

Native Fish Management

The climbing galaxias (*Galaxias brevipinnis*), the spotted galaxias (*Galaxias truttaceus*), and the Western paragalaxias (*Paragalaxias julianus*) have populations in the Little Pine River system. Whilst the galaxias species are likely to occur in low numbers in Little Pine Lagoon the paragalaxias has not been recorded here.

Pest Fish Management

Anglers can help reduce the spread of pests in Tasmanian waterways by not transferring fish between waters. Offences may incur penalties up to \$10,000.

Recreational Use

Public foot access extends around the perimeter of the Lagoon.

Camping is restricted to the designated area. Little Pine Lagoon Public Reserve is managed by Parks and Wildlife Service.

Campers should observe the following:

- Campfires prohibited. Fuel stoves only.
- Dogs must be kept under control at all times.
- This is a self-registration camping area. Fees apply.

Access Rules

- Keep to formed tracks.
- Do not litter.
- Stay within Reserve.
- Shooting is prohibited.
- Camping only in designated area.
- Fuel stove only area - no open fires.

Getting There

Little Pine Lagoon is situated approx 10Km west of Miena on the B11.

Background

Little Pine Lagoon is probably the best known fly-fishing water in Australia. The lagoon was created by the erection of a low profile dam across the Little Pine River to divert water down Monpeelyata Canal to Lake Echo. The lagoon is shallow and weedy and is highly productive. The brown trout population is sustained entirely by natural recruitment with most fish being 0.5 - 1.5 kg. There is much to offer anglers whether they fish from the shore or a boat. Most of the lagoon is shallow therefore boat anglers should **always observe the 5-knot speed limit**. Owing to its small size and popularity, anglers are advised to respect the needs of other users.

Recreational Fishery Management

Little Pine Lagoon is managed as a Premium Wild Trout Fishery. Monitoring of this fishery is done using the Inland Fisheries Service Angler Postal Questionnaire to gauge changes in catch rates, harvest and angler effort from year to year. Little Pine Lagoon is reserved for **fly-fishing only**. A bag limit of five fish per angler per day applies.

Angling Notes

Early in the season (September – November) when water levels are moderately high, fish can be seen busy 'tailing' within centimetres of the waters edge. Anglers should survey the shallow margins for signs of fish before wading into the lagoon, particularly at first light and late afternoon. All of the lagoon's shoreline will produce fish although the Road Shore, Untouchables Shore and Tailers Shore are the most popular areas. Various wet flies and nymph patterns fished inert are successful. During summer (December – March) prolific hatches of mayfly occur across the entire lagoon and trout rise freely to take the emerging duns. Emerger fly patterns and various dry flies account for many fish. Polaroiding

these cruising fish from a boat is an effective method. All the shoreline can be easily accessed by foot and boat fishing is popular, especially with a team of wet flies, which often accounts for good bags of fish later in the season.

Code of Conduct

- Be aware of and comply with fishing regulations.
- Respect the rights of other anglers and users.
- Protect the environment.
- Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.
- Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated or transferred into other water bodies.


Angling Regulations

To fish in any open public inland water in Tasmania you must hold a current Inland Angling Licence unless you are under 14 years of age. A summary of the regulations are contained within the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code.

Note:

Little Pine Lagoon is a designated fly fishing only water.

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Brown trout	220 mm	5

Method	Season
 Fly fishing	From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April.



Little Pine Lagoon Anglers Access



Peter Harvey

Inland Fisheries Service



Protect our Waters

Recreational anglers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

- Do not bring live or dead fish, fish products, animals or aquatic plants into Tasmania.
- Do not bring any used fishing gear or any other freshwater recreational equipment that may be damp, wet or contain water into Tasmania. **Check, clean and dry** your fishing equipment before entering Tasmania.
- Do not transfer any freshwater fish, frogs, tadpoles, invertebrates or plants between inland waters.
- Check your boat, trailer, waders and fishing gear for weed and other pests that should not be transferred before moving between waters.
- Do not use willow (which is a plant pest) as a rod support as it has the ability to propagate from a strike.



Responsible Boating

There is one launching area next to Monpeelyata Canal. The area within 100 metres of the Little Pine Dam is a no boating zone.

Little Pine Lagoon is very shallow with an average depth of approximately 1 metre. When you open the throttle in shallow water the underwater wash from the propeller jet stirs up silt and mud clouding the water. When the sediments settle again they can smother aquatic plants and degrade habitat. Disturbance and muddying of the water also spooks feeding fish.

To avoid environmental damage to weed beds and increasing turbidity in the lagoon a five-knot speed limit applies to the whole lagoon.



Brown trout

Remember

- Check your wash- if its white it's all right - if it's brown slow down.
- Fishing from a boat within 100 metres of an angler fishing from the shore is prohibited unless the boat is securely moored.
- Do not park on or obstruct boat ramps.

Lake Levels

Information on current lake levels for Little Pine Lagoon including Metres from full and trend (Rising, falling, steady) is available from: [www.ifs.tas.gov.au/Going Fishing/Things to check/Lake Levels](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/GoingFishing/Things%20to%20check/LakeLevels).

- Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings immediately to the Inland Fisheries Service
- Report illegal activities to; Bushwatch 1800 333 000



Brown trout illustration Kristii Melaine

