

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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New Policy on Uniforms and Vehicle Markings

In the past the Commission has rejected calls for marked vehicles and uniforms for field staff but the new Commissioners have over-turned previous policy.

In future all field staff will be provided with uniforms and all Commission vehicles will be conspicuously marked. This should serve to protect field officers in the course of their duties and will reinforce a more professional approach which can be expected from Commission staff in the future.

Let's hope that this will also make anglers more aware of the Commission's activities and act as a poaching deterrent. The move should also reduce the number of anglers who gripe that they have been fishing all their lives and have never seen a bailiff.

Commission Staff

Have you wondered just who does work for the Inland Fisheries Commission, where they are stationed or how they can be contacted? The list below may help in this regard.

Don't just turn a blind eye to poaching - get in touch with your nearest inspector or contact staff at head office in Hobart.

Name	Base	Position	Telephone	Commenced Service
Cameron, Ian	Salmon Ponds	Hatchery Manager	(002)612583	6.6.77
Cassidy, Bernard	Liawenee	Inspector	(002)596166	22.11.76
Causby, Victor	Salmon Ponds	Inspector	(002)612635	23.1.78
Chisholm, Sheree	Hobart	Office Assistant	(002)236622	6.10.80
Dodds, Cassandra	Hobart	Secretarial Assistant	(002)236622	28.8.80
Donnelly, Marcus	Hobart	Clerk	(002)236622	3.12.79
Fulton, Wayne	Hobart	Biologist	(002)236622	4.12.72
Maroney, Noel	Corra Linn	Inspector	(002)391794	11.12.69
McGuinness, Lance	Salmon Ponds	Utility	(002)611577	10.6.82
McLaine, Robert	Liawenee	Inspector	(002)596166	10.12.79
Petterwood, Kevin	Hobart	Secretary	(002)236622	27.9.71
Spencer, Vivian	Evandale	Senior Inspector	(003)918268	6.5.74
Thompson, Charles	Tullah	Inspector	(004)734371	25.1.82
Thompson, William	Liawenee	Lab. Assistant	(002)596166	5.12.77
Vanderfeen, Brian	Latrobe	Inspector	(004)261781	1.6.69
Wilson, Noel	Strathgordon	Inspector	(002)801164	28.12.81

CLEAN SWEEP OF COMMISSIONERS

The recent retirement of Dan Lynch as Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and the retirement of three long serving Associate Commissioners has resulted in a clean sweep of Commission members.

Dan Lynch retired on 19 April after serving as Chairman for 20 years. During his term as Commissioner he moulded the staff and activities of the Inland Fisheries Commission and nurtured trout fishing in Tasmania. He recounts some of the Commission's achievements in an article in this issue of the newsletter.

Doug Bridges served as an Associate Commissioner (Southern Tasmania) for a period of 13 years. Ron Stephenson (Northern Tasmania) for 6 years and Ian French (North-Western Tasmania) for 9 years. Their great contribution and dedication to recreational fishery management is gratefully acknowledged.



*Inland Fisheries Commission Members.
From Left to Right: Col Bryan, Norm Scott, Rob Sloane and Joe Millen.*

Some details of the new faces on the Commission are given below.

Dr Robert D. Sloane, Commissioner

Appointed 20 April 1984.

Completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Tasmania 1976.

Studied the relationship between native and introduced fish in the Coal and Jordan rivers. Awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science with Honours in 1977.

Admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1983. Thesis entitled "A Biological Basis for the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery".

Employed as a biologist with the Inland Fisheries Commission in January 1978. Lived and worked at the Liawenee Field Station at Great Lake until appointed Commissioner.

Research projects have included studies of trout spawning success, spawning channel design, lake and stream trout populations, upstream fish migrations, fish ladder design, eel biology.

A keen fly fisherman and author of a

book on trout fishing - "The Truth About Trout", Tas-Trout Publications 1983.

A list of published works is available from the Commission.

Mr Joseph J. Millen, Associate Commissioner

Appointed 16 February 1984.

Representing the Southern Tasmanian Licensed Anglers' Association district.

Associated with the Glenorchy Anglers Club for many years and has served time as President.

A keen fly fisherman for the past 18 years. Particularly interested in the field of trout management.

Works as personnel manager for the ANZ Banking Group.

Owens a shack at Great Lake.

