Native Fish Management

Four species of native fish are present in the lake, including the Great Lake paragalaxias and the Shannon paragalaxias, both listed under Commonwealth and State legislation as threatened. The IFS and Hydro Tasmania are working to conserve these threatened species and their habitats. The other two species, the spotted and climbing galaxias are common and widespread within the State.

Water Level Management

Numerous activities are undertaken to manage water levels at Yingina / Great Lake. The optimum operating level set down by Hydro Tasmania, rainfall conditions permitting, is between 30% and 60% of Full Supply Level (FSL). This is designed to accommodate the needs of hydro power generation, recreational use, irrigation releases and ecological sustainability. Water quality and the Charophyte weed beds are regularly monitored to assess any changes in condition. A low lake level boat ramp and assessment of emerged obstacles ensures continued recreational use and safe boating. Key stakeholders maintain regular communication on all aspects of Great Lake facilitating effective management of this important resource.

Sustainable Management

Yingina / Great Lake is an example for balancing the protection of biodiversity of freshwater lake ecosystems, providing for recreational needs, whilst ensuring the economic and social imperative of reliable power supply. Managed by Hydro Tasmania for hydro generation purposes, with its fishery managed by the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS), the lake is a unique ecosystem in Tasmania. You are encouraged to enjoy and protect its beauty.

Background

Yingina / Great Lake is located on the Central Plateau of Tasmania, 1,034 metres above sea level. It was one of Australia's largest natural freshwater lake systems prior to its initial damming in 1916. In 1922 the Miena multiple arch dam was built across the outlet to increase storage. In 1967 a sloping core rock fill dam was built down stream. Then in 1982, the rock fill dam was raised six metres and a levee was built across a saddle on the storage rim. When full, the lake has the capacity to cover 17,610 hectares and hold 3,178 million cubic metres of water.

Recreational Fishery Management

The Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) manages Yingina / Great Lake as a wild trout fishery. The primary focus of the IFS is to enhance the rainbow trout population. Brown trout populations are maintained through natural recruitment. Management goals are supported by specific size and bag limits and a reduced angling season at Canal Bay to protect spawning fish.

Angling Notes

All angling methods are permitted except for Tods Corner and Canal Bay, which are reserved for artificial lures only. Brown trout were first released in 1870 and in the following forty years, some of the best trout fishing in the world was experienced here. The fishery has gone through several cycles of high productivity.

CONTACT DETAILS

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EDITION 7

Yingina / Great Lake
Anglers
Access



REGION: CENTRAL

Sheree Chisholm



BL12429



Inland Fisheries Service



Tasmanian
Government

In the period 1920 - 1940, rainbow trout dominated angler's catches with forty rainbow trout caught for every brown trout. Today the fishery is dominated by brown trout of 0.75 - 1.5kgs while rainbow trout represent approximately 10 percent of an angler's catch.

Shore based anglers have many options from which to choose. Set-rod bait fishing is practised along most shores and is often very productive. Best baits are mudeyes, crickets, and worms. It is an offence to use any fish or fish products as bait. For the fly angler, polaroiding the shoreline on a sunny day provides good returns. The trick is to cover plenty of water and eventually you will find fish. Beetle falls and hatches of various aquatic insects during late December to February provide good dry fly fishing. The best spots are generally on the leeward side of the large points and bays around the lake particularly the Tods Corner area. Trolling on Great Lake is very popular with deep diving lures, down rigging or lead core line used to get lures down into the strike zone just above the weed beds. One of the best spots for this type of fishing is the south-western region of the lake, in particular Swan Bay. For the fly angler with a boat, wind lane fishing on a relatively still morning is a highlight. Polaroiding from the deck of a boat can also provide some very productive outings even when the wind is blowing hard.

Code of Conduct

- Be aware of and comply with fishing regulations.
- Respect the rights of other anglers and users.
- Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.

Angling Regulations

To fish in any inland water in Tasmania you must hold a current Inland Angling Licence unless you are under 14 years of age. A summary of the regulations are contained within the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code*.

Yingina / Great Lake season,
bag and size limits:

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Brown trout	300 mm	12*
Rainbow trout	400 mm	3*

* Combined daily bag limit of 12 fish can only include 3 rainbow trout.

Location	Method	Season
Yingina / Great Lake excluding Canal Bay and Tods Corner	Fly fishing Artificial lures Bait fishing	Open all year round
Tods Corner east of the line marked on the map	Fly fishing Artificial lures	Open all year round
Canal Bay west of the line marked on the map	Fly fishing Artificial lures	Between the Saturday nearest 1st December in any year and the Sunday nearest 31st March in the next year

Anglers are reminded that it is an offence to:

- Take fish in any water flowing into Yingina / Great Lake, including Liawenee Canal, and within a radius of 50 metres where they flow into the lake.
- Disturb spawning fish

Penalties apply.

Lake Level

Information on current lake level for Yingina / Great Lake is available from www.hydro.com.au/water/lake-levels

