

[MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA, FISHERIES

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

Vol. IV. No. 3.

March 1, 1955

STAFF NOTES

The Clerk-in-Charge, Mr. B.R. Saville, and Technical Officer J.S. Simpson visited the Pemberton Hatcheries on February 16 and 17 for a routine inspection.

The Supervising Inspector (Mr. Bramley) will spend some time this month in the Albany district. Portion of the time will be spent at Denmark in company with the Minister (Mr. Kelly).

Assistant Inspector V.J. Sinclair has, with the approval of the Public Service Commissioner, withdrawn his resignation and will continue to assist at Mandurah.

Inspector J.C. Thair has resigned from the public service as from February 28, and Inspector A.K. Melsom has taken over the Shark Bay district pending Inspector N.E. McLaughlan's permanent transfer there later this month.

Assistant Inspector G. Coombes will assume command of the p.v. "Kooruldhoo" as from March 1, and with Cadet Inspector J.D. Milne as crew member will patrol in Abrolhos waters during the crayfishing season there.

Assistant Inspector B.H. Boyd has been transferred to Fremantle as assistant to Inspector Davidson.

Inspector R.J. Baird, with Cadet Inspector M.J. Simpson as crew member, will continue to patrol the Lancelin-Cervantes area in the p.v. "Garbo".

Two new officers have been appointed to fill the vacancies caused by the resignations of Inspectors Connell and Thair. They are Assistant Inspector T.B. Baines, who will be stationed in the metropolitan area, and Assistant Inspector G. Konow, who has been assigned to the research vessel "Lancelin" as a crew member.

The Metropolitan Inspector, Mr. J.E. Munro, resumed duty on February 23 after annual leave.

Messrs A.E. Clarke and A.H. Clark, who act as fisheries and pearling inspectors for the Department at Port Hedland and Onslow respectively, both enjoyed biennial leave in Perth last month and called at Head Office.

Mr. John Barakonski resigned from the Department on February 18, having been granted an architectural cadetship with the Public Works Department. Mr. Barakonski was farewelled at an informal gathering and given a small presentation as a mark of esteem.

PERSONAL PARS

Mr. D. Gates, research officer (biologist) of the Commonwealth Fisheries Office, Sydney, paid a visit to W.A. last month. During his stay here, he spent some time with C.S.I.R.O. research officer R.W. George at Geraldton, studying crayfish. He also called on the Superintendent.

Congratulations are extended to Athol Middleton of the Fisheries Division, C.S.I.R.O., who completed his B.Sc. recently. Mr. Middleton has been placed in charge of the hydrological section since Mr. Rex Spencer was permanently transferred to Cronulla on February 22.

Mr. J.P.S. Bach, M.A., lecturer in history at the Newcastle University College, N.S.W., visited Broome and Perth last month. He had been engaged to undertake research into economic and social aspects of

the pearling industry for the Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture.

Technical Officer K. Godfrey of the C.S.I.R.O. returned from a visit to the Eastern States on February 18, accompanied by Mr. R.M. Crawford, Mate of the "Lancelin", who had been on annual leave. Messrs Godfrey and Crawford inspected gear and methods employed in the prawn industries of N.S.W. and Queensland. They also visited Port Lincoln, South Australia, and called at State Fisheries offices in Sydney and at Bundaberg. Visits were paid to C.S.I.R.O. centres.

We were sorry to hear that last month Mr. L. Glauert, Director of the W.A. Museum and a member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, spent some three weeks in hospital. He was suffering from a thrombosis but is now out of danger and has been discharged. He is convalescing at his Perth hotel but later will spend a month at Cowaramup with his daughter before returning to duty. We wish him a speedy recovery to complete good health.

During Mr. Glauert's absence, Mr. Athol Douglas is Acting Director of the Museum and has had to postpone his collecting trip to the Kimberleys.

