

[MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN  
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA. DEPT. OF

FISHERIES AND FAUNA

AUSTRALIA

14(8) Oct 1965

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF  
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Vol. XIV, No. 8

October, 1965

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STAFF NOTES

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna (Mr. G. C. MacKinnon) attended a meeting of Commonwealth and State Fisheries Ministers in Brisbane on September 23.

\* \* \* \*

The Director, Mr. A. J. Fraser, the Senior Research Officer, Mr. B. K. Bowen and Dr. A. R. Main represented Western Australia at the annual Commonwealth-States Fisheries Conference in Brisbane on September 20 and 21. Dr. Main is, as well as a deputy member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, a member of the Western Fisheries Research Committee. Before going to Brisbane the Director and Mr. Bowen attended the fisheries field officers' training school at Cronulla, N.S.W., on September 16 and 17, when the former briefly addressed the students. The Director filled in the intervening weekend by attending a meeting of the Council of the Australian Conservation Foundation at Canberra on September 18 and 19.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. J. B. Byleveld of Head Office, after some 3½ years with this Department, left on September 1 on promotion to a post in the Chief Secretary's Department. Mr. Byleveld will take up his new duties as clerk, C.II.2, at Sunset Home, Dalkeith, after a two-week period of Army camp.

\* \* \* \*

Following office re-arrangements and the provision of a new switchboard, Miss Dale Patrick has taken over full-time duties as switchboard operator. Miss Margaret Harrison, whom we welcome to the staff, has taken over the duties previously carried out by Miss Patrick.

Officers who commenced annual leave last month include Miss Beth Smith (Typist) on September 13, Inspectors D. P. Gordon (Albany) and A. E. Tanner (Lancelin) on September 11. Those who will be going on holiday this month include Assistant Inspectors D. E. Blackman (Perth) and E. R. Little (Shark Bay) on October 4, Cadet Inspector P. Lambert (Perth) and Technical Assistant D. Donnelly (Head Office), on October 11. Research Officers R. J. Slack-Smith and R.C.J. Lenanton start leave on October 15, and will travel to New South Wales. En route they will pay a short visit to the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Victoria. This will be followed by a week's stay at the C.S.I.R.O. Marine Laboratory, Cronulla, N.S.W.

\* \* \* \*

Inspector F. J. Campbell (Shark Bay) resigned from the public service on September 23. Inspector R. Smith of Jurien Bay has taken over as inspector-in-charge of that station for the time being. Fauna Warden L. R. Frizzell is also leaving the Department. He has tendered his resignation to be effective from October 29.

\* \* \* \*

Several inspection staff movements are scheduled for this month. Cadet Inspector J. S. Fletcher will go to Shark Bay on October 5 to relieve Assistant Inspector E. R. Little whilst the latter is on annual leave. Assistant Inspector R. G. Lindsay will be transferred to Mandurah on October 4 as assistant to Inspector A. V. Green, and Assistant Inspector G. J. Hanley will be transferred to Geraldton as from October 8.

\* \* \* \*

While en route to Perth from Cronulla, N.S.W., after having attended the field officers' training course, Inspector C. W. Ostle and Assistant Inspectors I. L. Cardon and R. G. Lindsay spent three days in both Melbourne and Adelaide learning something of departmental activities of our sister Departments in those cities. The visits were most instructive and enjoyed immensely by our inspectors. The efforts of the local officers in showing our inspectors around is very much appreciated.

Technical Officer N. E. McLaughlan has been successful in catching very small crayfish by diving at Dongara. Some he has caught have measured approximately 1" carapace length.

Juvenile crayfish size groups of 1" carapace or less are required by the research section for growth rate studies and should any Inspector learn of the whereabouts of nursery areas containing such small crayfish he should notify officers of the research section.

\* \* \* \*

#### "LANCELIN" ON MOVE AGAIN

R.v. "Lancelin" left Fremantle on September 21 for Jurien Bay to carry out further crayfish tagging under the current research programme. To catch small crayfish for growth rate studies, crayfish pots with wire mesh of  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " are being used. The catch results so far have been good and some crayfish as small as  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " carapace length have been tagged. The "Lancelin" will return to Jurien Bay during February next in an endeavour to recover the small tagged crayfish. It is anticipated that some of the larger crayfish tagged will be recovered by fishermen as "white" crayfish early in the coming open season.

