

Western Lakes Wilderness Fishery

Part of the Tasmanian Wilderness
World Heritage Area



Anglers Access

REGION: CENTRAL



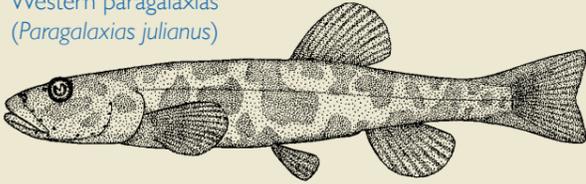
Inland Fisheries Service



Native Fish

The Western Lakes area is home to three species of native fish; the Climbing galaxias, Spotted galaxias and the Western paragalaxias. The Western paragalaxias (*Paragalaxias julianus*) is a State and Commonwealth listed threatened fish found only within the Western Lakes area in the Ouse, James and Little Pine river systems. While the Western paragalaxias co-exists with trout, they are far more abundant in waters that are trout free. There are also a number of invertebrate species that are unique to the region. To assist in the protection of these species it is an offence to use fish or fish products as bait or to transfer any fish species or other organisms between waters.

Western paragalaxias
(*Paragalaxias julianus*)



- Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings immediately to the Inland Fisheries Service
- Report illegal activities to Bushwatch 1800 333 000

Code of Conduct

- Be aware of and comply with fishing regulations.
- Respect the rights of other anglers and users.
- Protect the environment – this is a World Heritage Area.
- Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.
- Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated or transferred into other water bodies.



CONTACT DETAILS

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Introduction

The Western Lakes is defined as the Central Plateau Conservation Area west of the A5 Highland Lakes Road and the Walls of Jerusalem National Park. The Western Lakes covers approximately 140,000 hectares within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (WHA) containing a vast network of lakes, lagoons, tarns, streams and rivers renowned for its recreational trout fishing.

The Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) is responsible for the management of native and recreational freshwater fisheries in the Western Lakes.

The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) are responsible for managing the land area of the Western Lakes.

IFS and PWS regulations contained in this brochure relate to the entire Western Lakes area. The map and general information in this brochure are specific to the portion of the Western Lakes accessible from Lake Augusta Road via Liawenee.

Getting There

Liawenee lies on the western shore of Great Lake approximately 92km north west of Melton Mowbray and 59km south of Deloraine via the A5 Highland Lakes Road. Other popular access points to the Western Lakes include Lake Mackenzie, Walls of Jerusalem National Park and Clarence Lagoon.

Background

The Western Lakes aquatic environment is ecologically highly significant with numerous species present, some of which are endemic. The region sustains a unique recreational trout fishery that is valued for its wilderness environment. You are encouraged to enjoy and protect its beauty.

All waters except Augusta Dam are natural, formed by glacial activity during the last ice age. The region lies at an altitude of approximately 1150 m and is very exposed therefore visitors should be well prepared as sudden changes in weather including snow and poor visibility can occur at any time of the year. Many waters are accessible by unsealed roads and short walks. For the more adventurous there are extended walks. High clearance

4WD tracks to Talinah Lagoon, Lake Pillans and the Julian Lakes are open at certain times of the year.

Recreational Fishery Management

The Western Lakes Fishery Management Plan is designed to maintain sustainable catch rates, fish quality and the overall angling experience. Natural recruitment of wild fish stocks is the mainstay of the fishery supplemented with stocking of primarily wild brown trout. Appropriate size and bag limits have been applied to protect the angling values of specific waters.

Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Regulations to be aware of



The CPCA is a fuel stove only area. "fuel stove" means a device for cooking that does not –

- (1) Affect, or interact with, in any way, soil or vegetation; or
- (2) Use or burn coal, wood, plant material or any other solid fuel;



All Fires are strictly prohibited.



Horses and Dogs only permitted with a PWS authority.



Cats are prohibited.



Recreational Hunting is only permitted within designated hunting zones and requires a hunting licence and a PWS authority.



Four Wheel Drives and ATV's must keep to designated tracks and must be registered.



Driving on a closed track is not permitted.

PWS Boating Regulations

The Parks and Wildlife Service regulate boating in the Western Lakes area. Motorised boating is permitted on Lake Augusta, Lake Mackenzie, Lake Ada, Double Lagoon, Lake Fergus (electric motors only) and the lakes accessed from the Pillans Lake – Julian Lakes vehicle track. Motorised boating (Including electric motors) is prohibited on all other waters in the Western Lakes area.

Angling Notes

The Western Lakes Wilderness Fishery is dominated by wild brown trout with rainbow trout present in some waters. Clarence Lagoon is the only water in the Western Lakes that holds brook trout.

Individual waters are small and sensitive suited to small angling groups or individuals. Angler dispersal is encouraged to maintain the angling experience and wilderness values.

Early season fishing for 'tailing' trout is best in waters with shallow, weedy margins that fill with winter rain and snow melt such as Lake Kay, Double Lagoon, Howes Lagoon Bay and Talinah Lagoon. If trout are not visible then careful searching of the undercut banks of most waters with a wet fly or nymph can produce fish. Given favourable conditions, polaroiding can be rewarding throughout the season although December to February is the optimal period. Shallow sand/silt bottom waters are best such as lakes Ada, Augusta and Chipman and Double, Third and Second lagoons. Good dry fly fishing to mayfly feeders during late December to February occurs at Lake Kay, Howes Lagoon Bay and Carter Lakes. Spin fishing, trolling and loch style fly fishing are popular on Lakes Augusta and Ada.