INCREASES IN MARGINS

Following negotiations between the Public Service Commissioner and the Civil Service Association of W.A., Inc., a review of the salary margins has been made and a table of new margins has been issued by the Commissioner. The increases, which have been granted to all officers of 20 years of age and older, have been back-dated to December 24, 1954, and will be included in the pay for the fortnight ending March 17. For the information of the field staff, the following table sets out the gross salary rate at 23/12/54 and the new rate from 24/12/54. As a number of officers were entitled to annual increments from January 1, 1955, the salary payable at that date is also set down. Officers can, by comparing the first two columns, ascertain the value to them of the marginal increase.

It will be seen that there will be 10 weeks' back pay of the increase from December 24 to be added to the new fortnightly salary in the pay for March 17. Officers who have become entitled to an increment since December 24, will have already received payment for the increment and will receive only the extra marginal arrears.

	Gross Salary at 23/12/54	Gross Salary at 24/12/54	Gross Salary at 1/1/55
H.C.W. Piesse	1,000	1,118	1,148
J.E. Bramley	1,000	1,118	1,148
M. Goodlad	980	1,088	1,088
L.G. Smith	980	1,088	1,088
J.E. Munro	960	1,058	1,088
W. Davidson	920	998	1,028
H.J. Murray	920	998	1,028
J. Traynor	920	998	1,028
S.W. Bowler	920	998	1,028
J.S. Simpson	920	998	1,028
A.K. Melsom	920	998	1,028
A.J. Bateman	900	968	968
G.C. Jeffery	900	968	968
A.V. Green	900	968	968
R.M. Crawford	900	968	968
R.J. Baird	900	968	968
N.E. McLaughlan	870	938	938
J.L. Gallop	767	808	808
V.J. Sinclair	747 ^(a)	778 ^(b)	778 ^(b)
G. Coombes	767	808	808
B.H. Boyd	767	808	808
B.A. Carmichael	731	753	753
M.J. Simpson	679	693	693
D. Wright	432	432	432
J.D. Milne	331	331	331

(a) plus £20 p.a. allowance. (b) plus £30 p.a. allowance.

DONGARA-SNAG ISLAND ROAD REFUSED

Representations were made to the Minister for Fisheries in July last year when he was inspecting the Geraldton and Abrolhos crayfisheries, that a road should be constructed from Dongara to Snag Island to replace the existing very primitive track.

After consideration of all factors, including the estimated cost of £10,000 or more, and the poor results obtained by crayfishermen prospecting the area during the past two or three years, Mr. Kelly decided that the expenditure was not warranted, and declined to make any recommendation to the Commissioner of Main Roads.

NEW HARBOUR & LIGHT REGULATIONS

Officers are reminded that in September, 1954, the Harbour and Light Department gazetted new regulations controlling standards for fishing-boat skippers. A reference to the new regulations was contained in this Department's Bulletin, Volume III, No. 11, November, 1954. It should be clearly understood that the new regulations (which will not come into force until September of this year) are beyond the jurisdiction of this Department, and fishermen who desire to lodge complaints or obtain further information should be referred to the Harbour and Light Department, Cliff Street, Fremantle.

FISHERMAN ACQUITTED

On February 11, after a 35-minute adjournment, a jury found fisherman Benjamin Theodore Rose, of Victoria Avenue, Claremont, not guilty on five charges of stealing crayfishing equipment.

The trial, which lasted three days, aroused considerable interest amongst Fremantle crayfishermen.

WILSON'S INLET

The Minister for Works (Mr. Tonkin) has advised the Secretary of the Denmark Road Board that the Public Works Department has assumed responsibility for the opening each year of the bar at the mouth of Wilson's Inlet.

A substantial cut is to be made through the bar sometime towards the end of the present summer to ensure a good opening and high water next winter. The work will conform to Railway Department requirements in respect to the height and build-up of the water. The estimated cost for the present financial year is £2,000.

