

INLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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WHITEBAIT RUNS

Poor runs of whitebait have been reported in most streams of the State. In the northwestern area, flood waters have been thought to be responsible for the lack of runs. A number of approaches from commercial fishermen seeking an open season have been received. However the status of Lovettia sealii, the fish which formerly made up the whitebait run, is that the species is in need of protection to aid conservation.

LAKE KARA

Following a request from the Northwestern Fisheries Association, Lake Kara was stocked with 10,000 brown trout fry in September. The Commission is grateful to members of the Northwestern Fisheries Association who assisted in the liberation of the fry.

BLACKMANS LAGOON

The Scottsdale Branch of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association has accepted 12,000 brown trout fry from the Inland Fisheries Commission. The Branch proposes to rear and feed the young trout in containers at Springfield. A roster has been drawn-up of members able and willing to assist in rearing the fry and supplies of meat have been donated by local butchers. When the fry have reached the fingerling stage, it is proposed to liberate them in Blackmans Lagoon.

TEDS BEACH

With the development of a caravan park at Strathgordon, Teds Beach is to revert to a place for day visits and camping will not be permitted here.

ACCESS FOR BOATS, ARTHURS LAKE

Improved access has been made near the pumping station at Arthurs Lake. A working bee to spread the material has been organised for 22 September.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Following a request from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Lake St. Clair is to be restricted to artificial lures. The Commission agreed to this proposal and regulations will be made to this effect at the next review of regulations.

TREES AT SALMON PONDS

Some poplar trees at the Salmon Ponds are more than 100 years old and two fell during a period of high wind on 22/8/79 when winds reached 109 km per hour. Subsequently, officers from the Forestry Commission assisted in falling these trees and officers also conducted an inspection and advised that several other trees be removed as well. The Maydena Anglers have been invited to assist in removing the remaining poplar trees.

ELECTROFISHING FARM DAMS

On 25 August, field staff attempted to electrofish a farm dam on the property of Mr. Stuart Scott at Westbury. The project was unsuccessful because the water was too deep and the conductivity caused a high drain on the electrofishing machine (3.5 amps.)

RAINBOW TROUT RUN, PENSTOCK LAGOON

On 29 August, there were 13 rainbow trout spawners in each of No. 1 and No. 2 canals leading into Penstock Lagoon. The largest fish was a rainbow trout 7.5 lb (3.4 kg). The average weight was 5.1 lb. From these fish, 35,000 ova were collected and put down in the gravel. At the same time, brown trout ova placed down earlier, were found to be eyed.

DEE LAGOON

Test netting was carried out in Dee Lagoon on 6, 7 and 8 August 1979, resulting in the catch of 26 brown trout and 25 rainbow trout. The data from the experiments are being collated and the age of the fish determined.

PROSECUTIONS

At Bothwell Court of Petty Sessions before Mr. D. Burton on 21/9/79, Richard John Purtell of West Moonah, was charged with fishing without a licence and falsely representing to be licensed at Arthurs Lake on 15 April 1979. The case was heard ex parte. He was fined \$50.00 on each charge, with costs of \$8.10.

Peter Anthony Purtell of Balwyn, Victoria, pleaded guilty by endorsement to fishing without a licence and falsely representing to be licensed at Arthurs Lake on the same day. He was fined \$50.00 on each charge with costs of \$8.10.

Mark David Sherriff of Savage River pleaded guilty by endorsement to charges of taking fish by means other than rod and line and a second charge of taking fish from closed waters. The offences occurred at Kimberly Creek, Great Lake, on 5 May 1979. On the first charge he was fined \$40.00 with costs of \$8.10 and a special penalty of \$10 (\$5.00 per fish).

On the second charge he was fined \$40.00. The third charge of wilfully disturbing spawning fish was adjourned sine die.

Charges against Stuart James Reynolds of Powranna of wilfully disturbing fish and taking fish by means other than rod and line, and taking fish from a closed water were adjourned until 19 October.

Charges against Leonard Charles Read and Reginald Bessell of wilfully disturbing spawning fish, using a light to take fish and taking fish by means other than rod and line and taking fish from a closed water were adjourned to 19 October.

Senior Inspector M. Duncan prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Fisheries Commission.

(D. D. Lynch)

Commissioner

21 September 1979