



) Mar 1952

ARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Number 3

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FOREWORD

A request recently came forward from a certain group of fishermen that the Department make representations to the responsible authorities for the imposition of restrictions on the importation of frozen fish from South Africa, England, Iceland and elsewhere. It was stated by the fishermen in question that such fish has greatly depressed the market for most of the local lines, and that the cost of production in some of the more remote areas is so high as to render competition with imports quite unprofitable.

What we all have to remember, of course, is that if there were no imports of frozen fish the fish-eating public of Western Australia would be in a sorry plight. The production of fish for consumption fresh, while it has not declined during recent years, is not keeping pace with increasing demands from a growing population. The position has been accentuated by the transfer of such a large number of fishermen from ordinary fishing to the crayfish and salmon fisheries, neither of which caters for the local market.

It does seem that the only solution is an increase in the number of fishermen and/or increased production on the part of the fishermen now in the fresh fish trade, coupled with a reduction in costs of production so as to make local fish competitive with imports.

In any event, the whole question of imports is one of high policy, and controlled by the Commonwealth Government, and if any approach is to be made it will need to be at a much higher level than departmental.

(A. J. Fraser)  
SUPERINTENDENT

### STAFF NOTES

Inspector M. Goodlad, Pearling Inspector, has now completed biennial leave and returned to duty at Broome. Inspector J. E. Munro, who has been relieving him, will return to Perth early in March.

Cadet Inspector Neil McLaughlan has now gone to Lancelin Island where he is assisting Inspector R. M. Crawford in the M.V. "Garbo". Inspector A. J. Bateman and Cadet Inspector Malcolm Simpson are at Cervantes Island in the M.V. "Kooruldho".

The Supervising Inspector (Mr. J. E. Bramley) is at present in the Albany district. He is expected to return to Perth about March 2.

Inspector W. Davidson, of Fremantle, will enter Hollywood Military Hospital on March 5 for an operation. The Relieving Inspector (Mr. A. K. Melsom) will take over the Fremantle district during his absence.

Assistant Inspectors A. V. Green and R. M. Crawford have been promoted to the rank of Inspector.

The title of Mr. L. G. Smith, Technical Assistant, has been altered to Technical Officer, and his classification raised to G-II,2/3 from February 8, 1952.

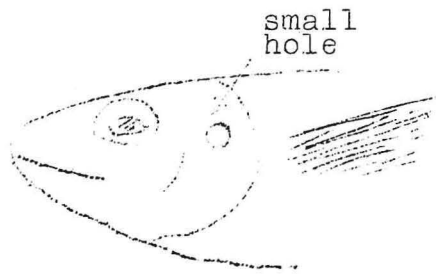
### TAGGING OF SEA HERRING

Mr. L. G. Smith of this Department, and officers of the Fisheries Division of C.S.I.R.O. are tagging and releasing large numbers of sea herring (ruff or night herring) in Western Australian waters. When recaptured the tagged fish give valuable information about life history and migrations.

#### Type of Tag.

A small red or white plastic strip, bearing a number and printed instructions as to the returning of the tag, will be placed inside the body cavity. When the fish is gutted the tag will be lying between the gut and the body wall.

Each sea herring bearing an internal tag will have a small hole punched through the gill covers on each side as shown overpage.



This hole merely serves as an indicator to show that an internal tag is inside the body cavity, and should be observed when the sea herring are being removed from the net or whilst they are being packed prior to despatching through the normal marketing facilities.

Reward

A REWARD OF FOUR SHILLINGS will be paid to the finder of any sea herring tag who sends it in with the information as to when and where the fish was caught, together with his own address.

TAGS MAY BE SENT TO:

C.S.I.R.O., Fisheries Division,  
1 Museum Street, Perth.

or to any office or inspector of the Fisheries Department of Western Australia.

Where possible the whole fish bearing the internal tag should be delivered to the above offices or inspectors. In this case, the full market value of the fish will be paid, as well as the reward.

Any such co-operation will be greatly appreciated. C.S.I.R.O. will welcome suggestions for the improvement of the work.

TROUT ACCLIMATISATION COUNCIL

The Trout Acclimatisation Council of W.A., which was set up two or three years ago to co-ordinate the work of registered acclimatisation societies and to control the distribution of trout fry produced at Pemberton hatchery, will hold its quarterly meeting at Pemberton on Sunday, March 2. The Council comprises the Superintendent of Fisheries (Chairman), one representative of each registered trout acclimatisation society (Gingin, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Murray, Harvey, Blackwood and Pemberton-Warren) and the Government Entomologist, the Conservator of Forests, the Director

of the Government Tourist Bureau, a representative of the Fisheries Division of C.S.I.R.O. and a representative of the State Gardens Board. The Hon. Secretary-Treasurer is Mr. C. A. Glew, but during his absence overseas Mr. Keith Sheard, of C.S.I.R.O., is acting in that capacity.