#### VALE FRED ALDRICH

It was with great regret that we learned of the death in Perth on September 21 of Mr. Fred Aldrich, Chief Inspector of Fisheries in Western Australia from 1911 to 1938.

Mr. Aldrich was born in New South Wales and was in charge of the hatcheries at Cronulla, Port Hacking, prior to coming to W.A. in 1911. He was closely associated with the pearling industry at Broome, and helped to establish a whaling station at Point Cloates. He was one of the first fisheries chiefs to recognise the importance of the rich commercial and sporting fisheries off the W.A. coast line.

He is survived by four daughters.

#### RECLASSIFICATION APPEAL RESULTS

The results of the General Division reclassification appeals were recently made known and members of our staff to benefit are as follows:-

Senior Inspector J. E. Munro was promoted from Class G-II-3 to G-II-4 and his title changed to Assistant Supervising Inspector.

Inspector A. V. Green was raised from Class G-II-2 to G-II-3 and his title altered to Senior Inspector.

Inspectors F. J. Campbell and A. T. Pearce went from Class G-II-1 to G-II-2. Their titles will now be Inspector (Seagoing).

Appeals lodged by Supervising Inspector J. E. Bramley and Fauna Warden S. W. Bowler were dismissed.

#### TELEPHONE TO SHARK BAY

A telephone has now been installed in the District Office at Denham. The number is Shark Bay 10.

#### MINISTER ADDRESSES GERALDTON FISHERMEN

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna (Mr. MacKinnon) addressed fishermen and representatives of processing firms at the annual meeting of the Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative Limited on September 6.

Mr. MacKinnon explained to the meeting the provisions of new legislation to be introduced shortly to the State Parliament. He spoke of the special license fees which will be paid by processing factories and freezer-boats. These would be paid to a special account from which fisheries research, investigations and development, as well as the provision of extension services, would be financed. No part of these moneys, the Minister stressed, would be used for enforcement or policing. He referred to the increased penalties provided in another Bill which would be brought down the following week. This measure also provided for the replacement of the present Fishermen's Advisory Committee by two new committees - one for the crayfisheries and the other for the general fisheries.

The Minister was warmly applauded at the conclusion of his informative talk.

#### NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Advice has been received from the Public Service Commissioner that Cabinet has approved the following conditions for public servants called up for national service training:-

1. Leave for National Service

Officers who are required to render service under the National Service Act will be granted leave without pay for the full period involved. There will be no eligibility for any part of Public Service pay while on National Service. Officers should forward a copy of their call-up notice, together with an application for leave without pay to Head Office. On completion of National Service, the officer will be required to produce a certificate of Service to verify the period served.

2. Superannuation

Officers will be required to meet their own superannuation contributions during their absence on service.

Arrangements for payment should be made through the Department.

Although a copy of the latest amendment to the National Service Act is not available, it is understood that the Act requires the trainee to pay contributions "during, or within one month of the expiration of the period of service".

3. Increments

Officers will be entitled to the normal salary increments which would accrue during the period of leave for National Service.

4. Leave

National Service will count as qualifying service for long service leave purposes, but will not count as service for annual, sick or short leave. Officers who are liable for call-up will be rostered for annual leave towards the end of the year. Officers who have already taken their 1965 leave and have been called up shall not be required to refund the pro rata portion of unearned leave, but this pro rata portion of leave will be taken into account when calculating annual leave entitlement on an officer's return to duty with the Department.

If an officer resigns from the Service, action will be taken to recover the amount of unearned leave.

In respect to future call-ups, annual leave will be dealt with as follows:-

- (a) Officers may elect to take the pro rata annual leave to which they are entitled in conjunction with the commencement of National Service.
- (b) Officers may elect to retain the pro rata portion of annual leave to which they are entitled as a credit upon resumption of duty after the completion of National Service.
- (c) Where officers have taken leave prior to call-up, action is to be taken to recover the pro rata amount of unearned leave.
- (d) Cash in lieu of leave will not be paid in any circumstances.

5. Employers not to employ persons who fail to register or who are liable for service

Under the Act, the obligation is placed on the employer to refrain from employing, or continuing to employ, any person liable to register who has failed to register, or any person liable to render service who has failed to render that service.