LOSS OF THE "SHELLEY BOY"

On February 14, approximately 100 miles north of Fremantle, the "Shelley Boy", owned by Craypak Pty. Ltd., sank in rough water about 40 miles off-shore. The "Shelley Boy" was the largest vessel engaged in the crayfishing industry in the West and in the past three seasons had processed about £450,000 of tails for export to America. She was heading for the Jurien Bay area when she foundered.

1955 SALMON RUN

Reports have come to hand that prior to the rains in the middle of February, normal quantities of salmon were moving west along the south coast. After the floods many of the estuaries east of Albany broke through to the sea, and the salmon moved farther out into unpolluted waters.

Part of Cheyne Beach was washed away, and only portion of it could be used. However, since February 20, 130 tons of salmon have been caught there - over 65 tons being taken in one haul, which is thought to be a record for Western Australia.

West of Albany, at Torbay, Boat Harbour and Peaceful Bay, very few fish have been taken and none at all have come from Parry's Inlet.

PEARLING

Late in January, advice was received from the Commonwealth Fisheries office that the Commonwealth Government had approved the induction of several specialised pearling operatives from the Ryukuan Islands or Japan. The number of men to be brought in will not exceed the number of specialists required to give the Australian luggers already based on Broome and Onslow complete and efficient complements.

Conditions of entry will be the same as for the Japanese brought here in 1953.

NEW TROUT ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY

In the "Government Gazette" of February 25, it is notified that an application by the Albany, Denmark and Plantagenet Trout Acclimatisation Society for registration has been granted. The area covered by the Society embraces the Albany Municipality and the Albany, Denmark and Plantagenet Road Districts. The President of the Society is Mr. H. Hockey, Stirling Terrace, Albany.

ROTTNEST BIOLOGICAL STATION

Since the formation of a Committee to set up and control a research station at Rottneest in October of last year, considerable work has been done. Progress has been made in bringing the disused Navy buildings to a properly furnished and properly equipped state. Alterations and additions are also being made in the shape of a garage and protective fences. The station has already been used by C.S.I.R.O. and State officers as field headquarters for research into the Western Australian crayfish and sea-herring. The Wildlife

Survey Section of C.S.I.R.O. and the Zoology Department of the University have also used the centre as headquarters for ecological studies on the Rottneest quokka. (Incidentally the recent disastrous fire did not harm the buildings but it has caused a break in the quokka research. The work done to date will have to be written up and then a fresh start made).

The station has also been used for instructing zoology students in such field work as trapping, marking and releasing animals and in statistical methods of sampling from small numbers.

On the resignation early this year of the Minister (Mr. Kelly) as a member of the committee (representing the Rottneest Island Board of Control) the Board has appointed Mr. T. Sten, Superintendent of Teacher Training, Department of Education, and Principal of the Teachers College, Claremont, as a member. In addition to Mr. Sten the members are -

Mr. A.J. Fraser (Chairman), Dr. K. Sheard (C.S.I.R.O.) and Professor H. Waring (University of W.A.). Mr. B.K. Bowen, of the Fisheries Department, is the Secretary.

VACANCY FOR TAXIDERMIST

The Acting Director of the Perth Museum, Mr. A.M. Douglas, has advised that a vacancy exists on the staff for a cadet taxidermist. A salary will be paid according to the age, ability and qualifications of the successful applicant and general Public Service conditions of employment will apply. The successful applicant will receive proper training and there will be opportunities for advancement. Any person interested should apply in writing direct to the Acting Director of the Museum, Beaufort Street, Perth.

DUCK BANDING

As reported in the last issue of this Bulletin, advice had been received that a number of ducks were being held by a co-operator at Cape Riche.

Technical Officer J. Traynor left Perth on February 1, arriving at Cape Riche in the evening of February 2, and trapping operations were commenced the next day. The co-operator, Mr. D. Moir, had 85 ducks (mainly black duck and grey teal) already penned and these birds and a further 118 were banded before the rains set in and the birds dispersed. The birds banded at this station brings the total of all species banded to 2389 plus a further 36 birds - mainly coot - which have been marked with returned duck bands.

