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MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

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Vol. XV, No. 1

January, 1966.

STAFF NOTES

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. MacKinnon, entertained members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee and senior members of the staff at a luncheon at Parliament House on December 17. Mr. M. C. Downes, Superintendent of Game Management, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Victoria, and Mr. R. D. Royce, Curator of the State Herbarium, were also guests of the Minister. The purpose of the luncheon was twofold, firstly, to welcome Mr. Downes who was making a short visit to Western Australia to advise on the Department's waterfowl conservation policy, and secondly, as a goodwill gesture to members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee.

* * * *

The Director visited Gnowangerup and Bremer Bay on December 12 and 13 to discuss with members of the Gnowangerup Shire the Shire's request that a portion of the proclaimed salmon fishing zone at Bremer Bay be excised from the proclaimed area. As a result of an on-the-spot discussion an area has been marked off and will shortly be taken out from the proclaimed zone. Mr. Fraser also attended a meeting of the Gnowangerup Shire Council and discussed with members salmon fishing on beaches within the Shire's boundaries.

We congratulate Inspector E. R. Hammond (Bunbury) on his promotion to the position of Inspector, Grade 1, as from December 17, 1965. Inspector Hammond will shortly assume duties as inspector-in-charge of the second mobile patrol recently established. Inspector R. G. Emery is relieving at Bunbury for the time being. Mr. P. G. Yewers, Clerk (Head Office), has, at his own request, been transferred to the position of Technical Assistant, Research Section, also from December 17. Mr. G. Dixon (Head Office) has been appointed to a position in the Harbours and Rivers Branch, Public Works Department. He will take up duty on January 17. We wish Mr. Dixon well in his new sphere.

* * * *

Somewhat belatedly, but no less sincerely, we welcome to Head Office staff Miss P. L. Shaw and Mr. J. L. McKenzie, both of whom commenced duty on October 25. Miss Shaw occupies the position formerly held by Miss N. C. O'Meagher, who resigned from the Public Service on October 29 to be married. Mr. McKenzie comes to us in a temporary capacity, initially to perform secretarial duties in connection with the recently formed Carnarvon Fishing Industry Development Committee. Our congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie on the birth of a son on December 12. We also welcome to the staff Mr. J. K. Simnett, who was appointed on December 20 to the position of mate, r.v. "Peron".

* * * *

Two new appointees to positions of Fauna Wardens are Mr. W. MacDonald, of Hamilton Hill, and Mr. T. Evans, of Trayning. It is anticipated that they will commence duty early in January. Eventually Mr. MacDonald will be posted to Pingelly and Mr. Evans to Albany.

Officers who will be commencing annual leave this month include Senior Research Officer B. K. Bowen and Technical Officers N. E. McLaughlan and E. H. Barker on January 5. Inspector E. R. Hammond and Mr. C. E. Casselton (Head Office) will start leave on January 10.

* * * *

Our congratulations are extended to Miss Dale Patrick (Head Office) on passing the Telephonists' Efficiency Examination held in November last.

* * * *

The Minister, just prior to the Festive Season, sent a personal note to the Director and staff. In his letter Mr. MacKinnon said:-

"This is the first Christmas that I have been with you. That I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year goes without saying.

As this is also the conclusion of the first year in which I assumed my present responsibilities, I would like to add a special word of thanks. Learning a new job and assuming the responsibilities that go with it is never easy. The wonderful co-operation and good work of the staffs of the departments under my control has made this somewhat trying period much easier than I had ever dared to hope.

A great deal has been accomplished in the past year, reflecting credit on all concerned.

Again, my grateful thanks for your co-operation and patience."

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENTS

The two pieces of legislation amending the Fisheries Act, 1905-1964, came into force on January 1, 1965. The amendments provide for increased penalties for breaches under the Act in respect to crayfishing for certain other matters. The Fisheries Act Amendment Act (No. 2), 1965, provides for the licensing of fish processors and the establishment of a fund to finance fisheries research, development and extension in this State.

Copies of the amendments will be distributed as soon as they are received from the Government Printer.

WATERFOWL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Superintendent of Game Management, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Victoria (Mr. M. C. Downes) visited Western Australia between December 6 and 18.

Mr. Downes' visit was arranged through the good offices of Mr. A. Dunbavin Butcher, the Director of that Department, to advise on waterfowl and habitat conservation measures as well as on future research.

