

COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS

The University of Melbourne has recently conferred on Mr. Maurice Blackburn, Research Officer, Fisheries Division C.S.I.R.O. the degree of D.Sc. The congratulations of every member of the State Fisheries Department are extended to Dr. Blackburn, who, it will be remembered, recently returned from an extended visit overseas.

Mr. W. B. Malcolm, of the Fisheries Division, C.S.I.R.O. who earlier this year was seconded to Cronulla for several months, is at present visiting W.A. in relation to Australian salmon and ruff investigations. He expects to leave early in June to pursue his investigations in South Australia and Tasmania.

Mr. J. P. Robins, Technical Officer of the Fisheries Division, C.S.I.R.O., who has lately been carrying out research at sea in relation to the tunas in South Eastern Australia, but who very shortly will proceed to the new whaling station at Tangalooma, Queensland, is at present visiting W.A. to inspect local whaling stations. In company with Mr. R. G. Chittleborough, of the same Division, he left for Carnarvon on May 30. Mr. Chittleborough will remain at Carnarvon until whaling operations cease there, and will then probably go on to Point Cloates until about mid-October.

Mr. K. Coonan, Whaling Inspector of the Commonwealth Fisheries Office, arrived in Perth on May 26 for the purpose of inspecting the Cheyne Beach Whaling Co. Pty. Ltd.'s new station at Frenchman's Bay, Albany, preparatory to taking up the position of Commonwealth Whaling Inspector at Carnarvon for the ensuing season. Mr. Coonan was accompanied to Albany by Assistant Inspector G. Coombes of this Department.

WHALING IN W.A.

It is anticipated that whaling operations will commence at Albany and Carnarvon on June 1, whereas the Nor'West Whaling Co. do not expect to get under way at Point Cloates until about June 15.

Inspector G. C. Jeffery, in addition to watching the interests of the State Government on the Albany station, has also been appointed a Commonwealth Inspector by the Federal Government. Reports from Inspector . Bowler indicate that a number of humpback whales have been observed in recent weeks to the west of the Abrolhos. They were all travelling North.

INSPECTORS' MID-YEARLY MEETING

At the last Annual Conference of Inspectors it was decided that all district inspectors would also hold a mid-year conference for the purpose of meeting Head Office personnel and becoming up to date with current departmental doings. It has been decided that instead of meeting in Perth for these half-yearly meetings, the venue will be changed from year to year to the headquarters of each inspectorial district, so that each inspector will appreciate more fully the difficulties and problems confronting inspectors in other districts. This year it has been decided to meet at Pemberton from June 2 to 5. The following officers will be present - Messrs. Fraser, Brownfield, Bramley, Munro, Davidson, Bowler, Melsom, Murray, Green, Jeffery, Simpson, Piesse and Smith. It is hoped that a resume of the matters discussed at the conference will be published in the next Bulletin.

ANOTHER GOOD SNAPPER HAUL

LFB "Saga", which made a record catch of snapper in the Shark Bay region during March, returned to Geraldton on April 28 with 7,000 lb. of that species in her ice box. This establishes a record for so early in the season.

JAPANESE IN PEARLING INDUSTRY

The Government has agreed to rescind a Cabinet decision issued just after the close of World War II that no further licenses under the Pearling Act be issued to Japanese. This follows a direction by the Federal Government that up to 35 Japanese nationals may be admitted to Australia