After leaving Cape Riche on February 14, Mr. Traynor paid a visit to the Pallinup Estuary which he found to be deserted and with no signs of fish movement. A few ducks and an estimated two to three thousand black swans were on the water. This was the largest number of swans Mr. Traynor had ever seen congregated in any one place. As may be surmised, the heavy and widespread rains have caused an immediate dispersal of the ducks throughout the southern half of the State. Compared with a few weeks ago, the metropolitan swamps and lakes are practically deserted, and the same is reported to apply throughout many of the country districts. Reports have come to hand, however, of aggregations of ducks in the Beverley - Brookton areas, and Mr. Traynor will make an inspection there early this month.

Recoveries.

Until the rains came, and the birds scattered, bands were coming in steadily. Some further long flights were recorded, the most noteworthy being that of two ducks which were shot 30 miles north of Coolgardie. One of these had been banded at Dawson's Lake, south of Dumbleyung, and the other on Wardering Lake in the Woodanilling Road District. Reports from shooters (on any aspects of duck distribution and behaviour) will be particularly welcome between now and the close of the season.

The following table sets out the bands returned since the previous list was published :-

Band No.	Date Banded	Place Where Banded	Date of Recovery	Place Where Recovered	Distance Travelled
<u>Black Duck</u>					
2270	23/1/54	Lake Karringup	26/1/55	Moore River, 80 miles from Perth	60 miles
2588	24/3/54	Queen's Gardens	not known	caught in clay hole in Belle- vue	10 "
<u>Grey Teal</u>					
3148	9/12/54	Meckering	8/2/55	North Meckering	nil "
3152	do.	do.	14/2/55	do.	nil "
1367	13/2/53	Wardering Lake	22/1/55	30 miles nth of Coolgardie	315 "
2059	19/12/53	Dawson's Lake, Dumbleyung	22/1/55	do.	280 "
3091	28/11/54	Lake Mears	22/1/55	Toolibin Lake	50 "
2790	20/5/54	Cape Riche	5/2/55	Willy's Lake	220 "
3060	24/11/54	Lake Mears	8/2/55	On Avon River near Bridge, 14 mls east of Brookton	7 "
3157	14/1/55	Taarblin Lake	22/1/55	Taarblin Lake	nil "
<u>Mountain Duck</u>					
2958	26/10/54	Cockleshell Gully	25/1/55	Poverty Point, Mandurah	175 "
2025	15/12/53	Dawson's Lake, Dumbleyung	26/1/55	"Chillinup", south of Borden	85 "

Band No.	Date Banded	Place Where Banded	Date of Recovery	Place Where Recovered	Distance Travelled
<u>Maned Goose</u>					
2642	10/4/54	Lake Karrinyup	21/1/55	2 miles from Harvey Weir	90 miles
2665	14/4/54	Lake Karrinyup	6/2/55	near Bokal Siding, on the Beaufort River	130 miles

LOSS OF THE "EVA PELSART"

Inspector S.W. Bowler has reported that the above auxiliary fishing boat was lost at sea on February 25. Owned and operated by Mr. J. Grubba of Geraldton, the "Eva Pelsart" was 19 feet long and had a beam of 6 feet. She was valued at £600 and her gear at £250.

Prior to the mishap Mr. Grubba was sailing from Geraldton to Rat Island. He was overtaken by the "Eureka II", skippered by Mr. R. Saunier, about 23 miles west of Geraldton near Mid Reef, and was advised that he was off course. It was decided that the "Eva Pelsart" should be taken in tow and a rope was passed through the fair leads and secured to the mast. When the "Eureka II" commenced to tow, the "Eva Pelsart" suddenly yawed to the port side, causing the towline, which had not been firmly secured, to work up the mast, and capsize her. Being a heavy boat, full of ballast, she sank immediately. The owner, Mr. Grubba, and another man were taken aboard the "Eureka II".

