

Penstock Lagoon Recreational Plan Progress Report *June 2007*

The Penstock Lagoon Recreational Plan is now being implemented.

On Saturday 9 of June twelve volunteers attended a working bee to implement sections of the Recreational Plan with representatives from Hydro Tasmania, Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) and Angling Alliance Tasmania. The day involved identifying access tracks to be closed and tracks to be upgraded, installing markers for the boating channel, erecting signage for angler access along the eastern shore of the lagoon and marking out camping grounds.

Following up on Thursday 14 June, Phil Potter from Inland Fisheries, Michael Bidwell from Hydro Tasmania and Mr Robert Browning worked on-site with a machine operator to grade the tracks and spread gravel. The day also involved the grading and maintenance of the boat ramp at the camp ground.

The erection of signage for the site was undertaken on Monday 25 June. Signage includes Welcome signs, direction to the campgrounds, the day use area, and boating safety. New Inland Fisheries interpretative signs will be installed later.

There still remains some concern around aspects of the plan. These include the opening of the boat ramp at the northern end of the canal and boat use and motor size.

Much discussion has been held between IFS, Hydro Tasmania and Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) on the opening of the canal boat ramp. It was identified that the closure of this boat ramp, due to environmental and other concerns, has decreased the usage of boats on the lagoon, particularly the use of large boats with big motors. It has therefore been concluded that the canal boat ramp will remain closed.

The issue of boat and motor size has also been discussed with many anglers, angling clubs and the major government agencies (IFS, MAST and Hydro Tasmania). Debate on boating and motor size has focused on the issue of policing and the need to understand that large boats driven responsibly and within the prescribed speed limit may do less damage than small boats with small motors operated incorrectly.

Discussions have concluded that information and education on appropriate boat operation be provided and a monitoring and evaluation program be developed to identify the best way forward on managing motor boats on the lagoon. There has been general agreement between all those who have

been involved in the discussions that monitoring will provide data that will enable a decision to be made on appropriate management of motor boats.

For more information regarding the implementation of the Penstock Recreational Management Plan please ring Michael Bidwell on 6230 5160.