

Inland Fisheries Service

Proposals for the Tasmanian Inland Recreational
Fishery Management Plan 2018 – 28



Purpose of this document

It is our vision to have sustainable, vibrant and healthy inland fisheries that are the envy of Australia and the world.

The *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28 (2018-28 Plan)* will be a guiding document for the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) in managing the recreational trout fishery. It will outline measures to support the sustainability of fisheries and encourage participation. The 2018-28 Plan will also seek to balance the needs for individual fishery management while looking to group like fisheries and simplify regulations.

For the last ten years, the Inland Fisheries Service has managed the fishery under the guidance of the *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2008-2018 (2008-18 Plan)*.

Since the *2008–18 Plan* was adopted, we have made some amendments to its policies and regulations in response to changes in the fishery and requests from anglers and other stakeholders. These are outlined in this document.

We have outlined the further changes we are recommending in this document. This is your opportunity to comment on these or make your own suggestions.

Please email us at infish@ifs.tas.gov.au by 16 June 2017.

You will have another opportunity to make written comment, or attend a public meeting, when we release the *Draft 2018-28 Plan* later this year.

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Proposals

Fishery types

To assist in developing regulations and stocking plans the fishery has been defined by three management classes. Uniform regulations and policies will be applied to an entire management class where possible. There will be some exceptions where specific regulations are needed to manage an individual water to ensure its sustainability and performance.

- Assisted
 - fishery may be subject to variable or no natural recruitment
 - a daily bag limit of zero (0) to five (5) fish
- Wild and naturally recruiting (e.g. Arthurs Lake and Lake St. Clair)
 - a daily bag limit of 12 fish
- Wild and over-populated (e.g. Lake Pedder and Huntsman Lake)
 - a daily bag limit of 20 fish

Proposed changes

River fisheries

River fisheries continue to be affected by a range of climatic and environmental factors (i.e. drought, floods, and cormorant predation). The frequency and severity of these events, and their negative influence on the trout population appears to be increasing.

While many of these events are outside of our control, we think it is important to address the health of trout populations in rivers. Regulation change is the best way we can respond quickly to these factors and assist the sustainability of these fisheries.

The current *2008-18 Plan* reduced the bag limit from 12 to five (5) fish per day for rivers identified as being under stress, namely the Break O'Day, Coal, Flowerdale, Little Swanport, Macquarie, Rubicon, and South Esk rivers and the River Clyde.

It has been identified that the effectiveness of the open-all year section of the River Leven is limited by poor access. It is proposed to open a more accessible river in the same region.

In the new *Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2018-28* we are proposing:

- A bag limit of five (5) fish per day for all rivers.
- The “all year” river section in the north west region to be changed from the lower section of the River Leven to the lower section of the Mersey River.

Lakes and lagoons

Many smaller fisheries are exposed to high angling pressure which can lead to poor fisheries performance.

The historical minimum size of 220mm has no basis in relation to the life cycle of trout when applied to lakes and lagoons, typically they reach maturity at a greater size.

Waters with limited recruitment often have smaller populations and better growth rates and they have the potential for producing larger trout. Limiting the take of these larger fish shares the resource between anglers and improves the performance of the fishery.

Penstock Lagoon is a fishery that has undergone periods of high angling pressure and has virtually no natural recruitment, making the fishery totally reliant on stocking. The on-going popularity of this very small lagoon presents a challenge in managing the fishery sustainably and maximising its performance. Introducing an upper size limit will let more fish reach their full size potential and improve the chance for anglers to catch a trophy fish. More information about Penstock Lagoon can be found below.

In the *2018-28 Plan* we are proposing:

- Penstock, Camerons and Bruisers lagoons having
 - a two (2) fish bag limit
 - a minimum size of 400mm
 - only one (1) fish to be taken over 500mm.
- Raising the minimum size limit in lake/lagoon fisheries from 220mm to 300mm, including the Western Lakes.
- A five (5) fish daily bag limit for Atlantic salmon anywhere in Tasmania.
- Only two (2) fish to be taken over 500mm where there is a five (5) fish bag limit.
- The junior angling ponds (Bushy Park Dam, Frombergs Dam, Lake Waverley, Taylors Dam and Hiscutt Park Dam) to be recognised and regulated.
- Junior angling ponds to have a one (1) fish daily bag limit.

Stocking policy

The IFS used to grow brown trout at the New Norfolk hatchery for the fisheries that needed stocking. We tried stocking with different combinations of fish sizes, as well as triploid fish, all with limited success. In some years few or no fish reached the minimum size. Because of the unreliable performance of fisheries when they were stocked with hatchery grown fish, we changed our approach.