Mr Norman V. Scott, Associate Commissioner

Appointed 16 February 1984.

Representing the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association.

Currently Treasurer of the NTFA and has been involved with the Association for 20 years.

A foundation member of the Freshwater Anglers Council of Tasmania.

Likes fly fishing but enjoys fishing for trout by other means also (legal we hope!).

Works for Telecom.

Owens a shack at Great Lake.

Mr Colin C. Bryan, Associate Commissioner

Appointed 16 February 1984.

Representing the North Western Fisheries Association district.

Past President of the Ridgely Branch of the NWFA.

More than twenty years experience as a fly fisherman.

Owens a shack at Great Lake.

BOAT RAMPS



Boat launching ramp under construction at Swan Bay, Great Lake.

The 1983/84 season was significant because it demonstrated a new willingness by the Commission to become involved in the creation of associated facilities on inland waters.

Section 35A (1b) of the Fisheries Act 1959 states:

"Subject to this Act, the Commission may take such steps as it considers necessary or desirable for the purpose of securing or promoting the creation, improvement, or maintenance of the means of access to inland waters and of facilities and conveniences for the benefit of persons resorting thereto."

This clearly places a responsibility on the Commission to provide and maintain access roads, boat ramps etc. if funds can be provided. Obviously such developments don't just benefit anglers so the cost burden can't be placed onto angling licences. Many groups (eg. Freshwater Anglers Council of Tasmania and the Central Highlands Shack-Owners Association) have indicated dissatisfaction with the present situation whereby boat registration and licence fees are not put back into inland waters although many boats never touch saltwater. The Commission has made it clear that it is the appropriate authority to utilise such funds in the best interests of freshwater recreational users.

The Commission has demonstrated its willingness and ability to expend such funds. In April, the Minister approved that a \$55 000 Loan Fund allocation for Lake Pedder be diverted to boat ramps and spawning stream improvements in the highlands.

The Commission utilised these funds on a priority basis to projects of greatest need. The boat ramp area at Arthurs Lake pumphouse was upgraded by extension of the launching area, excavation of a marina and extension of the parking area. Work was also commenced at the Arthurs Lake dam boat-ramp where the breakwater was extended and the ramp prepared for concreting. At Great Lake, launching ramps and parking areas were constructed at Swan Bay and at Miena, with a further ramp at Brandums Bay being partly formed.

Trout Fishing in Tidal Waters

Following an article in "The Mercury" on 23 May 1984, the Commission has received telephone enquiries as to whether the Derwent River below the seaward limit at Dogshear Point is closed to trout fishing during winter. Many believed that trout could not be taken below that point after the season closed in most inland waters on the Sunday nearest 30 April each year [Regulation 8(3)(a)]. However, the Derwent River below Dogshear Point is not an inland water and the Regulations do not provide for the closure of that river or any other river below its seaward limit.

Therefore, it appears that licensed anglers may fish for trout below seaward limits all year round. The only restriction being Regulation 22 which provides -

- (1) No person shall have in his possession any live or dead salmon (trout) or part of a salmon (trout) between 30 April and the Saturday nearest 1 August next following in any year, and,
- (2) It is a defence to a charge under subregulation (1) that the salmon (trout) in respect of which the charge is made -
 - (a) was lawfully taken or had in possession before 1 May in any year;
 - (b) was lawfully taken by angling during the month of May in waters open to angling at that time.

This suggests that licensed anglers can take trout from rivers below their seaward limits during May, and can fish for trout all year round in those areas, but cannot keep the fish between the end of May and the Saturday nearest the 1 August. I hope this will clarify the situation for those who fish for sea runners in the estuaries.

If you are not clear on the seaward limits of a particular river, details are set out in the Fisheries (Seaward Limits of Rivers) Regulations 1983.

Licence Fee Increase

Angling licence fees have been increased for the 1984/85 season in order to maintain the present level of services. An adjustment has also been made to the duration of short term licences in order to cater for visiting anglers. The 1 day and 7 day licences have been replaced by a 3 day and 14 day licence.

Licence Fees 1984/85

	\$
Full Season (male and female) ...	24.00
Full Season - Juveniles 16 years and 17 years	4.00
14 days duration	16.00
3 days duration	8.00

A person under 16 years does not require a licence nor does a person in possession of a Pensioner Health Benefit Card.

