

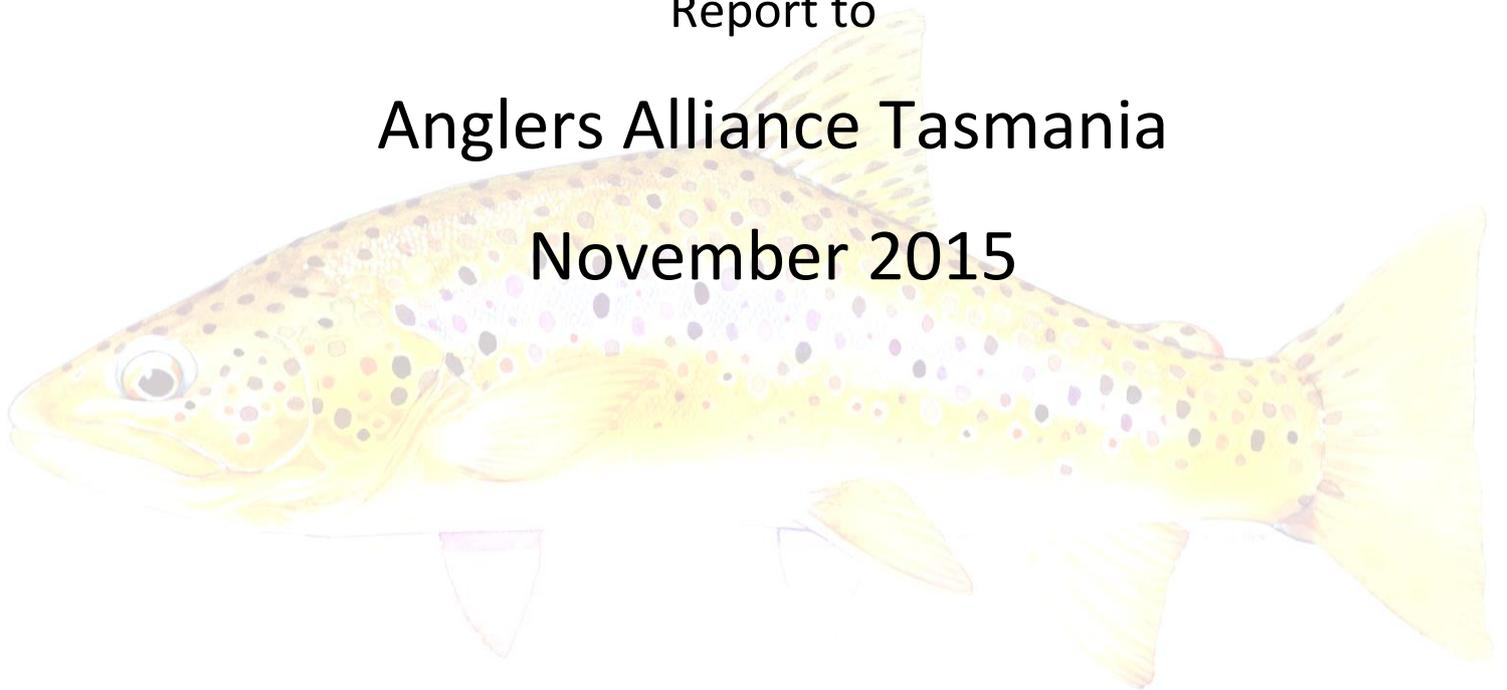


# Inland Fisheries Service

Report to

Anglers Alliance Tasmania

November 2015





## Hot Topics

### Carp Funding

The IFS welcomes the Tasmanian and Australian Government's announcement of \$1.37million dollars, over the next two years, to maintain the effort in the eradication of carp from Tasmania and specifically in Lake Sorell. Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt recognised that "The Tasmanian carp eradication efforts are at the forefront of carp management in Australia." The eradication effort is a top priority for the IFS.

It is expected that carp will be eradicated from Tasmanian waters by the end of the 2017-18 financial year if all goes to plan. The most up to date information on the Carp Management Program can be found in the quarterly update <http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/carp-management-report-july-september-2015>.