In order to conform with this requirement, the Department will:-

- (a) Sight the Certificate of Registration of those liable to register.
- (b) Sight letter of exemption of those exempted from service.
- (c) Follow up cases where officers have had their service deferred.

Any breach will be notified immediately to the Public Service Commissioner.

6. Promotion and Appeal Procedure

Section 8 of the Government Employees' (Promotions Appeal Board) Act, protects the promotion and appeal rights of officers on active service and sets out the procedure to be followed. It may be necessary to amend

the Act to cover National Service Trainees but, in the meantime, the procedure set out in the Act should be followed in respect of National Service Trainees.

COMMONWEALTH STATE KANGAROO MEAT CONFERENCE

The Fauna Officer Mr. H. B. Shugg, as Western Australia's representative, will leave Perth by air for Canberra on October 4 to attend a Commonwealth-States meeting to discuss kangaroo meat export standards. With the exception of Tasmania, all states will be represented. The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, has suggested the meeting because of the sharp increase in the number of kangaroos killed in recent years. Estimates based on meat exports alone indicate that in 1964/65 half-a-million kangaroos were killed. Conservation experts of C.S.I.R.O. believe that certain species of kangaroos will be greatly reduced in numbers or even face extinction if uncontrolled killing at the present rate is permitted. There have been reports, too, from some overseas markets which indicate that the incidence of infection in kangaroo meat is higher than in other meats. This is supposedly due to the methods used for slaughtering and handling which provide considerable opportunity for infection.

CONVICTIONS

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1965

Date	Defendent	Court	Charge	Result
			<u>FISHERIES ACT</u>	<u>Fined</u>
30.8.65	SANTORAMITA, Fedel	Fremantle	Netting in Closed waters )	8. 0.0
23.9.65	DANIELS, Ronald R.	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	22.12.0
23.6.65	MANIFAS, Michael	Perth	U/S Crayfish ) U/W Craytails ) Illegal Processing )	269.10.0
1.7.65	ZOUKO, Ivan	"	U/W Craytails	52. 5.0
27.7.65	SIGNORILE, Gino	"	U/S Crayfish	52. 8.0
27.7.65	COUINO, Antonio	"	" "	52. 8.0
27.7.65	VINCI, Antonio	"	" "	32.10.0
4.8.65	ORIFICI, Carmelo N.	"	" "	22.10.0
4.8.65	BOMBARA, Santa	"	" "	34. 5.0

Convictions Continued

Date	Defendent	Court	Charge	Result
4.8.65	DEFLORENCA, Fernando	Perth	U/S Crayfish	30.15.0
"	FRY, Edward W.	"	" "	29. 5.0
"	BUCCHIANICO, Antonio	"	U/W Craytails	84. 5.0
6.8.65	COATES, Robert	"	Illegal Pro- cessing	15. 0.0
6.8.65	PLUMMER, Lawrence B.	"	" "	15. 0.0
25.8.65	STACEY, Adrian F.	"	U/S Crayfish	67. 0.0
25.8.65	SULLY, Peter John	"	" "	23. 5.0
"	GUEST, Roy	"	" "	42.10.0
"	KRISTIANSEN, Shirley D.) and Gregory N.	"	" "	35.10.0
27.8.65	ROGERS, Ronald J.	"	" "	19.10.0
21.9.65	PARKER, Raymond A.	"	" "	11. 8.0
25.5.65	ANDERSON, Laurits	Collie	U/S Marron	5. 0.0
25.3.65	COCKING, Owen J.	"	" "	5. 0.0
25.5.65	HENDERSON, Fred	"	" "	5. 0.0
"	CULLEN, Thomas	"	" "	5. 0.0
"	SAGGARS, Robert W.	"	" "	5. 0.0
13.7.65	MERRY, Robert B.	"	" "	11.16.0
"	SUCKLING, Arthur L.	"	" "	11. 6.0
"	KING, Harold	"	" "	15.14.0
"	PIKE, Roderick	"	" "	15.14.0
"	MOYSES, James R.	"	" "	15.14.0
<u>FAUNA PROTECTION ACT</u>				
10.8.65	COCKMAN, Ronald K.	Perth	Taking Pro- tected Fauna	5. 0.0
18.8.65	LOVERIDGE, F.C. Snr.	"	Hindering Wardens	20. 0.0
"	LOVERIDGE, F.C. Jnr.	"	Taking Pro- tected Fauna	10. 0.0
20.8.65	SHEPPHEARD, William G.	"	" "	5. 0.0
"	MOORES, James	"	" "	5. 0.0
"	SKINNER, Raymond	"	" "	5. 0.0
"	PINKER, Marshall W.	"	Obstructing Warden	15. 0.0
"	FRANKIE, Anthony	"	" "	5. 0.0
"	TAYLOR, Peter	"	Taking Pro- tected Fauna	5. 0.0
"	KING, John	"	" "	5. 0.0