EXPORT OF CRAYFISH TAILS

The Department has been advised by the Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture that the size ranges of the "small" and "medium" categories of crayfish tails has been altered. The old and new weights within the various grades are shown in the following table -

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Old Weight Range</u>	<u>New Weight Range</u>
Midget	under 6 oz.	under 6 oz.
Small	6 oz. and under 9 oz.	6 oz. and under 8 oz.
Medium	9 oz. and under 12 oz.	8 oz. and under 12 oz.
Large	12 oz. to 16 oz.	12 oz. to 16 oz.
Jumbo	over 16 oz.	over 16 oz.

When the vessel "Helenus" sailed from Fremantle for New York on February 11, she carried 24,349 cases of frozen tails, of a total net weight of 477,630 lb. This is thought to be the largest single shipment ever to be sent from this State to the U.S.A.

WATERLIFE SHOW

Yesterday, February 28, the first complete waterlife show ever to be held in Western Australia, opened at the Perth Town Hall. Prepared and staffed by the Aquarium Society of W.A., the show promises to be a marked success - aesthetically and financially. The organisers have stated that once the expenses of the show have been cleared, and a small reserve created for next year, any surplus will be donated to a charity to be selected.

Among the most interesting exhibits were an Indian Scorpion fish, a Zebra fish and two Corroboree frogs.

The Show, which attracted over one thousand people on its opening day, will close on Saturday night, March 5, at 10 p.m.

THE CLEARING HOUSE

The Toughest Job in the World?

Nazareth is a fishing village in Portugal, so poor that it has not even a harbour; the boats being dragged up on to the strand by great yellow oxen that stand blinking in the bright sunshine.

Although Nazareth is scarcely a century old, there is no more colourful town of its size in all Europe.

After Easter the call goes forth for the fishermen to assemble in Lisbon. For now is the time for the bacalhau, or cod fishers, to leave on their annual voyage of 6 months to the Arctic seas, Greenland and Nova Scotia. Not only from Nazareth, but from the fishing ports of Viseu, Viana de Castelo, hilly Sesimbra, Olhao, Cascais, the royal borough, and Ilhavo.

Then Branca, the wife of Joao Pilot, the First Fisher of the schooner Creoula, packs up the clothes she has made during the winter, and together they set out for Lisbon.

As one by one the schooners with hooting of sirens pass down the river, Branca sees the Creoula out of sight and then returns with her two children to Nazareth. There she puts off her bright clothes to don an old black or grey dress. It is not meet that a woman should be attractive while her husband is away. She will not even enter one of the little cafes of Nazareth all the summer, for that would be enjoyment. It is not right that a woman should enjoy herself while her husband is hourly risking his life.

Apart from other dangers, there are fierce half-caste tribes in Greenland. Once while Joao in his dory was miles away from the Creoula he was set upon by wild Greenlanders in a motor boat, who took away his tackle, his personal belongings and his clothes and would have taken his life too had not Joao, by a ruse, succeeded in inducing them to let him go.

His little dory is scarcely more than a raft, for it is made of nailed planks and has no deck, no keel, no rudder, no buoyancy tank, no lifejackets and no engine. The mast he made himself from a eucalyptus tree. The sails, which Branca made, he has oiled and painted.

The dory, seemingly more unseaworthy than a coracle, laden with the long-lines, the bait, oars, bailers, anchor, a little cold meat and bread with some fresh water, all he has to sustain him beside his tobacco, is launched, with fifty others, into a boiling sea. He is out of sight of the Creoula so soon he has not even time to take a compass bearing.

When his instinct tells him that he is over a likely place, he drops his anchor, miles from sight of land, and puts down his long-lines baited.

When his boat is full, with the aid of a small compass, which so near the magnetic pole often fluctuates wildly, he must find his way back to the mother-ship, not knowing what to allow for drift. His hands, red, raw and water sodden, are furrowed by deep crevices provoked by the salt, the cold and the cutting of the long-lines. These gashes neither bleed nor heal, but they are agonising, especially when hauling in the long-lines, no matter how begloved. Laden, with only an inch of freeboard, he sets back through the mist and cold, standing up with one hand on the sail and one holding the steering oar. Death is nearly certain if the boiling sea comes over the stern for it is too late to throw out the fish and a full dory that tried to pick up the drowning man would itself sink.

