

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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A.B.C. FILM "A WORLD APART"

The very successful series of three films produced by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, entitled "A World Apart", are in the course of being acquired by the State Library at the suggestion of the Inland Fisheries Commission. It is hoped that the films will be available for use at angling functions.

BROOK TROUT FISHERY AT DERBY HOLE

Owing to the increased mining activity at the Briseis Hole, known as the Derby Hole to most anglers, it is necessary to find an alternate site for the liberation of brook trout. Should the mining operations be of such a nature that it is possible to catch and transfer brook trout from the Derby Hole, the Commission would consider a salvage operation. In the meantime, suggestions for an enclosed water without other trout present would be appreciated.

LAKE DULVERTON

Four hundred adult brown trout were placed in Lake Dulverton and the anglers had a successful catch in this water in the past season. Lake Dulverton anglers have asked that consideration be given to stocking the lake with fry. The Commission has two points under consideration: either adult brown trout transferred to Lake Dulverton could be terminated and future stocking be with brown trout fry, or adult brown trout which are tagged could be placed in Lake Dulverton to test the numbers of liberated fish caught each year. A decision on this matter is to be made following an examination of the fishery in the 1978/79 angling season.

WATERS STOCKED IN 1977/78

A list of waters stocked in 1977/78 has been prepared and given to the three angling associations for the information of members. Copies are available to all branches from the Association Secretaries.

TROUT FARMS

The Commission has received applications from two groups wishing to conduct fish farms at Brumbys Creek. The Commission is giving the matter consideration and has proposed to have further consultation with the angling associations on this matter.

FISH OUT PONDS

The Commission has recently received applications for fish-out ponds of various sorts throughout Tasmania. It proposes to have discussions on these matters with the angling associations. The Commission is aware of the strong body of opinion that the greatest emphasis should be continued to be placed on the development and maintenance of the fishery for wild trout in Tasmania. The Commission notes that, in New Zealand, commercialisation of trout other than as a publically managed resource is not permitted. The New Zealand opinion on trout fishing is very similar to that of Tasmania.

MIGRATING EELS

Tenders have been received and considered for catching of migrating eels and it is proposed to let tenders in the South Esk and Clyde River which will permit the holder to catch migrating eels for a period of up to mid December 1979.

LAKE SORELL DEVELOPMENT

The Commission proposes to attend discussions with the Lands Department regarding the development of shack sites and launching ramp at Dago Point, Lake Sorell.

LAKE LEAKE

Heavy rains flooded the trap and caused water to spill-over the banks of the Snowy River and made an accurate count of the upstream migration of brown trout spawners in Snowy River impossible this year. The flooding also prevented the eradication of perch in the Snowy River, where anglers reported sighting upwards of 1000 perch. An examination of guts of cormorants shot at the Snowy River showed the presence of both English perch and brown trout (.5 kg). The Commission proposes to monitor the run of rainbow trout in Snowy River and, in the coming angling season, where possible, to examine the catch taken by anglers at Lake Leake.

LAKE GORDON

The Hydro-Electric Commission has advised that it has no objection to the use of small boats on Lake Gordon, whether hire boats or privately owned. However, the question of access to the lake is not an easy matter to resolve. It is imperative that the Hydro-Electric Commission operating staff have wide and open access at all times to the road leading to the switch-yard. Thus, if this area were to be used for boat access to the lake, it would be necessary for adequate parking areas to be provided, such as would ensure that parked vehicles did not obstruct the switch-yard access road.

Unfortunately, there is no easy and cheap way of providing the necessary parking facilities. The matter of boat access to Lake Gordon was discussed briefly some time ago by the Inter-Departmental Committee looking into tourist facilities in the Strathgordon area. At that time it was decided that, with the exception of some relatively small expenditure on boat access in the area between McPartlan Pass and Frodsham Pass, priority should be given to the facilities associated with Lake Pedder.

The Commission has been advised that access to Lake Gordon by the Holly Road and the Island Road are closed for the present.

The I.X.L. Timber Company is using the terminal of the Holly Road as storage and salvage area for Huon Pine, and the Island Road is used by the Webster Hall Timber Company.

The Commission has received complaints that fuel has been stolen and equipment damaged on some of the access roads to Lake Gordon. Two access roads are currently available to Lake Gordon -

1. the old logging road at the 25 mile peg
2. Clear Hill road

INSPECTION OF RIVERS OF FAR NORTH-WEST

In late May, the Chairman and Associate Commissioner French inspected the rivers between Ulverstone and Arthur River and held discussions with anglers and commercial fishermen. The opportunity was taken to inspect Lake Mikany where a well-run fishery is in progress and members of the Commission were impressed with the work done by the Circular Head branch in keeping the lake litter-free.

MORTALITY AT BIG CREEK, WYNYARD

Members of the Commission inspected the Big Creek and had discussions with United Milk Products Factory staff regarding the mortality of brown trout. Unfortunately, the trout and water sample were received too late for a positive cause of death to be determined. Trout up to 32 cm were found dead by an interested angler in Big Creek.

LAKE PEDDER SUCCESS STORY CONTINUES

Mr. E.V. Terry of Needles is one of the State's most successful anglers at Lake Pedder. His average brown trout weighed 5 kg (10.78 lb) for the season. His largest fish was 9.4 kg (20 lb 10 oz). All fish were taken using the fly from the shore. The smallest fish was 1.4 kg (3 lb). In his fishing party of two or three, mostly of two, they had ten trips for 134 fish. In 1976/77 the average heaviest fish per trip was 6.5 kg (12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb), whereas in the 1977/78 season the heaviest fish for a trip was 7.1 kg (15 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb).