Changes to Inland Fisheries Regulations

There have also been a number of minor changes to the Inland Fisheries Regulations and it is important for anglers to be aware of new regulations. A summary is provided below; for full details consult Inland Fisheries Amendment Regulations 1984.

These regulations amend the *Inland Fisheries Regulations 1973* -

- (a) by substituting the definition of "eligible pensioner" and amending certain regulations consequent to that substitution;
- (b) by increasing the amounts for penalties relating to -
 - (i) the taking of acclimatized or indigenous fish;
 - (ii) the application for a licence by a disqualified person;
 - (iii) the issue of a licence that falsely states the day or time on which it was issued; and
 - (iv) the selling of a live imported fish by an unregistered person;
- (c) by prohibiting fishing in the Huon River (and its tributaries) where it flows into Lake Pedder;
- (d) by prohibiting fishing in the portion of Sisters Creek between a white post approximately 100 metres below the bridge in Birdland Nature Park and a second white post approximately 100 metres above that bridge;
- (e) by providing that persons fishing from a boat must have that boat securely moored if they are within 100 metres of an angler fishing from a riverbank;
- (f) by removing Shannon Lagoon and Lake St Clair from the restricted lure category;
- (g) by placing Edgar Pond in the restricted lure category;
- (h) by providing that an eligible pensioner must produce his Pensioner Health Benefit Card, Health Care Card, or equivalent card on the demand of an officer;
- (i) by making it an offence to use a net, other than a landing net or seine net, in inland waters;
- (j) by prohibiting the importation of live salmonid eggs and sperm;
- (k) by making it an offence to issue or alter a licence without authorization;
- (l) by allowing the taking of acclimatized fish from Lake Kara (brown trout season);
- (m) consequent on and in compliance with the *Fisheries Amendment (Commonwealth - State Arrangements) Act 1981*.

SPAWNING CHANNELS

The remainder of the Loan Funds allocation was used to clear and reconstruct the two most important spawning grounds in Tasmania; Hydro Creek at Arthurs Lake and Mountain Creek at Lake Sorell.



Reconstruction work at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell.

The modifications were based on research findings initiated at Great Lake with the intention of optimising spawning conditions. A 500 metre spawning channel was completed at Lagoon of Islands where water from the new Ripple Creek Diversion enters the lagoon. If successful, this channel has the capacity to provide adequate trout recruitment to this water.

The Commission also took full advantage of a Government offer to use a displaced South West contractor for three weeks in the Central Highlands. The excavator was used to clear the upper Lake River above Woods Lake in order to improve spawning facilities; to excavate Brandums Creek at Great Lake to reduce fish mortality due to stranding at spawning time; and to obtain spawning gravel to complete the new zig zag spawning channel on the northern side of Liawenee Canal.

A smaller project was undertaken in conjunction with the Fly-Fishers' Club of Tasmania. A small weir was constructed above Pulfords Bridge on No. 2 canal, the bottom weir was modified to allow fish to jump it at spawning time and spawning gravel was carted and spread – the idea being to improve the spawning grounds, to protect spawning trout and to prevent redds drying up after spawning.

All in all, that adds up to quite an achievement for the Inland Fisheries Commission and demonstrates a frugal use of available funds. What is even more surprising is that all the major projects were completed over a two month period during April and May. The mere fact that everyone seems to think that another Department did the boat ramp work is indicative of the Commission's track record.

The expenditure on spawning channels and spawning stream improvement probably hints at a bias on the part of the new Commissioner. Spawning stream improvements and construction of spawning channels are essential for future management in the Central Highlands. Although such construction projects may be expensive in the short term, once completed the benefits will be seen for decades.

Spawning Trout Mortality – Lake Sorell

Throughout June considerable mortality of spawning fish occurred at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell. Some 3 000 dead or moribund fish were removed from the creek and lake shores and buried.

The water flow in the creek was very low and the spawning trout were overcrowded resulting in deaths from fungal infection and stress. Despite the large number of fish buried, the vast majority remained unaffected and eggs were deposited throughout the improved sections of the stream.

It was estimated that up to 50 000 spawners were in Mountain Creek at any one time, more than members of the field staff had seen previously. It is impossible to estimate the extent of the total run during the autumn/winter period but the vast number of spawners exemplifies the productivity of Lake Sorell. Despite the lake's low level during recent years and the large catches made by anglers, the numbers of spawning fish continue to be unaffected.