### CARNARVON FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

An inter-departmental committee under the chairmanship of the Administrative Officer, Mr. B. R. Saville, has been appointed by the State Government to study the prospects of developing the fishing industry in the Carnarvon-Shark Bay area.

Amongst other things, the Committee will inquire into the extent of the fishing grounds, fish species, the economics of processing in the north, including the possible integration of fish, fruit and vegetable processing.

The other members of the committee are Mr. E. K. Steere, Public Works Department; Mr. K. G. Forsyth, Harbour and Light Department; Mr. D. Kilpatrick, Department of Industrial Development and Mr. R. Fletcher, Department of North-West.

### CRAYFISH SEASON 1965/66

The 1965/66 crayfish season will again open on November 15. It is unlikely that there will be any increase in overall production this year and, unless exceptionally good seasonal conditions determine otherwise, it is unlikely that the production of 5,589,723 lb. caught last year during the "white" season will be maintained. However, the price paid to fishermen at the end of last season had exceeded 7/- per lb. and any fall in the catch this year should be offset by the high price. It is more than likely that last year's prices will be maintained.

Approval has been obtained to appoint an additional mobile patrol to assist in policing of the crayfish industry. Applications will shortly be called for a Grade 1 and a Grade 2 inspector to constitute the new patrol. Four new vehicles and two new caravans will be purchased. These will be used by inspectors in outlying areas such as Cervantes, Ledge Point and Cape Leschenault.

### COMPLAINT OF CRUELTY TO KANGAROOS

Last month, the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna received a complaint that kangaroos were being subjected to unnecessary cruelty by professional hunters. The complaint was forwarded by Mr. T. Bogue Atkinson, President of the Australian Branch of the World League for the Protection of Animals. Mr. Atkinson wrote that his society was "receiving letters from citizens from the U.S.A., in which country it is freely stated that kangaroos are shot deliberately in the hip and left alive in agony on the ground until daylight and then finally killed by being beaten over the head with stones. Thus is the meat kept fresh."

We have had no other reference to this practice in this State and feel sure that it does not occur here. The Fauna Officer (Mr. Shugg) advised that when he was in Canberra at the recent Commonwealth State Conference on the export of kangaroo meat, he was informed by other representatives that they knew of no similar occurrence in their respective States.

While it appears probable that there is little, if any, substance in the report, stories like this do much harm to Australia's image overseas. Although there is no specific prohibition of hip shooting in the regulations as they stand, any unnecessarily cruel practices would be prohibited if they were to start. ALL officers should, therefore, forward to this office any complaint or report of cruelty being inflicted on the native fauna, together with their comments as to whether the report in their opinion has any substance.

#### NORTH-WEST PRAWN SURVEY

Technical Officer E. H. Barker left Perth by air for Darwin, on September 3, to join the licensed fishing boat "Ross Slaven" in a series of exploratory trawls for prawns south-west of that port.

The "Ross Slaven", which is owned by Ross International Fisheries, is 63 feet in length and powered by a 240 H.P. super-charged diesel motor. It is rigged for double trawling and manned by a crew of four. During the week or so that Mr. Barker was aboard, trawling was carried out both day and night in various depths down to 25 fathoms and up to 60 miles south-west of Darwin. Prawns of commercial importance were caught, but not in commercial quantities.

On the trip north the vessel worked out of Wyndham, in the Cambridge Gulf area. However, although prawns were caught, they were, similarly to the area around Darwin, not in commercial quantities. Mr. Barker says that the northern areas could prove extremely productive, possibly during or after the wet season (January to March), when supposedly large quantities of prawns are either flushed out or move out of the many rivers and tidal creeks.

