

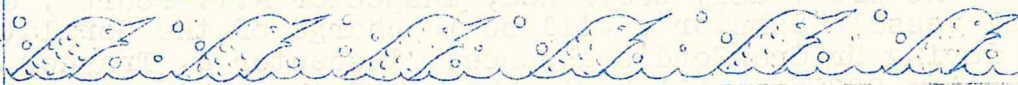
(MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN  
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA. FISHERIES

10(10) Nov 1961

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT  
AUSTRALIA

MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN



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Vol. X, No. 10

November, 1961

STAFF NOTES

The Minister for Fisheries, Mr Ross Hutchinson, accompanied by the Director, Mr A.J. Fraser, visited Dongara on October 20 to hear representations from Dongara crayfishermen on the future management of the crayfisheries in adjacent waters, and later went on to Geraldton. The Minister's private secretary, Mr J.R. Driscoll, was also present. Mr Hutchinson and Mr Driscoll returned to Perth on October 22, while the Director, after spending the week-end in Geraldton, returned to Dongara to join the Fishermen's Advisory Committee which held meetings at Dongara and Geraldton on October 23 and 24. Mr Fraser returned by air on the Tuesday afternoon while the Committee returned by road the following day.

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Officers to proceed on annual leave this month include Relieving Inspector G.C. Jeffery, who expects to be discharged from hospital in time to commence his leave on November 6; and Inspector B.A. Carmichael, of Albany, on November 6. Mr J.M. Mitchell, of Head Office, and Miss Marion Crofts, also of Head Office, will both take part of their annual leave - Mr Mitchell will commence 5 days' leave on November 9 and Miss Crofts will take 2 days on November 16 and 17. Mr C.J. Seabrook and Mr C.R.C. Haynes, master and mate, respectively, of the research vessel "Lancelin" will also commence leave during the month.

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Miss H. Gilfellon, of Head Office, commenced one week's leave on October 30, and the Fleet Maintenance Officer, Mr A.J. Bateman will complete long service leave and commence annual leave on December 4.

(144)

Inspector R.M. Crawford, of Geraldton, who was to have commenced leave on November 14, has had to delay it until November 27.

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As previously published, Inspector A.T. Pearce, of the patrol vessel "Dampier", will be in charge of the Geraldton district during Mr Crawford's absence. Inspector J. Traynor, of Perth District Office, will be in charge of the Albany district during Mr Carmichael's absence.

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Assistant Inspectors E. Barker and N.K. Henry have been assigned to the Lancelin district for the current crayfishing season while Inspector G.D. Houston and Cadet Inspector P.K. Enright will be stationed in the Jurien Bay area.

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Activities in Head Office will be disrupted this month, first by the annual departmental conference and then by the absence at the annual examinations of the Perth Technical College of five officers for differing periods. Officers to be examined include Fauna Protection Officer H.G. Shugg, clerks W.K.H. Cherrington, J.M. Mitchell and G.C. Ferguson, and Miss Marion Crofts, typist. Add the loss of Mr A.J. Buchanan, who has been promoted to a C.II.2 position in the Department of Industrial Development, and it will be realised that Head Office has more than the usual difficulties to face this month.

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Congratulations are extended to Mr and Mrs W.K.H. Cherrington on the birth of their third daughter, Leslie Ellen, on October 7.

#### PERSONAL PARS

Mr W.G. Sampson, skipper of the "Ikater", the research vessel operated by the Marine Department of New Zealand, called on the Director and staff on October 12. Mr Sampson was on his way to join the "Estelle Star" for a fortnight to observe her tuna testing operations.

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Mr Dougal Macdonald, an officer of the Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Industry, Canberra, also called on the Director and met staff members on October 27, prior to his joining the "Estelle Star" for a tour of duty. He

is acting as observer for his Department and replaced Mr Sampson.

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Dr G.F. Humphrey, Chief of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., represented Australia last month at a meeting of the International Oceanographic Commission in Paris. Before he returns home Dr Humphrey will visit Hamburg and Monaco to attend meetings of the Special Committee on Oceanic Research.

### STAFF DISPOSITION

The following statement of the disposition of the Department's staff on October 31, 1961, is published for general information -

Name	Appointment	Location
Baines, T.B.	Inspector, Grade 2	Bunbury
Baird, R.J.	Pearling Inspector	Broome
Barker, E.H.	Assistant Inspector	Perth D.O.
Bartlett, (Miss) M.A.	Typist	Perth H.O.
Bateman, A.J.	Fleet Maintenance Officer	Fremantle
Bowen, B.K.	Research Officer	Perth, H.O.
Bowler, S.W.	Fauna Warden	Perth, H.O.
Bramley, J.E.	Supervising Inspector	Perth, H.O.
Buchanan, A.J.	Clerk	Perth, H.O.
Campbell, F.J.	Inspector, Grade 2 (Skipper, p.v. "Kooruldhoo")	Fremantle
Cardon, I.L.	Cadet Inspector	Fremantle
Carmichael, B.A.	Inspector, Grade 2	Albany
Cherrington, W.K.H.	Clerk, Fauna	Perth, H.O.
Crawford, R.M.	Inspector, Grade 1	Geraldton
Crofts, (Miss) M.F.	Typist	Perth, H.O.
Emery, R.G.	Cadet Inspector	Mandurah
Enright, K.P.	Cadet Inspector	Perth, D.O.
Ferguson, G.C.	Clerk	Perth, H.O.
Forster, E.I.	Inspector, Grade 2 (Skipper, p.v. "Misty Isle")	Fremantle
Fraser, A.J.	Director	Perth, H.O.
Frizzell, L.R.	Assistant Inspector	Geraldton
Gilfellow, (Miss) H.M.	Assistant	Perth, H.O.
Gordon, D.P.	Assistant Inspector	Fremantle
Green, A.V.	Inspector, Grade 1	Mandurah
Hanley, G.	Assistant Inspector	Perth, D.O.
Haynes, C.R.C.	Master, r.v. "Lancelin"	Fremantle
Henry, N.K.	Assistant Inspector	Perth, D.O.
Houston, G.D.	Inspector, Grade 2	Perth, D.O.