TWO DECADES OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

D.D. Lynch

Twenty years is a long time to be a Senior Executive in an organisation with such diverse management responsibilities as recreational and commercial fisheries, exotic and aquarium fish and the aquatic resource itself. In that time a number of significant developments occurred which have a bearing on the fisheries of the State in the future.

The aquatic resource itself was a major concern over the two decades for so much of the State's economy relating to business and employment use the water resource. Often, consideration of the competing demands for the resource required tact in the negotiations to reach the best arrangement to meet the conflicting needs of the different interests. Over the years there have been many fruitful discussions with various departments and organisations.

The essential role of scientific research in fisheries development and management is now well recognised but the opportunity of putting in course suitable and necessary programmes was hampered by the lack of staff. This time was frustrating.

In 1970 a breakthrough came when the Commission persuaded the Government to provide a bursary for a trainee biologist. It was another 7 years before another biologist joined the staff to carry out essential work. The need for scientific staff is as urgent as ever, especially in the consultancy field where the needs of fish have to be considered. The Commission is now consulted on a regular basis by organisations such as the Forestry Commission, Department of the Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hydro-Electric Commission, Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Town and Country Planning Commission and local Government to name but a few.

By 1963 the euphoria from the setting up of a new administration for inland fisheries had to some extent worn off. Replacing it was a nostalgia for the old discarded policies of fisheries management. Even today there are calls for waters to be stocked with hatchery raised fish

whether stocking is needed or not. On the other hand, there is a growing awareness of the need to preserve and develop wild stocks of fish.

In a number of ways 1964 was an historic and significant year. First, the centenary of the introduction of Atlantic salmon and brown trout into the Southern Hemisphere at the Salmon Ponds, Plenty was celebrated. The introduction was a formidable task which received world acclaim at the time.

In 1964 the first commercial trout farming licence was granted in Tasmania and it formed the basis of a thriving industry. The Lagoon of Islands development, both as a fishery and a source of water for riparian needs, was a novel project between the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission.

In 1964 also, projects were initiated to examine the possibility of setting up a commercial eel fishery and the status of the whitebait fishery. Investigations showed clearly that one species of whitebait was at risk of becoming extinct. Vigorous action was taken to afford the species protection for a number of reasons. The exercise is a continuing and expensive one. The fish may be caught in simple gear by fishermen with a low level of education who do not appreciate the need to protect the species from extinction.

In 1965 the Commission lost facilities at Miena when the dam at Great Lake was enlarged. Staff living quarters, telephone, store and garages were all lost in the enlargement of the lake. In 1977 tenders were accepted for houses and a hostel and the sub-standard accommodation which staff had used for so many years at

Liawenee became a thing of the past. Staff now enjoy standards of living in a harsh climate comparable to acceptable standards for other sections of the community. In 1979 the field base at Liawenee was opened and this marked the emergence of a well equipped laboratory so that scientists could work in comfort.

The latest field base was opened at Tullah in 1983 to meet the needs of officers who had previously been based at Latrobe and Strathgordon.

The studies of native fishes in 1975 developed skills within the Commission for identification of native fishes and a number of new fishes were discovered and described. Native fish have not only an intrinsic value but they have an important place in the aquatic community. The studies of their movements led to the building of ladders to allow the fish to move freely past weirs, particularly the low level weirs which created a hazard for migrants returning from the sea.

In 1967, the Commission looked at pesticide residues in freshwater fish from various locations. The published findings created interest and stimulated further work by research workers at other institutions.

Studies on the food of trout are always of interest to anglers. In 1966 the studies on the food of trout in estuaries was completed. Later assistance was provided for graduate studies on trout at various parts of the State by a University student. However, the most comprehensive study completed was on the bottom fauna of Great Lake, Arthurs Lake and Lake Sorell. The task was a formidable one in that many new species were discovered. In the course of the discussion on this project valuable observations were made on the ecology of the three lakes and the effect of water level variation on the fauna.

How successfully trout can breed in the wild has been a major concern of the Commission. To this end counts of specimens at key sites have been made on a continuing basis. In 1966 experiments with Vibert boxes were conducted. These plastic boxes were filled with eggs and then placed in gravel where the eggs incubated and the young emerged. Fry counts in these and other sites were carried out to assess the results.