Mr. Downes has considerable experience in wildlife management, particularly in waterfowl conservation and management. The advice he has provided will prove invaluable to this Department in relation to the proposed introduction of a duck shooter's license in this State, which Cabinet has agreed to consider this year. In Victoria a license has been in force for some years and last year £42,000 was received in license fees at £1 per shooter. Practically the whole of the revenue received, together with other monies made available by the Victorian Government, is spent on conservation measures. These include the purchase of swamps and other suitable habitat to provide suitable and sufficient breeding grounds for waterfowl.

Over the years waterfowl sanctuaries and breeding grounds were seriously depleted in Victoria, as they have been in other States, by the drainage of swamps and destruction of habitat for agricultural development and other purposes.

Mr. Downes visited most of the important coastal lakes and swamps during his visit. Aerial observations were made north as far as Morawa and south as far as Busselton, as well as inland a little to take in the Arthur River system.

He also inspected the lakes at Rottnest Island. Several discussions were held with departmental officers and also with duck shooters, members of the Perth Gun Club and with Museum personnel. During the morning of December 17 he attended a meeting of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. He returned to Melbourne on the following day.

BOATS TO BE RESTRICTED IN ABROLHOS ISLANDS

For some time Geraldton fishermen have been concerned over the possibility of a considerable influx of southern-based boats in the Abrolhos Islands area as a result of the decline in catches of crayfish in southern areas.

Following representation made to the Minister, regulations have been promulgated, on conservational, economic and sociological grounds, to restrict boats operating in the Abrolhos area to those which have operated there at some time during the three years prior to January 1, 1966.

Regulations have also been promulgated to the effect that no freezer boat, if operating as a catcher boat within the Abrolhos area shall have on board any gear, appliance, wrapping, packing box or other equipment that might be used in the processing of crayfish.

ESCAPE GAPS NOW LAW

A notice appearing in the December 17, 1965, issue of the Government Gazette declares that in every craypot an escape gap shall be fitted.

The gap requirements are described as follows:-

In every crayfish pot there shall be a gap as nearly rectangular in shape as practicable, measuring not less than 12 inches in length and not less than two inches in width, so positioned that the longer sides of the gap are generally parallel to the base of the pot and the side that is nearer the base is not more than three inches from that base.

As from January 1, 1966, every craypot must be fitted with an escape gap.

ANNUAL RECREATIONAL LEAVE

The attention of the field staff is drawn to a directive recently to hand concerning Annual Recreational Leave and Decimal Currency changeover.

Officers proceeding on annual recreational leave between January 28 and February 24, 1966, who require their salary to be paid in advance, must ensure that their leave application is submitted in sufficient time to reach the Staff Clerk on or before January 14.

CRAYFISH INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

Following the abolition of the Fishermen's Advisory Committee with the coming into force of the amendments approved last year, two committees will be established instead. One will deal with problems relating to the crayfish industry and the other with those of the "general fisheries".

The Minister has now appointed the members of the Crayfish Industry Advisory Committee.

Appointments are for a term of five years from January 1, 1966. The members are as follows:-

Mr. A. J. Fraser (Chairman);
Mr. J. C. Bowes and Mr. R. D. Harrison - nominated by The Rock Lobster/Crayfish Industry Development Association of Australia (Inc.); Mr. L. H. Amm, a Fremantle crayfisherman and President of the W.A. Fishing Fleet Masters' Association and Vice President of the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-Operative Society Ltd., Mr. G. Travia, a Geraldton crayfisherman with forty years' fishing experience in local waters; Senior Research Officer B. K. Bowen, B.Sc., and Mr. R. F. Boylen, B.A. (Econ.), an officer of the Department of Industrial Development.

It is anticipated that at an early date a meeting will be convened to enable the Minister to meet Committee members and for the Committee to discuss procedure and policy matters.

CONVICTIONS

October - December, 1965.