STAFF DISPOSITION

(continued)

Name	Appointment	Location
Jeffery, G.C.	Relieving Inspector	Perth, D.O.
Kavanagh, H.D.	Inspector, Grade 2	Shark Bay
Kelly, J.T.	Cadet Inspector	Fremantle
Kennedy, D.	Engineer, r.v. "Peron"	Fremantle
McKay, R.J.	Technical Officer, Grade 2	Perth, H.O.
McLaughlan, N.E.	Fauna Warden	Perth, H.O.
Melson, A.K.	Senior Inspector	Fremantle
Mitchell, J.M.	Clerk	Perth, H.O.
Munro, J.E.	Senior Inspector	Perth, D.O.
O'Sullivan, J.	Deckhand, r.v. "Peron"	Fremantle
Pearce, A.T.	Inspector, Grade 2 (Skipper p.v. "Dampier")	Geraldton
Piesse, H.C.W.	Master, r.v. "Peron"	Fremantle
Saville, B.R.	Chief Clerk	Perth, H.O.
Seabrook, C.J.	Master, r.v. "Lancelin"	Fremantle
Shugg, H.B.S.	Fauna Protection Officer	Perth, H.O.
Slack-Smith, R.J.	Research Officer	Perth, H.O.
Simpson, J.S.	Technical Officer, Grade 2	Perth, H.O.
Sivwright, (Miss) H.M.	Library Assistant	Perth, H.O.
Smith, D.H.	Assistant Inspector	Fremantle
Smith, L.G.	Technical Officer, Grade 1	Perth, H.O.
Smith, P.A.	Cadet Inspector	Geraldton
Traynor, J.	Inspector, Grade 1	Perth, D.O.
Willey, P.C.	Cadet Inspector	Perth, D.O.
Wright, D.	Mate, r.v. "Peron"	Fremantle

ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL CONFERENCE

The 18th Annual Conference of departmental officers was held at Head Office from November 1 to 3 inclusive. With the exception of two officers, one on long service leave and the other on sick leave, every member of the field staff from Broome to Albany was in attendance. Two important visitors were present during the opening sessions. They were the Minister for Fisheries (Mr Hutchinson) and the Public Service Commissioner (Mr Bond). The Director (Mr Fraser) presided.

In extending to the visitors and to outstation officers a warm welcome to the conference, Mr Fraser expressed the hope that all would find the programme an interesting one

and derive much benefit from the three days' discussions which lay ahead. He welcomed particularly Mr Hutchinson, who had been ministerial head of the Department for the past 2½ years, and Mr Bond, who as the titular head of the public service had made it his job to meet as many of the rank and file of the service as possible.

The Director then introduced Mr Hutchinson and invited him officially to open the conference.

Mr Hutchinson said he regarded it as a great pleasure to be present again at this annual conference. He was fully aware - certainly very much more aware than he was two conferences ago - of the highly important part that the staff played in the administration, conservation, management and development of fisheries. He was certain, he said, that there was now a much greater public awareness of the need to protect and manage the fisheries. There was also a much greater political awareness of the need for sound administration and well-laid plans for development. This new awareness was not confined to Western Australia, he said. He had recently been present at a meeting in Canberra attended by Fisheries Ministers from every State as well as from the Commonwealth, and he could now say that right throughout the Commonwealth there was a determination that more must be done for fisheries. From the meeting in question there had emerged the Australian Fisheries Council, which consisted of the Ministers of the Commonwealth and all States. It was a top-level body which he knew could, and would, get things done. One of the first decisions of the Council was to approve the setting up of a school for fisheries field officers. That had just been held, and it had been his pleasure, in company with Mr Fraser, to be present at the opening ceremony. Two of those now present, Messrs Carmichael and McKay, had been at the school, and he was glad to see that they would be giving a talk on their experiences at this conference. He hoped schools such as this would become a regular feature of fisheries administration, and that this Department would be able to send officers to each successive school.

Mr Hutchinson went on to say that the feeling seemed to be growing in ministerial circles throughout Australia that fisheries inspectors should more and more adopt the role of advisors - advising not only the Department but also the fishermen. He fully agreed with the Director, who had recently described the inspectors as the eyes and ears of the Department. The inspectors, more than any other group of officers, were able to ascertain at first hand the problems confronting the operatives in the industry. They were able, more easily than any other officers, to learn whether the laws of protection and conservation were good laws or not. They were able to appreciate weakness in the law as well as its strength, and it was the responsi-

bility of the inspectorate to convey those weaknesses, and strengths, to the administration.

"We have in the past two years been attempting to give you an Act which will be workable and at the same time close many of the avenues of evasion which have opened up in the past. Very recently we have had more amendments carried. There was no opposition to the legislation when it was before Parliament. So on the political front you may accept that you have complete support. The fishing potential of this State is very great. But we as a team will be called upon to put all we have into our task if development is to be on sound lines. It does not matter whether we are administrators, or scientists, or technical men, or inspectors; all of us need to play our part. There is an exciting future ahead of all of us," Mr Hutchinson concluded. "Let us accept the challenge that the future holds".

Mr Hutchinson then formally declared the conference open.

Mr Fraser introduced Mr Bond, and invited him to address the gathering.

Mr Bond said he was grateful for the invitation to give a short address. He said he was quite sure that all present would derive a great deal of benefit from the deliberations of the conference. Meetings such as this afforded to widely-separated officers the opportunity of getting to know one another better and to help each other to sort out some of the problems that were common to all. They also afforded to the staff the opportunity for fellowship which was so important in the building-up of the team spirit.

He said he desired to congratulate the Director on the regular publication of the Monthly Service Bulletin. He had asked to be placed on the mailing-list, and he now read it with considerable interest. It contained most of what an officer needed to know of departmental activities, regulations, movements overseas, and so on, and in his opinion was a particularly important administrative tool.

Mr Bond went on to give some idea of the ramifications of the public service and of the 28 major Departments which came under his jurisdiction. Each member of the staff of every Department had an important role to play in the administration of his own Department, no matter how lowly a position he occupied within that Department. He stressed the need for team work, and the necessity for each officer to give the Government his complete support. At the same time it was necessary, he continued, to give the public the very best service that was possible. Only in

this way could good public relations be established, and without them it was virtually impossible to get across to the public the message that each one of us was called upon to deliver.

"When a decision is arrived at by the Department, it is your responsibility to get right behind the Department and support that decision to the hilt. You may not necessarily agree with it, but that doesn't matter. Try to remember that the top administration has available to it many more sources of information than you have, and a balanced decision is more likely on that account to be reached. The Department must have your complete loyalty at all times, for without it it cannot function efficiently. Let my last word be to the younger officers," concluded Mr Bond. "Take every opportunity for study to improve your knowledge. By doing so you will improve your usefulness to the Department, to the Government and to the public."

The Chairman then addressed the meeting as follows:-

"Mr Minister, Mr Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen: The Fisheries Department has been exceptionally well served by the succession of Ministers to whom has been assigned the administration of the Fisheries and Fauna Protection Acts. But never has either the Department or the fishing industry been better served than during the incumbency of Mr Hutchinson, our present Minister. All of us appreciate how important is the financial angle, and Mr Hutchinson has left no stone unturned in his discussions with the Treasurer to find the money so necessary to enable us to do what we know is needed. Look at Fremantle and Geraldton, for example. New fishing harbours are in course of construction there - indeed that at Geraldton is now in use. The cost of these installations will not be far short of £500,000. Then there are the improvement of the handling facilities at Shark Bay. Funds are being provided for new departmental offices at Geraldton, Bunbury, Mandurah, Jurien Bay and Lancelin, and, what was probably his greatest achievement, he was able to extract £1,000 from the Treasury to start off the Short-Necked Tortoise Conservation Fund.