In 1982 plans were made for a small compensatory spawning ground on the north side of Liawenee Canal and results obtained from work on the experimental zigzag spawning canal on the south side of Liawenee were used in the design of a new canal. It is expected that the new channel will be commissioned in 1984.

From time to time staff carried out electrofishing surveys to assess the fish populations in nursery streams. In other waters, test netting to catch tagged or untagged fish was carried out. The cooperation of anglers in returning tags with details of the tagged fish was of great assistance in these programmes.

For many years cormorants have excited the interest of anglers because they eat fish. A large number of big black cormorants were present in Tasmanian inland waters in the mid 1960's and a resurgence of large numbers appeared in Tasmania in 1976. There was much controversy over the best way to handle the situation. In retrospect, there seem to be many converts to the view that the vast increase was a temporary occurrence and that a balanced population is now here. In some places it was prudent to kill birds.

In the early 1960's there was practically

no control on the entry of exotic fish into Australia. Consideration of this matter was urgently needed. Following an extensive review of the imports of exotic fishes, the basis of the problem were set out: the dangers exposed to existing fisheries by predation or competition; a disease risk to other fish; or a threat to man himself by the poisonous spines on the fish. After protracted consultation with the industry the list was reduced in 1984 to 551 species.

The unauthorised introduction of two species of animals, common carp and yabbie, needed prompt action to ensure that these species did not become established here. Fortunately, the Commission was successful in the eradication programmes.

The spread of perch and tench, due in some instances to the action of well meaning but uninformed persons, is a matter of concern to anglers. The most devastating and irreversible happening at Lake Leake was the discovery of English perch in the lake in 1974. This is an action which anglers and administrators alike will have to live with as the difficulties in removing this species at present are impossible.

The rehabilitation of the Great Lake fishery was a success in that anglers no longer complain of large numbers of poor conditioned brown trout in their catch. The programme of removing old unthrifty brown trout to other waters was successfully completed. There were many interesting consequences to this programme such as growth rate studies of transferred fish in various lakes and migration studies on fish in various rivers. The transferred fish resumed growth and put on condition in suitable waters and provided good fishing in lowland waters. These benefits were appreciated.

The development of new storages for electric power generation resulted in the

creation of many new and excellent fisheries. The Anthony Henty Scheme is expected to create yet another series of fine trout waters in the late 1980's.

In 1982 the Annual Report showed an increase in the list of publications put out by the Commission. It is the culmination of years of research.

So, in the last twenty years the scope of the Commission's activities have diversified, research and consultative approaches have become more important. Nevertheless, the basic needs of anglers, which is to get fish on the ends of lines, are still of paramount importance to the fisheries executive.

At the end of these two decades there is a spirit of optimism among anglers, the administration and the public. The lakes in the Central Plateau are now more accessible than ever before. Accommodation and other facilities at Great Lake have improved. The expenditure among anglers and the public is reflected in property development here. Tourists may now use the services of an experienced guide with local knowledge of when, how and where to fish.

What does a retired Commissioner remember after such a long involvement in a sport fishery? First there is the loyal and uncomplaining staff who cheerfully carried out difficult tasks in adverse conditions.

Second is the dedication of anglers who took executive office in the Angling Associations and did so much to bring order to the many and diverse views held by members. Then there are the friendships developed over the years with anglers throughout the State. Many anglers have assisted in many ways with advice and practical help over the years.

Finally there is the tolerance, support and friendly discussions with the nine Associate Commissioners who held joint responsibility for inland fisheries.

POACHERS AT WORK



A poacher's haul of 148 brown trout spawners from the Central Highlands.

During the last three weeks in June Commission officers apprehended fifteen poachers taking a total of 259 spawning brown trout from waters in the Central Highlands. Landing nets, graball nets, hands, spears, gaffs and firearms have been used by poachers to take trout from spawning beds.

The Commission intends to continue to intensify enforcement activities to apprehend such offenders. The Commission is grateful for the assistance received from Tasmania Police, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Lands Depart-

ment, Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority and the public in this regard.

Four poachers found in possession of 148 brown trout were recently apprehended by police in the highlands. In another serious case two Commission officers apprehended poachers who were selling fresh brown trout to a market in Sydney. Members of the public are reminded that it is an offence to be in possession of live or dead trout during the closed season unless the trout had been legally taken before the season closed.