Date	Defendent	Court	Charge	Result
			<u>FISHERIES ACT</u>	<u>Fined</u>
28.11.65	COOPER, Norman T.	Geraldton	U/W craytails	15: -: -
"	" "	"	Bringing processed crayfish from Abrolhos.	15: -: -
7.10.65	BLAKEY, Jack H.	Perth	U/S crayfish	117: 5: -
"	BUTLER, Leslie W.	"	Obstructing inspector	40: -: -

Convictions Continued

Date	Defendent	Court	Charge	Result
7.10.65	ROBBINS, Kerry A.	Perth	U/S crayfish	48: 5:
"	CAMPIOTTO,) Vittoro R.)	"	Illegal pro- cessing.	30: -:
"	CAMPIOTTO, Ado	"	U/W craytails	34:10:
26.10.65	BRENNAN, Ronald	"	U/S crayfish	33:10:
"	BRADSHAW, George	"	" "	130: -:
4.11.65	FRAURUD, Odd	"	" "	29: -:
"	JOHNSTON, W. N.	"	" "	23:15:
24.11.65	CREAM, Stanley E.	"	" "	67:15:
"	" " "	"	" "	62: 5:
"	" " "	"	" "	31:15:
"	" " "	"	Obstructing inspector	25: -:
"	ROBBINS, Kerry A	"	U/S crayfish	27: 5:
<u>FAUNA PROTECTION ACT</u>				
20.10.65	TAYLOR, Leslie J.	Midland	Taking pro- tected fauna.	5: -:
"	TAYLOR, Ronald A.	"	" " "	5: -:

NOTE: U/S denotes undersize: U/W denotes underweight.

BOAT REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE

Acting pursuant to the provisions of section 17 of the Fisheries Act 1905-1965 the Minister has issued the following directive under section 17 of the Fisheries Act.

1. Replacement of Crayfishing Boats

Every application for permission to replace a cray fishing boat must be made in writing to the Director of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna at 108 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.

The application must state clearly the reason for the replacement and the date on which such replacement may be made.

If the boat is considered to be unseaworthy or likely to become unseaworthy in the near future, a certificate to this effect by the Harbour and Light Department must accompany the application.

Boats of less than 25 feet in length may be replaced by boats up to and not exceeding 25 feet in length.

Boats exceeding 25 feet in length may be replaced only by boats of the same length or of a less length.

2. Crayfish Pot Entitlements

Every crayfishing boat which has not been replaced is entitled to three crayfish pots per foot of the length of the boat, with a maximum in any case of 200 pots.

Every crayfishing boat of a length less than 25 feet, which is replaced by a boat not exceeding 25 feet in length, may be granted a crayfish pot license for three pots per foot of the length of the replaced vessel, plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ pots per foot for each foot in excess of the length of the replaced vessel.

~~Every crayfishing boat exceeding 25 feet in length which is replaced by a boat not exceeding 25 feet in length, may be granted a crayfish pot license for three pots per foot of the length of the replaced vessel, plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ pots per foot for each foot in excess of the length of the replaced vessel.~~

See
V15(2) Feb
1966. p. 8

Every crayfishing boat exceeding 25 feet in length which is replaced by a boat of the same length, may be granted a crayfish pot license for three pots per foot of the length of the boat.

In all cases where a boat has been replaced with a larger boat, the replacement is permitted to use the maximum number of pots for which the replaced boat was entitled.

3. Change of Ownership

When there is a change in ownership, the purchaser must apply for a boat license in his own right. If granted, he shall be entitled to a quota of three pots per foot of the boat length unless a restriction has been placed on the pot entitlement of that boat.

SPERM WHALING

Reporting on the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company's 1965 whaling season, Inspector D. P. Gordon says that the company commenced operations on March 2 and concluded on December 10. During that period 752 sperm whales were taken. Of these 668 were of or above the legal minimum length of 35 feet and 84 undersize whales were taken under Government permit for the purposes of research by C.S.I.R.O.

A Cessna 172 float plane was used for whale spotting

The oldest of the company's chasers, the "Kos VII", which was taken out of service in 1963 was recommissioned for the 1964 season following an extensive refit, but she has now finished her days as a whale chaser and will be sold for scrap. A replacement chaser, the "Gascoyne", has been purchased from the Nor'-West Whaling Company.

The new solubles plant came into operation in May, 1965.

Through an accident during rough weather on October 31 the company's tow boat was blown ashore and broken up on the beach by the rough seas. Fortunately it was possible to salvage the motor. A new 28 foot steel tow boat, powered by a 30-h.p. diesel engine, has been purchased.

Two new laboratories were built during the year, one for use by departmental and C.S.I.R.O. personnel and the other for the use of the company. Extensions were also made to the meal storage shed.