One of Mr Bond's functions is the training of staff, both junior and senior staff. For example, our chief clerk has right through this year been attending a weekly class on public administration. I was unfortunate that I missed recently a seminar for senior administrative officers which extended over a whole week. Much to my regret, it clashed with the field officers' school in Sydney, at which I had been invited to lecture. Proper training of staff is essential if we are to have an efficient instead of a mediocre service. That is why I

have organised these conferences during the past 18 years. Mr Bond has the commendation of this Department, indeed of the whole service, for his training programme.

I am most grateful to both Mr Hutchinson and Mr Bond for giving us their time this morning, and I would like you all to express your appreciation in the usual manner".  
(Applause).

A brief report of the proceedings will be published in the December issue of the Bulletin.

#### FISHERIES ACT REGULATIONS AMENDED

New regulations are being introduced to apply to the crayfish and general fisheries this summer. Some amendments result from the new legislation passed in the last parliamentary session, while some are merely of a machinery nature designed to smooth administrative procedures.

They provide --

- (a) that the sale of crayfish meat, or dealing with it in any way, will be illegal;
- (b) that any crayfish tail of a weight equal to or exceeding 5 oz. shall be a legal-sized tail;
- (c) that it will be illegal to catch crabs in Leschenault Inlet (Bunbury) with a net which -
  - (i) is of greater length than 70 yards;
  - (ii) has meshes smaller than 4 inches;
  - (iii) is set within 70 yards of any other crab-net;
  - (iv) is set between sunset and sunrise.

This regulation further provides that a person shall not use more than three such nets at any one time.

The embargo on dealing in crayfish meat has been found necessary in order to prevent the disposal of undersize crayfish. While crayfish are still in their whole state it is a simple matter to determine whether or not they are of legal size. Similarly, while the tail is entire its conformity with legal ratings is easy to prove or disprove. Once cut up into meat, however, it is impossible to detect whether it is from a legal-sized fish or not. As unscrupulous persons were taking advantage of this loophole it had to be closed to protect the industry.

## FISHERIES FIELD OFFICERS' TRAINING SCHOOL



(Photos C.S.I.R.O.)

Photos taken on opening day, October 9, 1961.

*Top left*—Hon. C. F. Adermann, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry, speaking when opening school.

*Lower left*—Hon. Ross Hutchinson, D.F.C., M.L.A., Minister for Fisheries, W.A., speaking at opening ceremony.

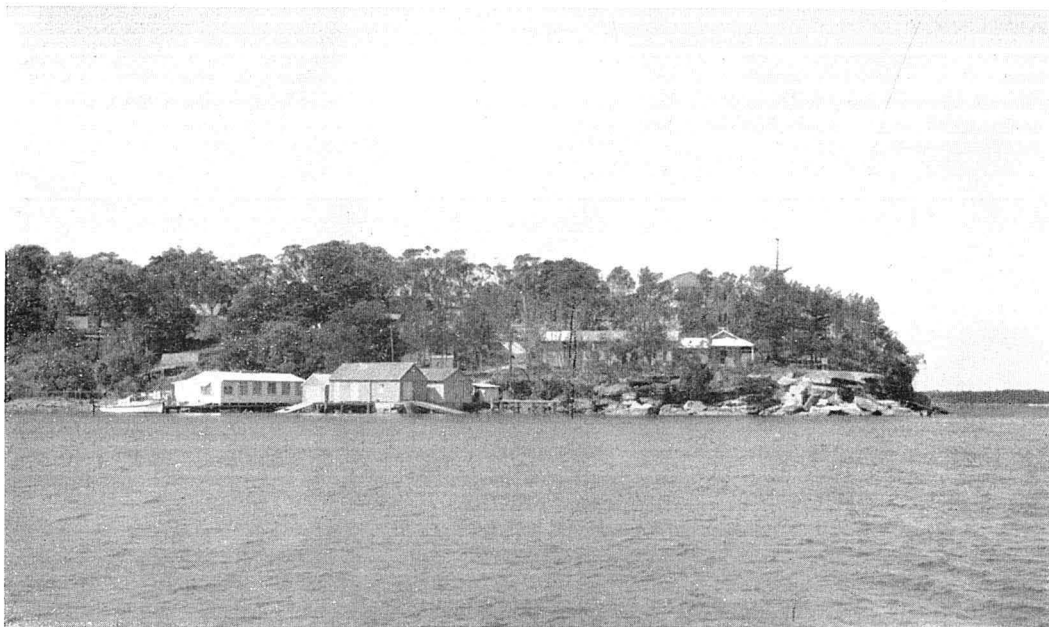
*Right*—Dr. G. L. Kesteven, principal of the school (centre), with Hon. N. J. Mannix, M.L.A., Minister for Justice, N.S.W., (left) and Mr. Hutchinson.

*Bottom*—The assemblage at the opening ceremony.

## FISHERIES FIELD OFFICERS' TRAINING SCHOOL



The lecturers and students.



The laboratories of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, Cronulla, N.S.W., where the school was held.

(Photos C.S.I.R.O.)

The new provision that weight shall be the sole criterion for judging whether or not a processed tail is a legal one owes its origin to the impossibility of accurately measuring processed tails while they are frozen and curled. To measure such tails accurately it would be necessary to thaw them and subsequently refreeze - a process which would contravene Customs export regulations.

The taking of crabs in Bunbury waters has increased tremendously in popularity in recent years and some restrictions were necessary to prevent any one person from cleaning out part of the Inlet. The use of drop-nets and dab-nets will not be restricted in any way.

#### NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR FISHERIES FIELD OFFICERS

Details of the recent school at Cronulla, Sydney, N.S.W., were given by Inspector B.A. Carmichael and Technical Officer R.J. McKay on their return to Perth at the end of October. Fisheries Minister Ross Hutchinson, who was present when the school was officially opened by the Minister for Primary Industry (Hon. C.F. Adermann, M.P.) on October 9, and Director of Fisheries A.J. Fraser, who was also at the opening and later delivered lectures on the administration and the regulation of fisheries, had returned some two weeks earlier.

Three States as well as Western Australia were represented by Cabinet Ministers at the opening ceremony. The other Ministers were the Hon. N.J. Mannix, M.L.A., Minister of Justice, N.S.W., who presided, the Hon. D.N. Brookman, M.L.A., Minister for Agriculture, S.A., and the Hon. A.C. Atkins, M.L.A., Minister for Agriculture, Tasmania. In attendance were the Superintendent of Fisheries, N.S.W. (Mr N.V. Harris), who was chairman of the school's organising committee, and Mr A.R. Mead, Acting Director of Agriculture, Tasmania. The Director of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Victoria, who was overseas, was represented by the Superintendent of Marine Fisheries Management, Mr D.D. Lynch. Messrs C.G. Setter, Director, and A.G. Bollen, Assistant Director, Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industry; the Chief of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography C.S.I.R.O. (Dr G.F. Humphrey); and the Assistant Chief (Fisheries) of that Division (Dr G.L. Kesteven), were also present at the opening ceremony. Dr Kesteven was Principal of the school.

