

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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July 1975

Tooms Lake

Three hundred and fifty tagged adult wild brown trout from the Central Plateau were transferred to Tooms Lake in the Winter Programme.

Anglers are requested to forward tags, together with details of the length and weight of tagged fish taken from Tooms Lake in the coming year.

Following heavy rain in the catchment Tooms Lake spilled after the liberation of the adult fish and there is the possibility of some moving down into the Macquarie River.

Spawning runs of brown trout

Spawning runs of brown trout in the Central Highlands were erratic and disjointed in the autumn and winter of this year. Large runs in short periods of time which are the usual feature of the spawning in the Central Plateau were absent this year. Small numbers of fish ran in most of the tributaries of Great Lake.

Penstock Lagoon

Following discussions between the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Inland Fisheries Commission, the spillway of Penstock Lagoon is to be lowered by 18 inches. This will mean that there will be less fluctuation in water level of Penstock Lagoon which should be advantageous to the fishery.

The spillway was lowered to permit flood control in Penstock Lagoon and this is necessary following the changed system of power generation at Waddamana.

Details of an alternate scheme of strengthening the levy banks was considered by the two Commissions but it was ruled out on account of the expense involved.

Some anglers expressed disappointment with the way Penstock Lagoon fished last season and requested that it be stocked with brown or rainbow trout. A few years ago tagged adult brown trout were transferred to Penstock Lagoon. The transference was not a success due to several factors; one of which was an early mortality among the transferred fish.

The spawning ground available to brown trout at Penstock Lagoon is limited, but it has been sufficient to provide enough recruits to the fishery.

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On 9th June, ~~1975~~, brown trout spawners were in No. 2 Canal and of these twenty were on the redds above Pulfords Bridge. Possibly, more reached the spawning beds and spawned successfully. It is estimated that a minimum of 15,000, and possibly three times this number, would be deposited in the redds. These should provide sufficient recruits for the 1975 year class of brown trout.

Minister's visit to the Highlands

The Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Eric Barnard, accompanied the Commissioner on an inspection of parts of

the Central Plateau. The Minister saw Lagoon of Islands, Penstock Lagoon, Shannon Lagoon, Great Lake, Arthurs Lake including Hydro Creek, the Pump Station, the Arthurs Lake village, Liawenee Canal and the trapping sites and the dams at Lake Augusta. A further inspection is proposed of the Western Lakes at a suitable date.

The Minister also inspected the area at Birralee where a new lake is to be formed.

Parking facilities

The Commission is grateful to the branches of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association which has obtained from landowners parking areas at Mt. Joy and Stewarton to enable anglers to park off the road and close to the river.

Increased charges for Salmon Ponds visitors

The turnstile at the Salmon Ponds is to be modified to receive 40 cents admission. The admission charge is payable for all visitors over 12 years.

Shags

Anglers throughout the North, Northwestern and Central parts of the island have reported their concern at the prevalence of large numbers of shags.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has pointed out that the little black shag and white-faced shag are fully protected all the year round.

Spawning run of brown trout at Lake Pedder

Runs of large sized brown trout have occurred in the spawning tributaries of Lake Pedder. Fish up to 9 kg were sighted by inspectors.

Benthic survey of Great Lake

In the course of the benthic survey of Great Lake the first discovery of a juvenile Paranaspides lacustris is reported. The fish was taken by the Commission's biologist, Mr. W. Fulton, in the course of routine sampling with a grab which collects samples from the lake bed.

Hydro storages

Most Hydro-Electric Commission storages in the Central Plateau are approaching full supply level.

Stocking with brown trout fry

Hermitage Dam near Bothwell is to be stocked with brown trout fry in the coming Spring liberations.

The North-West Fisheries Association has applied for a number of dams on the North-West Coast to be stocked with brown trout fry in the coming Spring.

Rainbow trout liberations

It is proposed to stock one of the Waratah Dams known as McKays Dam, as well as Lake Barrington with rainbow trout fry in the coming Summer. It is likely that rainbow trout from Lake Barrington would migrate downstream as adult fish. Anglers should keep records of rainbow trout caught in the storage and downstream so that the success of the liberation may be monitored.

Twelve trout poachers fined \$600

It is sad to report serious breaches of the Fisheries Act and Regulations involving shooting fish and unlicensed

anglers fishing.

At the Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on Monday evening, 14th July, 1975, before Messrs. L. White and A. Goggin Js.P., GEOFFREY HAROLD SMITH, Tarleton, via Latrobe, appeared and pleaded guilty to charges of discharging a firearm into Split Rock Creek on 15th May for the purpose of taking trout, wilfully disturbing spawning fish and fishing by means other than a rod and line. He pleaded not guilty to taking two brown trout from a permanently closed water. He was found guilty on all charges and fined \$25 on each with costs amounting to \$2.65.

PHILLIP CHARLES CONNELLY, Tarleton, via Latrobe, was jointly charged with Geoffrey Smith. He pleaded guilty to the second charge and not guilty to the other three charges. He was found guilty on all charges and fined \$25 on each with \$2.65 costs.

KIM McMILLAN, 18 George Street, Latrobe, was charged with Geoffrey Smith and Phillip Connelly. He was found guilty on all four charges and was fined \$25 on each charge with \$2.95 costs.

JOHN STUBBINGS, P.O. Box 1087, Launceston, was charged with falsely representing to a duly appointed officer of the Inland Fisheries Commission that he was a licensed angler on 15th February and he was charged with attempting to take fish when not being licensed. The case was heard ex parte and he was fined \$80 on the first charge and \$20 on the second charge with \$2.65 costs.

HOWARD JOHN REEVES and GRAEME REEVES, C/o Upper Burnie Post Office, were charged with taking one brown trout on 23rd April in the canal flowing from Bronte Lagoon to Bradys Lake below the control gates which is permanently closed. Both appeared and pleaded guilty. They were convicted and fined \$20 and \$2.35 costs each.

PETER PUKTENS and LILY PUKTENS of 123 River Road, Ambleside, were charged with attempting to take acclimatised fish of the family Salmonidae in the Shannon River on 31st May, 1975, when this water was closed to fishing. The cases were heard ex parte and each was fined \$30 with \$2.65 costs.

BRUCE CASSIDY, 31 Leslie Street, Launceston, and KEVIN JOHN FRENCH, 221 Penquite Rd., Launceston, were charged with attempting to take fish in Canal Bay on 25th April during the closed season. The charges were heard ex parte. Each was convicted and fined \$30 with \$2.65 costs.

NOEL DION DINGLE, 200 Risdon Road, New Town, and PETER GEORGE RAYNER, 8 Shasta Avenue, Lutana, appeared in respect of four charges of using a light to catch four brown trout on 24th May at Blackburn Rivulet, Lagoon of Islands, wilfully disturbing spawning trout, taking four brown trout by means other than rod and line and taking four brown trout from a water flowing into Lagoon of Islands, which is permanently closed to fishing. The first two charges were withdrawn and each was fined \$10 on the third and fourth charges with costs amounting to \$2.75. Mr. M. Hodgman appeared for Dingle and Rayner.

Senior Inspector M. Duncan prosecuted for the Inland Fisheries Commission and Messrs. B. Isaac and N. Maroney gave evidence on behalf of the Commission.

Waters stocked - Reprint No. 7

Details of trout liberated in 1974-75 in all areas of the State are set out in Reprint No. 7. These liberations were effected in the period 25th July, 1974, to 19th July, 1975.

Copies of Reprint No. 7 have been forwarded to the three angling associations for the information of members.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner

31st July, 1975