Mr. Terry found the dragon-fly hatches were not as big as in the previous year, but then the weather was not suitable for hatches when they were at the lake. They found the fish full of mud-eyes from the first period in mid-November, up till the end of April.

CALVERTS LAGOON

Mr. S. Smith from the University of Tasmania has been studying the life cycles of parasitic trematodes in Calverts Lagoon. Mr. Smith requested information regarding the survival of trout in this water following fry liberations in 1975, 76 and 77. Mr. Smith was interested in examining a small number of trout from the lagoon to see if they served as intermediate or definitive hosts for any trematodes developing in the lagoon.

On June 19th, a Commission biologist, Mr. R. Sloane, accompanied Mr. Smith to Calverts Lagoon. They walked the shoreline in search of any signs of trout or native fish life. On the rocky northern point of the lagoon, 12 brown trout were counted in the shallows. No galaxias were seen. On June 29th, Messrs. Sloane and Walter set three graball nets perpendicular to the shore in the area where the trout were found during the previous visit. The nets were lifted at about 2 p.m. and two brown trout were taken. The nets were reset and were not lifted again until just after dark when another

three brown trout were caught. A baited galaxiid trap was set in the lagoon but no galaxias were captured.

The five brown trout were killed and taken to the University where measurements of length and weight were recorded. The stomach contents were examined and snails, amphipods and ostracods infected with trematode cysts were found to have been ingested by several of the trout. The eyes, brain, alimentary tract, gonads, muscle tissue, liver and kidney of each trout was examined but neither free living nor encysted flukes were found. This suggests that the trematode species that have been found developing in snails from Calverts Lagoon do not use the trout as definitive nor as intermediate hosts.

Scales were removed from each fish for age determination. The position of each annulus on the scales was recorded.

RESULTS:

<u>Brown trout</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>
1	60 cm	2.34 kg	M	3 years
2	49.5	1.29	M	3
3	46.2	1.08	M	2
4	47.7	1.00	F	2
5	43.5	0.98	M	2

Assuming isometric growth (scale growth is directly proportional to body growth) the mean back-calculated lengths for age are as follows -

Age 1 = 13.7 cm Age 2 = 45.5 cm Age 3 = 54.8 cm

Fry liberations - Calverts Lagoon

16/9/75	85 000	brown trout fry
25/9/76	50 000	" "
25/10/77	62 000	" "

Trout 1 and 2 would be survivors of the 1975 fry liberation. In three growing seasons these trout have reached an average length of 54.7 cm and an average weight of 1.82 kg.

Trout 3, 4 and 5 are survivors of the 1976 fry liberation. In two growing seasons these trout have reached an average length of 45.8 cm and an average weight of 1.02 kg.

Although based on a small sample of five trout only, the report indicates that fry liberations in Calverts Lagoon have been successful and those trout which have survived have grown rapidly.

RESULTS OF RECENT PROSECUTIONS

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions on 23rd June, 1978, before G.H. Bryan, S.M., Brian William Matthews, of Bridport, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing at Lake Augusta on 6th April, 1978, without a licence. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00.

Russell Walter Beaumont, Devonport, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using more than one rod and line at Woods Lake on 25th March, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00.

Frank John Hurley, Moorabin, Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Sorell on 19th March, 1978. He also pleaded guilty to a second charge of using natural bait in an artificial lure area. On the first charge he was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00. On the second charge he was fined \$20.

Danny Lawrence Smith, Devonport, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using more than one rod and line at a time at Woods Lake on 25th March, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00.

Norman Maxwell McKeeber, Sandy Bay, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using more than one rod and line at a time at the canal between Lake Binny and Tungatinah Lagoon on 1st April, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00.

Rolph Rainer Aberle, Victoria, pleaded guilty to fishing without a licence at Lake Sorell on 19th March, 1978. He also pleaded guilty to a second charge of using natural bait in an artificial lure area on the same day. On the first charge he was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00. On the second charge he was fined \$20.

Barbara Lillian Wells of Smithton, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence in Bronte Canal on 17th January, 1978. She was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00.

Bernard George Arnold, Queenstown, pleaded guilty to fishing without a licence at Lake St. Clair on 18th March, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00.

Harold Gordon Byrne of Montello, pleaded guilty by endorsement to using more than one rod and line at Great Lake on 5th April, 1978. He was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00.

Bernard Vincent Hurley, Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence at Lake Sorell on 19th March, 1978. He also pleaded guilty to using natural bait in an artificial lure area. On the first charge he was fined \$50 with costs of \$8.00. On the second charge he was fined \$20.

Edward Louis Archer of Hamilton, pleaded guilty to a charge of taking eels when not being a licensed eel fisherman. He pleaded not guilty to hindering the free passage of fish. On the first charge he was fined \$20 with costs of \$8.00. The second charge was adjourned sine die. Mr. Archer was defended by Mr. W. Horsham.

Charges against Kevin John Murfet, Burnie, Dale Francis Sharman, Penguin, Ricky Ian Fielding, Penguin, and Robert Wayne Swindells, Bothwell, were adjourned to Bothwell Court on 25th August, 1978.

Fines totalled \$580.00, with costs totalling \$88.00. Senior Inspector M. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

(D. D. Lynch),
Commissioner