The curriculum was particularly comprehensive, with fishery resources as the central theme. It comprised -

- + lectures and practical demonstrations.
- + lunch-hour tutorials and evening showings of films.

- + a visit to an oyster farm.
- + attendance at the Sydney Fish Market for Friday morning sales.
- + a demonstration at the Sydney office of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics of new machines for recording fisheries statistics.
- + an on-the-spot investigation of fishing port facilities at Eden, 300 miles south of Sydney.

The following was the syllabus of lectures -

- (a) Scope of course, plan of work, etc.
- (b) Governmental responsibility in development.
- (c) Regulation of fisheries.
- (d) Fact-finding in fisheries.
- (e) Policy making.
- (f) Administration of fisheries.
- (g) Role of field staff in foregoing activities.
- (h) Identity of resources.
- (i) Introduction to population theory (two lectures).
- (j) Location of resources.
- (k) Behaviour of resources.
- (l) Magnitude of resources and fluctuations.
- (m) Description and classification of gear.
- (n) Fishing power and selectivity of gear.
- (o) Description and classification of fishing operations.
- (p) Catch and effort statistics.
- (q) Structural features of fishing vessels.
- (r) Deck gear.
- (s) Effects of boats and gear on fishing power.
- (t) Fish handling and storage.
- (u) Description and classification of shore facilities.
- (v) Influence of shore facilities on fishing operations.

Practical demonstrations, etc., were given as follows-

1. Identification of various species of fish.
2. Measurement of fish (two sessions).
3. Age determination of fish.
4. Biological observations.
5. Length frequencies, variance, error.
6. Exercises in preparing descriptions of fishing gear.
7. Mesh measuring.
8. Field records.
9. Statistical operations.
10. Preparation of port survey; description and classification of boats (at Eden).
11. Visit to fish markets and practical session on measuring.

12. Visit to Bureau of Statistics to observe working of Hollerith machines.

Nineteen field officers from the States were present at the school. Six came from New South Wales, 4 from Victoria, 2 from Queensland, 4 from South Australia, 2 from Western Australia and 1 from Tasmania. Mr Harry Croft, of N.S.W., was elected student leader.

Both Mr Carmichael and Mr McKay are loud in their praise of the lecturers and demonstrators, and of the quality of the talks. They were particularly impressed with the organisation of the school, and greatly appreciative of the notes provided for each lecture and demonstration. They state unhesitatingly that the school has been most valuable to them. It is their considered view that it should become an annual one, and that as many as possible of the field officers of the various States should be required to attend.

Before coming back to their home-State Messrs Carmichael and McKay were afforded the opportunity of making further contacts in the eastern States. The former spent two days in the Canberra office of the Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industry; the latter was for several days at the Australian Museum, Sydney, engaged in taxonomic discussions with Mr G.P. Whitley, to whom the Department is most grateful for his very ready co-operation.

#### MINISTER REVIEWS GROWTH OF FISH PRODUCTION

In a foreward to a special newspaper supplement issued concurrently with the opening of the 1961 Marine Exposition and Festival at Fremantle on October 14, Fisheries Minister Ross Hutchinson drew attention to what he called "almost spectacular advances" in the fishing industry of this State.

Mr Hutchinson pointed out that at the end of the war our fisheries were so small that we occupied the lowliest position on the table of production by States. However, with the establishment of salmon and herring canning industries, and the exploitation of the craytail bonanza, we were now within striking distance of New South Wales, which had long held pride of place among all the States. Not only were we close to the mother-State's total production, but our crayfish fishery was easily the largest single fishery in the Commonwealth in respect of both landed weight and prime value.

Indicating that expansion of our fisheries was a continuous process, the Minister said that the Government appreciated the need for exploratory and experimental fishing and had provided

a specially-equipped ship and personnel for that purpose. He added that to encourage further development and consolidation of the crayfishery, a vessel and crew had been made available for continuous crayfish research. Concluding his remarks, Mr Hutchinson said that to provide for the better protection of our fisheries, funds would also be found for the progressive replacement of older units of the Department's fleet of patrol craft.

The Exposition and Festival, which was the first of its kind attempted in this State, lasted for eight days and covered all shades of marine activity in Western Australian waters. Although it struck unfavourable weather, the exhibits were all under canvas or the open, attendances were most encouraging and over £3,000 is said to have been raised for Legacy. It concluded, on October 22, with the annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony and an evening fireworks display.

#### ROOS IN THE NEWS!

Some idea of the importance which the native fauna could play in the State if it were fully exploited can be judged by production figures quoted in a recent press report. Citing the quantities handled in one district alone, the report said that in two years 112,419 kangaroos had passed through freezers operated in Leonora by a pet-food processing company.

The payout to professional shooters who secured this "kill" was said to be £46,783, an average of 48/- a carcass. Freight paid to the W.A.G.R. totalling something like £13,000, the equivalent of about 5/6 a carcass. The report concluded with a statement that although 1,000 kangaroos were being shot each week, they still represented a big pest menace to worried pastoralists. On the figures given, the prime value (to shooters) of the industry in the district is of the order of £125,000 a year.

#### FROM CRAWLEY TO SIBERIA!

One of our many trans-equatorial visitors, a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, has won a place in history. It was the first locally-banded bird to be recorded overseas. Marked at Pelican Point, Crawley, on January 5, it was caught in Siberia on May 28 at a point just north of the Arctic Circle and east of the River Lena. A rough estimate of the distance travelled by this little wanderer is 6,000 miles as the crow is said to fly. We don't know whether the sandpiper flies the same way!

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is one of the more common migratory waders which visit our State every year. It weighs only 2 or 3 ounces and is slightly bigger than a willy-wagtail.

This particular bird was banded by Miss Lexie Nicholls, a member of Dr Serventy's staff in the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., who was only recently notified of the band's recovery.

#### NOTES FROM THE NEWS

The all-steel 67 ft. crayboat "Atlantic Ocean" was launched at Fremantle on October 19. Built by a firm of migrant Dutchmen in Osborne Park for Hendrick Kelder and Cornelis D.H. den Hartog, the craft is a well-boat capable of carrying 13,000 lb. of live crays. She has a beam of 18 ft. and a 6'6" draught, and will operate in Geraldton waters.

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A stingray four feet wide and with a six-foot tail was caught at Mandurah last month by a well-known angler, Mr Andy Warnock. Fishing for kingfish with a 100 lb. breaking strain nylon line, Mr Warnock had to play the big fellow for half an hour and needed the assistance of four men using a rope round its tail to hoist it onto the landing on the town bridge.