We moved to stocking with wild adult brown trout. New traps were built at Sandbanks (yingina/Great Lake), Scotch Bobs and Tumbledown creeks (Arthurs Lake) and the River Derwent (Lake King William). These were additional to the existing traps at Liawenee Canal (yingina/Great Lake), Hydro Creek (Arthurs Lake) and Mountain Creek (Lake Sorell). When all traps are combined they have the potential to provide over 50 000 adult brown trout for the recreational fishery.

In the *2008 – 18 Plan* we intended to harvest rainbow trout ova from the Central Highlands area. Concerns about the impact of this on the yingina/Great Lake rainbow trout fishery lead to in a change to this policy. This means that yingina/Great Lake is no longer a source of rainbow trout ova for the State's fisheries. The lake is no longer stocked and the rainbow trout population is supported with improved spawning areas. Other lakes, including Penstock and Dee lagoons, are now stocked with domestic rainbow trout from commercial hatcheries.

In the *2018-28 Plan* we are proposing:

- Fisheries that rely on stocking of brown trout will be mainly stocked with adult transfers from Central Highland spawning runs.
 - The exception will be some smaller fisheries where juvenile brown trout, produced at the Salmon Ponds, will be used. (eg. Big Lagoon on Bruny Island, Rostrevor Lagoon and the Waterhouse Lakes (Blackmans Lagoon and Big and Little Waterhouse lakes).
- Fisheries that rely on stocking of rainbow trout will be mainly stocked from commercial hatcheries.
- The stocking of brown and rainbow trout will not be routinely undertaken in rivers.
- Stocking of brook trout will be restricted to lake's Plimsoll, Rolleston and Selina.
 - Clarence Lagoon will only be stocked if natural recruitment fails.
- The stocking of Atlantic salmon will vary, subject to supply from commercial hatcheries.
 - Priority waters will be Brushy Lagoon, Craighourne Dam, Lake Barrington, Lake Kara, Meadowbank Lake, Pioneer Lake and junior angling dams.
- All stocking will follow the IFS Translocation Policy to reduce the risk of unwanted species spreading.

From the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council

The Inland Fisheries Advisory Council is aware about the potential to extend “all year” waters to two additional locations:

- Four Springs Lake
- the River Derwent up to the Meadowbank Dam.

The additional “all year” round waters have been identified as potential “all year” waters due to their proximity to population centres.

Issues that need to be considered include:

- Angling pressure.
- Impact on fish quality.
- Impact to stocking numbers.
- Access to the fishery.
- May require catch and release regulations.
- Possible changes to the minimum and maximum size limits.

The IFS will use any suggestions provided by you on extending “all year” waters to these two (2) locations to inform the development of the *Draft 2018-28 Plan*.

Existing all year waters

It is important to note that there are a number of rivers and lakes in Tasmania that currently provide anglers with access to “all year” waters, which include:

- Brushy Lagoon
- Craighourne Dam
- yingina/Great Lake other than Canal Bay
- Huntsman Lake
- Huon River **DOWNSTREAM** of the Huonville Bridge
- Lake Barrington
- Lake Burbury
- Lake Meadowbank
- Lake Pedder
- Lake King William
- North Esk River and kanamaluka/River Tamar **DOWNSTREAM** of the Lower Charles Street Bridge
- Pioneer Lake
- River Derwent **DOWNSTREAM** of the Bridgewater Bridge
- River Leven **DOWNSTREAM** of the Allison Bridge
- South Esk River **DOWNSTREAM** of the West Tamar Road Bridge

Regulatory changes during the 2008-18 Plan

Since the *2008–18 Plan* was released there have been changes to policies and regulations that were not in that Plan. These changes will be written into the 2018-28 Plan. They are:

- Reduction of the bag limit to five (5) fish per angler per day with a minimum size of 300mm and no more than two (2) fish over 500mm.
 - This bag limit has been implemented at Big Waterhouse Lake, Blackmans Lagoon, Bradys Lake, Brushy Lagoon, Craighourne Dam, Curries River Reservoir, Dee Lagoon, Four Springs Lake, Lake Barrington, Lake Binney, Lake Crescent, Lake Kara, Lake Leake, Little Waterhouse Lake, Tooms Lake, Meadowbank Lake, Pioneer Lake, South Riana Dam, Talbots Lagoon and Tungatinah Lagoon.
- Five (5) fish daily bag limit with a minimum size of 300mm but no maximum size limit set at a number of lake fisheries: Lake Kay, Guide Reservoir, Pet Reservoir, Lake Ada and Lake Augusta.
- Change of angling times at some fisheries to enable fishing from one hour to three hours after sunset.
- Huntsman Lake, Lake King William and Pioneer Lake added as “all year” waters.
- Lake Gordon reverted to the brown trout season from an “all year” water.
- The Mersey River above Lake Rowallan changed to the rainbow trout season.

