

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 3

March 1974

Liawenee Spawning grounds

Following representations from the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Lloyd Costello to the Minister for Lands, Hon. M.T.C. Barnard, an area of land approximately 14½ acres is to be compulsorily acquired at Liawenee for fisheries conservation.

The Commission proposes to improve the spawning grounds for rainbow trout as more grounds are necessary to accommodate rainbow trout spawners so that Great Lake may be stocked by natural propagation. Even with the limited spawning facilities now available the success of the rainbow trout spawning in the spring of 1973 was one of the most successful for a number of years. The steady flow of water down Liawenee Canal up to March enabled the survival of rainbow trout up to fingerling size for entry into the Great Lake fishery.

Camping at Brumby Creek

Following representations from anglers the Commission has agreed to permit camping near the Duck Hole at No. 1 weir - Brumby Creek where there are limited facilities sufficient for a small number of campers.

Improvements to fish traps

Field staff are in the course of carrying out improvements to the trapping sites at Arthurs Lake and Liawenee Canal in preparation for the 1974 winter transference of adult brown trout from the central highlands to lowland storages.

New waters to be stocked with adult brown trout include the camp creek pond near Wynyard where the local branch, North Western Fisheries Association hopes to repair an outlet screen in time for the liberation. Lake Botsford to the south-east of Lake Augusta is another water which will be stocked.

#### West Coast lakes

A stocking programme carried out by the Queenstown Branch and the Commission has resulted in a number of west coast lakes now reaching the stage of providing excellent fishing. Lake Ashford which was developed as a brown trout fishery is now yielding high quality brown trout up to 1 kg (2¼ lb) weight cleaned and 43 cm (17 inches) long have been taken by fly fishermen who can wade over about three-quarters of the lake. Lake Bellinger which is managed as a rainbow trout fishery has yielded fish up to 4 kg (9 lb) this season. Angling from the shore in this water is limited and a boat is necessary to get the best fishing at this water.

The Queenstown Branch and the Commission have in mind to develop several other small lakes on the west coast as trout fisheries.

The town dams at Waratah have all fished well during the season and visitors have noted many rising fish.

#### Lake Pedder

Visitors to Lake Pedder noticed many rising fish close to the shore in March. The fish appeared to be small. The tributaries to Lake Pedder and the proposed Lake Gordon are considered to provide sufficient spawning areas to enable a big head of brown trout to establish in these two lakes.

#### Spread of English perch (red fin)

It will be recalled that perch were liberated in Lake Echo and following the development of the Hydro-Electric schemes, perch then spread into the waters connected with Lake Echo.

During the current season reports of the spread of English perch to waters where they hitherto were unknown have been received. Perch were taken from Lagoon of Islands, Blackwood Creek, Lake Leake and the progress of English perch up to the Clyde River past Bothwell has been reported. There is some concern that some perch may enter Lake Crescent with disastrous consequences to the trout fishery there.

English perch are considered a nuisance in trout waters. Their ability to increase in numbers often results in large populations of small fish which do not provide good angling.

#### Fishing at Dee Lagoon

Reports of fishing at Dee Lagoon in December 1973 have indicated that the size range of rainbow trout caught was from  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilogram to 2 kilograms and the range for brown trout was  $\frac{1}{3}$  kilogram to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  kilograms.

On the 29th December, 1973, a brown trout 750 mm ( $29\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length) and 5 kilograms (11 lb in weight) was found in the tailrace of Lake Echo Power Station which flows into Dee Lagoon.

#### Lagoon of Islands

Lagoon of Islands impoundment was developed as a joint enterprise by the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission. The Hydro-Electric Commission's interest is in supplying riparian rights to persons formerly using water from the Ouse River. The Inland Fisheries Commission's interest is in the development of a trout fishery.

In the 1973-74 season anglers fished at Lagoon of Islands and enjoyed some truly remarkable fishing, and the expenditure on this fishery has been handsomely rewarded.

The Commission was somewhat concerned to receive a request from the Australian Conservation Foundation requesting that the water level in Lagoon of Islands be lowered. The Foundation is evidently unaware of the fishery developed in Lagoon of Islands.

The Commission proposes to insist on its guaranteed minimum level of water at Lagoon of Islands to preserve the trout fishery in that water.

#### Court cases

At the Bothwell Court on the 11th March, 1974, six persons were charged with breaches of the Inland Fisheries regulations.

Bobby Clayton Saltmarsh of Southern Street, Somerset was fined \$150 with costs amounting to \$2.65 for attempting to take fish whilst being an unlicensed angler at Great Lake on the 1st January, 1974.

Graham Lawrence of Nixon Street, Devonport, was charged with using a bait or lure other than an artificial fly namely a wobbler contrary to the provisions of the Inland Fisheries regulations at Little Pine Lagoon on the 24th January, 1974. The case was proven and Lawrence was fined \$20 with costs amounting to \$2.65.

Denis Colin Maher of Westbury was charged on four counts of attempting to take fish (other than bream) whilst not being a licensed angler, did falsely represent to an officer of the Inland Fisheries Commission that he was a licensee, that he produced a licence of another person to an officer of the Inland Fisheries Commission and that when asked on the 18th November, 1973, at Great Lake to state his name and place of abode to an officer of the Commission he stated a false name and address contrary to the provisions of the Fisheries Act.

Maher was fined a total of \$500 with a total of costs amounting to \$5.30

Geoffrey John Maher of Westbury was charged with lending his angling licence to another person on the 29th November, 1973. The charge was proven and a conviction recorded.

Hubert Charles Garwood of Julianna St, Launceston was charged with fishing in Great Lake during a time when the lake was closed for fishing. The charge was proven and he was fined \$20 with costs amounting to \$2.65 being imposed.

Christopher Robin Jones of Kempton was charged with fishing out of season on the 15th July, 1973, at the Jordan River. The case was dismissed.

Senior Inspector M.F. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Commission and Inspectors B.M. Vanderfeen, B. Isaac, N.J. Maroney and P. Saunders gave evidence on behalf of the Commission.

Trout found in bed at Moonah - Man fined \$20

On the 13th March, 1974, at the Hobart Court of Petty Sessions, Vernon Rufus Lovell of Gormanston Road, Moonah appeared before Mr. Wood, Magistrate, on a charge of possessing trout out of season.

Detective Leponis gave evidence of a visit to a house at Moonah on the 20th July, 1973. Lovell took him to the front bedroom of the home where Lovell's son was in bed. Detective Leponis pulled the bedclothes back from the bed and found a large plastic tray under the bedclothes. The tray contained thirteen brown trout.

Vernon Rufus Lovell admitted to Detective Leponis that he and his son took the fish at the lakes "last Wednesday", that is, 18th July, 1973.

The complaints were proven. Lovell was fined \$20 with a special penalty of \$2 for each fish plus \$2.85 costs.

Mr. S. Chopping appeared for Lovell and Miss S. Isles as Counsel for the prosecution.

Detective Leponis and Fisheries Inspector B. Isaac appeared as witness for the prosecution.

D.D. Lynch  
Commissioner.  
March 27th, 1974.