

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 4

May, 1974.

New Fisheries Officer

Mr. Vivian R. Spencer has commenced duties as a Fisheries Officer with the Inland Fisheries Commission. Mr. Spencer is an experienced angler and is a member of the Bishopsbourne and Westbury Branches of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association.

Mr. Spencer will be stationed at Evandale.

Big trout from central plateau lakes

The annual winter programme of catching and transferring wild adult brown trout from Great Lake and Arthurs Lake go under weigh again this year in May. Already Lakes Botsford, Crescent and Dulverton have received consignments of fish caught at Liawenee Canal. There are over sixty waters on the schedule to receive stock from the central plateau lakes. To fulfil the programme about 10,000 fish weighing about 9 tonnes will be caught this winter until June.

Open day for visitors at Liawenee

Visitors are invited to inspect fish trapping operations at Liawenee Canal, Great Lake on Saturday or Sunday 18th and 19th May, 1974, where they may inspect the adult brown trout collected for transference.

Unfortunately, the track from the Lake Highway to the trapping site does not permit vehicles to drive right to the trapping site so intending visitors are requested to leave their vehicles near the camp site.

Buses with school children on educational tours which pass through the central highlands have stopped at Liawenee Canal to inspect the trapping site. Children have been interested in seeing large numbers of wild fish assembled in Liawenee Canal.

Another interested party from the Soviet Embassy, Canberra recently inspected the trapping site at Liawenee Canal.

Corra Linn Road closed during winter months

Owing to the further deterioration in the road from the Blessington Highway to Corra Linn the Commission proposes to close the gate leading to the Corra Linn property as it considers that the road would become unsafe to winter traffic.

Tooms Lake

The Commission has been requested to stock Tooms Lake with trout and it proposes to carry out an experimental liberation of 100 tagged brown trout this season. It will be recalled that Tooms Lake has been at a low level for some time and the growth of the liberated fish will be watched with interest. It is further proposed to inspect the tributaries to Tooms Lake in the coming winter to assess the adequacy of any spawning run of brown trout which may occur here.

Lake Botsford

End of the season angling reports indicate that Lake Botsford fished extremely well from January until the end of April this year. Anglers fishing this water reported catching brown trout up to 2.5 kg (6 lb) in weight and rainbow trout up to 3.5 kg (8 lb) in weight.

Brown trout in Penny's Lagoon

Anglers have reported seeing fish rising at Penny's Lagoon, King Island and brown trout up to 3.5 kg ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  lb) were landed towards the end of the season.

#### Rehabilitated poacher

It is pleasing to learn that a person who was convicted of a breach of Inland Fisheries Regulations has become rehabilitated. The man found a net together with five set rods at a highland lake and handed the gear to the Police Station for appropriate action.

#### Blackfish

Large blackfish have been caught in North Western Tasmania. One fish measured 51.3 cm (20 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches) and another 55.8cm(22 inches) and the weights were 1.59 kg (3 lb 8 oz) and the other 2.05 kg (4 lb 8 oz). The fish were caught on the 30th March this year,

#### Funds for maintenance of Salmon Ponds

The Minister for Agriculture has advised that Cabinet will give consideration in the 1974-75 estimates for a contribution from the Government of \$10,000 towards the upkeep of the Salmon Ponds. For a number of years the Government grant for this purpose has been \$4,000.

#### Road to Salmon Ponds

The access road from the New Norfolk-Bushy Park road to the Salmon Ponds has been improved and sealed as a result of a grant given by the Tasmanian Government. The improvement has received favourable comment from the drivers of tourist buses.

#### Angling and Leisure

At a seminar held in Hobart on the 6th May, 1974, Professor Thomas Burton of Canada outlined the ways in which the public could take advantage of leisure. There is a world wide swing towards participation in various leisure activities and the trout angling is one activity with a variety of opportunities to meet the needs of persons of different ages and skills.

## Whitebait fishery

Following a review of the whitebait fishery it has been decided to close all waters in Tasmania to whitebait fishing to all persons for a period of three years, i.e. 1974, 1975 and 1976 with the exception that in 1976 those persons who held licences to fish commercially for whitebait in 1973 will be asked to take whitebait under the supervision of the Inland Fisheries Commission from prescribed rivers over a short period so that the Commission may assess stocks and evaluate the possibility of opening the fishery in 1977 in all or some waters.

A meeting of the whitebait fishermen has been called for the 20th May, 1974, in Devonport, where members of the Commission will discuss the matter with commercial whitebait fishermen.

Fishermen's Anti Litter Day Sunday May 4th, 1974.

This project was initiated by the Australian Freshwater Fishermen's Assembly as a national effort to demonstrate the concern of the thinking anglers at the desecration of our fishing waters by unthinking litterbugs. It is also to indicate to the authorities concerned with control of water storages that the organised anglers both recognise the privilege of fishing water storages and are prepared to put in personal effort to ensure that this privilege is respected and maintained. The Anti-Litter date has been selected to commemorate the approximate date of the 110th Anniversary of the first hatching of brown trout in Australia and is being organised on a national basis.

It is pleasing to note that branches of Tasmanian angling associations already have been active over the years in clearing up litter on a regular basis. However, it is hoped that those clubs which have not participated in such a scheme would join and help keep our streams and lakes free from litter.

D.D. Lynch  
Commissioner  
15th May, 1974.