Mr. R. Taylor, a prawn trawling gear technologist from Queensland, was also on board "Ross Slaven". Mr. Taylor is an authority on prawn trawling gear, particularly in respect to trawling for banana prawns. He has worked closely with the C.S.I.R.O. in Queensland waters.

CRAYFISH REGULATIONS IN MAINE, U.S.A.

The April 1965 issue of the American commercial fisheries journal, "National Fisherman", gives details of new legislation introduced in the 102nd legislature of Maine. Hereunder are examples which give some indication of regulations adopted or recommended for the management of that State's crustacean fisheries. It is interesting to note the similarity of their suggested restrictions to ours, and that their penalties and fees are even more severe.

1. The penalty for possessing short lobsters has been increased from \$5 to \$25 for each lobster involved.
2. The number of lobster traps per person has been limited to 250 at any one time.
3. A York County Lobster and Crab Fishing License is to be created. It is proposed to provide that it would be unlawful for any person to take lobsters or crabs in any manner from the waters of York County without a license.

The license fee is to be £50, unless the applicant is 65 years or over, when the fee is to be allocated to the State Lobster Fund and £40 is to be allocated to the York County Lobster Fund.

4. It is also suggested that lobster licenses be suspended for molestation of lobster traps. On conviction, the violator's license is to be suspended for a period not exceeding three years.

WOOD DUCKS

This species, which is usually classified as an aberrant member of the tribe of perching ducks, appears each year to become more common throughout the southern part of the State. On a number of occasions last summer, Inspector D.P. Gordon and Assistant Inspector I.L. Cardon, both of Albany, reported considerable concentrations of wood ducks on farm dams in the south coast region.

They are also showing up in the metropolitan area. Cadet Fauna Warden K.D. Morrison reported the sighting of one female on Shenton Park Lake during visits in July and August, while Fauna Officer H.B. Shugg has noted the presence of a pair in a Queen's Gardens Lake for some months past. Previously, reports of their occurrence in the city parks were very rare. Mr. Shugg also reported observing a wood duck on the newly established dam at the Tuttanning Fauna Research Station, on August 15.

NORTH-WEST CAPE COMMUNICATION STATION

The Commonwealth Government has declared the United States Navy Communications Station areas, and an area in the vicinity of the pier at Point Murat, prohibited areas. It should be noted, however, that the declaration does not affect the townsite of Exmouth. The Civil Commissioner at Exmouth, Lt. Col. J. K. Murdoch, O.B.E., has been gazetted as the officer-in-charge of prohibited areas.

Persons who wish to enter the prohibited areas should make an application for a permit to the Civil Commissioner's Office together with an indication of the appropriate clearance for each individual.

Separate arrangements have been made for the issue of permits to members of the United States Forces, the U.S. civilian component, and their dependants.

Officers who are required to visit the U.S.N. project at North-West Cape should consult the Civil Commissioner in advance. This is necessary not only in regard to the requirements for the issue of a permit, but also because of extreme shortage of accommodation at the North-West Cape, including the townsite of Exmouth.

STATE GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS IN LONDON

This State's London headquarters have been extensively remodelled and will be officially re-opened next month.

The building will no longer be known as "Savoy House" and should in future be referred to as "Western Australia House".

Communications sent to the Agent-General for Western Australia or to the Official Secretary should be addressed:-

Western Australia House,  
115 Strand,  
London, W.C.2, England.

Cables - Karrakatta London W.C.2

Telephone - Temple Bar 8601

THE PORCUPINE

Any hound a porcupine nudges  
Can't be blamed for harbouring grudges.  
I know one hound that laughed all winter  
At a porcupine that sat on a splinter.

(Ogden Nash)

## CLEARING HOUSE

### SCIENTISTS ARE WINNING THE BARNACLE BATTLE

Scientists, Navy men and paint manufacturers are winning the war against the barnacle.

The destroyer Vampire returned to Sydney after 16 months at sea, mostly in South-East Asian waters. The Navy had planned to dry-dock it for periodical maintenance, including scraping of the hull. But divers who examined the ship below water-line reported that the hull was exceptionally free from fouling. Garden Island dockyard officials then postponed the docking for several months. Navy ships can now stay out of dock longer as a result of co-operative efforts between Navy personnel, paint manufacturers and scientists.

