

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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Derwent River

Reports of good runs of brown trout in the Derwent River have been received. Fishing has been excellent in the area between the Bailey Bridge and the Tasman Bridge, also anglers are catching fish further upstream to above the Lime Kilns. Fish up to about 2 kg are being taken, mainly on the spinner or a wet fly.

Fisheries Lane, Cressy

Repairs to Fisheries Lane have been carried out. Mr. D. Wallace donated five loads of gravel and it is proposed to install shallow dish drains across the road. It is hoped these might reduce the speed of some visitors who use the lane.

Salmon Ponds

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) recently advised the Commission that the Salmon Ponds at Plenty has been classified and placed on the register of listed buildings.

Film on trout fishing

The Australian Broadcasting Commission has been assisted by officers of the Inland Fisheries Commission and anglers in making documentary films on trout fishing in Tasmania. The films are nearly completed and those interested in trout fishing are assured of seeing spectacular shots of fishing in Tasmania, including good sequences about the fishery at Lake Pedder.

### Cremorne Lagoon

The Commission proposes to give consideration to stocking Cremorne Lagoon with brown trout. At present, the lagoon is carrying a fair quantity of water and it is similar in character to Cleveland Lagoon which has provided good trout fishing.

### Tungatinah Lagoon and Pine Tier Lagoon

After consultation with the angling associations, it is proposed that Tungatinah Lagoon and Pine Tier Lagoon be left open to natural bait fishing. There had been a suggestion that these waters be restricted to artificial lures only.

### Electrofishing

Mr. W. Fulton attended a course on electrofishing in New Zealand and it is proposed that he conduct a course for the Commission's officers this summer, so that they can be trained in the use of electrofishing equipment. Later, officers will be able to electrofish selected areas of the State.

### New staff

Mr. Greg. Brown joined the Commission staff as a Junior Clerk and it is proposed to call applications for the positions of cadets, who will primarily be field officers. Also, the Commission proposes to call applications for a research officer to commence duty in 1978. He would be stationed at Liawenee.

### Eel research

The Commission proposes to build an elver pass at Trevallyn Dam to assist the upstream migration of elvers and to find details of the numbers in the run. It is proposed that the work be put in course this summer.

Eel research is being conducted at the University of Tasmania and this work will compliment the work being carried out by the Commission.

#### Access to Woods Lake

The Commission is concerned at the lack of access to the southern end of Woods Lake and has discussed the matter with the Lands Department and the property owner. Further discussions are planned following an inspection of the area.

#### Inspection of southern rivers

Early in September, the Commissioner, together with Mr. N. Clarke of the Huonville Angling Association, made an inspection of the Weld, Huon, Russell and Little Denison Rivers. These rivers are not so well known to some trout anglers as they might be but are well worth a visit later on in the year, about December to March. In the early part of the year, access to some of the better fishing areas here is difficult.

#### Importations of exotic fish

It was recently reported that carp had been sent into Australia on the speculation that it may obtain entry by not being recognised at the point of arrival. The common carp, Cyprinus carpio, was recently seized at New South Wales, Victoria and Canberra at airports.

#### Acclimatisation of exotic fish at Brisbane

A number of streams near Brisbane now have exotic fish populations. Live-bearers have been present for 15 years and it is noted that exotic tropicals have displaced native fish in some cases and the mosquito fish (Gambusia) has displaced tropical fish in some areas. Incidentally, mosquito fish (Gambusia) has been found to be a pest because it attacks tadpoles.

#### Importations of food and freshwater fish

A recent scientific paper by Dr. P. S. Lake and Mr. G. Bennison gave details of the food of freshwater fish in the Coal and Jordan Rivers. The Inland Fisheries Commission has made these two rivers available to students at the University of Tasmania to carry out freshwater research. The paper by Dr. Lake and Mr. Bennison resulted from reports carried out in the early 1970's.

The work, a preliminary study, indicates that different fish species in the Coal and Jordan River share a common food resource, for example, in the Coal River amphipods (scuds) form an important part of the diet of trout, perch and eels, whereas, in the Jordan River, trichopteran larvae (caddis fly) form an important part of the diet of trout, perch, eels, tench and freshwater flathead. The authors claim that it is conceivable that inter-specific competition for food is occurring in the rivers. For example, between trout and smelt, perch and trout.

#### Scottish salmon angling is expensive

An article by Adrian Coates in "Trout and Salmon" for February 1977 gives findings from a statistical analyses he carried out on Atlantic salmon fishing on Scottish river beats.