TROUT FISHING ON THE WEST COAST OF TASMANIA

An article compiled from notes by
Charles Thompson, Fisheries Inspector, Tullah.

Introduction

When anglers talk of trout fishing in Tasmania their thoughts usually turn to the lakes of the Central Highlands or the lowland rivers of the North. These are the areas which have traditionally been recognised and promoted as 'trout country'. To most of us, the mention of the West Coast conjures up visions of wild ocean beaches, tea coloured rivers, dense forest and mining towns, but to a growing band of enthusiastic anglers the West Coast is trout country.

The development of Hydro-Electric Commission dams, improved access roads and tourist facilities has changed the face of this region and the popularity of trout fishing in the rivers, new impoundments and natural tarns and lagoons has swelled.

The Inland Fisheries Commission has recognised the future importance of the West Coast trout fishery by constructing a new field base at Tullah. The Commission's house, office and workshop completed in September 1983 at a cost of \$127 000. Equipped with a 4.8 m Savage Osprey runabout and long wheel-base four-wheel-drive, the first West Coast Fisheries Inspector, Charles Thompson, took up residence in September. Charles is a keen trout fisherman and has kept more than a professional eye on the fishing opportunities around Tullah and his fishing tips are incorporated in this article.

River Fishing

The Pieman River and its many tributaries continue to produce trophy sized brown trout; one of over 9 kg was reported from the Pieman last season. Trout ranging from 0.25 to 3 kg are plentiful in the areas known as the No.1 and No.2 rapids, particularly from September to late December when sea-run trout congregate below these rapids feeding on native whitebait, and provide excellent fishing on either spinner or fly. Ten kilometres above Corrina, the new Pieman Dam site could in future years become one of the most popular fishing spots for sea-run trout. It is envisaged that whitebait will congregate below the dam causing a build up of foraging trout. Fish up to 2 kg were caught there last season.

Reports of good catches from the Donaldson and Whyte rivers were also common last season. The Whyte River can be easily reached by following the walking track from Corrina but a boat is really needed to successfully fish most areas of the Pieman River. Good launching facilities and camping areas are situated at Corrina.

The use of small celta lures in the Wilson, Huskinson and the upper reaches of the Fury and Vale Rivers is proving to be very productive. Large sections of the Huskinson and Wilson rivers and many small creeks containing trout will be flooded when the Lower Pieman Dam is completed, providing the new lake with excellent trout recruitment.

The highway between Zeehan and Strahan has been upgraded allowing easy access to the Big Henty River and the upper reaches of the Little Henty River. The Little Henty flows alongside the road for a distance of 10 km provid-

ing some good fishing, but access is limited. From October to late December, large sea-run trout can be seen bow-waving after whitebait on the sand bars at the mouth of the Big Henty. Resident trout are plentiful in the upper reaches of This river and are readily caught using natural or artificial lures.

The small streams around Zeehan, the Leslie River, Station Creek, Parting Creek and the Dundas River hold a population of takeable trout. The Title and Piney creeks between Zeehan and Granville Harbour can provide good fishing during the summer months. Many of the other unpolluted small streams on the West Coast hold small trout but the access in most cases is through rough undergrowth. This alone is regarded by many as a challenge, with the final result, the capture of fine wild trout.

The Gordon River and its many tributaries are popular waters and continue to produce trophy sized fish. A large run-about is needed to travel across Macquarie Harbour from Strahan to the mouth of the Gordon and dense growth down to the waters edge prevents shore fishing in the lower reaches.

Lake Fishing

Lake Mackintosh maintained a reasonably stable level last season and produced some excellent fishing. The average size of trout in this lake is between 1 and 2 kg. Fishing appears to be most productive from the opening of the season through to late December with good catches falling to the natural frog or artificial fish cake after dark. Small cork or waxed wet flies have also produced results. The best shores are near Tullabardine Dam at the northern end and the Sophia Tunnel to the south; the steep terrain restricts access to other shores. Trolling with flatfish or wobblers fished deep in the early morning or late evening has produced good bags of fish, particularly early in the season.

Both brown and rainbow trout are present in Mackintosh. Some of the rainbows are already well above 2 kg. From late December to March, fish can be seen surface feeding among the flooded tipples providing good sport on the dry fly. Dry beetle and mudeye patterns will take fish under these circumstances. The fast flow of water from the Sophia Tunnel attracts many big rainbows and fly fishermen can expect good fishing from a boat using a wet fly and sinking line. Adequate camping and launching facilities are provided at both ends of the lake.