The company anticipates commencing the 1966 season operations on March 1.

DUCK SEASON OPENS

Fauna Warden S. W. Bowler, accompanied by Research Cadet J. Mott and Fauna Cadet K. Morrison, attended the opening shoot at Gundaring Lake, near Wagin, on December 19.

Mr. Bowler reports that the lake was inspected on December 18 and the water level was found to be very high. Approximately 2,000 ducks were observed on the lake as well as coot and black swans. The number of grey teal was estimated at 1,500 while mountain duck were predominant among the remainder.

In the early morning of December 19 a patrol was carried out around the lake in an endeavour to prevent shooters commencing before 5.00 a.m. However, sporadic shooting occurred at 4.15 a.m. and despite the efforts of the Department's officers shooting was well under way by 4.45 a.m.

About 170 shooters took part at Gundaring Lake and a check of the bags of 142 of them revealed that results were poor. All participants were disappointed with the shoot and no full bags were recorded.

Mr. Bowler says that after the first few barrages the ducks left the lake for Yates' Swamp, about three miles away. The swamp is on private property and the owner does not permit shooting to take place there.

DEEP WATER CRABS BEING CAUGHT

Supervising Inspector J. E. Bramley reports that big crabs are again being caught in deep water in crayfish pots by crayfishermen along the coast. One fisherman was catching five to six bags a day in his pots in approximately 80 fathoms. As the crabs have no commercial value they are discarded.

To compare their flavour and flesh texture with the blue manna crab and our crayfish, Mr. Bramley obtained some specimens and had them cooked. He says that the meat in the nippers and legs has a flavour somewhere between that of crayfish and marron meat. The body meat is a little stronger but on the whole the flavour was good. The cooked flesh of the samples was softer than that of the blue manna crab, but he thought that this could be attributed to some extent to the cooking. The armour-like nippers and shell could have a pressure cooker effect during the cooking and more trials were necessary before he could be sure of the amount of cooking required.

As the size of the crabs caught in conventional crayfish pots is limited to the size of the entrance, it is more than likely that there are crabs, much larger than those being caught, on the grounds.

Further evidence of the existence of the deep water crabs was obtained by the r.v. "Peron". In an endeavour to catch specimens of crayfish in deep water several craypots were set due west of Rottnest Island in 104 fathoms. Although no crayfish were caught, five big crabs were caught in one of the pots. The specimens have been given to the Museum.

THE ANT

The ant has made himself illustrious
Through constant industry industrious.
So what?
Would you be calm and placid
If you were full of formic acid?

Ogden Nash

CLEARING HOUSE

COMPUTER TAKES THE CHANCE OUT OF DESIGNING FISHING BOATS

Most of the world's boatyards still build fishing boats by a combination of memory, experience and rule of thumb. Even large fishing vessels costing hundreds of thousands of rands are still built with few, if any, plans and their builders are often surprised and sometimes dismayed with the way they behave when at last they hit the water.

As a result, the world's harbours teem with an endless variety of boats, some good, some indifferent and most of them far from ideal. Some are dangerous at sea and many can barely earn their keep.

One of the barriers to improved design of small boats is the extremely high cost of building and testing scale models of projected vessels. Another barrier is the small number of naval architects working in the fishing industry.

But tomorrow's smaller vessels, each ideal for its own kind of fishing and for local waters, may be designed by electronic computer. Such at least is the dream of the Fishing Boat Section of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

In a recent interview in Rome, the Section's chief, Jan-Olof, ⁸⁴Trang of Sweden, explained FAO's optimism:

"We have designed three 'idealised' trawlers using a computer's recommendations. We built 12-foot scale models of these boats - 40, 55 and 70 footers - and tested them intensively in the tanks of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, in the United Kingdom. All three checked out as the computer at Teddington said they would. They did just what we designed them to do.

"This is the first time this has ever been done with smaller fishing vessels. Using a computer means better boat designs at a fraction of today's time and expense."

The new computer design programme is based on long experience with fishing boats from several parts of the world. Truong started collecting model test data on fishing boats 22 years ago in Sweden and FAO has been collecting such data for 15 years.