Most of the Vampire's hull is coated with a conventional anti-corrosion system. But there are two areas, each of 250 square feet, coated with experimental systems aimed at obtaining several years' fouling protection and many years' corrosion protection. Successful performance of these special systems would bring about a major revolution in docking policies, ultimately saving ship-owners millions of pounds in fuel and maintenance costs, reports say.

One of the systems has a coal-tar epoxy resin for corrosion protection. The other has a solventless epoxy resin followed by a thick layer of soluble matrix anti-fouling paint.

Mr. B. Wisely, a senior research scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, division of fisheries and oceanography at Cronulla, suggested the latter system after eight years of research.

He has been working on the interactions of young fouling organisms, anti-fouling and anti-corrosion systems and ships' hulls. He said the effectiveness of the experimental systems could not be answered until they had been properly examined in dry dock but the performance so far was very encouraging. The area on the Vampire had been coated under experimental conditions. Further work would be necessary to develop satisfactory application techniques under normal dry-dock conditions.

Research into fouling preventions goes back to about 412 B.C., when the ancients pasted arsenic, sulphur and oil on their ships' sides. Marine borers were hampering the Phoenicians' boats as they sailed around Africa or over to

Britian for a load of tin. They ravaged the classical galleys of Greece and Rome, Sir Frances Drake's Golden Hind, and even threatened Holland by attacking the retaining timbers of the dykes.

(The Fisherman

New South Wales

June, 1965)

#### NEW ZEALAND - JOINS 12-MILE FISHING BLOC

New Zealand this year will extend its fishing limits to 12 miles by establishing a zone 9 miles in width for exclusive fishing by New Zealand nationals outside the Territorial Sea three miles in width. The law will employ the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1958 on the question of the Territorial Sea.

Announcement of the decision was made by New Zealand's Prime Minister Keith Holyoake, who said his country's act would embody provisions equivalent to those in recent legislation passed by the United Kingdom and Canada.

Premier Holyoake said the question of an exclusive fishing zone should be considered in its proper persepective, and he noted that pressure on the world's fishery resources had enlarged markedly, and would continue to do so.

He warned New Zealand fishermen that the 12-mile limit would not guarantee their security unless their gear and methods were modern and kept effective. He saw matching need for more markets and a larger research enterprise; and felt that policies applied through the Fishing Act of 1963 had already provided an increased total catch and a gain in boat building.

Mr. Holyoake felt that establishment of the Fishing Industry Board and enlargement of the Marine Department's research branch had paved the way for tighter and more vigorous liaison between the government and the industry. Moreover, real incentive had been provided the New Zealand industry by the examples of leading fishing nations.

(Ocean Fisheries

San Fransico

July 1965)

#### SUMMARY OF MARINE EXPORTS

Exports of marine products passed the £10 million mark to reach £10,391,000 in the twelve months ended June 1965. High craytail prices together with increased exports of prawns, pearls and scallops helped to achieve this level.

Marine exports have more than doubled their value in the last ten years. This increase is in spite of a marked decline in the level of exports of whale products and pearl shell over the same period. The increased value of exports of crayfish and, more recently, other luxury seafoods has more than made up for this decline. Exports of fish, crustaceans and molluscs have more than quadrupled in value during the ten years.

Exports for 1964-65 are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Exports of Marine Products (a)  
(£'000)

Commodity	June		Twelve months ended June		% Change
	1964	1965	1964	1965	
Frozen - Craytails	371	624	5,569	6,779	+21.7
- Whole Crayfish	53	47	452	279	-38.3
- Prawns	144	136	569	1,000	+75.7
- Scallops	56	17	296	434	+122.6
- Other crustaceans and molluscs		(c) 75		225(c)	
- Tuna	94	-	204	151	-26.0
- Other fish	1	1	13	13	-
Canned fish, crustaceans and molluscs	3	15	41	165	+302.4
Whale products	60	-	486	428	-11.9
Cultured Pearls	52	14	481	663	+37.8
Pearl-shell and trochus shell	9	18	216	225	+4.2
Other marine products	-	(b)	14	29	+107.1
Total	843	947	8,341	10,391	+24.6

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) Negligible.

(c) Includes some whole crayfish.