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A retrospective thought for the perils met by early whalers operating from their longboats was spared by the crew of the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company's chaser Kos VII last month. Their backward glance was occasioned by a harpooned sperm whale, which turned on the chaser, and caused minor damage to her rudder and stern, when she was operating about 20 miles south-east of Albany. Although she was able to tow her victim back to port, the Kos VII had to spend some days in idleness while undergoing repairs.

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The role of light aircraft in enforcement and survey patrols is discussed in an article in the September, 1961, issue of "Oryx", the journal of the Fauna Preservation Society of London. The authors, D.R.P. Zaphiro, a game warden of the Kenya Game Department, and Lee M. Talbot, an ecologist working on a joint research programme, who have had considerable experience both as a team and individually with others, are convinced that the use of light aircraft offers advantages in greater economy and higher efficiency than the more standard methods of surface patrols. They point out that an aircraft of the type required does not depreciate in value if well maintained and looked after carefully. They estimate from experience (Zaphiro owns his own plane) that the cost of running a light aircraft, which fulfils all their requirements, is 9d. a mile (in East Africa). This cost is inclusive of maintenance, insurance, fuel, licensing and flight fees.

The features which they insist are essential are -

- + good visibility, which calls for a high-wing monoplane;
- + two-seater capacity;
- + ability to maintain low speeds with good over-the-nose visibility;
- + high power-to-weight ratio to give it ability to climb quickly away from hazards and to make use of limited landing spaces.

The writers stress, however, that this method of inspecting is not without its hazards, especially when the pilot becomes absorbed in observation. They also emphasize that the second man must have complete confidence in the pilot!

#### TRAVEL BY MOTOR VEHICLE ON BIENNIAL LEAVE

The Public Service Commissioner (Mr R.J. Bond), in a circular to permanent heads, advises that officers wishing to travel by private motor vehicle when proceeding on biennial leave, may be recouped the actual cost of petrol and oil for a return journey which would normally have been covered by free passes issued under Regulation 54. The amount to be recouped will be limited to a twenty-mile-to-the-gallon basis and the State will not be responsible for any vehicle repairs en-route. All entitlements to free passes for the leave period automatically lapse when officers avail themselves of this concession.

A further concession has been granted in the matter of travelling time. Officers proceeding to Perth on biennial leave may now be granted an extra day at each end of the leave period to compensate for time lost in travelling.

#### COUNCIL APPROVES ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

The Australian Fisheries Council, as reported in the previous issue of this Bulletin, was formed on September 1. One of its first resolutions was to approve recommendations received from the conference of administrative fisheries officers on the division of responsibility between the States and the Commonwealth and the appointment of extension officers.

The conference of fisheries officers, which comprised the heads of the respective State and Commonwealth Departments and which has now been placed on a permanent basis as the Standing Committee on Fisheries, defined the areas of responsibility as follows -

1. Commonwealth:

(a) Department of Primary Industry -

- (i) Administration of Commonwealth legislation;
- (ii) in co-operation with the States, the commercial development of fisheries;
- (iii) preparation, publication and dissemination of educational material;
- (iv) in co-operation with C.S.I.R.O. and State Departments, to organise schools of instruction for fisheries officers and fishermen;
- (v) economic research within Australia and overseas, gear technological research and provision of gear technological services as required to State Departments and industry.

(b) C.S.I.R.O. Division of Fisheries and Oceanography -

- (i) Scientific research (principally biological and oceanographic) in relation to Australian fisheries and, at the request and with the co-operation of the States, to fisheries under the control of the States;
- (ii) in co-operation with the Department of Primary Industry and State Departments, to conduct schools of instruction and to participate, if requested, in the general educational programme for this industry.

(c) C.S.I.R.O. Division of Food Preservation -

- (i) Food technological research.

2. States - including Territorial Administrations:

- (i) development, management and protection of fisheries and the provision of extension services;
- (ii) scientific and technological research;
- (iii) on behalf of the Department of Primary Industry, to supervise and patrol fisheries in extra-territorial waters.

The administrative officers had also drawn attention to the interlocking nature of the respective responsibilities and had emphasised that effective co-operation between all fishery authorities was essential if the industry was to progress. They pointed out that while this co-operation was needed in all

aspects of administration, it was particularly important in the provision of extension services. Australian fisheries were seen as verging on important developments for which active dissemination of technical information to all levels of industry was required. The success of such activities depended on the availability of extension officers in each State and the administrative officers had recommended their appointment.

They summed up their views by recommending -

- (1) that the division of responsibility as set out above be approved;
- (2) that continued close co-operation between the various agencies be endorsed as a pre-requisite to successful implementation of the functions described;
- (3) that each State appoint extension officers and take active steps to develop extension work.

In a far-reaching decision, these three recommendations were each accepted and adopted by the Australian Fisheries Council.

#### TRAWLING IN COCKBURN SOUND

A complaint that trawling had been carried out in the parts of Cockburn Sound closed to trawling was made to Fisheries Minister Ross Hutchinson recently. The complaint was made by a deputation whose members included the secretary of the Small Boatowners' Association, Mr J. Baker, and the President of the Cockburn Shire Council, Mr J.H. Cooper. They told the Minister that, during the off-season for crayfish, seven crayboats had been seen trawling in the closed waters and that this would "fish them out".

Mr Hutchinson said that while he was primarily concerned with the needs of professional fishermen, he was sympathetic to the wants of amateur anglers. He agreed to the appointment of an honorary inspector in the area and suggested that such an appointee could co-operate in a practical way with this Department. He added that if breaches of the ban on trawling were committed he would give his support to attempts to remedy them.

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCKS - 1961/62

The Minister for Fisheries, Mr Ross Hutchinson, announced recently that the 1961/62 season for wild ducks will open on the second weekend before Christmas. The closing date will be April 30, 1962.

Details of the opening given by the Minister were as follows:-

- (a) At 6 p.m. in the evening of Saturday, December 16, in the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Balingup, Bridgetown, Busselton, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Greenbushes, Harvey, Manjimup, Nannup and Preston.
- (b) At 5 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, December 17, in the remainder of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions not included in the Shires named.

Duck-shooting, said Mr Hutchinson, will nevertheless not be lawful in any of the following areas, which have been set aside as sanctuaries:-

- (a) The whole of the area within a radius of 20 miles of the General Post Office, Perth.
- (b) All municipalities and townsites in the South-West Land Division.
- (c) The whole of the Rockingham Shire.
- (d) The whole of the waters of Lakes Leschenaultia, Yealering and Seppings, and Bambun, Wagin, Nambung, Mungala, Nannarup and Wardering Lakes and all land within 20 chains of their shores.
- (e) The whole of the waters of the Vasse, King and Kalgan Rivers, and all land within 20 chains of their banks.
- (f) The whole of the waters of Vasse and Wonnerup Estuaries and all land within 20 chains of their shores.
- (g) All the waters of the Leschenault Inlet extending southwards from a line drawn south-east from Waterloo Head (Belvedere) on the west foreshore to a point on the opposite foreshore.
- (h) All that portion of the Capel River between the Capel and Stirling Bridges and all land within 20 chains of the river bank.