So, when FAO and Teddington's NPL started to collaborate on a computer design of boats five years ago, they had at their disposal detailed information on 600 boats from around the world. "We had so much information", says Truong, "that for a naval architect to attempt to draw any general conclusions from it could have taken a century of hard work - I couldn't spare the time myself."

Modern computer technology, however, made the difference.

All the performance information plus the boats' parameters - mathematical descriptions such as beam over draught, length over beam, fullness of midship section, and power requirements in relation to speed - were recorded on punch cards and fed into the big KDF digital computer at Teddington.

The computer made a statistical analysis of the 600 boats, so that a formula could be developed for estimating the performance of any boat falling within the range of the data.

Then the FAO naval architects asked the computer to recommend designs for specific optimum vessels on the basis of its examination of the 600 samples it had been given. The computer fed back answers and drawings were made in the Fishing Boat Section. Finally models of the first three designs were built and tested at Teddington to check the computer's predictions on what the model's performance would be in every test.

"The computer's predictions were all correct," Truong said. "I think that this proves the system works."

"Once you've got your basic information, computer analysis is comparatively simple. You feed your data into the computer and tell it what you want a boat to do, within natural restrictions, like harbour depth, say. The computer tells you how you must design such a boat."

"And the results of the laboratory tests on our three models prove the method works with a beauty and precision undreamed of a few years ago." he said.

"The boats are all trawlers," Tru^uang said. "But with the computer's aid the hull shape, and therefore the basic vessel, can be modified for any set of characteristics desired. Better sea-keeping qualities and fishing performance can also be expected of computer-designed boats.

"What we're trying to do is take the chance out of fishing boat design, to make it both easier and more accurate. Now we can tailor designs for boats to fit any job and waters within hours."

In the future, the computer method could well revolutionise national fisheries industries, especially in nations short of both time and money, Tru^uang said.

The derivation of the best hull form for a given set of operating circumstances, under the old system, would require months of work and perhaps 20 model tests costing up to R13,000 for the tests alone.

"We should now be able to accomplish all this on a computer in a matter of days. The cost would be at most, one per cent of the model test costs."

"In the future we hope to develop a service whereby a small boat designer can send us his plans, we can run them through the computer and within days tell him how his boat will perform."

We can also tell him how he should modify the hull shape and engine power to achieve his own optimum requirements."

The use of electronic computers in designing fishing boats was one of the major themes scheduled for discussion at the Food and Agriculture Organisation's technical meeting on fishing boat design, held in Göteborg, Sweden, at the end of last month.

A model of the fourth FAO computer-designed boat, an 85-footer, would be built and tested in Sweden Mr. Truang said. Mr. Truang and his chief collaborator in the FAO computer programme, Dr. D. J. Doust, chief scientific officer of the Ship Division at Teddington, were due to present a jointly-written paper on the programme during the Göteborg meeting. Some 300 participants from about 40 countries are expected at the meeting, and about 30 technical papers were to be presented.

A major emphasis was on the needs of the developing countries for smaller fishing craft - boats under 100 gross tons - especially adaptable to their local waters. Mechanisation of native craft with outboard motors was also to be studied.

"What we hope to accomplish", Mr. Truang said, "is to come up with ideas and recommendations that will enable us to set better standards for designing the smaller boats."

"The importance of these smaller craft, after all, is simply that they so greatly outnumber the larger boats in the world fisheries picture. They have an importance that cannot be overlooked if fishing is to progress in both the developing and developed nations."

(The South African Shipping News
and Fishing Industry Review

South Africa

November, 1965

FISHING GEAR: FAO DESIGNS CATALOGUE

As the result of several years' work in consistently accumulating data about trawls and other established net designs, the Fishery Division (FAO) has just issued a Catalogue of Fishing Gear Designs.

This is prepared on the basis of an illustration of the net supplemented by detailed data in such form as to be readily understood in several languages - if necessary with the aid of any standard dictionary. The material used is specified with all relative measurements and mesh arrangements.

Comprehensive preliminary guidance is given in introductory pages so that users, especially in newer countries, can derive maximum benefit.

Of trawls, 29 recognised designs are given; of Danish seines five; purse seines 12; gill-nets 11; miscellaneous nets six; and specialised hooks and lines five.

Altogether 68 gears are shown, as illustrating the special contribution made by Great Britain in the development and design of gears, it is interesting to list the countries of origin, namely: United Kingdom 16, Germany 10, Norway seven, France five, Denmark five, Poland five, Iceland four, Canada four, Holland four, Japan three, Belgium two, USA one, Philippines one, Ireland one. Germany's 10 included three types of hooks and lines.