Source: Commonwealth Statistician.

Current market conditions for some of the main commodities are briefly reviewed below.

CRAYFISH

High prices on the American market resulted in exports of craytails for the twelve months reaching a record level of £6,779,000, an increase of 21.7% on the previous year although production decreased.

The values of craytail exports for the twelve months from the Australian states expressed as percentages of the total were as follows:

Western Australia	-	77.9%;	Victoria	-	8.3%;
South Australia	-	7.2%;	Tasmania	-	4.9%;
New South Wales	-	1.6%.			

For the whole crayfish the figures were:

Western Australia	-	56.9%;	Victoria	-	16.8%;
South Australia	-	18.6%;	Tasmania	-	4.5%;
New South Wales	-	3.2%.			

Table 2. Exports of Frozen Crayfish (a) - Country of Destination

Country of Destination	June				Twelve months ended June				% Change in Value
	1964		1965		1964		1965		
	'000 lb.	£'000	'000 lb.	£'000	'000 lb.	£'000	'000 lb.	£'000	
U.S.A.									
Tails	536	362	649	609	8,287	4,975	7,652	6,681	+34.3
Whole	4	1	7	3	216	68	138	75	+10.3
France									
Tails	12	7	-	-	750	361	53	44	-87.8
Whole	148	51	65	43	951	331	397	184	-44.4
Other									
Tails	2	2	20	15	375	233	69	54	-76.8
Whole	1	1	2	1	158	53	49	20	-62.3
Total									
Tails	550	371	669	624	9,412	5,569	7,774	6,779	+21.7
Whole	153	53	74	47	1,325	452	584	279	-38.3

(a) Subject to revision.

Source: Commonwealth Statistician.

(Trends in Australian Marine  
Export Markets

Canberra

2nd August, 1965)

### SEPARATE AREAS FOR SKIN DIVERS?

The Town Council of Helston (Cornwall) is to be asked at its next meeting to support the allocation of separate areas for "potters" and skin divers for controlled periods of three to five years, and to ask that skin divers should be licensed and their numbers limited.

The recommendation comes from the council's general purposes committee, which considered the report of a special sub-committee set up by the council to go into the question of skin diving and its effect on fishermen's livelihood.

The sub-committee met representatives of local fishermen and skin divers.

The sub-committee says it is not yet definitely known what effects skin diving will have on the crayfish industry, and until such effects are known some control will be necessary.

(Fishing News

London

July 2, 1965)

### SCIENTISTS' LATEST LOOK AT THE SEA BED

Theories held by some scientists about the sea bed, including, for example, the idea that erosion is the main force acting upon the Continental shelf, may be altogether incorrect, for new information has been gleaned from the ocean floor by an Anglo-American scientific team on board the Royal research ship Discovery.

Mr. A.H. Stride, a geologist and principal scientist for the month's cruise of the Discovery, which began at Aberdeen and has just ended at Milbay Docks, Plymouth, said of the Continental slope: "It is not an erosional feature. From northern Scotland to Spain, where we looked, it is depositional with some subsequent erosion."

This means that deposits from the land are eventually forming layers on the existing slope.

There was a flattish Continental shelf with waters up to about 600ft. deep around the coast. Some 70 miles seaward the floor began to deepen gradually to depths of about three miles.

Mr. Stride added: "It is this Continental slope we have been examining. We have found it has grown westwards perhaps

as much as 50 miles in about one hundred million years."

The cruise included the areas of the Faroe Islands, Scotland, Ireland, the Bay of Biscay and the Atlantic, and the scientists' aim was to determine the internal structure of the edge of Europe lying beneath the Atlantic Ocean.

(Fishing News

London

20 August, 1965)

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS NEED GAUGES, SAYS COAST GUARD

All Fire Extinguishers of the dry chemical, stored pressure type manufactured after June 1, 1965, must be equipped with pressure gauges if they are carried on vessels as required equipment, the Coast Guard has ruled.

The ruling does not effect extinguishers now carried on board and not fitted with pressure gauges as long as the extinguishers are maintained in good and serviceable condition.

Vessel owners are urged to maintain their fire protection on board and have their fire extinguishers re-filled and retagged at least once a year.