- (i) All that portion of the Coblinine River downstream from the eastern side of the bridge at the junction of road 3375 and road 323 (Oxley Road) to its mouth at the high-water mark of Dumbleyung Lake and all land within 20 chains of that part of the river's banks.
- (j) The whole of Caro Swamp and all land within 80 chains of its shores.
- (k) The whole of the waters of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour and all land within a radius of 20 chains of their shores.
- (l) The whole of the area of the Yanchep Caves Reserve.
- (m) The whole of the Harvey Catchment area.
- (n) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Mandurah.
- (o) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Boyup Brook.
- (p) The whole of the area within a radius of one and one-half mile from the Post Office at Balingup.
- (q) All that portion of the Avon River in the Toodyay District, between the northern boundary of Avon Location 3 and a point opposite road number 2069, and all land within 20 chains of the river banks.
- (r) All that portion of the Avon River from Dumbarton Bridge to the Railway Bridge, north of Toodyay and all land within 20 chains of the river banks.
- (s) All that portion of the Serpentine River from road 8629 at the southern end of Goegrup (Willies) Lake to Peel Inlet near the old Mill and all the land within 20 chains of the river banks.
- (t) All State Forests, Timber Reserves, town reservoirs and other areas where shooting is prohibited under the provisions of any Act, regulation or by-law.

He had agreed to exclude a part of the Coblinine River from the open season, the Minister continued, as the local Shire Council was developing a swimming-pool in that area. At the same time he had not acceded to a request to close most of Dumbleyung Lake. Caro Swamp, which was on a private land in the Dandaragan district, had now been closed to shooting as it was intended to use it in co-operation with the owners in waterfowl research.

Referring to the earlier opening, the Minister said that the season would open a week earlier this year to allow the game to be prepared in time for use on Christmas Day. If the opening of the season were delayed until the week-end before Christmas, as was normal, there would be insufficient time for shooters to visit their favoured sites and to return home to participate in family festivities.

The Minister also pointed out that Cape Barren Geese were not included in the open season for wild ducks. He appealed to visitors to Esperance not to interfere with the geese or any other fauna on the islands of the Recherche Archipelago, which were a sanctuary for all wild-life. Mr Hutchinson also called for full co-operation from all shooters in policing game conservation measures. He asked them to acknowledge the concession extended to them this year by respecting the opening dates and times.

Mr Hutchinson concluded by drawing attention to the following restrictions which were designed, he said, to conserve duck stocks -

- \* the use of traps is entirely prohibited throughout the State;
- \* spotlights are an illegal device;
- \* sale of wild ducks is forbidden;
- \* no person shall keep wild ducks in captivity.

#### UNUSUAL FAUNA OBSERVATIONS

Through lack of space we omitted from the last issue of this Bulletin a report received from Assistant Inspector E.H. Barker on the sighting of a Red-tailed Tropic Bird (or Bosun Bird) near Lancelin on September 12, 1961. Mr Barker, who was accompanied by Assistant Inspector N.K. Henry at the time, saw the bird flying around Edward Island, a fauna sanctuary just south of Lancelin. They were told by Mr R. Brown, a crayfisherman, that he had seen the Bosun Bird on several occasions during the previous six weeks.

This species is rare. A small nesting colony has been reported at different times on Pelsart Island in the Southern Group of Houtman Abrolhos, and a lone bird has nested twice

at Rottneest in recent years but has not hatched any young. The only recorded nesting of the species on the mainland was of a single bird at Busselton in 1939.

EXPERIMENTAL TUNA FISHING

(a) Report on Albany cruise:

Assistant Inspector E.H. Barker, who spent about a fortnight aboard the "Estelle Star" from September 28 to October 13, as a departmental observer, has submitted an interesting report on the tuna investigations during that period.

The "Estelle Star" is an 85 ft. craft capable of 10 knots. She is under charter by the Commonwealth to test the commercial tuna resources in waters off our shores between Doubtful Island, west of Albany, to Jurien Bay, midway between Fremantle and Geraldton. She carries a crew of four plus an officer of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., and a representative of either this Department or the Fisheries Division of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry.

Mr Barker reported that, due to unsatisfactory weather, only 8 days of his time aboard was spent at sea. Skippered by Ken Tidswell, they worked south of Albany and westward to Chatham Island, generally over the continental shelf. Chumming with pilchard and mackerel previously netted in Albany harbour, they fished with both troll lines and single rigged poles. The number and species of tuna landed were -

- 135 Southern Bluefin ranging in length from  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to  $25\frac{1}{2}$  inches and weighing from 4 to 15 lb.;
- 1 Albacore Tuna  $32\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and 30 lb. in weight;
- 1 Striped Tuna, 4 lb. in weight.

Samples of stomach contents of the Southern Bluefin were found to consist of pilchard, mackerel and other small fish of an inch or more in length. Other scientific work carried out included hourly temperature readings of waters between the surface and 30 fathoms; salinity sampling and marking of sperm whales. Three marks were definitely fixed and one possible hit was scored on these creatures which were all found in association with cold fronts of water with temperatures as low as  $14.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

(b) Proposed Extension of Survey:

Writing in response to questions from the Minister for Fisheries (Mr Hutchinson) regarding the assessment of tuna resources off our northern shores, the Commonwealth Minister for

Primary Industry (Mr Adermann) has indicated that no action will be taken until the present survey of tuna resources in southern waters has been completed. Preliminary examination of the question of a tuna investigation in north-western waters has indicated, Mr Adermann said, that present knowledge is so limited that a different type of survey involving a more scientific approach may be more appropriate. The Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Fisheries Development, which advises in respect of expenditures from the Development Fund (which is meeting the cost of the present survey), concurs that no testing of northern resources should be made until the southern survey has been completed.

#### MAJOR TAXONOMIC WORK FOR STATE LIBRARY

As the result of support given by the Minister for Fisheries to representations made jointly by the State Library Board, the Western Australian Museum and this Department, the Premier recently approved the purchase, for £500, of an extremely important and rare work on fish taxonomy. It is Cuvier and Valenciennes' "Histoire Naturelle des Poissons" which runs into 22 volumes and which was published 140 years ago. It has been out of print for many years; in fact it is believed that only 200 copies still exist. It is the standard authority for the identification of a large number of fish in the waters off our coast and will be the only set in Western Australia.

At the suggestion of our Minister, the set will be kept in the State Library where all workers in this State will have ready access to it.