With mast bent like a bow, across the racing whitecaps and the clamour of waters, at last he arrives at his ship, and waits till the crest of a wave lifts his boat high and then pitchforks a load of cod into the Creoula. The next time he is lifted level with the deck, another pitchfork-load goes over. In half-an-hour or less he himself leaps the gap and his little dory is lifted aboard and stowed, the captain entering an estimate of how much dried fish (bacalhau) his catch will yield.

No life-saving apparatus is carried in the

dories. Even were there room, the men would not have it. There is more than pride or obstinacy here. Once a dory is upset a fisherman with his heavy boots and his flannel underwear, woollen trousers, two pairs of socks, sea-boot slippers, three check shirts, jersey, oilskin suit, balaclava, earmuffs and sou'-wester, stands little chance. Frostbite may claim him even in his dory; a life-jacket in that icy sea would only support a frozen corpse; though once Joao, who, unlike the older fishermen, can swim, kicked off his boots and rid himself of his heavier clothes when upset and swam for 2 hours till picked up by another. 4 a.m. the next day Joao was out fishing again as usual. But he spent the night in bed instead of in the customary manner working till midnight under great lamps, gutting the cod and preparing his bait for the morrow.

The bait is the only thing under lock and key. It is rationed out daily to the men. With his bait cleverly applied a first cod-fisher can catch up to one-third of a ton of fish in a day, shooting his lines three times.

Then when August comes, and the holds are laden with layers of cod and salt, with upwards of 1,000 tons of fish, the signal is sent out first from one ship and then from another that they are returning home.

That autumn Joao took home to his wife over £300, representing his wages plus a percentage. Normally he earns some £100 less than this, but the cost of living in Nazareth is low so the money is worth about double. Sometimes in the winter Joao goes sardine fishing from Nazareth, but generally he changes the froth and drift of the sea for the dust of the earth.

(This abridged article, written by Hansi Stael, is reprinted by courtesy of Vickers Overseas News.)

("World Fishing" London December, 1954)

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Indian Pearl Fishing to Revive

Pearl fishing will be revived from the east coast of Madras early next year after two decades. Recent investigations by the State Fisheries Department have revealed the existence of well-grown oysters in the pearl banks off Tuticorin, an east coast port south of Madras.

The Madras Deputy Director of Fisheries, Mr. Peter Devadas, said that a survey in November, 1952, struck a large shoal of spat - unmatured pearl oysters. Later inspection expeditions confirmed the shoal was maintaining its "strength."

Mr. Devadas expected the spats to mature by March next year. Before embarking on "operation pearl," two further inspections in December and January next are contemplated to confirm that the oysters are still there.

There are about 40 main pearl banks over a hundred miles stretch of sea from Cape Comorin to Tranquebar in the Gulf of Mannar.

"Indian pearls are the finest of their kind in the world," said Mr. Devadas. "Madras State was so famous for its pearls during the Portugese occupation that its capital was called Paralia, which means 'The City of Pearls.'"

("The Fishing News" London December 24, 1954)

Plastic Speed Boat on Show

A revolutionary speedboat, which could be mass-produced more cheaply than a family car, has aroused world-wide interest since its first trials in Britain during the Autumn.

The boat is the latest result of improved plastics technology and new construction techniques. The most important factor is the use of a special filler which, when added to a resin, enables the resin to be worked successfully on vertical surfaces.

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The filler is thixotropic - which means it will flow easily when brushed but will not flow when undisturbed. Before the introduction of such fillers there was a tendency for the polyester resin to drain away from the glass fibre which is used to reinforce it. The new filler eliminates this risk.

The hull design of the speed-boat, the Moonfleet, would have been almost impossible to achieve without the new filler and mass production would have been ruled out.