Lake Rosebery was first filled in August 1983 and many fine brown trout were caught towards the end of last season. This lake has many shallow bays, ideal for the fly fisherman. From January to March last season, trout were seen feeding in these shallow areas. With easy access to most shores and fish between 0.3 and 2.0 kg already, Lake Rosebery is expected to produce excellent fishing in the future. Anglers have also obtained good results using small spinners and wobblers from the shore. Good launching ramps are available around this lake and extensive facilities include power, fresh water, battery recharge and sewage dis-

posal. Sand has been carted to establish beaches on the shores at Tullah. These open beaches are already proving to be good spots for fly fishing, particularly after dark.

There are still many under-water obstacles in Lake Mackintosh and Lake Rosebery and boating enthusiasts should proceed with caution.

All the shores around Parting Creek Dam at Zeehan are accessible, providing excellent fishing by all methods. Fish from 1 to 3 kg can be caught early in the season using natural bait or fish cake lures. Small spinners and dry flies are popular during summer months. This dam produces some fine fishing in late February; fly fishing at dusk using a mudeye pattern appears to be the most productive method.

The three Magnet dams at Waratah are well worth a visit. Good hatches of insects occur on these waters during the summer providing excellent dry fly fishing. Natural bait fishing is also a popular method. Trout between 0.5 and 2.0 kg are common.

Lake Ashford, Lake Bellinger, Lake Bantic and Lake Garcia are reached within 10 km of Strahan. All these lakes have been stocked with brown trout fry and are expected to produce good fishing in the future.

South of Rosebery, Bradshaws and Howards roads provide vehicular access to the Henty lakes area and four-wheel-drive tracks extend into the Anthony area beyond. A new road from south of Tullah through this region will link with Howards Road. When completed and opened to the public, this will provide easy access to the new and existing lake systems. The Inland Fisheries Commission has conducted extensive research in this area and some of the lakes are expected to provide excellent trout fishing. Lake Selina, Lake Westwood, Lake Julia and Lake Rollerston will be within easy walking distance of the new road whilst the numerous lakes south of Lake Rollerston, such as Lake Dora, Lake Spicer and the tarns near Lake Margaret, will be accessible by the existing four-wheel-drive tracks. Most of these lakes abound with native fish and crustaceans and will provide pleasant fishing for the bushwalker. Many of these lakes and tarns are situated on button grass plains and should provide excellent fly fishing.

General

The West Coast of Tasmania is providing excellent fishing for the trout angler. The lakes and rivers are producing both brown and rainbow trout in numbers, size and quality equal to most areas in Tasmania, but in such an extensive region anglers need to travel vast distances to reach different waters. Further dams and lakes are to be built and future developments will improve access to existing lakes and waterways to improve angling even more. The best of the existing waters are easily reached on good roads and camping is non-restrictive in most areas. It is hoped that with the opening of the Anthony and King systems in the future, the West Coast will provide a standard of angling to rival the Central Plateau.

Items in Brief

Lagoon of Islands Spawning Channel

The new Ripple Creek spawning channel at Lagoon of Islands has received a 'kick off' with some ripe adult brown trout. Good rains during June resulted in a strong flow through the channel and Commission staff released 650 adult brown trout to get things going. As well as providing some good fishing in the lagoon next season, it is hoped that the browns will put plenty of eggs down in the gravel for the future.

Lake Leake not Forgotten

At the last Commission meeting on 2 July, members agreed to seed Lake Leake with 100 000 brown trout fry. The fry will be liberated in the Snowy River area. The Commission hopes to be able to investigate the trout population at Lake Leake and intends to manage the water as a brown trout fishery.

Blackmans Lagoon in Doubt

The Scottsdale Branch has reported heavy weed growth and low water levels in Blackmans Lagoon. It seems the future of the lagoon as a trout fishery is in doubt unless the weed can be controlled and heavy rains come to the rescue. Lake Dulverton faces a similar plight as low levels have resulted in further trout kills.

Brumbys Creek Rise

The Minister for Inland Fisheries, Neil Robson, is keen to develop a Snowflake caddis rise at Brumbys Creek as there is now little hope for plans at Shannon. Unfortunately the predicted flows through Brumbys Creek don't look too promising as new power developments on the West Coast are expected to change loads on Poatina Power Station in the future. The Commission sees the rehabilitation of Shannon Lagoon as a year round trout fishery to be the best option for development.