The book is designed as a service to the world's fishing operators, and inquiries regarding it should be addressed to: Gear Section, Fisheries Division FAO, Rome. Versions in French and Spanish have also been published.

Further material will be issued from time to time for addition in loose-leaf format. Fishermen seeking guidance on gear for special fisheries will find this volume particularly useful and valuable.

A NEW VIEW ON BERRIED CRAYS

France repealed the law on the sale of berried or spawning lobsters more than 50 years ago and now, in Britain, there is a move to follow suit.

Many fishermen contend that the law makes no useful contribution to conservation and that sales of lobsters scrubbed free of spawn are widespread.

Dr. H. J. Thomas, principal scientific officer at Aberdeen's Marine Laboratory, supports this view after sifting information gained on lobsters over 25 years' study.

The idea that the return of egg-carrying females to the sea has the effect of increasing the number of young fish is a fallacy, he says.

The main result of protecting the females is to reduce the number of females caught and to give them a chance to grow larger before being caught again.

Thus valuable medium-sized lobsters are lost to the trade and left to grow larger when they do not command such a high price.

Dr. Thomas says an increase in the minimum size would be a more effective conservation measure than protecting berried females.

(Fish Trades Review

Sydney

November, 1965)

TESTS SHOW WALL OF BUBBLES EFFECTIVE AS NET
IN STOPPING FISH

Experiments performed by the Norwegian Society for Industrial and Technical Research (SINTEF) show that a "wall" of rising bubbles, made by pressing air through a perforated hose at the sea bottom, will stop fish just as effectively as a fishing net.

By moving the hose, 50 coalfish in a nine-foot deep water tank were driven into a corner, and not even a frogman could scare any of the fishes through the air barrier.

SINTEF is now trying to make the technique economically feasible for the fisheries. Fishing areas similar to the Norwegian fiords should be well suited for the new method. By installing a hose and an air compressor at the mouth of the fiord, a fence could be "switched on" as soon as the fish moved in.

(Fishing Gazette

New York

September, 1965)

CRAYFISH DIVERS: ISLAND CALLS FOR INQUIRY

The Guernsey Fishermen's Association has made an official protest about the inroads made by aqualung divers in areas where crayfish abound. Last year, fishermen on the west coast were worried about divers' activities. Now, it is on the east coast, between the islands of Herm and Sark, where they are working.

The Guernsey Sea Fisheries Committee has had several meetings with the fishermen's representatives concerning aqualung divers and the matter is still under review. No decisions have yet been reached by the committee as to what action will be taken.

One fisherman, Bernard Taylor, who has 100 pots in various parts of the Big Russel area between the islands said that divers are now operating around his pots.

He had been given to understand, he added, that the divers could not work in deep water where there was a considerable tide and is now surprised and perturbed at the turn of events.

This fisherman stated that the divers he has seen are bringing up between 10 and 30 crayfish every day and are systematically "cleaning up the bottom."

What is more, while Mr. Taylor and other potters can only work for a matter of some one-and-three-quarter hours at a time, when the tide is slack, the divers can work at practically any state of tide.

"They can carry out non-stop diving in the Big Russel and I think something should be done about it. I think this calls for a States enquiry. If an area is cleaned out it is finished," claimed Mr. Taylor.

(Fishing News

London

September, 1965)

MID-ATLANTIC FISH PORT FOR POLAND

A "FLOATING ISLAND" is to be built in the Atlantic by Poland as a base for its fishing fleet it was disclosed in London on Monday.

"It will serve as a repair base and a port for fishing trawlers and a big processing and refrigeration factory," a government spokesman said. "It will be in extra-territorial waters and will be transferred when necessary to the area where Polish ships are fishing."

900,000-TON TARGET

Poland is engaged in rapid expansion of her fleet. It now catches more than 240,000 tons of fish a year, but it is intended to double this figure within five years and reach a 900,000-ton target by 1980.

The "floating island" will help in reaching the target. It will mean that the fleet will be able to stay on productive fishing grounds for longer spells.

(Fishing News

London

November, 1965)

NEW COMPANIES TO SELL AUST. CRAYS

Ross International, the overseas marketing organization of the £30-million Ross Group, has formed two new companies in the U.S.A. mainly to sell cray tails and prawns from Australia.