Polyester-glass fibre hulls of any shape can be produced much more quickly than hulls in wood and there is likely to be a big demand from overseas, especially in the tropics, for the new boat.

("The South African Shipping News" Cape Town
January, 1955.)

To Hunt Crocodiles

Two experienced crocodile hunters from Bulawayo plan to set up a crocodile shooting industry in Northern Rhodesia. If they are successful they expect to earn about £1,500 a week. The organiser of the scheme is Mr. David Smith, aged 21.

Arrangements have been made to sell the skins direct to buyers in Europe, who pay 3s. a lineal inch. A good skin will fetch between £9 and £12. Mr. Smith and his men will do their own curing.

The party will hunt the Kafue Hook, west of the Kafue, and if after nine months the venture is established, Mr. Smith intends to employ hunters and turn to exporting. He hopes to establish a permanent crocodile-skin industry in Northern Rhodesia.

("The South African Shipping News" Cape Town
January, 1955)

Animal, Vegetable ?

Is there a Loch Ness Monster? Is this so-called denizen of the deep a stunt to attract the tourist industry, or merely to provide good copy for the newspapers when there's no real news about? Perhaps we shall never know, but early in December the most colourful story yet on the subject "broke" on a surprised Monday morning world. The Peterhead drifter Rival, sailing down Loch Ness on her way to the Scots west coast fishing grounds, with her Kelvin Hughes "Fishmaster" echo-sounder in operation, recorded the most extraordinary object ever yet seen on chart paper, at a depth of 90 fathoms.

The "experts" have had a wonderful time. Some say that the sounder definitely recorded animal matter, 50 ft. long, and that there was no question of a fake. Others have come out with the flat statements that (a) there is no monster and (b) that the echo trace isn't genuine anyway. Halfway between the two views is the school of thought that doesn't doubt the echo trace, but prefers to regard the object as something - anything! - far more mundane than a fabulous creature.

It would be very pleasant to think that such a monster existed. But at least, in the absence of proof, the Rival has provided a national and fishing controversy which makes welcome relief from such grave matters as Onassis fines and Iceland limits. And the next object is

("World Fishing" London January, 1955.)

Fishing Projects in Ceylon and India

A joint Ceylonese and Japanese fishing corporation is to be floated on modern lines with the assistance of Japanese organisations. Ceylon will hold 55 per cent of the shares in the corporation and the balance will be held by Japan.

The Government has accepted in principle the report of the Japanese survey team and has agreed to

the joint commercial exploration of waters in and around Ceylon.

The Japanese team suggested that Ceylon and Japan should join together to exploit the fishing grounds around the island. Mr. Hackiro Suzuki was the leader of the six-man survey team.

The Japanese survey ship Sagami Maru made several trips in waters off Ceylon and discovered rich fishing grounds which have not yet been exploited. "We feel that within a short period the island can be assured of an adequate supply of fish products for all its needs," said Mr. Suzuki.

One suggestion was the construction of six fishery harbours - two on the west coast, one on the south coast, two on the east coast and one in Jaffina.

The report stresses that this will not involve the building of new harbours as existing roadsteads could easily be converted for this purpose. Each harbour, according to the report, must have cold storage equipment, ice-making plants, wireless stations and its own transport fleets.

Six dories fitted with engines and fishing gear, have arrived in Ceylon from Canada under the Colombo Plan. They will be used by the Canadian fisheries team in Ceylon to train Ceylonese fishermen.

A dory is a flat-bottomed boat and can be fitted with an engine running on kerosene oil, or be used with sails. These boats can be carried aboard trawlers into deep water regions and then sent out to cover a wide area.

They will be quite economical to maintain and no advanced technical knowledge is needed to operate them. Specially designed fishing gear to suit these boats has also arrived with them.

The director of the Canadian fisheries team in Ceylon, Mr. A.W. Lantz, said that large fleets of these boats are being used nowadays, particularly on the coasts of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Their performances there, he said, had been extremely satisfactory.