(Fishing Gazette

New York

February, 1965)

27 TONS OF LIVE CRAYFISH!

Last week Fishing News reported the record-breaking 50-day catch by the freezer-trawler Victory of Grimsby, and from France this week came news of a record-breaking trip by a 100ft. Camaret crabber.

After a 100-day voyage to the Aguin Banks off West Africa, the vessel, Equateur, landed 27 tons of live crayfish and grossed 850,000 francs, which is about £61,000.

Her crew of nine each received a share of £2,100, with two shares to her young skipper, Francois Le Guen.

The Equateur is a 350 h.p. engined conventional vessel, and details of her amazing feat were given by veteran French crabber skipper Thomas Kermel of Camaret when he called at Milford Haven in the Bacchus.

(Fishing News

London

2 July, 1965)

## THE RARE AND VANISHING ONES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report that the world population of wild Whooping Cranes now stands at forty-two - the highest number since record keeping began in 1938.

Last spring thirty-two Whooping Cranes left the wintering grounds in Texas and moved north to the breeding grounds in the vicinity of Wood Buffalo National Park along the Alberta-North-West Territories border in Canada, 2,500 miles away. Twenty-five were mature birds giving a "possibility" of twelve nestings - eleven nestings were successful! In addition, there are eight Whooping Cranes in captivity.

The world population of the Japanese Crested Ibis is now eleven. Four young ones were reared last year. It is good to learn that the Japanese Government has bought the breeding area. It is to be hoped that they will also purchase the bird's wintering area and so provide them with the greatest possible protection.

The latest census of the Japanese Stork shows that only fourteen birds remain. No chicks have matured since 1960.

Professor Dillon Ripley has estimated that there are probably less than 150 Monkey-eating Eagles left in the Philippines.

(Avicultural Magazine

United Kingdom

July-August, 1965)

## SALMON OVERCOMES OBSTACLES TO GO HOME

An amazing story about the determined spirit of a Pacific salmon has come to light in California. A salmon, named "Indomitable," has accomplished one of the most phenomenal migrations ever recorded.

Early in 1964, the salmon (then 1.5 years old) was taken from his tank in the hatchery at Orick, California, marked by removal of a fin, and placed in a stream some miles distant. This year, the fish made it way back to the hatchery from the Pacific through one of the most difficult obstacle courses ever constructed. "Indomitable" swam up two creeks, through a culvert under U.S. highway 101, and into a 4-inch drain pipe with a 90-degree turn. Then the fish had to leap through a 2½ foot high pipe and over a 2-foot high wire net. At one point, the salmon had a choice of 5 pipes, 4 of which were dead-ends. Who said that are no more big fish stories?

(Commercial Fisheries Review

Washington, D.C.

August, 1965)

GRASS CARP

Some 15,000 grass-eating fish are helping to keep the lights burning in England. The fish are young grass carp that thrive on the large crops of weeds growing in the Cavendish Dock, which supplies water to the cooling system of the electric power station at Barrow-in-Furness. The fast-growing weeds had clogged the water inlets and often nearly stopped its flows.

The young fish, about 5 to 7 cm. long, were flown to England from Hong Kong in 60 water-filled plastic bags packed in an electrically-heated box. Upon arrival in England, the fish were put into a 11,000 liter tank of fresh water. The water was changed gradually until it became a mixture of fresh and salt water similar to that in the dock. The grass carp, which will weigh about 32 kg. full grown, are busily eating weeds in the dock to keep the water flowing freely.

The Central Electricity Generating Board in England, which ordered the carp, decided to use the fish as a solution to the weed problem after an experiment. In the test 25 grass carp were taken from the London Zoo and put into the dock. Those fish made gluttons of themselves on the vast amount of food available, said the senior chemist to the board. It was then decided that at least 14 tons of grass carp would be needed to keep the weeds down. The board still has one problem, however it does not know whether the fish will breed in England. This may mean that the whole operation will have to be repeated in a few years.

Grass carp are being tested in the United States for their ability to eat aquatic weeds. Nearly 100 of those fish were flown from Malaysia early in 1964 to Stuttgart, Ark. They are a possible solution to the aquatic weed problem in lakes, ponds, streams, and fisheries. Aquatic weeds interfere with fishing, boating, and raising fish, particularly in many southern states of the United States.

(Commercial Fisheries Review, Washington, D.C. August, 1965)