Trout Survival in Rivers

A review of Tasmanian and New Zealand literature on trout survival in streams may shock some anglers. Studies have indicated a 99% mortality in the first year of life followed by an 80% mortality each year after. For those without a calculator, 10 000 wild fry would be expected to produce 100 yearlings, 20 two-year-olds and would result in about 4 three-year-olds of takable size!

Salmon Eggs Due

Details of the proposed development of commercial sea cage farming of Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout are nearing completion. Plans have been finalised by Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority, Tasmanian Development Authority and the Inland Fisheries Commission after consultation with representatives of fish farming and processing. Salmon eggs from Gaden are expected any time now and the re-circulatory quarantine facility at Tarooma has been completed. Egg disinfection procedures, hatching trays and holding ponds have been under test.

Hatchery Manager Travels to Norway

Ian Cameron, the Commission's Hatchery Manager at Salmon Ponds, recently spent a month in Norway gaining first hand experience of the Norwegian trout and salmon culture industry. Ian investigated hatchery designs and techniques and briefly looked at all aspects of the Norwegian industry.

Prosecutions

Successful prosecutions since the last Newsletter are listed below.

Court Date	Offender and Address	Nature of Offence	Fine	Costs
9.2.84	Paul Lawrence SMITH 44 Morris Avenue Devonport	Take whitebait without permit.	50.00	15.10
9.2.84	Gregory Paul SMITH 83 Bradshaw Street Latrobe	Take whitebait without permit. Possession of net in inland waters.	50.00 20.00	15.10
20.2.84	John Frederick SADLER 18 Church Street Campbell Town	Unattended set rod.	20.00	15.10
22.2.84	Michael John MONKS Jericho	Using more than one rod and line.	30.00	15.10
28.2.84	Mervern John WILTON Hobart Road New Norfolk	Take fish by means other than rod and line.	50.00	15.10
20.2.84	Barry Douglas JOHNSON 21 Pedder Street Campbell Town	Fishing from boat on Lake Leake propelled by outboard motor.	20.00	15.10
13.2.84	Kerry Maxwell BURKE 6 Parkinson Street Zeehan	Fishing without licence. Falsely representing to be licensed.	50.00 50.00	15.10
13.2.84	Rex Arthur CRUSE Bellstead Street Zeehan	Fishing without licence. Falsely representing to be licensed.	50.00 50.00	15.10
20.2.84	Keith John DONALDSON Edgar Street Campbell Town	Disturbing spawning fish. Take fish by means other than rod and line. Take fish from closed waters.	20.00 20.00 20.00	15.10
14.3.84	Terrence William GROVES 9 Hambleton Drive Burnie	Possession of net in inland waters. Take fish by means other than rod and line.	30.00	28.10 Adjourned Sine Die
14.3.84	Geoffrey Allan TARGET 13 Banksea Street East Wynyard	Possession of net in inland waters. Take fish by means other than rod and line.	30.00	28.10 Adjourned Sine Die
21.3.84	Ian Michael JOHNSON 27 Torquay Road East Devonport	Fishing from boat on Lake Leake propelled by outboard motor. Fishing without licence. Falsely representing to be licensed.	40.00 60.00 50.00	15.10
9.4.84	Leon Rex QUARRELL 30 Belstead Street Zeehan	Using more than one rod and line. Take fish by means other than rod and line.	50.00 25.00	15.10
27.4.84	Ruth Maria BRYANT High Street Bothwell	Fishing without licence.	50.00	15.10
27.4.84	Sally Maree BRYANT Main Road Kempton	Fishing without licence.	50.00	15.10
27.4.84	Stephen John WHELAN Main Road Kempton	Fishing without licence.	70.00	15.10
1.3.84	Ron Terry FLOWERS Post Office Mole Creek	Take eels with fyke net without permit.	50.00 80.00	Counselfees
9.5.84	Garry Martin HUNN 44 Brent Street Glenorchy	Fishing without licence. Falsely representing to be licensed. Giving a false name. Producing licence of another person.	50.00 50.00	41.10 Adjourned Sine Die Adjourned Sine Die
16.5.84	Craig George NICHOLS Millvale Road Dromedary	Fishing without licence.	60.00	31.10