

WEST AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES IMPRESS

Mr. Robert L. Stix, New York City fish and seafood sales representative, returned to the United States in mid-December (says the January, 1952, issue of Pacific Fisherman) after spending several weeks in Australia, New Zealand and Japan. His trip principally was to meet and confer with producing principals whom he represents on the Atlantic Coast of America.

He found the "spiny lobster" fisheries of Western Australia and New Zealand "highly productive, and with a tremendous potential for further development" as their product comes into the more general appreciation it merits. He believes these countries also will become more and more important as sources of canned fish, notably tuna.

Here's hoping!

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S POST-WAR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

The post-war years have been notable for the unprecedented increase in commercial fishing activity in Western Australia. Two major industries have been developed in the freezing of crayfish tails for export and the canning of Australian Salmon. The catch of these two species alone accounts for 70% of the total take for the State. Major developments in other branches have been the re-introduction of whaling in 1949 and the inauguration of deep-sea trawling in 1948. In only one section of the industry has contraction taken place, viz. pearlshelling.

The fisheries may broadly be divided into three categories -

- 1. Whaling;
- 2. Pearlshelling;
- 3. General fishing.

1. Whaling

The whaling industry was re-established in 1949 after a lapse of many years. Land stations are established at Point Cloates (Nor'West Whaling Co. Ltd.) and Carnarvon (Australian Whaling Commission). Whales are taken in ocean waters in very close proximity to the land stations.

<u>Production</u>		
<u>Station</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Whales</u>
Point Cloates	1949	190
	1950	348
	1951	574
Carnarvon	1950	40
	1951	650

A third concern (Cheyne Beach Whaling Co. Ltd.) will operate in 1952 from a land station established near Albany.

2. Pearlshelling

Owing to the war pearlshell fishing was suspended from 1942 to 1945. Since the resumption in 1946 relatively few vessels (20 or 21 as against 55 or so in pre-war days) have been engaged. The principal base is at Broome, only one lugger having fished out of Onslow in 1951.

<u>Production</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Tons</u>
1946	104
1947	320
1948	336
1949	312
1950	352
1951	321

3. General Fishing

I. Crayfish:

- The major fishing regions are -
- (a) Fremantle (Safety Bay to Moore River);
 - (b) Lancelin Island (Moore River to Juriën Bay);
 - (c) Abrolhos Islands;
 - (d) Geraldton onshore (Dongara to Port Gregory).

The major portion of the catch is de-tailed, frozen and exported to the United States.

<u>Production (Whole Fish)</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>lb.</u>
1947	2,333,826
1948	2,804,832
1949	5,132,353
1950	6,549,811
1951	7,838,280