Protect our Waters

Recreational anglers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

- Do not bring live or dead fish, fish products, animals or aquatic plants into Tasmania.
- Do not bring any used fishing gear or any other freshwater recreational equipment that may be damp, wet or contain water into Tasmania. **Check, clean and dry** your fishing equipment before entering Tasmania.
- Do not transfer any freshwater fish, frogs, tadpoles, invertebrates or plants between inland waters.
- Check your boat, trailer, waders and fishing gear for weed and other pests that should not be transferred before moving between waters.
- Do not use willow (which is a plant pest) as a rod support as it has the ability to propagate from a strike.

Western Lakes Area Angling Regulations

To fish in any open public 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 Fishing Code.

The Western Lakes area is defined as The Central Plateau Conservation Area west of the A5 Lakes Road and the Walls of Jerusalem National Park and includes all lakes, rivers and lagoons within this area.

The rules that apply to most waters in the Western Lakes area are:

- Angling season: From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April.
- Restricted to fishing with  artificial lures and  fly.
- Bait fishing  is prohibited within the Western Lakes Area and the WHA except in Lake Augusta and Lake Mackenzie where bait fishing with one hand held rod is permitted.
- Species: Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Brook trout
- Minimum size: 220 mm.
- The maximum daily bag limit of 5 fish, from any water or combination of waters within the Western Lakes area, can only include 2 fish exceeding 500 mm in length.

Exceptions to these rules are shown in the chart to the right.

This includes individual waters in the Western Lakes area with specific bag and size limits, angling method and season.

IFS Regulations Governing Fishing from a Boat

Fishing from a boat on Ada Lagoon is permitted if the boat is powered by manual labour. Fishing from a boat is prohibited on Botsford, Dudley and Carter lakes, Howes Lagoon Bay, East Rocky Lagoon and Rocky Lagoon. Fishing from a boat within 100 m of an angler fishing from the shore is prohibited unless the boat is securely moored (also see PWS Boating Regulations).

Lake Levels

Information on current lake levels for Lake Augusta including metres from full and trend (rising, falling, steady) is available from [www.ifs.tas.gov.au/Going Fishing/Things to check/Lake Levels](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/Going_Fishing/Things_to_check/Lake_Levels)

Individual Waters Angling Regulations

Water Name	Season: from the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April	Season: from the Saturday nearest the 1st October to the Sunday nearest the 31st May	Method			Minimum Size Limit mm	Maximum Daily Bag Limit*
			 Artificial Lures	 Bait Fishing	 Fly Fishing		
Ada Lagoon	✓					300 mm	5
Carter Lakes	✓					420 mm	2
Double Lagoon	✓					420 mm	2
East Rocky Lagoon	✓					Catch & release	0
Emma Tarns	✓					420 mm	2
First Lagoon	✓					500 mm	1
Howes Lagoon Bay	✓					420 mm	2
Junction Lake		✓				220 mm	5
Lake Ada	✓					300 mm	5
Lake Agnes	✓					420 mm	2
Lake Augusta	✓					300 mm	5
Lake Baillie	✓					420 mm	2
Lake Botsford	✓					500 mm	1
Lake Chipman	✓					420 mm	2
Lake Dudley	✓					500 mm	1
Lake Flora	✓					420 mm	2
Lake Kay	✓					300 mm	5
Lake Mackenzie	✓					220 mm	5
Lake Meston		✓				220 mm	5
Lake Paget	✓					420 mm	2
Lake Youd		✓				220 mm	5
Little Blue Lagoon	✓					420 mm	2
Mersey River		✓				220 mm	5
O'Dell's Lake	✓					420 mm	2
Rocky Lagoon	✓					420 mm	2
Sandy Lake	✓					420 mm	2
Second Lagoon	✓					420 mm	2
Talinah Lagoon	✓					420 mm	2
Third Lagoon	✓					420 mm	2
Tin Hut Lake	✓					500 mm	1

* The maximum daily bag limit of 5 fish, from any water or combination of waters within the Western Lakes area, can only include 2 fish exceeding 500 mm in length.

Minimum impact walking guidelines

Leave no trace - When visiting these sensitive regions, please play your part in ensuring their future by following leave no trace guidelines. These are largely common sense, such as carrying out what you carry in, walking on formed tracks wherever possible, and pitching tents on established sites rather than creating a new one. The WHA is a fuel stove only area – open fires are not permitted, and in many areas, including all national parks and reserves, live bait cannot be collected.

To minimise the spread of the root rot fungus start your walk with clean gear, including boots, tent pegs, gaiters and tent floor; use washdown stations where provided; and wash your gear at the end of a trip.

If fishing in an area where a toilet exists please use it! If there is no toilet, walk 100m away from any water, dig a 15cm hole and bury your waste and the toilet paper as well.

By following these simple guidelines you will assist in ensuring the long-term viability of Tasmania's freshwater fisheries, and our unique natural heritage. Remember, when fishing in Tasmania, fish for the future. Future anglers will thank you.

Map Information

 **VEHICLE ENTRY CONDITIONS to Pillans/Julian and Talinah Access Tracks**

-  Vehicle Day and Overnight Parking Permitted Zone
-  Vehicle Day Parking Only Permitted Zone
-  High Clearance 4WD and ATV Only Track
-  Walking Track
-  Gate
-  Boat Launching

Vehicle Track Information

For current vehicle track information contact Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service Great Western Tiers Field Centre, phone 6701 2104.



6km to Liawenee