His study covered some 6 per cent of the total Scottish rod catch using details for 1973 to 1976. He found that a fisherman had to pay about \$175 on the average solely in annual rent prices in order to expect to catch one fish. If the salmon averaged 10.5 lb (4.763 kg), the cost per pound in fishing rentals alone was about 16.67 dollars or \$34.63 per kilogram.

#### The eel fishery

The Commission considered ways and means of developing the eel fishery and were surprised at the objections from some eel fishermen to the Bill introduced into Parliament. The Minister's Second Reading Speech is attached as a document of public interest.

#### Court cases

LONGFORD COURT, 19th July, 1977, before J.L. Farley, Magistrate -

Theodore Weber of Ecclestone Rd., Launceston, appeared and pleaded guilty to a charge of fishing with natural bait in Brumbys Creek No. 1 weir. This water is restricted to fishing with artificial lures.

He was fined the minimum penalty of \$20.00 with \$8.10 costs with six days imprisonment in default of payment.

Fisheries Inspector N. J. Maroney prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

BOTHWELL COURT, 19th August, 1977, before J.P. Morris, S.M. -

Lorraine Jackson, Calendonian Court, Noble Park, Victoria, was charged with using natural bait in an artificial lure area - Dee Lagoon - on 9th February, 1977. She pleaded guilty by summons and was fined \$30.00, \$8.00 costs. The defendant was given 28 days to pay; in default of payment, 8 days imprisonment.

Neil Davie, Hillside Ave., Dandenong, Victoria, was charged with -

1. Using natural bait in an artificial lure area - Dee Lagoon - on 9th February, 1977.

2. On 9th February, 1977, not being a person acting by the direction or with the consent in writing of the Inland Fisheries Commission, did import from outside the State, a live aquatic crustacean, namely yabbie.

He pleaded guilty by summons. On the first charge he was fined \$30. On the second charge he was fined \$30. Costs of \$8.00 were imposed. In default of payment on the first charge, 8 days imprisonment. In default on the second charge, 6 days imprisonment. The defendant was given 28 days to pay.

James Jackson, Calendonian Court, Noble Park, Victoria, was charged with -

1. On 9th February, 1977, at Dee Lagoon, using natural bait in an artificial lure area.

2. Importing live aquatic crustacea, namely yabbie. He pleaded guilty by summons. On the first charge he was fined \$30.00 with \$8.00 costs. On the second charge he was fined \$30.00. He was given 28 days to pay. In default of payment on the first charge - 8 days imprisonment. On the second, charge, in default of payment, 6 days imprisonment.

Audrey Faye Thureau, Petty Street, West Hobart, was charged with -

1. Fishing at a canal between Lake Binney and Tungatinah Lagoon on 11th April, 1977, while being an unlicensed angler.

2. On the same day falsely representing to be a licensed angler.

On the first charge she was fined \$50.00. On the second charge she was fined \$50.00. Costs of \$8.00 were imposed. She was given 28 days to pay. In default of payment on the first charge - 12 days imprisonment. In default of payment on the second charge - 10 days imprisonment.

Barry Charles Gerke, Tarooma Cres., Tarooma, was charged with -

1. On 29th May, 1977, at Lake Sorell, Mountain Creek, he did take 14 brown trout in a water flowing into Lake Sorell.

2. On 29th May, 1977, at Mountain Creek, did take 14 brown trout by means other than rod and line, i.e. a gaff.

3. On 29th May, 1977, wilfully disturbing fish in Mountain Creek.

On the first charge he was fined \$30.00 with costs of \$8.00. On the second charge he was fined \$70.00, with a \$28.00 special penalty. The third charge was adjourned sine die. He was allowed 28 days to pay - in default on first charge - 8 days imprisonment. In default on second charge - 20 days imprisonment.

Helen Dawn Gerke, Tarooma Cres., Tarooma, was charged with -

1. On 29th May at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell, did take 14 brown trout in a water flowing into Lake Sorell.

2. On the same day did take 14 brown trout by means other than rod and line.

3. Wilfully disturbing fish.

On the first charge she was fined \$30.00, costs of \$8.00. On the second charge, she was fined \$70.00. The third charge was adjourned sine die. She was given 28 days to pay. In default of payment on the first charge, 8 days imprisonment. In default of payment on the second charge - 14 days imprisonment.

Wayne Davie Hutchinson, Cleburne St., Kingston, was charged with -

1. On 4th June, 1977, at Lake Sorell, did take one brown trout in a water flowing into Lake Sorell, namely Ti-tree Creek.
2. Did take fish by means other than rod and line.
3. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish at Ti-tree Creek.

