

Gaden Trout Hatchery - Tri Annual Report

Completion of Fingerling Releases

January 2019 to May 2019

Climatic Conditions

A hot and dry summer was seen here at Gaden, with river temperatures reaching 28.5 °C for several days over the Australia Day long weekend. Rainfall for January-April was 177mm, which was well below average. The Thredbo River ran very low over this period (lowest .234m), with only one minor flood experienced in late March. There was a few frosts seen in late April, with the river level and temperature remaining relatively low.

Infrastructure

Power supply to earthen ponds has been completed as well as 4 extra pond aerators have been purchased to combat low oxygen levels and algal blooms in the summer periods.

The shared trail between Thredbo and the Gaden hatchery has been completed, 22 poplar trees in the picnic area have been removed due to safety concerns and to make way for the trail bridge. The bridge that connects the trail to the Gaden hatchery picnic area was started in late March. The bridge is reported to be open for use by June. A portion of the picnic area is fenced off to the public so bridge works can be completed. Anglers can get to the Thredbo River through a marked off area within the hatchery grounds.

Gaden staff have been busy setting up a recirculating aquaculture system inside the hatching room. These systems are temperature controlled and assist staff in producing larger fingerlings. It will also be used to protect broodstock from heat stress in those hot summer periods.

A new concrete slab has been poured adjacent to the hatching room. The slab will allow staff to utilize spare grow out tanks which would otherwise be in storage due to a lack of space inside the hatching room.

Fish Stocking

Due to the extreme weather conditions, emergency fish releases for Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene were completed over the Australia Day long weekend. A portion of these fish would usually be tagged, but the weather conditions prevented this for Lake Eucumbene, however a small portion of Jindabyne's rainbow trout were tagged successfully. We saw large scale fish kills over this time, with an estimated 20-30,000 fish lost. We have put extra measures in place to minimise mortalities in the future. A fish kill report has been compiled by DPI staff and is attached in the email.

The staff at Gaden have used heated water and altered feeding regimes to successfully grow out larger rainbow trout fingerlings. These fish which were around 30 grams, were tagged and released into Lake Jindabyne in Early April.



A 15cm, 30 gram Rainbow trout fingerling

Approximately 600 1+ year old Rainbow trout and 100 1+ year old Atlantic salmon was externally tagged and released into Khancoban Pondage in mid April. DPI is developing longer term stocking strategies for waters where they can be successful. If a tagged fish is caught, the catch should be reported to DPI.



An example of a tagged Atlantic Salmon which is destined for Khancoban Pondage

All fingerling allocations were completed by early May 2019. A big thankyou to all the fishing clubs and acclimatisation societies that assisted us in these releases. The help we receive over the stocking period is invaluable and we thank you for giving up your time every year!

All stocking information can be found on the DPI website
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/stocking>

Atlantic Salmon

| Atlantic Salmon | |
|-----------------|--|
| Age | Number |
| Fingerlings | 2000 Future brood stock/Khancoban pondage fingerlings |
| 1+ | 300 |
| 2+ | 200 |
| 3+ | 90 |
| 4+ | 45 |
| 5+ | 20 |

Surplus to stocking and brood stock requirement Atlantic salmon fingerlings will be disposed of in early May into Lake Jindabyne.

Brook Trout

All Brook Trout at Gaden suffered heat stress over the January long weekend. We had a total mortality event across all year classes. DPI have started work on acquiring more broodstock from the Snowy region, and are committed to fulfil future brook trout stocking allocations.

| Brook Trout | |
|-------------|--------|
| Age | Number |
| Fingerlings | 0 |
| 1+ | 0 |
| 2+ | 0 |

Rainbow Trout

| Rainbow Trout | |
|---------------|--------|
| Age | Number |
| fingerlings | 3000 |
| 1+ | 400 |

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| 2+ | 200 |
| 3+ female | 135 |

Brown Trout

Excess Brown trout numbers will be sent to Dutton Trout Hatchery and NETAS to stock in the New England region due to no fish being stocked over the dry period last year. Gaden hatchery will try and hold extra fingerlings back this year to add to on site broodstock numbers.

| Brown Trout | |
|-------------|--------|
| Age | Number |
| Fingerlings | 300 |
| 1+ | 20 |

Tourist Centre – Events – Revenue

Meg Williams finished up as Tour Guide in early January, with Taylor McKinney being causally employed to fill this role from the 27th March. We wish Taylor well in her new role.

DPI researchers, management and staff held an open day on the 10th of April 2019. This was an opportunity for stakeholders to meet DPI staff and hear about new and ongoing research, hatchery enhancements, stocking and management strategies. A big thankyou to all those who could attend.

Visitation to the site has been steady over summer with a heavy influx of tourists visiting over the Easter school Holidays. The Hatchery was closed ANZAC Day.

Gaden Visitation Records

December: 88 adults, 11 kids, 20 families, 23 concessions, 201 self-guides, 4 tour groups

January: 94 adults, 30 kids, 40 families, 20 concessions, 159 self-guides, 1 tour group

February: 20 adults, 2 kids, 2 families, 23 concessions, 35 self-guides, 5 tour groups

March: 50 adults, 8 kids, 5 families, 31 concessions, 83 self-guides, 7 tour groups

April: 121 adults, 27 kids, 57 families, 78 concessions, 217 self-guides, 4 tour groups

Gaden Revenue Records

December. \$2789.00

January. \$3305.00

February. \$1666.00

March. \$2603.00

April. \$7301.00

Smoked Trout

\$2385.00

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development, 2019. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner. Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2019). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser. Published by the Department of Primary Industries.