

Gaden Trout Hatchery Report

22/23 Fish Releases

Completion of fish releases for 22/23 season

June 2023

Climatic Conditions

A dry and mild December led into a wet January with floods towards then end of the month. From February to June, we saw some very mild and dry conditions for the snowy region. The Thredbo River still ran at a relatively good level at this time, with plenty of groundwater from the previous season and the odd early snowfall adding to its flow. June was very cold and extremely dry, with only 28.5mm of rain recorded at the hatchery. Plenty of fish were seen in the River in this time, but due to the climatic conditions they did not have that trigger to head further upstream.

Climatic Data- Gaden Weather Station

Month	Rainfall (mm)	Minimum Temp °C	Maximum Temp °C	Minimum River Level	Maximum River Level
December 2022	58	2	31	.520	1.646
January 2023	178.5	3	33	.380	1.123
February 2023	54.5	3	31	.360	.669
March 2023	103.5	1	28	.330	.573
April 2023	38	-3	28	.358	.543
May 2023	56	-7	17	.410	.678
June 2023	28.5	-8	18	.435	.761

Rivers across the Monaro and central regions have gone from strength to strength, with good flows and some fantastic fish being caught. Due to decent flows and a few good seasons, The Eucumbene spawning run was noted as being one of the best for several decades. Some

monster fish were caught before the closed season commenced in June, with reports of a couple of fish weighing in over 14lb!

Infrastructure

In May 2020, Gaden hatchery received a grant from the NSW state government to revitalise the tourist centre and help boost tourism and jobs in the region. Gaden was also awarded another grant under the government's bushfire relief package which will include upgrades to the hatchery. These upgrades will give Gaden the potential to grow out larger numbers of trout and if needed, house cold water native species such as Galaxias, River Blackfish and Macquarie Perch.

Works were started in April 2023 with an expected completion date of late October- early November 2023. Due to these planned upgrades there has been several interruptions and stoppages to hatchery production and general duties including electrical outages and water shutoffs to the entire site. The staff did a great job keeping the broodfish happy and healthy during this time. Great job team!



Current rebuild of hatching shed area (as of 1st July 2023)

Several areas of hatchery production and tourism that could benefit from these planned upgrades have been identified, including;

- RAS (recirculating aquaculture systems)- for temperature control and fingerling grow out
- Water security- additional water storage, upgraded intake/ back up supply
- Biosecurity- technical room for dissections/disease protocols, isolation areas
- Temperature controlled room- bio secure area for additional species (as outlined in the brief for grant funding)

- Tourist centre upgrades- including upgraded aquaria (which has the capacity to showcase the work of DPI restocking programs) showcase of Gaden history, trout industry significance and potential externally run café.

These are exciting times and once completed, these much needed upgrades will only add to the NSW trout fishing experience, especially here in the snowy mountains region.

Staffing

We have welcomed some new staff to the Gaden team over the last 12 months- with Jimmy McKinnon filling the ongoing position vacated by Garry Caldwell in 2022. Bradi Gebethner has also joined the team, backfilling Taylor Elkins' guide attendant position, with Taylor going on maternity leave for 12 months as of February 2023.

Fish Stocking

Releases for the 22/23 season commenced in July, with sub adult Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout being released in impoundments across the southern half of the state. A whopping 38,000 sub adult fish were released for the 22/23 period, which was a massive undertaking by Gaden staff. The majority of these fish made their way into waterways which also hold Redfin. The Trout were released at 16cm and above and can withstand predation by redfin and other species and subsequently enhance the trout fishery in these areas.

Fry releases began in September 2022, with over 300,000 fish released with the help of members of the MAS and CSDAC. A huge thankyou to the members that help us year in and year out. The recreational trout sector in NSW would not be what it is today without your continued commitment and support!

Fingerling releases began in late November, with large numbers of fish being rolled out for release into impoundments and streams. The Gaden staff are on the road approximately 100 days a year and travel thousands of kilometres to waterways across NSW.

Larger sub adult rainbow trout were again trialled in Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne. 30,000 of these larger 16-22cm fish were released in April by boat with the help of MAS volunteers.

Gaden Trout Hatchery													
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Total
Rainbow Trout	1,800	3,500	22,990	162,000	16,500	276,750	16,800	23,200	9,150	300			532,990
Brown Trout	120	-	50	114,250	60,200	5,600	15,800	20,100	16,250				232,370
Brook Trout	7,500	-	-	-	-	-	-						7,500
Tiger Trout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2,000			4,000	6,000
Atlantic Salmon	-	-	30	-	7,000	120	-						7,150
Total	9,420	3,500	23,070	276,250	83,700	282,470	32,600	43,300	27,400	300	0	4,000	786,010

All stocking information can be found on the DPI website

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/stocking>

Stocks at Hand (as of June 2023)**Atlantic Salmon**

Atlantic Salmon	
Age	Number
1+	350
2+	450
3+	50
4+	25
5+	25

Brook Trout

Brook Trout	
Age	Number
Fingerlings	1000
Broodstock*	25

*new wild broodstock lines from Ogilvie's Creek were gathered and progeny have been added to the 23/24 breeding cycle

Brown Trout

Brown Trout	
Age	Number
Fingerlings (future sub adults)	30000

Rainbow Trout

Rainbow Trout	
Age	Number
Fingerlings	5000
Sub adults	2000
Broodstock 2+	750

Tiger Trout

2022/2023 marked the last year of a 3-year trial stocking Tiger Trout in Lake Lyell, Lake Wallace, and Thompsons Creek Dam. This trial has been put in place to identify if Redfin numbers can be effectively controlled by this largely piscivorous species. All fish released into Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace for 2023 were sub adults (16-20cm), where fish for Thompsons Creek Dam were released as fingerlings (non-redfin waters). Reports from the releases have been widely received and extremely popular within the recreational fishing fraternity. Then economic and environmental findings of the Tiger Trout releases will be gathered by DPI and released in the foreseeable future.



Tiger Trout

Age	Number
Fingerlings	9000

Production 2023

The production period for 2023 is well underway, with 350,000 brown trout eggs, 30,000 brook trout eggs and 25000 Atlantic salmon eggs laid down in our makeshift hatching facility. We are using the warm water upwellers system to speed up the development of the eggs to ensure we have enough for the fish releases later in the year. Dutton hatchery will however assist in breeding rainbow trout for the southern regions this year, as we have limited trough space in the makeshift hatching shed. Gaden Staff have sent around 350,000 brown trout eggs to the Dutton hatchery for release as fry and fingerlings in the NETAS and CAS regions later in the year.



Egg Upweller system designed to heat up the water to 10 degrees Celsius, the optimum growth temperature for salmonids

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