### Low Rainfall and Lake Levels

Below average rainfall and low levels in major fisheries is looming as a significant issue. The greatest concern is for central and eastern catchments with Lake Leake, Tooms Lake and Craighourne Dam already feeling the effects of low water levels. On the Central Plateau the Great Lake is low for this time of year and water is already being syphoned from Arthurs Lake into the Upper Lake River to help maintain water levels in Woods Lake.

If this situation persists accessing these waters will become increasingly difficult and deteriorating water quality is likely. In response to the current situation IFS has stopped stocking Lake Leake and Tooms Lake and the proposed Fisheries Performance Assessment of Lake Leake will be postponed.

### Angling Licence Compliance

Over the past 3 months IFS Fisheries Officers have detected 41 offences for fishing without an angling licence or being in possession of an assembled rod, reel and line without an angling licence. Fisheries Officers intend to check at least 5,000 angling licences this year and patrol waters across the state. This increase in unlicensed angling is concerning and compliance operations will continue to focus in this area.



### **Illegal Whitebait Poaching Activities Result in a Significant Fine**

On Monday 19th October 2015 Stephen Kyle Johnson, 20 years old of Smithton was sentenced in the Burnie Magistrates Court on 12 counts of offences relating to the taking of whitebait. The offences occurred on 3 separate occasions at Deep Creek near Smithton during September last year. The defendant was fined \$4,158.00 plus ordered to pay \$78.44 in court costs after pleading guilty on Monday 5th October 2015. Deep Creek is a water that is closed at all times to the taking of whitebait, and the penalties handed down in this instance should serve as a warning to those who choose to disregard the strict regulations around the taking of whitebait. The management of the whitebait fishery is of the utmost concern to the Inland Fisheries Service, and illegal poaching activities have the potential to seriously jeopardise the ongoing sustainability of the fishery. Anyone who suspects or witnesses unlawful activity is urged to contact Stephen Hepworth Manager (Compliance and Operations) at the Inland Fisheries Service on 0438 338 530.

### **Recent Biosecurity Concerns**

A report from a concerned angler led to an investigation by Biosecurity Tasmania which has resulted in the removal of illegally import trout products from the shelves of two Coles supermarkets. Importation of fresh salmonid (trout and salmon) products is illegal and poses a risk to the States disease free status and our trout fishery. Please report any suspicious products directly to Biosecurity Tasmania <http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity/contact-us>.

### **River Derwent Spawning Trout Trap - Update**

Recent geotechnical surveys on the River Derwent at Lake King William revealed a site suitable for the construction of a fish trap. Further planning is underway aiming for post-Christmas construction.

This trap will be used to capture adult trout for stocking waters around the State. Lake King William is known for an abundance of wild trout and is considered to be overstocked due to the extensive spawning grounds within its catchment.



## Fisheries Management – Rob Freeman

### Rare Fish Found At Woods Lake

The Arthurs paragalaxias is a small native fish that once inhabited both Arthurs and Woods lakes. During the mid-1990's, numbers of this native fish within Woods Lake declined to low levels. By 1997, the fish could not be found at Woods Lake, this is despite the species remaining abundant at Arthurs Lake. A lake level agreement, with Hydro Tasmania, was developed to minimise turbidity within Woods Lake that would also hopefully assist in recovering the population. However, despite numerous surveys, the species could not be found.

During 2002 in a further attempt to recover the population, the Inland Fisheries Service began transferring small numbers of Arthurs Paragalaxias from Arthurs Lake to Woods Lake. This initially proved unsuccessful and in 2008 the number of fish transferred increased to a minimum of 500 individuals annually over a five year period. The last transfer of fish was undertaken during November 2012. Despite these efforts only two Arthurs paragalaxias were found during annual monitoring (both in Feb 2009) and these were believed to be from a transfer conducted a few months earlier.

However, during 2014, scientists from Entura undertaking a study in Woods Lake found eleven Arthurs paragalaxias over a three month period, including egg broods that had been laid under rocks. This finding instigated IFS to undertake a dedicated survey during the last week of September this year. Over two nights monitoring, 34 Arthurs paragalaxias were found from a range of sites throughout Woods Lake. Most were mature fish with females containing large numbers of well-developed eggs indicating they were close to spawning. These results are the first conclusive evidence that the species is becoming re-established after an absence of nearly twenty years.

