

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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No private fishery at Great Lake

The Central Highlands Shack Owner's Association wrote to the Inland Fisheries Commission expressing concern that a proposed development at Duck Point, Great Lake, might lead to the establishment of a private fishery which would prevent licenced trout anglers from fishing a particular area of Great Lake.

The position is that a Mr. K.E. Stead of 21 Plymouth Road, Croyden, Victoria, has purchased approximately 2000 acres at Split Rock; the land includes the Duck Point area at Great Lake. Shack owners at Duck Point have been requested to remove their shacks to other premises.

The Commission has no knowledge of a proposal to establish a private fishery at Duck Point and, indeed, the Commission would take the necessary action to prohibit the establishment of a private fishery in public waters containing a recognised public fishery.

The track to Duck Point has been used for many years as a public access, and its use as such has been well established. The Commission would support a move to establish a public reserve of at least one chain above high water level around Great Lake.

Little Pine Lagoon

The fishing at Little Pine Lagoon was good this year with magnificent hatches of dun occurring throughout the summer. Veteran anglers claim that the hatches are the largest observed here since the Lagoon was created.

One factor which limited the number of fish actually landed was the prolific growth of a water weed. Unless anglers used a heavy cast often the fish escaped into the weed. The most extensive area covered by the weed is at the southern end of the Lagoon. The only advantageous feature of the weed is that it provided shelter for many aquatic animals including snails which provided food for trout.

The weed is known as Canadian pond weed *Elodea canadensis* Minchx. It is a major weed of rivers and irrigation channels in North America where it has choked many water-ways. It occurs in both still and flowing waters.

. In the British Isles the weed appeared some years ago and its incursion followed a pattern of rapid growth to nuisance proportions, then after several years of abundance a marked decline occurred. The species is still widespread in the British Isles but no longer as troublesome as at the time of its greatest abundance. It is possible that a similar natural decline may occur in Little Pine Lagoon which is at present so heavily infested.

The earliest reports of its occurrence in Tasmania were in the Ouse and Jordan Rivers. Very likely it came into the country as aquarium stock and from this source escaped into the wild but how it actually got into Little Pine Lagoon is unknown.

#### Litter wardens

The Commission proposes to approach Municipal Councils with a view to having Fisheries Inspectors made Litter Wardens, so that they may take effective action to stop the dumping of rubbish in areas used for angling. It is considered that Inspectors are in a good position to take action in the Central Highlands in this regard.

### Plenty River Fish Trap

The low flow of water in the Plenty River was the cause of concern in January, 1974. Following an inspection of the river it was found that water was flowing underneath the fish trap and that the dam was not storing water for irrigation. Immediate remedial action was put in course but it was unsuccessful mainly because the trap and dam were constructed above old logs and on a muddy bottom which allowed wash away to occur.

The Commission proposes to take further action to safe-guard the fish trap. The neighbouring property owner has been invited to contribute to the cost.

### Collection of Elvers

A Fisheries Inspector was present when approximately 21,000 elvers were collected from the Tamar River for use at a fish farm which is specialising in the culturing of eels.

### Mortality of fish

The dry summer and its associated high water temperatures was responsible for the death of a number of trout in dams in northern Tasmania. The fish, in the main, were adult brown trout transferred from Great Lake.

Further mortalities of adult fish occurred at Salmon Ponds where deaths occurred among the adult rainbow and brook trout as well as among some young fish of both species.

### Eel fishery

The disregard shown by several eel fishermen for Inland Fisheries Regulations has been the cause of concern to the Commission for some time.

Recently, the Commission took action to seize 51 eel nets set at Lake Crescent and the Commission is currently reviewing its attitude to the commercial eel fishery.

Recent Court Cases

At the Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on the 14th January, 1974, fines totalling \$360.00 were imposed on persons committing breaches of the Inland Fisheries regulations.

The Commission was concerned at the variable penalties which were handed out in that two defendants appeared and pleaded guilty but the cases were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act.

Another defendant did not appear at the same Court but was fined \$20.00 for a similar offence.

Another disturbing Court case result was where the defendant appeared on charges of being an unlicensed fisherman. He pleaded guilty and his case was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act.

The details of Court cases are as follows:-

Name and Address	Date and Place of Offence	Charge
Terry John Foley 16 Ronald St, Devonport	3/11/1973 Tod's Corner	1. Unattended set rod 2. Using natural bait in an artificial lure water.
Penalty		

1st charge - Ex Parte - Convicted - Fined \$40

2nd charge - Ex Parte - Convicted - Fined \$20

Costs \$3.25

James H. Porter 106 Main St, Ulverstone	2/11/1973 Tod's Corner	1. Fishing in closed water. 2. Using natural bait in an artificial lure water. 3. Using two rods
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