#### QUAIL AND MARRON SEASONS TO OPEN

From December 1 until March 31, an open season for stubble quail will apply in all that part of the State lying north of the 31st parallel - i.e., northwards from Lancelin Island. The remainder of the State south of that parallel will not open until March 1 next year. Both seasons only apply to stubble quail.

The marron season will open on January 1. After having been closed for two years to conserve the marron in them, the waters of the North Dandalup River will be included in the next open season. There will thus be no waters specifically closed to the taking of marron. The embargos on selling them, and taking females in berry, and on taking undersize marron, will be enforced as usual.

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CONVICTIONS  
July-September, 1961.

Date	Defendant	Court	Charge	Result
<u>Fauna Protection Act</u>				
24.7.61	RADOVICH, George	Fremantle	Shooting protected fauna	Fined £5
27.7.61	RATHJEN, John ) RATHJEN, Ernest ) Frederick )	Pinjarra	" "	Fined £2
21.8.61	FISHER, Dennis Victor	Midland	Shooting in protected area	Cautioned
22.8.61	JAKENS, George ) William ) JAKENS, Bertie )	"	Shooting in closed area	Fined £5
26.9.61	HANKS, Milton	Harvey	Attempting to take	Fined £1
"	DAWE, Melrose	"	protected fauna	" £1
"	RENFREY, Alexander	"		" £1

FISHERMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As reported elsewhere in this issue, members of the Fishermen's Advisory Committee visited Dongara and Geraldton from October 22 to 24.

At Dongara, the principal representations made to the Committee were, firstly, that Dongara crayfishermen needed an area reserved for the exclusive use of fishermen licensed and resident at Dongara; and secondly, that an area 300 yards offshore should remain open throughout the year to cater for tourists.

Fishermen at Geraldton, through their Association's representatives, requested that the 1962 Abrolhos season commence on March 1. Earlier in the year, a number of individual fishermen had made an informal request that the opening be set back to March 15, but none of the many men who appeared before the Committee supported the move. Two other suggestions were that the northern boundary of the Abrolhos waters be moved 30 minutes farther north to discourage the practice by some freezer boats of working the grounds just north of the 28th parallel and anchoring at North Island.

The Committee's recommendations on the matters raised will be considered by the Minister.

## CLEARING HOUSE

### Anxiety over Common Market Proposal

If Norway joined the European Common Market, would foreign fishing vessels have the right to operate within Norway's fishery limit?

This was the question which resulted in a statement giving the Norwegian industry's views on the prospect of Norway joining the E.C.M. as "uncertain." The statement was issued at the annual meeting of Norges Fiskarlag, the national union of Norwegian fishermen, which was held at Trondheim recently under the direction of the union's chairman, Mr Magnus Andersen.

#### A close look.

Mr Andersen said in his opening speech that Norwegian fishing interests would have to look very closely at the factors involved in entry into the Common Market: "We must know what the cost of membership will be and also what the industry will lose by staying outside." He added that there was considerable anxiety among Norwegian fishermen, and that the Norwegian Government should not take it for granted that fishermen would accept a general admittance of foreign vessels inside Norwegian territorial waters, and even less accept them on equal terms as workers on Norwegian territory.

The statement issued from the meeting may be summarised as follows: 1. The fishermen look on the eventuality of Norwegian membership in the European Common Market with considerable hesitation and uncertainty. 2. Their hesitation is based mainly on the question of the right of foreign vessels to operate within Norwegian fishing limits. 3. They request the Government to safeguard all their interests.

(World Fishing

London

October, 1961)

### A New-Type Salmon from U.S.S.R.

Fish-breeders on the U.S.S.R. island of Sakhalin (north of Japan) have claimed that they have evolved artificially a new type of salmon which weighs more than three times as much at any stage of development than the Masu and humpback, from which it is evolved, and which matures very early.

The new breed is distinguished by its broad body, thick back and short, fat tail and grows to a weight of about 10 lb.

This is the second success of its kind to be achieved by Sakhalin fish breeders.

(World Fishing

London

October, 1961)

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S.A. Research Ship Worked 33 Stations in First Indian Ocean Cruise.

With the 6,800-mile cruise of the fisheries research ship "Africana II" in June and July, South Africa made an initial valuable contribution to the massive programme of research into the Indian Ocean.

More than 40 vessels from 15 nations are taking part, or are expected to take part, in this International Indian Ocean Expedition which will extend over 28,000,000 square miles of sea covering 14 per cent. of the earth's surface. The survey will reach its peak in 1962-63 and is being organised and co-ordinated by the Special Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions.

The Indian Ocean was chosen for a large-scale joint scientific effort not only because it is little known to scientists, but also because it presents a variety of interesting and important problems to the oceanographer, the hydrologist, and to the fishery scientist.

From 1961 through to 1963, three South African vessels - the "Africana II", the South African Navy's "Natal", and the University of Cape Town's oceanographic research vessel "John D. Gilchrist" - will take part in the project and will operate in the south-western corner of the Indian Ocean.

The work has been started by the Division of Sea Fisheries with its large and well-equipped ship "Africana II" - a steamer of 882 gross tons built in Britain in 1950. In June she set out east from Lourenco Marques, after having travelled up from Cape Town with a call at Durban, to work 33 ocean stations situated between latitudes 25° 40' S. and 38° S., and longitudes 29° 40' E. and 58° E.

Scientific Team

To ensure that the greatest possible benefit would be derived from the voyage and from the work at the stations, the ship carried an augmented scientific team under Mr R.W. Rand, a Chief Professional Officer of the Division of Sea Fisheries. Aboard her when she sailed from Cape Town were Dr D. de Decker, biological oceanography; Mr M.J. Orran and Mr A.C. Paterson, physical oceanography; and Mr W.J. Taylor, exploratory fishing. In addition to this team from the Division of Sea Fisheries, Mr B. Roets of Durban's Marine Biological Research Institute, and Mr S. Postma of the Weather Bureau joined the expedition in Durban. Captain K.T. McNish was in command of the "Africana II".

On this preliminary cruise the ship was to have worked

36 stations along three lines, to the east from the African coast, diagonally south-east to a point of 1,200 miles east of Durban, and west back to the coast south of Durban - a total distance of about 3,000 miles. But soon after she had turned south-east the ship had to make a long diversion north to Mauritius to land a sick seaman. On her way south again to rejoin the south-east line the ship worked three stations outside her planned area.

At the average deepwater station the "Africana II" stopped for 12 to 14 hours carrying out several observations and taking sea temperatures and water and plankton samples at various depths. The collecting gear and the methods of making the observations conformed to the agreed procedure for the Indian Ocean project and the area surveyed was agreed to between the Division of Sea Fisheries and SCOR.