### Legislation

Presently, the Service is updating the *Inland Fisheries (Controlled Fish) Order 2007*, this order prescribes the types of freshwater fish that may not be imported into the State, or fish a person can be in possession of at any time. This legislation is primarily focused on aquarium species and is being updated to reflect changes at a national level. The Minister is presently in the possess of approving this matter that should be ready for implementation within the next 4-6 weeks.



Potential new angling regulations for the 2016/17 season will be considered over November – December 2015. The IFS remains open to receiving ideas for changes from angling associations and individuals until the end of December.

## **Carp – Jonah Yick**

Cold weather and a reduction in carp activity over winter provided preparation time for the upcoming spring fishing season. All of the fishing gear used in the previous season was repaired and additional gill nets were constructed. This included both the gill nets used for actively fishing, as well as the kilometres of blocking gill net used to prevent carp from accessing areas of the lake, which pose a spawning risk. The 14 kilometres of barrier nets set along the wetland marshes of the lake were meticulously checked, with any tears and holes repaired, which will ensure that the net is in the best order for the spawning season (Oct-Feb).

Despite the cold windy conditions throughout Winter and early Spring, fishing effort was still maintained on a smaller scale. The tracker fish remained dispersed throughout the period from July to September, with the majority of fish sitting in the same areas for weeks at a time. Individual carp were located in deeper parts of the lake, and were mainly associated with offshore reefs. When tracker carp are dispersed, catch rates are usually low despite increasing the amount of net fishing, and the soak times. Deep-water habitats are difficult to fish as they require calm conditions to set and retrieve nets, and the movements of fish in these areas become difficult to predict in relation to set gear. Monofilament gill nets were set in a range of locations, targeting both tracker fish as well as rocky reef structures in deep water (2m +). For the July –September period 28 carp were captured, with the deeper rocky areas accounting for the majority of these fish.

October resulted in the capture of 127 carp, including 6 juveniles from the 2013 cohort, 2 current tracker fish, 1 ex-tracker fish, 11 'mirror' carp, and 11 carp with 'watery' gonads. The period between October 4<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> saw a tag-return ratio of 10: 1, with 12 tagged population-estimate fish captured. Of note is the inclusion of two new tracker fish, which have been implanted and released into the lake late in the month.

The significant increase in catch since September is attributed to warmer weather, with a small aggregation of carp at Murdock's Point being a notable event during peak temperatures in mid-October. This event resulted in the capture of over 20 carp in two days as a result of nets set around an active tracker fish. Of note was the challenge presented in capturing this tracker fish, which was trapped inside a gill net set shore to shore. It took an hour of effort using backpack shockers to drive



the fish into the gill net, showing that carp exhibit effective gear avoidance behaviour. This highlights the important of setting gillnets before undertaking backpack-shocking, as it is evident that this significantly increases the efficiency of electrofishing activities. A large female was also caught during the aggregation, which weighed in at 1.56 kg and measured 410mm in length.

Four-inch gill net continues to be the most effective gear type, however a wide range of methods have been utilised. This includes big and small fyke nets, backpack shockers, electro-boat, and box traps, which have all resulted in the capture of a small number of carp. In addition to the set-gear installed last month, new blocking nets have been set across habitats at the 'Pineapples' in Kermodes Bay, and at the south east corner of the island.

## **Anglers Access – Neil Morrow**

### **River Access**

Work is continuing on the South Esk River Anglers Access project. Negotiations with landowners are underway with, as usual, a mixed response. An assessment of potential canoe and drift boat launching and retrieval sites has been undertaken with a number of potential sites identified.

Maintenance on existing access projects has been completed on the Tyenna, Huon, Leven and Mersey rivers. Stiles have been installed on new fences at Union Bridge (Mersey) and Marshalls Bridge (Leven). A new footbridge is being manufactured for installation at Hobbs Bridge (Leven)

### **Talbots Lagoon**

Discussions with Forico (Landowner) and the owner of the water licence at Talbots Lagoon, New Plymouth District Council, in respect of future access to the lagoon for anglers are continuing.

IFS have received submissions from AAT, North West Fly Fishers Club, North West Fisheries Association and Devonport Fly Fishers Club regarding future fisheries management and regulation.

### **South Rianna Dam Progress**

Access negotiations are well underway with an MOU being finalised. Stocking of the dam with brown trout fry will be undertaken in early November to prepare this water for fishing in coming seasons.