More information about Penstock Lagoon

It is estimated that 3 323 anglers fished Penstock lagoon during the 2015-16 season (Angler Postal Survey result) making it the fourth most popular fishery after yingina/Great Lake (6 211), Arthurs Lake (5 369), and Woods Lake (3 868). This is significant given the small size of Penstock Lagoon given that it has a surface area of 1.3km². At full supply level yingina/Great Lake has 135 times, Arthurs Lake 49.68 times and Woods Lake approximately 10 times the surface area of Penstock Lagoon.

Mark and recapture surveys in 2014 and 2016 estimated a brown trout population of 6 400 and 14 000 respectively. The survey shows that the population is small and variable.

At the moment Penstock Lagoon has a three (3) fish bag limit. Catch and release is common but the high number of anglers plus the bag limit of three (3) fish still has the potential to deplete the trout population. In 2016, our survey showed there were few fish larger than 500mm and no fish bigger than 600mm. The use of tighter regulation around bag limits is seen as the best way to keep this fishery sustainable.

The goal for this fishery is to produce large brown and rainbow trout at moderate catch rates (approximately 1 – 1.5 fish per angler per day).

Appendix: Regulations applying to waters including existing rules and proposed changes

The general rule for all lakes and lagoons, unless listed below, will be

- 12 fish bag limit with a 300mm minimum size

Waters with a five (5) fish bag limit and a 300mm minimum size with only 2 fish over 500mm

- Big Lagoon (Bruny Island) (was 12 fish)
- Big Waterhouse Lake
- Blackmans Lagoon
- Bradys Lake
- Brushy Lagoon
- Craighourne Dam
- Curries River Reservoir
- Dee Lagoon
- Four Springs Lake
- Guide Reservoir
- Gunns Lake (was 12 fish)
- Lake Barrington
- Lake Binney
- Lake Crescent
- Lake Dulverton (was 12 fish)
- Lake Duncan (was 12 fish)
- Lake Isandula (was 12 fish)
- Lake Kara
- Lauriston Reservoir (was 12 fish)
- Lake Leake
- Lake Lynch (was 12 fish)
- Lake Mackenzie
- Lake Mikany (was 12 fish)
- Lake Plimsoll
- Lake Rolleston
- Lake Selina
- Lake Skinner (was 12 fish)
- Lamberts Dam (was 12 fish)
- Little Lake (was 12 fish)
- Little Pine Lagoon
- Little Waterhouse
- Meadowbank Lake
- Pet Reservoir
- Pioneer Lake
- Risdon Brook Dam
- Rossarden Dam (was 12 fish)
- Rostrevor Reservoir (was 12 fish)
- South Riana Dam
- St. Clair Lagoon (was 12 fish)
- Talbots Lagoon
- Tooms Lake
- Tungatinah Lagoon
- All other waters within Western Lakes (except those listed on the next page)
- Woods Lake

Western Lakes where bag limits are less than five (5) fish (specific size limits apply)

- Carter Lakes
- Double Lagoon
- East Rocky Lagoon
- Emma Tarns
- First Lagoon
- Howes Bay Lagoon
- Lake Botsford
- Lake Chipman
- Lake Dudley
- Lake Flora
- Lake Paget
- O'Dells Lake
- Rocky Lagoon
- Sandy Lake
- Second Lagoon
- Talinah Lagoon
- Third Lagoon
- Tin Hut Lake

Waters with a 20 fish bag limit and a 300mm min size

- Lake Burbury
- Lake King William
- Lake Pedder
- Lake Gordon
- Huntsman Lake

Junior angling ponds with a one (1) fish bag limit

- Bushy Park Dam
- Frombergs Dam
- Lake Waverley
- Taylors Dam
- Hiscutt Park Dam

Waters with a two (2) fish bag limit and a 400mm min size with one (1) fish only over 500mm

- Bruisers Lagoon (was 220mm)
- Camerons Lagoon (was 220mm)
- Penstock Lagoon (was 3 fish, 420mm)

Approval/Review and Version Control

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