On the first charge he was fined \$30.00, with a special penalty of \$2.00. On the second charge he was fined \$30.00 with costs of \$8.00. The third charge was adjourned sine die. He was allowed 28 days to pay. In default, 8 days imprisonment on the first charge and 6 days imprisonment in default on the 2nd charge.

Robin Noel Webb, Windsor St., Kingston Beach, was charged with -

1. On 4th June, 1977, at Lake Sorell, did take one brown trout in a water flowing into Lake Sorell, namely Ti-tree Creek.
2. Did take fish by means other than rod and line.
3. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish at Ti-tree Creek.

On the first charge he was fined \$30.00 with \$8.00 costs. A special penalty of \$2.00 was imposed. On the second charge he was fined \$30.00. The third charge was adjourned sine die. He was allowed 28 days to pay. In default of payment, 8 days imprisonment on the first charge, and 6 days imprisonment in default on the second charge.

Peter John Slattery, Sunny Ave., Blackmans Bay, was charged with -

- On 4th June, 1977, at Lake Sorell, did take one brown trout in a water flowing into Lake Sorell, namely Ti-tree Creek.
2. Did take fish by means other than rod and line.
  3. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish at Ti-tree Creek.

On the first charge he was fined \$30.00 with \$8.00 costs and a special penalty of \$2.00. On the second charge he was fined \$30.00. The third charge was adjourned sine die. He was given 28 days to pay, in default of payment on first charge, 8 days imprisonment. On the second charge, default of payment, 6 days imprisonment.

Ashley Clyde Walker, Mockridge St., Rokeby, was charged with -

1. On 23rd April, 1977, did take one brown trout in a water flowing into Lake Sorell, i.e. Mountain Creek.
2. On 23rd April, 1977, at Mountain Creek, Lake Sorell, did take fish by means other than rod and line.
3. Wilfully disturbing spawning fish in Mountain Creek.

He pleaded guilty by summons and was fined \$30.00 on the first charge with \$8.00 costs and a special penalty of \$2.00. On the second charge he was fined \$30.00. The third charge was adjourned sine die. He was given 28 days to pay. On the first charge, in default of payment, 8 days imprisonment. On the second charge, in default of payment, 6 days imprisonment.

Ralph Gordon Linnane, Spencer St., Brooklyn, Burnie, was charged with -

1. On 28th April, 1977, at Great Lake, did use for the taking of fish more than one rod and line - i.e. two rods. The case was heard ex parte. The defendant was convicted and fined \$30.00 with costs of \$8.00. He was allowed 28 days to pay. In default of payment, 8 days imprisonment.

Robert Stanley Parsissons, Kingley House, Longford, was charged with -

1. On 28th May, 1977, at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake, did take one brown trout within 100 metres of a fish trap maintained by the Inland Fisheries Commission.
2. He was also charged with, on the same day, at Hydro Creek, did take one brown trout in a water flowing into Arthurs Lakes.

3. On the same day at Hydro Creek did take one brown trout by means other than rod and line.

4. Did take fish with a light.

On the first charge he was fined \$30.00 with costs of \$8.00, and a special penalty of \$2.00. On the second charge he was fined \$30.00. On the third charge he was fined \$30.00. The fourth charge was adjourned sine die. He was given 28 days to pay. In default of payment on the first charge, 8 days imprisonment. In default of payment on the second charge, 6 days imprisonment. The case was heard ex parte.

Sonia Ann Parsissons, Kingley House, Longford, was charged with -

1. On 28th May, 1977, at Hydro Creek, Arthurs Lake, did take one brown trout within 100 metres of a fish trap maintained by the Inland Fisheries Commission.

2. On the same day at Hydro Creek did take one brown trout in a water flowing into Arthurs Lakes.

3. On the same day at Hydro Creek did take one brown trout by means other than rod and line.

4. Did take fish with a light.

On the first charge she was fined \$30.00, with costs of \$8.00 and a special penalty of \$2.00. On the second charge she was fined \$30.00. On the third charge she was fined \$30.00. The fourth charge was adjourned sine die. The defendant was given 28 days to pay. In default of payment on the first charge, 8 days imprisonment. In default on second charge, 6 days imprisonment. In default on third charge, 6 days imprisonment. The case was heard ex parte. Senior Inspector M. F. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

NEW NORFOLK COURT, 20th September, 1977, before  
Mr. M. Hannon, Magistrate -

Ronald Kringle of Maydena was charged on three counts

- (1) Taking two brown trout by means of a snare on  
28th June at Serpentine Creek - Fined \$75 plus \$20  
per fish taken
- (2) Wilfully disturbing fish - adjourned sine die
- (3) Taking fish during a closed season - Fined \$40  
with costs of \$4.05.