The new firms are Ross New York Ltd. and Ross California Ltd.

Besides the Australian products they will also handle shrimps from Ross operations in the Middle East.

Ross New York was formed in association with Harrison J. Pierce Inc., and will handle all East Coast and Mid-West sales. Ross California, based in Los Angeles, was formed in association with R. W. Joyce Co., and will be responsible for West Coast sales.

Mr. Phil Appleyard, managing director of the International Division of Ross Group Ltd., estimates that sales of the division in 1966 will approximate 5 million dollars (about £A12 million).

Sales are expected to increase substantially in 1967 as expansion programs in Australia and the Middle East come into operation, he predicts.

By 1967, frozen fish from the Ross-Steers venture in Newfoundland will be available for marketing in the U.S.A.

(Fish Trades Review

Sydney

December, 1965)

NORTHERN CO-OPS TO USE CARTONS

Four North Coast fishermen's co-operatives have decided to use fibreboard containers exclusively in the near future for their fish and prawns.

The societies are Byron Bay, Clarence River, Evans Head and Richmond.

The cartons are part of a master plan by the cops to market all fish in fillet form at a later date.

The N.S.W. Fish Authority is sponsoring the move to cartons thereby following the trend in the world's main fishing nations where the accent is on hygiene and economy.

Despite some sabotage attempts and the opposition of Sydney buyers, cartons as a container for fresh fish are gaining ground in N.S.W.

Experiments have been under way for more than a year to replace the smelly, germ-laden wooden boxes with non-returnables.

Among the containers tested were collapsible wire crates lined with thick waterproof paper and plastic boxes. The carton, however, has proved the best and will, it is expected, become the accepted industry container in a short span of time.

Points in favour of cartons are:

- * Lightness (which reduces fishermen's freight costs).
- * Cleanliness (as non-returnables, no harmful bacteria can contaminate contents thus preserving the original quality of the fish and prawns sent to market).
- * Convenience (being smaller in size, they are easier to handle at all stages. Being collapsible 10,000 cartons can be stored in the same space needed for only 100 wooden boxes. Sufficient cartons can always be kept on hand to meet any unexpected rise in production).

- * Economic (non-returnables will do away with the costly accountancy system of box-hire and its time-wasting procedure of returning boxes and obtaining credits. This will give buyers more time in their shops).

QUALITY CONTROLS FOR INDIAN PRAWNS

Compulsory quality controls of frozen and canned prawns for export have been introduced by the Indian Government.

This is good news for Australian importers who have had odd spots of trouble in the past with prawns from India. This year, India sold Australia more than 600,000-lb. of prawns which are used mainly by the cafe trade.

India's new prawn standards are part of a larger inspection system covering other exports and is under the control of the Central Ministry of Commerce (Export Act). It is directed by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology.

Before putting the quality control program into effect, a great deal of investigation and research was carried out.

Health authorities in interested importing countries were consulted as to their requirements.

Standards of quality and packaging were set up. A careful system of tests and methods of sampling were devised and, probably most important of all, a well trained crew of staff and technologists was brought into being, under the direct leadership of Dr. V. K. Pillai.

FIRST VOLUNTARY

The quality control program began functioning on a voluntary basis in 1964 with participation by most of the major elements of the industry. After a trial period in which various problems of operation were solved, the Central Government of India declared the program compulsory early in 1965.

Before making a shipment, a packer must notify the Institute at least 12 hours before loading. The laboratory sends trained samplers to the warehouse where random samples are drawn in quantity based on the size of the proposed shipment.

Packers are required to code-mark all export production so a careful check can be made on all lots sampled. Samples are taken to the nearest laboratory of the Institute where the testing is carried out.

Tests are always on an organoleptic basis and conform to the requirements of the Indian Standards.

If it appears necessary, or is requested by the packer, bacteriological tests are carried out.

After the tests are completed and approved an Inspection Certificate giving the pertinent details is issued and must be submitted to the Indian Customs before export shipment can be made.

The rapidly expanding prawn industry of the west coast of India, now numbering over 30 plants, is lending full support to the quality control program, realising that a reputation for high grade product cannot help but improve markets and export earnings.

India in a few years has forged into a front position in shrimp production.