### **Farm dam Stocking for Public Fishing**



The IFS has been implementing the new Farm Dam Stocking Policy. As a result 23 dams on 8 properties along the North West between Thirlstane in the east and West Ridgley to the west have been assessed and approved for stocking with brown trout for public fishing. Signs and stiles have been installed and dams have been stocked with advanced fry. Information on the locations of these dams, access conditions and landowner contact details is available on the IFS website under Anglers Access – Private Dams for Public Fishing. A further 4 Dams have been stocked for club activities for three separate angling clubs (Devonport Fly Fishers, Wilmot and Penguin). <http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/private-dams-for-public-fishing-north-west-region>

### **Recreational Boating Fund and Associated Projects**

MAST has installed pontoons at Jonah Bay (Arthurs Lake) and Brandum Bay (Great Lake).

IFS have installed a navigation light at Lake Crescent at the entrance to the canal. A steel post that was a navigation hazard has also been removed. The navigation lights at Large Bay and Middle Echo have been vandalised. The IFS is considering the cost of replacement and the potential of further damage. Both these ramps were closed early in the season due to illegal firewood collectors leaving large amounts of debris on the ramps. The ramps were cleared in a joint effort, coordinated by IFS and funded by Hydro Tasmania.

IFS is seeking feedback on the operation of the new launching area at Lake Rowallan – any information from anglers visiting this water would be welcome to ensure the facility is functional and to identify any additional works required.

### **Licencing and Administration – Tony Wright**

#### **2015-2016 Season**

Licence sales for the period 1 July 2015 to 31 October 2015 are 1 per cent up on the previous year with comparative sales to the 31 October 2015 of \$1,081,707 compared to \$1,073,572 for the same period last year.

As at the 31 October 2015 a total of 14,374 full season licences and 805 short term licences had been issued for the year to date. Two hundred and ten five season licences were issued for the year so far making a total of 1,877 valid five season licences being issued.



### **Inland Fisheries Service Annual Report 2014-15**

The IFS's annual report for 2014-15 was tabled in Parliament on the 27 October 2015. The report in full is now available on the IFS web site under publications <http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/publications/inland-fisheries-service-annual-report-2014-15>. The IFS completed the year with an operating surplus of \$179,290 and a comprehensive result of \$374,581 after adjustments to the value of non-financial assets.

### **Inland Fisheries Advisory Council (IFAC)**

Current member's terms expired on the 29 October 2015. Advertisements were placed in the regional papers mid-August 2015 calling for applications for appointment to IFAC. Applications closed on 23 September 2015 and a total of 14 applications were received with a further nomination received from the Women's Register. A minute has been prepared for the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, approval of appointments will be made by Cabinet.

### **Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund**

Advice has been received from the administrators of the Fund that they are applying to the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs for the reinstatement of the original trustee of the fund prior to the transfer to a new trustee of the fund. Draft documents have been provided and it is expected that this matter should be resolved in the near future.

### **Stephen Hepworth Manager (Compliance and Operations)**

#### **Compliance Statistics from 1/7/15 to 1/11/15**

- 2,060 angling licences and 216 whitebait licences inspected.
- 66 Fisheries Infringement Notices issued for 71 offences.
- 27 Infringement notices endorsed as conditional cautions issued for 28 offences.
- \$19,789 in infringement notice fines.
- Court fines and special penalties \$5,174
- One defendant received 6 months' probation and 210 hours of Community Service.
- 10 kilograms of whitebait seized.
- 9 whitebait nets seized.
- 2 graball nets seized