He pleaded guilty by summons.

Total fines imposed = \$159.05

Peter Schneider of Strathgordon pleaded guilty by summons  
on three counts -

- (1) Taking two brown trout by means of a snare on  
28th June at Serpentine Creek - Fined \$75 plus \$20 per fish  
taken
- (2) Wilfully disturbing fish - adjourned sine die
- (3) Taking fish during a closed season - Fined \$40 with  
costs of \$4.05.

Total fines imposed = \$159.05

Mr. V. Spencer prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries  
Commission.

(D. D. Lynch),  
Commissioner

29th September, 1977

## SECOND READING SPEECH

### FISHERIES BILL

1977

The Bill is to amend the Fisheries Act 1959. The purpose of the amendment is to provide authority for the Inland Fisheries Commission to sell a right to take eels in specified inland waters during a specified period.

The Bill is intended to give power to the Commission to make Regulations with the approval of the Governor to invite tenders for the exclusive rights to fish for a prescribed fish, i.e. migrating eels in a specified water.

In the overseas study to examine eel fisheries, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries noted that, in Northern Ireland, Southern Ireland and Holland, there were fisheries to catch migrating eels. The fisheries used fixed weirs or structures set across rivers to catch eels as they migrate downstream. Operators had an exclusive licence to use this gear in a particular water-way for a fixed period, i.e. when the eels were moving towards the sea. Only one set of this type of gear can be used on one water-way. A fisherman with this right would not wish a competitor to be allowed to set similar gear further upstream to catch eels moving down.

In Northern Ireland an exclusive licence to catch migrating eels is held by Lough Neagh Fisheries Co-operative and the co-operative pays an annual licence of one thousand pounds.

The Commissioner discussed the merits of a fishery for migrating eels with eel fishermen and anglers in Tasmania with a view to establishing a new fishery here. Anglers agreed to the proposal being tested and eel fishermen showed interest. The Commission considered that the fairest method of deciding who would have the exclusive rights should be decided by calling tenders and the successful tenderer, not necessarily the highest, should be allowed to operate the fishery for a number of years. This procedure appears to be desirable and equitable.

Further, efforts are now in course by the Inland Fisheries Commission to rehabilitate eel fisheries which have dilapidated because of obstructions to their movements upstream. In co-operation with the Hydro-Electric Commission, the Inland Fisheries Commission has in course the installation of elver passes at Trevallyn Dam. Later, it is proposed to extend elver passes to other areas.

Experience in Southern Ireland has shown that eel fisheries can be rehabilitated within a few years by the establishment of elver passes and a system of trapping elvers and transferring them to suitable waters where they may grow to a large size before returning to the sea.

It is essential that provision be made to catch these fully grown eels in their best condition when they are preparing to return to sea.

Several proposals have been put forward to the Government and to the Commission by outside agencies wishing to catch elvers for export. But the Government takes the view that elvers should be grown in Tasmania until they are of mature size suitable for marketing so that Tasmanian fishermen may have the opportunity of catching them.

It is the intention of the Bill to preserve the rights of anglers and others who wish to catch a few eels for their own use and the right to use the gear to catch migrating eels at a specific point in a water system would not preclude anglers from continuing to enjoy their current right of catching eels by means of rod and line.

It is envisaged that, in the initial stage, an exclusive right would be granted for the operation of a structure to catch migrating eels in the South Esk River system, for it is in this system that the Commission hopes to rehabilitate the eel fishery by transferring elvers up through the Trevallyn Power Station by means of an elver pass and an elver trap.

Harvesting the migrating eels as they come down this system would prevent the wastage of eels which might be killed in power stations.

A feature of the Bill is that it limits the time which this gear may be operated. The limitation would take two forms:

One would be that the gear would be in operation only during the period of the run and the second provision would ensure

that the successful tenderer or operator of the gear would be allowed some continuity of right to take migrating eels.

Obviously, the cost of the equipment would be expensive and the operator should have the right to use this gear for a set number of years to allow him to recoup his outlay expended on the project and to make a profit.

The Bill is a non-controversial piece of legislation and, in general terms, it provides for the harvesting of a resource which currently is not being harvested and provides a fair and equitable mechanism for deciding who shall have the right to harvest this resource.