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A dory costs about Rs 3,000 (£225), and after being used to train Ceylonese fishermen, they will be sold to interested parties at a reduced price. This money will then be used to obtain more such craft from Canada.

Canadian Machinery for Fish Meal Factory

Meanwhile, a start is to be made shortly on the fish meal factory to be set up in Colombo helped by the Canadian Government under Colombo Plan aid.

The plant which is expected to go into production by July this year, will have a capacity of one ton of fish meal in eight hours. If sufficient raw material is available the plant could be worked 24 hours a day.

The machinery for this project, which costs over Rs 125,000 (£9,735), is being given by Canada. Mr. A.W. Lantz said that it was very economical to maintain, and even with small quantities of fish it would be worth operating.

Normally about five tons of waste fish are needed to manufacture one ton of fish meal. In Canada fish meal is used only as an animal food, and on account of its rich food value the Government has banned its being used as a fertiliser.

Vallams to be Diesel-Powered

Twenty diesel engines - also a gift from Canada under the Colombo Plan - are to be distributed to fishermen in the north of Ceylon.

The units are expected shortly and are to be fitted in Vallams - the type of fishing vessel used in Jaffina, Mannar and Trincomalee. Engines will only be given to members of registered co-operative societies.

The Fisheries Department will call for applications when the engines are ready for distribution. Each one will cost a fishermen Rs 3,500 (£252.10s.). He will have to pay a first instalment of 30 per cent and the balance could be paid over a period of two years. The installation cost of approximately Rs 600 (£45) will

be paid by the recipient.

He will also have to sign a bond with the Department of Fisheries stating that the boat would not be used for any other purpose than fishing and that he would not sell or transfer the vessel.

The Department will be in a position to take back engines if it is proved that the vessels are used for any other purpose before full payment for them has been made.

("The Fishing News" London January 14, 1955.)

Plan for Fish Farming

Fish farming may in future years become an important and lucrative business in some overseas countries.

Murray Valley Development League's annual conference in Mildura decided to ask the C.S.I.R.O. to prepare a report on the needs and possibilities for fish farming along the Murray and its tributaries.

State authorities will also be asked to recommend plans for such a scheme.

The meeting also received a letter from the Albury and Border Angling Club, expressing concern at the deterioration in numbers of native fish, and expressing fear of extinction of Murray cod and perch.

The league will co-ordinate with the fisheries section of the C.S.I.R.O. in any scheme to preserve and maintain good stocks of native fish.

("Outdoors and Fishing" Sydney February, 1955)

Spawners via Airmail

Murray cod spawners taken from the Murray River near Mildura, will be airfreighted to Snob's

Creek, Vic., fish hatchery in an attempt to breed Murray cod to restock northern streams.

Previous attempts to breed Murray cod at Snob's Creek from spawners sent by road from Mildura have failed.

Snob's Creek fish hatchery is about 12 miles from Alexandra in the Goulburn Valley.

Mildura Fisheries and Game Inspector (Mr. W.G. Kelly) said that the long journey by road had apparently damaged fish.

He said changes in temperature of water in cans during transit by road had rendered much of the chance of breeding futile.

The Fisheries and Game Department hopes to overcome a lot of these hazards by air-freighting.

("Outdoors and Fishing" Sydney February, 1955.)

Japs Get in on Indian Fishing, Too.

Information from India shows that the Japs in addition to effecting a composite arrangement with Ceylon for fishing in her waters, have now arranged to participate in the formation of an Indian Public Limited Company - under title The New India Fisheries. Interested in this development has been Dr. S.B. Setna who was formerly in the Government Fishery Service. In pursuance of the agreement, the Japanese firm will send to Indian waters four Bull (Pareja) trawlers, early next year.

("The Fishing News" London January 14, 1955.)

Improved Harpoon?

Norwegian harpooners will this season try out a new invention which makes the harpoon rotate. This is said to give a greater accuracy of aim. The Norwegian Sven Foyn invented the original shooting harpoon.

("South African Shipping News" Cape Town Jan. '55)