At the meeting to be held at Pemberton Professor E. Percival, of the Canterbury University College, Christchurch, N.Z., who is returning to the Dominion after a visit to Britain, will be present. Professor Percival has done a considerable amount of work on the ecology and natural productivity of the trout streams of New Zealand, and has kindly consented to address the Council and make a very quick survey of the streams in the Pemberton district. There will also be present Professor H. Waring, Professor of Zoology at the University of W.A., and Mr. A. Main, a member of his staff. Professor T. Gislen, Professor of Zoology at the University of Lund, Sweden, who will be returning home early in March after several months in Western Australia, will also be included in the party.

#### DRIFT-NETTING EXPERIMENTS

Mr. H. C. W. Piesse, skipper of the Department's M.V. "Lancelin", sailed for Busselton towards the end of February for the purpose of carrying out drift-netting experiments for the capture of sea-herring (Arripis georgianus, "Ruffs", "Tommy Roughs"). Included in the crew are Assistant Inspectors L.C. Oliver and O. Hello, of this Department, and it is expected that Mr. K. Godfrey, Technical Officer of the C.S.I.R.O. Fisheries Division, will join the ship about March 7.

For years old North Sea drift-net fishermen settled in Western Australia have suggested that sea herring could be taken in quantity at sea, and very economically, by the use of drift-nets, and it is only now that the opportunity of testing the possibilities has arisen. The area to be worked will be the Cape Naturaliste region, perhaps as far south as Cowaramup Bay and north as far as Bunbury. It is hoped that some results will be available in time for inclusion in the April issue of the Bulletin.

#### DEATH OF MR. E. A. CLEGG

Just as this issue was being "put to bed", news came through that one of the best-known figures in the fishing industry, although not a fisherman himself, passed into the beyond on March 3. He was

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Mr. E. A. (Arthur) Clegg, until recently the Secretary of the W.A. League of Professional Fishermen's Associations (Inc.) and of the South Coast Licensed Fishermen's Association (Inc.).

Mr. Clegg's interest in fishing was developed as a boy at Fleetwood, Lancashire, where he was born, and where he spent much time among the trawlermen of that famous port. Migrating to Western Australia many years ago, Mr. Clegg joined the Education Department as a teacher, and saw service in many parts of the State. On his retirement about 1936 he settled at Emu Point, Albany, where he quickly became associated with many public movements in the district, including the Fishermen's Association, to which as secretary for many years he gave unstinted service.

Mr. Clegg was a very genial man, albeit a very forthright one who never pulled punches when he believed himself in the right, and he will be missed by a very wide circle of friends. He was 81 at the end.

#### SALMON FISHERY

Mr. A. K. Melsom, Relieving Inspector, left for the south coast about February 20 to make a complete survey of salmon fishing operations between Dillon Bay on the east and Peaceful Bay on the west, and to submit a report containing a comprehensive factual account of the salmon fishing industry. It was expected that the job would take about six weeks, but unfortunately there has been no run of salmon so far and consequently no salmon fishery. In the circumstances Mr. Melsom will return to Perth immediately.

Mr. L. G. Smith, accompanied by Mr. B. R. Saville, who is still on long service leave, and a University undergraduate, has gone to Hopetoun and other south coast fishing beaches as far west as Albany for the purpose of tagging salmon (if any can be found) and sea herring. He will return to Perth about March 15.

#### SCARCITY OF CRABS.

For some reason for which at the moment no explanation is forthcoming crabs of recent weeks have been very scarce in the three west coast estuaries (Swan River, Peel Inlet and Leschenault Inlet). At the



same time there has been no shortage at sea, particularly Cockburn Sound, where they are very abundant between Fremantle and Rockingham.

### PRAWN REPORTS

Reports from Mandurah indicate that prawns are still very plentiful at the mouth of the Murray River. A report from Inspector Bowler of Geraldton, shows that a few weeks ago prawns of up to 6" in length were taken in the Greenough River. Although these were not plentiful it is evidence of the existence of good prawns in this locality.

### COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS' MOVEMENTS

Mr. E. de B. Norman, Officer in Charge of Pearling Section, Commonwealth Fisheries Office, who had been in Western Australia for two or three weeks as leader of the mission of enquiry set up by the Commonwealth Government to look into the pearling industry at Broome, returned to Sydney by air on February 13.

Mr. W. B. Malcolm, Research Officer of the Division of Fisheries, C.S.I.R.O., Perth, has been recalled to Cronulla for several months during the absence of Mr. I. S. R. Munro overseas. Mr. Malcolm is responsible for investigations into Australian salmon and sea herring, but the Department has received an assurance from Dr. Thompson, Chief of the Fisheries Division, that there will be no interruption of Mr. Malcolm's programme while he is at Cronulla. It is expected that he will pay two or three visits to this State while relieving at headquarters.

### RECOVERY OF TAGGED MULLET

A mullet tagged by Mr. L. G. Smith at the mouth of the Collie River, Bunbury, on January 17, 1952, was recovered on February 17 at Trigg's Island, about 10 miles north of Fremantle. The mullet when tagged was 25.6 cm. in length (l.c.f.), or about 11 inches overall, but no details are available as to length when recaptured. The distance travelled in the 31 days of freedom was approximately 100 miles.

### FISHERMEN'S MONTHLY RETURNS

Some returns for the month of December, 1951, are still outstanding. Will all inspectors make sure that all such are received in Head Office not later than March 31.