#### Fish and Plankton.

In a fisheries research ship staffed by fisheries scientists, it was to be expected that most of the work at the stations would focus on fish and plankton, with complementary observations of water temperature, salinity, oxygen, phosphates and other physico-chemical characteristics of the sea from the surface down to 4,000 metres. When the ship was moving from station to station, three types of nets were towed to collect small fish and plankton, and tests were made with such fishing equipment as the Japanese long line which is now being used for tuna fishing off the Cape coast. Although no tuna were taken by the 100 hooks of the long line, they did bring in a small catch of such species as the Dolphin Fish and the Lancet Fish.

To assist in the observation of phytoplankton, the isotope carbon-14 was used to measure photo-synthetic activity, and so give an indication of productivity and abundance.

As a long-term project, drift cards were released at all stations. And, where relatively shallow water was found samples were taken from the sea bottom by means of a dredge and corers.

#### Variety.

Although samples taken at varying depths at each of the stations produced a great variety of plankton, the concentration was found to be far below that of the South Atlantic waters where the "Africana II" is usually employed. Only in the area south of Madagascar and near the African coast was there any sign of abundant sea life. Several whales were sighted on the voyage, a few sharks were caught, flying fish flew at times on to the ship, and a variety of small deepwater fish were taken in the tow nets. But there were no signs of large fish shoals.

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Before she sailed from Cape Town, the "Africana II" had an ELAC deepsea echosounder fitted which enabled the ship to make accurate recordings of the profile of the sea bottom throughout her cruise. Among the interesting features shown in these recordings are the continuation of the Madagascar land mass which produced relatively shallow water immediately south of the island; and a large ridge in the area of station 1,244 where the depth was 3,000 metres compared with 5,240 metres at station 1,246. At stations 1,248 and 1,249 a great submerged mountain range with sharp peaks and deep valleys reduced the depth of water below the ship to only 310 metres. Here there was considerable water turbulence and many wandering albatross were observed. It is thought that these peaks form part of a great range which is visible above the water only at the Crozet Islands far to the south.

Shallow water was encountered again at station 1,251 where the depth was 1,200 metres dropping steeply to 5,000 metres at station 1,252.

The six-week cruise of the "Africana II" has produced a wealth of valuable data on a little-known area of the Indian Ocean. Although it revealed that this area is poor in commercially exploitable fish, it also emphasised that no part of the sea is completely barren. The expedition returned with hundreds of samples of fish and plankton which will be examined, identified, and related to the mass of hydrological observations. Eventually full reports will be prepared as part of South Africa's contribution to the Indian Ocean project.

(Shipping News

South Africa

September, 1961)

#### X-ray Unit Detects Bones in Fishery Products

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service reports progress in the development of equipment that will automatically detect and reject fishery products containing bones.

The Bureau's Gloucester laboratory, through a contractual agreement with the Barkley and Dexter Laboratory of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, has developed an x-ray unit that is capable of detecting most bones in portioned fishery products that are moving on a conveyor belt at speeds up to 25 feet per minute. All bones thicker than 0.012 of an inch, or about as thick as three sheets of typewriter paper, were detected in half-inch thick portions. Almost all portioned fishery products produced today are a half-inch or less in thickness. Bones 0.012 of an inch thick are essentially harmless in that they become friable when the fish is cooked. All bones greater than

0.018 of an inch in thickness were detected in portions  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch thick. These larger bones tend to be harmful in cooked products.

In operation of the test unit, fish portions pass over an x-ray emitter at two speeds  $12\frac{1}{2}$  and 25 feet per minute. The x-rays pass through the fish and strike a fluorescent screen causing a signal which is detected by a shielded photoelectric cell. This signal is then displayed on an oscilloscope as a line-trace of light. Since the x-ray signal for bones at the fluorescent screen is different from that for flesh, this difference shows up as a deflection in the shape of the line-trace. Thus, when a deflection shows up in the line-trace, the operator knows that the sample being exposed to the x-rays contains a bone.

It is expected that additional equipment can be fabricated which will be sensitive to this bone signal deflection that appears on the oscilloscope. Such sensitized equipment could then be coupled with an automatic rejection system. Thus the end result would be an automatic detection and rejection system that would guarantee boneless fishery products to the public.

(Market News Service

New York

August 31, 1961)

### Danish Fishermen Seek Minimum Ex-vessel Prices for Several Varieties of Fish

Minimum ex-vessel prices for several varieties of fish are being sought by Danish fishermen. Producers of food fish, disturbed by recent low prices for plaice, a Danish staple, are seeking an agreement on a voluntary minimum price of one krone per kilo (6.6 U.S. cents a pound)\* for fish in the fourth size category. If this price could not be realized, the fishermen would sell their catch for mink food and bear any loss themselves. Fishermen supplying industrial fish to trout-pond operators also are seeking to institute a minimum price of 0.30 kroner per kilo (almost 2 cents a pound) for herring.

Meanwhile, the head of the Skagen Fisheries Association has claimed that all prices have increased except those paid to fishermen. He declared that fishermen must be guaranteed reasonable minimum prices for their catches, but did not believe that the Government could set up a pool as a guarantee for a minimum price regulation at once. However, he said that the Government, after having provided over 400 million kroner (U.S. \$58 million) for agricultural support, should be ready to cover a part of the expenses involved in establishing a pool to guarantee minimum prices for fish.

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\* Approximately 7d Australian.

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The recent low prices paid for live plaice in Danish ports spurred a newspaperman to check prices from the fishermen's level to the consumer. He found that port buyers paid the fishermen about 1.30 kroner per kilo (about 8.6 U.S. cents a pound); the fish buyers resold the fish to wholesalers in Danish cities, such as Copenhagen, for about 2.60 kroner per kilo (17 cents a pound); the wholesalers received about 3.10 kroner per kilo (20.4 cents a pound) from the retail fish dealers, who then sold the plaice to housewives for 5 kroner per kilo (33 cents a pound) or almost quadruple the price the fishermen received. (August 8, 1961, report from Fisheries Attache, United States Embassy, Copenhagen.)

(Market News Service

New York

August 25, 1961)

#### Hoverferry Runs Trials

Britain's first hovercraft, a 66 ft. craft, was run on its first public trials recently on the Gareloch, Scotland.

Built by William Denny and Brothers, Ltd., Dumbarton, in collaboration with Hovercraft Development Ltd., it is purely a research vehicle from which it is hoped to develop larger and more efficient craft to carry 60-70 passengers.

It differs from other existing British hovercraft in that the rectangular cushion is sealed along its sides by immersed walls, which have a maximum depth of one foot. The front and rear of the cushion is sealed by an advanced air curtain system. The craft, 66 ft. overall, with a 10 ft. beam, has an all-up weight of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  tons. It is manned by a crew of three. The lift is provided by two engines each capable of developing a maximum of 25 b.h.p., and it is propelled by two outboard motors each capable of developing a maximum of 35 b.h.p.

This craft, which has already been described as a hoverferry, has been designed to investigate the economy and behaviour of commercial water-borne hovercraft in the speed range, while in confined waters, of 20 to 40 knots.

(Shipping News

South Africa

July, 1961)