### Prosecutions Matters to Date

- Dion Lyell QUARRELL of Wynyard was convicted on 6/7/15 in the Burnie Magistrates Court of 1 count of take whitebait when not the holder of a whitebait licence. The defendant was fined \$616 consisting of fine and special penalty.
- Anthony Shaun ROUGHLEY of Devonport was convicted on 3/8/15 in the Devonport Magistrates Court of 1 count of possess controlled fish. The defendant was fined \$400.
- Peter Thomas ODEGAARD of Wynyard was convicted on 24/8/15 of 2 counts of threaten a public officer, assault a public officer, being a person in charge of a dog that chases another person, take whitebait without a whitebait licence, possess whitebait without a whitebait licence, failure to comply with a Ministerial order relating to the taking of whitebait, use net other than a landing net or seine net, possession of assembled rod, reel and line without an angling licence and 2 counts of breach of bail requirements. The defendant was placed on a probation order for 6 months and required to undertake 210 hours of community service.
- Stephen Kyle JOHNSON of Smithton was convicted in the Burnie Magistrates Court on 5/10/15 of 3 counts of take whitebait without a whitebait licence, 3 counts of possess whitebait without a whitebait licence, 3 counts of failure to comply with a Ministerial order relating to the taking of whitebait and 3 counts of use net other than a landing net or seine net. The defendant was fined \$4,158 and \$78.44 in court costs.
- Two defendants are to appear in the Burnie Magistrates Court for whitebait related offences totalling 43 charges including offences against officers.

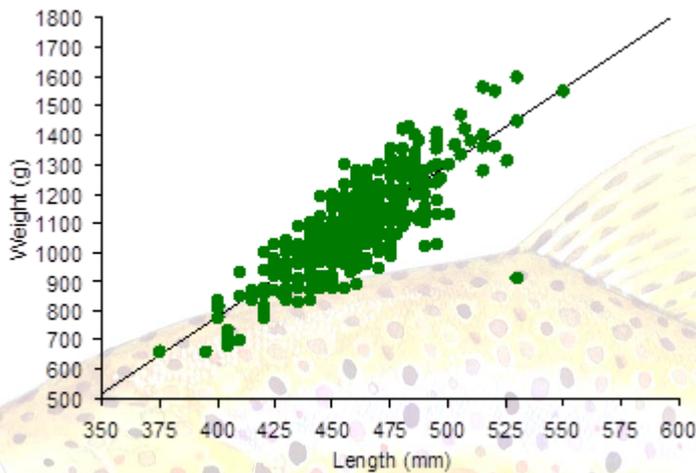
### **Hatchery and Stocking – Brett Mawbey**

#### **Great Lake Rainbow Trout Spawning Run 2015**

During the period of September to October 2015, a total of 540 rainbow trout entered the fish trap at Liawenee Canal. A total of 439 rainbow trout were weighed and measured before being moved to the dedicated spawning areas within the long and zig zag channels at Liawenee. 133 females and 94 males were placed into the long channel and 97 female and 46 male were placed into the Zig Zag channel. Of the 439 rainbows weighed and measured, 200 were females and 239 were males. The average weights, lengths and condition factor are shown in the table below, with the length/weight data plotted in the graph also.



	Length (mm)	Weight (grams)	Condition Factor
Average	459	1084	1.12
Minimum	375	660	0.61
Maximum	550	1600	1.38
Count	439	439	439



**Figure:** Length and weight data for rainbow trout, Liawenee Canal, Great Lake 2015.

The average weight and length were up on last year's data, however by comparison, there were very few young fish in the run.

The number of rainbow trout within the spawning run at Liawenee was lower than expected although, with the Great Lake being at a low level, there were good areas downstream within the canal available for spawning.

The Sandbanks Creek trap didn't perform as hoped during the rainbow trout run. Lack of flow limited fish entering the creek and therefore the trap. As a result, only 19 fish in total were weighed and measured and let go above the trap to naturally spawn. Average weight for Sandbanks Creek trap was 1000 grams, length 446mm with a condition factor of 1.12

The focus is on natural spawning to boost rainbow recruitment in the Great Lake.

Domestic rainbow stock is being sourced from three commercial hatcheries, Springfield Fisheries, Millbrook Fishery and Petuna Fisheries at Cressy. Rainbow trout from these hatcheries will be used to fulfill the recreational rainbow trout fishery stocking requirements identified in the 2015-16 stocking plan. Rainbow trout sourced from Petuna Fisheries can only be stocked into waters that



already contain Redfin perch and tench, due to the preexisting contamination at the Cressy farm. The sites at Springfield and Millibrook are free of redfin perch contamination; therefore rainbow trout sourced from these two sites will be transferred to rainbow waters free of pest fish to fulfil the recreational rainbow trout stocking plan.

The 100,000 brown trout fry around 1g currently being held at the Salmon Ponds are doing well. These fish are to be used to stock the Pioneer Lake in the North East and the new irrigation dam at South Riana.

