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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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FOREWORD

At the recent departmental conference the suggestion was made that a monthly newsletter be issued to all members of the field staff in order to keep them more closely in touch with developments in the industry, departmental doings, staff changes, and the like. This Service Bulletin is the outcome of that very worth-while suggestion, and we at Head Office are glad to be able to help in this way.

As this is our first venture into a bulletin of this nature we have no doubt it has many shortcomings, not only in relation to the matter it contains, but also in regard to format. Maybe we have omitted items which to us appear less interesting than those we have published, but which to some of the staff may have proved of definite interest. We would therefore like to hear from all the inspectors as to what they think of the bulletin, and what sort of additional material might be published. If they think it can be improved in any way at all let them not hesitate to say so - there will be no hard feelings! Furthermore, if there is any item of general information which any officer feels may be of general interest to the staff, we would be very pleased indeed to publish it if he will send it on.

Best wishes for 1952 to all members of the field staff from the team at Head Office!

(A. J. Fraser)
SUPERINTENDENT.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Mr. E. J. Brownfield, Deputy Superintendent, is at present holidaying at Garden Island. He is expected back in the office on January 14.

Mr. L. G. Smith, Technical Assistant, is also on annual leave.

Mr. B. R. Saville commences long service and ordinary leave on January 7. During his absence, which will last almost to the end of April, Mr. J. Crago, of the Chief Secretary's Department, will act as Senior Clerk.

Inspector M. Goodlad, of Broome, commences biennial leave on January 7. Inspector J. E. Munro is relieving him.

Inspector H. J. Murray, of Mandurah, is acting as Metropolitan Inspector during Mr. Munro's absence in Broome. Assistant Inspector R. J. Baird is acting as Inspector, Mandurah.

It has been decided to suspend the full-time inspectorship at Hopetoun pending recovery of the salmon fishery at that place, and Inspector A. V. Green will shortly be transferred to Shark Bay. At present Mr. Green is at Esperance, where he will remain until the end of January. The Hopetoun district is being placed temporarily under the supervision of the Albany Inspector.

The M.V. "Kooruldhoo" will, it is hoped, be ready to proceed to Cervantes Island by the middle of January. Inspector A. J. Bateman will be her skipper and he will be assisted by Assistant Inspector G. Coombes.

Inspector F.A.L. Connell and Cadet Inspector N.E. McLaughlan are both on leave until the middle of February.

Mr. J. Traynor, Fauna Warden, will commence his annual leave on January 14.

PERSONAL

At a very pleasant function held in Head Office on Friday, December 21, the Superintendent

(Mr. A. J. Fraser), on behalf of the office and field staff, presented to Mr. A. W. Mumme a brief case in token of the happy associations enjoyed with him during his service with the Department. Mr. Mumme has been transferred to the Government Statistician's Office.

Mr. B. K. Bowen, who has taken Mr. Mumme's place as Statistics Clerk, graduated B.Sc. with distinction in statistical mathematics at the recent University examinations.

C.S.I.R.O.

Mr. D. J. Rochford, Hydrologist to the Division of Fisheries, C.S.I.R.O., Cronulla, N.S.W., spent a couple of days in Perth just before Christmas on his way back home after visiting Malaya, India, Europe and the United States. He had a most interesting story to tell of his travels since he left Sydney in January, 1951.

The results of the cruise of M.V. "Lancelin" to Hamelin Bay, which was a conjoint investigation of the crayfish resources of the lower south-west coast organised by this Department and the Fisheries Division, C.S.I.R.O., were disappointing, due to the very bad weather experienced during the whole of last month. This sort of co-operative effort between the Department and C.S.I.R.O. will, it is hoped, be extended after Mr. Piesse's return to duty towards the end of January. At present "Lancelin", still under the command of Mr. R. Greig, of C.S.I.R.O., and with Inspector R. M. Crawford of this Department and Mr. K. Godfrey, Technical Officer of C.S.I.R.O. aboard, is carrying out preliminary prawn trawling investigations in the Warnbro Sound area. Immediately this job is finished "Lancelin", again under Mr. Piesse's command and with C.S.I.R.O. personnel aboard, will carry out an extensive drift-netting programme on sea herring (tommy ruffs) in the Geographe Bay-Cape Naturaliste region.

Talks have been taking place recently between the Department and C.S.I.R.O. as to the possibility of seconding each of our cadet inspectors in turn to the C.S.I.R.O. Fisheries Division for training in laboratory and field procedures in biology and hydrology. Although no final decision has yet been reached, it

is anticipated that arrangements for each cadet to spend three months with C.S.I.R.O. will be completed in time to enable the first to take up duty about February 1. It is felt that by this means the younger members of the staff, by working in closer association with our scientific workers, will develop a better appreciation of science as applied to fisheries and in consequence be able to adopt a more scientific approach to our problems than is possible under the existing set-up.

FISHERMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The newly-appointed Committee, which comprises the Superintendent who is ex officio chairman, and Messrs. N. K. Swarbrick of Albany (representing deep-sea fishermen), O. J. Benson of Denmark (beach and estuary fishermen), J. C. J. Gregory of Geraldton (crayfishermen) and Roland Smith (non-commercial fishermen), met on December 17 and 18 to consider many important matters. Perhaps the most important items discussed were those relating to the crayfish management programme for 1952. The Committee's recommendations to the Minister, who has approved them all except No. 4, which it is felt should have further consideration, are as follows:

1. That the open season at the Abrolhos during 1952 be the same as in 1951, i.e. from April 1 to August 31. The Committee agrees with the view expressed by the fishermen, by departmental officers, and by Mr. K. Sheard of C.S.I.R.O., that to further curtail the open season would result in completely uneconomic working.
2. That a regulation be made prescribing that no crayfish pot be used unless such pot has a space of not less than 2 inches between the bottom cane or batten and the one next above. This will provide an opportunity to undersize crayfish to escape, either while the pot is set or while it is being lifted, and will, it is felt, go some way towards reducing the number of small crayfish which are at present being brought to the surface. The Committee is of the opinion that some time should be allowed the fishermen to "work out" their existing pots, and

that therefore the commencement date of the regulation be November 15, 1952, that is, the opening date of the Fremantle-Lancelin-Cervantes season.

3. That the open season in waters south of Latitude 30° South commence as at present on November 15.
4. That steps be taken to reduce the number of fishermen operating at the Abrolhos by -
 - (a) refusing to grant approval to any fisherman to fish there who did not operate for the full season in 1951;
 - (b) in the event of any team dropping out, not permitting any replacement.

This, the Committee feels should remain in operation until such time as the number of fishermen operating at the Abrolhos is reduced below 65, the optimum number proposed by Mr. Sheard.

PUBLICATIONS

"Fish and Fisheries of Australia", by T.C. Roughley, has just been published by Angus and Robertson Ltd. of Sydney. Mr. Roughley, Superintendent of Fisheries in New South Wales, has a very facile style and his book is very readable. The coloured plates are superb. In view of the cost (50/-) it is not possible to supply an official copy to each district inspector, but officers may desire to secure a copy for themselves. Albert's Book Shop, Forrest Place, Perth, has the book on sale.

The Department subscribes to the following periodicals which can be made available to any officer desiring to read them -

"Field and Stream" (U.S.A.) - for the angler and hunter.

"Outdoors and Fishing" (N.S.W.) - for the angler, hunter and boatman.

"Fishing Bulletin" (England) - trade journal.

"Fishing News" (England) - trade journal.

"New Commonwealth" (England) - a most interesting journal dealing with the industries of all units of the British Commonwealth.

"Western Fisheries" (Canada) - trade journal.

"Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review" (South Africa) - trade journal.

"Pacific Fisherman" (U.S.A.) - trade journal.

"Fishing Gazette (U.S.A.) - trade journal.

If any officer would like to have any of these on loan he should apply to Head Office. There is only one condition - that no publication be kept for longer than a fortnight.

INSPECTORS' ANNUAL LEAVE

The following programme of leave for 1952 has been approved. In view of the necessity for providing relief in many districts no alteration in the commencing dates can be approved save in the most exceptional circumstances. An endeavour has been made to ensure that officers with school-age children take their leave during school holidays, but this unfortunately has not been possible in all cases.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Leave due</u>	<u>Commencing date</u>
Baird, R.J.	3 weeks	19/5/52
Bateman, A.J.	3 "	8/9/52
Bowler, S.W.	3 "	22/9/52
Carmichael, B.A.	3 "	10/11/52
Connell, F.A.L.	3 "	14/1/52
Coombes, G.	3 "	15/12/52
Crawford, R.M.	3 "	31/3/52
Davidson, W.	3 "	22/9/52

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Leave Due</u>	<u>Commencing Date</u>
Gallop, J.L.	3 weeks	13/10/52
Jeffery, G.C.	3 "	3/11/52
McLaughlan, N.E.	3 "	14/1/52
Melson, A.K.	5 "	4/8/52
Munro, J.E.	3 "	25/2/52
Murray, H.J.	6 "	24/11/52
Piesse, H.C.W.	3 "	2/1/52
Simpson, J.S.	3 "	1/9/52
Simpson, M.J.	3 "	1/9/52
Smith, L.G.	3 "	15/12/52
Stathy, X.W.	3 "	12/5/52
Thorn, J.A.	3 "	7/4/52
Traynor, J.	3 "	14/1/52

SUPERANNUATION

The following circular has been received from the Superannuation Board and is forwarded for the information of all officers:-

"SUPERANNUATION & FAMILY BENEFITS
AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

The main features of the above Act, which came into operation on the 12th December, 1951, are as follows:-

- (a) Pension benefits have been further increased by 20% in respect of the first eight units, the increased cost being wholly borne by the State. The increased rate applies to both existing and future pensioners.

(b) The unit scale has been widened from 20 to a maximum of 26, the salary margins for units over 20 being as under:-

<u>Where salary exceeds</u>	<u>does not exceed</u>	<u>permissible No. of units</u>
£	£	
1144	1248	21
1248	1352	22
1352	1456	23
1456	1560	24
1560	1664	25
1664	--	26

An employee who is at present contributing for 20 units has a period of 12 months from the date of commencement of the amending Act in which to decide in respect of an election for additional units over 20. The cost of additional units will be according to the rate for age, next birthday and will be payable from the date of election."

If any officer desires further information in relation to superannuation, he should communicate direct with the Secretary, The Superannuation Board The Treasury, Perth.