



Gaden Trout Hatchery - Tri Annual Report

Completion of Fingerling Releases

January 2020 to April 2020

Climatic Conditions

A hot and dry summer was seen here at the Gaden Hatchery, with river temperatures reaching above 29°C, something which hasn't been seen by our staff before. Rainfall for January-April was 272ml, about 100ml more than this period last year. The Thredbo River ran very low over this period (lowest .217m), with very few minor floods experienced. Fires in the area were prevalent over early January, but luckily the Hatchery was not affected.

Infrastructure

Formwork for a concrete slab adjacent to the Hatching room has been set up and hopefully be completed in the coming months. This slab will house tanks which will add extra water holding capacity to the site.

Staff have purchased a second Heater/Chiller Recirculating Aquaculture System to complement the one already in operation in the hatching shed. These RAS systems help combat warm weather and allow staff to grow out fish destined for Redfin waters. They are a huge asset to the Gaden Trout Hatchery.

Council has finished a path from the TVT bike bridge in the Gaden picnic area to the toilet block for riders and walkers. New fencing has had to be erected at the pond boundary to make room for the mountain bike bridge and track through the hatchery grounds.

Fish Stocking

Due to the extreme weather conditions, emergency fish releases for Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene were completed in early January. A portion of these fish would usually be tagged, but the weather conditions prevented this for Lake Eucumbene, however a portion of Jindabyne's rainbow trout will be completed in the coming months. Due to the measures put in place after a terrible 2019 summer, we can happily report that mortalities were kept at a minimum over summer this year. The staff have worked tirelessly over this period keeping aerators running, putting in extra shade cloths over ponds where needed and managing very low inflows to our ponds and raceways. Great work staff!

Due to extreme heat, drought, fires and Covid-19, the stocking season was turned on its head. Fire affected impoundments in the snowy region did not receive their allocations (due to road closures) and some impoundments and areas were severely affected by drought conditions and fish were not released.

All available fingerling allocations were completed by early April 2019 (besides 20,000 Rainbow Trout for Lake Jindabyne which will be tagged and released at a later date). 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	700 Future brood stock/Khancoban pondage fingerlings
1+	150
2+	150
3+	50
4+	25
5+	20

Surplus to stocking and brood stock requirement Atlantic fingerlings were disposed of in late March into Lake Jindabyne.

Brook Trout

After last year's complete mortality of Gaden Brook trout broodstock, I am happy to report we have been gifted some broodstock for this year's breeding season. Denison College in Bathurst have been purchasing brook trout over the past few years for their agricultural studies, and gifted us 100 breeders! A huge thankyou to Patrick and the staff at Denison for helping maintain brook trout stocks in NSW!

Brook Trout	
Age	Number
Fingerlings	0
1+	100
2+	4

Rainbow Trout

Due to a decision by the SLSWG, Gaden will be obtaining all ova from their captive broodstock this season. The decision was made to give the Thredbo River a break from Rainbow Trout collection and let natural spawning occur. All monitoring and research priorities will still be fulfilled.

If required, Dutton Hatchery will fulfil fry stockings for CSDAC in the 2020-21 stocking season

Rainbow Trout	
Age	Number
fingerlings	6000
1+	1200
2+	800
3+ female	135
4+ female	5

Brown Trout

Brown Trout	
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Age	Number
Fingerlings	500
1+	40

Tourist Centre – Events – Revenue

Due to days of extreme heat, bush fire threats and covid-19, the Tourist Centre has been closed for a large portion of the summer period. The kids fishing clinic for March had to be postponed to a later date, and LJH tours were unfortunately cancelled.

Tourist Centre Takings June 2019- current

Item	No.	Total
Smoked Trout	311	\$4665.00
Caps	9	\$225.00
Lures	4	\$60.00
Stubby Holders	19	\$190.00
Drinks	203	\$609.00
Fish Food	1110	\$2220.00
Tours	2626 people/groups	\$18585.00
		\$26554.00

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