#### Waters to be stocked with rainbow trout from commercial hatcheries 2015-16

water	species	number	age	stock	type	notes
Barrington	rainbow	<2000	adults	domestic	triploid	
Big Waterhouse	rainbow	5,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Blackmans	rainbow	5,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Brushy	rainbow	20,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Craigbourne	rainbow	10,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Curries	rainbow	10,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Dulverton	rainbow	5,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Four Springs	rainbow	20,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	or 50,000 fry
Dee	rainbow	40,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Guide	rainbow	5,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Frombergs	rainbow	1,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Lauriston	rainbow	3,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Little Waterhouse	rainbow	3,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Mikany	rainbow	2,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Penstock	rainbow	20,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	or 50,000 fry
Pet	rainbow	2,000	fingerling	domestic	diploid	
Rossarden	rainbow	2,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Rostrevor Dam	rainbow	2,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Lamberts	rainbow	2,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Taylors	rainbow	1,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Farm Dams	rainbow	20,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
Mitchelsons	rainbow	1,000	fingerling	domestic	triploid	
<b>Total</b>		<b>171,000</b>				



## Stocking of waters 5 August 2015 to 20 October 2015

Water	Date	Species	Stock	Number	Origin	type	Weight (g)
Taylor's Dam Latrobe	5-Aug-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	150	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	3000.00
Craigbourne Dam	5-Aug-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	180	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	3000.00
Craigbourne Dam	6-Aug-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	200	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	3000.00
Brushy Lagoon	6-Aug-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	200	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	3000.00
Blackmans Lagoon	13-Aug-15	brown trout	Wild	1,000	Salmon Ponds	Diploid	80.00
Little Waterhouse	13-Aug-15	brown trout	Wild	200	Salmon Ponds	Diploid	80.00
Big Waterhouse	13-Aug-15	brown trout	Wild	300	Salmon Ponds	Diploid	80.00
Dulverton	18-Aug-15	brown trout	Wild	150	Hydro Creek	Diploid	300.00
Brushy Lagoon	25-Aug-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	200	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	4000.00
Craigbourne Dam	25-Aug-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	100	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	4000.00
Bushy Park - New Norfolk Anglers	10-Sep-15	rainbow trout	Domestic	100	Salmon Ponds	triploid	300.00
Risdon Brook Dam	14-Sep-15	rainbow trout	Domestic	300	Salmon Ponds	triploid	300.00
Craigbourne Dam	9-Oct-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	150	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	6000.00
Brushy Lagoon	12-Oct-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	200	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	4000.00
Dee Lagoon	12-Oct-15	rainbow trout	Domestic	1,000	Petuna Aquaculture	triploid	500.00
Brushy Lagoon	13-Oct-15	rainbow trout	Domestic	1,000	Petuna Aquaculture	triploid	500.00
Craigbourne Dam	13-Oct-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	500	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	1000.00
Craigbourne Dam	13-Oct-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	100	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	6000.00
Rostrevor Lagoon	14-Oct-15	brown trout	Wild	10,000	Salmon Ponds	Diploid	0.50
Big Lagoon (Bruny Is)	15-Oct-15	brown trout	Wild	15,000	Salmon Ponds	Diploid	0.50
Pioneer Mine hole	15-Oct-15	rainbow trout	Domestic	60	Springfield Fisheries	triploid	3000.00
Pioneer Mine hole	15-Oct-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	30	Springfield Fisheries	Diploid	4000.00
Brushy Lagoon	20-Oct-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	200	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	3000.00
Craigbourne Dam	20-Oct-15	Atlantic salmon	Domestic	150	Petuna Aquaculture	Diploid	3000.00

## Club Events, Meetings and Dinners

AAT Meeting - 19 July

Bridgewater Anglers AGM - 24 July

TGALT AGM - 25 July

Devonport Angling Club juvenile angler presentations - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Westbury Angling Club AGM - 8 August

Ulverstone Angling Club dinner – 15 August

Wilmot Angling Club meeting – 4 September

Southern Highlands Progress Association - 12 September

Devonport Anglers Club junior day Taylor's dam – 13 September

AAT Junior Angling Day - 11 October

Longford Primary fishing day – 13 October

Corra Linn Fly Fishers and Casting club – 13 October

Parklands High School at the Pet Dam - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Fly Fishers of Tasmania – 4 November