



Gaden Trout Hatchery - Tri Annual Report

Completion of fry releases

September 2018 to December 2018

Climatic Conditions

During the initial snow melt in spring, fine algae was very noticeable in the water which resulted in additional cleaning of ova trays, trough and tank screens in the hatching room.

143.2mm rain received since October with a constant flow in the Thredbo River from snow melt throughout October and November. Unfortunately the large quantities of algae also blocked discharge screens to the large ponds even with cooler spring water temperatures. Hopefully there will be no ill effect once water temperature increase in summer as DO2 levels may be reduced.

Infrastructure

As a result of continuing algae concerns, quotes have been requested for power supply to external ponds and purchase of additional aerators.

The proposal to have a shared trail bridge within the hatchery grounds has progressed with design concepts and geotechnical assessments of proposed bridge piers being complete. In the near future, this may result in restriction of access to the picnic area and redirection of both vehicle and foot traffic through the Gaden site. It is anticipated there will be minimal disruption to normal hatchery operations however public visitation is likely to be impeded.

Poplar tree removal is planned in the picnic area adjacent to the caged area and near the bridge abutment.

Repairs to a water supply line and replacement of damaged valve is also intended for April 2019. Water will be required to be terminated to the entire site to enable the maintenance work. This will occur immediately following releases of the larger lake Jindabyne tagged fingerlings, any remaining surplus fingerlings and prior to harvest of captive brood stock when production commences for next stocking year in May 2019.

Fish Stocking

Egg picking has been completed for all species, with fertility excellent (93% brown trout and 88% rainbow trout). Fry are now contained in circulars and raceways in the caged area in addition to the hatching room tanks. EHNv samples taken and submitted on 29 October 2019 to University of Sydney, infectious disease laboratory. Negative results were obtained shortly thereafter enabling the stocking season to commence.

CSDAC 28,500 brown trout fry were collected by branches at Goulburn on 24 November 2018. As mentioned in previous correspondence, Dutton Hatchery provided rainbow trout fry for CSDAC branches.

MAS branches collected 87,300 brown fry and 177,000 rainbow fry from the Gaden hatchery and with exception of the Cabramurra branch, were stocked by 9 December as requested. Other stockings were undertaken by Gaden Hatchery staff and that information can be found at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/stocking>

Tagging of rainbows to occur in early January for Lake Jindabyne and Eucumbene.

Delegates from MAS, OTAS, CSDAC and CAS branches will be contacted shortly in relation to proposed dates (mid December until Easter) for liberation of fingerlings into streams and impoundments in those areas.

Atlantic Salmon

Atlantic Salmon	
Age	Number
Fingerlings	2000 Future brood stock/Khancoban pondage fingerlings
1+	400
2+	200
3+	90
4+	45
5+	20

Surplus to stocking and brood stock requirement Atlantic fingerlings were be disposed of in early December.

50,000 fry were stocked into Khancoban pondage and 10,000 fingerlings will shortly be stocked into into Lake Jindabyne.

Brook Trout

Brook Trout	
Age	Number
Fingerlings	5000 Future brood stock / three mile dam fingerlings
1+	200
2+	30

10,000 brook trout fingerlings were released into Lake Jindabyne, 2,000 fry into Dry Dam and 5,000 fry into Three Mile dam. Denison College were supplied with 1100 fingerlings for the aquaculture program. Revenue of \$685.00

Requests for brook trout fry/fingerlings for sale to stock private dams has been strong. To date 1200 fingerlings have been sold. Revenue \$1000

Rainbow Trout

20,000 fry were held heat controlled tanks for the lake Jindabyne tagging program. These fish will be kept separate until stocking occurs in April.

Lake Eucumbene sourced fry have also be retained and kept separate for stocking into Lake Jindabyne and genetic diversity of future captive brood stock/fishing clinic fish. Fertility of Eucumbene sourced fish – 85%

Rainbow Trout	
Age	Number
Fry/Fingerlings estimate	530,000
fingerlings	2000
1+	650
2+	200
3+ female	135

Brown Trout

Due to success of ova development and likelihood of sufficient numbers for proposed stockings with normal mortality events, a further 32,000 eyed ova (last in production system) were transferred to Dutton hatchery for liberation between NETAS branches.

Brown Trout	
Age	Number
Fry/Fingerlings estimate	190,000 50
1+	

Tourist Centre – Events – Revenue

The site was closed to the public on the 1st December due to significant road closure as a result of the Le Tape cycle race in the snowy mountains. MAS branches were unable to collect fry on this day and tourists unable to attend the hatchery for guided tours.

NSW Gone fishing day proposed for 14 October 2018 in Queanbeyan. Gaden staff will provide 50 adult rainbow trout for stocking at that site.

Two children's fishing clinic to be held at Gaden in NSW School holidays 5-6 October 2018. An additional 2 clinic will be held in January 2019.

Footage was also obtained by a channel 10 production to increase tourism of the snowy mountains and associated attractions such as Gaden Hatchery.

Many potential vendors/contractors have been on site on most days relating to the shared trail bridge project.

NSW DPI Animal Care and Ethics branch attended the site in November to inspect display animals and associated administrative requirements relating to the Exhibited Animals license.

Local RFS have been consulted in relation to site bushfire assessment and emergency evacuation procedures.

Several staff have undertaken training courses in relation to 1st aid, chemical application, safe 4wd and ethical standards and conduct.

Gaden Visitation Records

Sept. 311

Oct. 631

Nov. 334

Dec. 73 (as of
the 9th)

Gaden Revenue Records

Sept. \$1915

Oct. \$3841

Nov. \$1926

Dec. \$487
(as of the 9th)

Smoked trout
62 - \$930

Meg Williams (tour guide) will be finishing up at Gaden in January 2019. We wish Meg all the best in the future.