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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

Number 7

July 1, 1952

FOREWORD

The financial year 1952/3 is now upon us with the promise of reduced appropriations and demands for the strictest economy. It is therefore necessary for us to take stock of our requirements for the coming year and by careful planning keep those requirements down to absolute essentials.

Those inspectors who are responsible for the maintenance of district stocks, the repair and upkeep of engines, boats and other equipment will be expected to assist in keeping expenditure to a minimum. It has been laid down that approval must first be secured following a requisition or report in writing before any expense is incurred. This procedure is to be followed implicitly and if departed from, the officers concerned may incur the liability of the unauthorised expenditure.

It is not intended that items of a petty nature involving only a few pence or shillings, be first referred, but the issuing of Direct Orders for services or goods must not occur before quotes and prior approval are secured. Telephoned approval can be sought in an emergency.

(A. J. Fraser)
SUPERINTENDENT OF FISHERIES.

A GOOD HAUL

Using a purse seine, the Haldane Bros. on June 16 at Port Lincoln, South Australia, landed approximately 30 tons of salmon.

MARLIN CAPTURE

Early in June Mr. Axel Bertelsen of L.F.B. "Maori Lass" while hand-lining for snapper near Dampier Reef (between Dirk Hartog and Dorre Islands) hooked a marlin. After a two-hour battle the fish was killed. It was between 350 and 400 lbs. weight and is thought to be a Black Marlin. Accurate identification is not possible, only the head and caudal fin being retained. Mr. Bertelsen remarked that a school of these fish was present with many larger individuals therein.

TROUT MATURITY

Inspector J. S. Simpson reports from Pemberton an interesting result from the sexing of two-year old trout. Of 1248 fish handled 274 males and 533 females were mature. Over the past two previous years mature fish were approximately 5% only of the total.

SNAPPER - RACIAL STUDIES

Steps are being taken by C.S.I.R.O. to study racial aspects of snapper. The first move in W.A. has been the acquiring of samples from Denmark where using set nets of $3\frac{3}{4}$ " and 5" mesh with the co-operation of local fishermen three dozen samples were obtained by Mr. L. G. Smith.

STAFF NOTES

Patrol Vessel "Lancelin" leaves July 3 for northern waters, destination Broome. En route investigations on prawns will be undertaken in Shark Bay.

Inspector A. J. Bateman is now on "Lancelin" as Sea-going Inspector, P.V. "Koorulshoo" being temporarily laid up.

Cadet Inspector N. McLaughlan proceeds to Carnarvon July 4 where he will receive instruction in whale biology from Mr. R. G. Chittleborough, of C.S.I.R.O., who is stationed at Babbage Island Whaling Station. Mr. McLaughlan will later join "Lancelin" in her northern cruise.

Inspector S. W. Bowler will join "Lancelin" at Geraldton and assist in the work on prawns in Shark Bay. He will, following arrival at Carnarvon, return to Geraldton.

Mr. Jonathan Thair (ex R.N.) has been appointed Temporary Assistant Inspector as from June 30. He will proceed to Geraldton on "Lancelin" and assist Temporary Inspector Hello there during Inspector Bowler's absence.

P.V. "Garbo", in charge of Inspector Crawford, is at the Abrolhos Islands. Cadet Inspector M. Simpson is assisting Inspector Crawford.

Inspector J. Munro is at present on sick leave, having had the misfortune to injure his knee when at Pemberton recently. We trust he will soon be as fit as ever.

Temporary Inspector L. Oliver is assisting Inspector Jeffery at Albany and has been appointed for the purpose, an inspector under the Whaling Act, 1937.

After considerable alteration and outfitting, P.V. "Silver Gull" was commissioned on June 27. Inspector Connell is in charge. Her immediate area of operation will be the Swan River and ocean waters adjacent to Fremantle.

PERSONAL

Mr. R. E. Pritchard, Manager of the Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative, recently resigned and left the company on June 30.

Our congratulations to Mr. Athol Middleton, Technical Officer, Hydrology Section, C.S.I.R.O., on his marriage on June 14 to Miss Jennifer Greagg.

Mr. T. W. Houston, Research Officer, is a recent appointment to the C.S.I.R.O. staff. Mr. Houston arrived from England in March last. He has recently been in W.A. for the purpose of acquiring data on trawling operations and has had access to the logs of the trawlers "Commilles" and "Ben Dearg". He will compare results achieved here with those obtained in the Eastern States and assess our trawling potentialities.

WHALING

Operations are strongly under way at all three stations. Progressive totals of captures have been published in the press and these are in advance of official returns. Reports indicate that whales are in exceptionally good condition and oil recovery is expected to be high. The new venture at Albany has already secured about a quarter of its quota of 50 humpbacks.

DISTRICT OFFICERS' CONFERENCE, PIMBERTON,
JUNE 5 to 5

The following matters were discussed at the conference and the discussion and recommendations arising therefrom are detailed hereunder for the information of officers generally.

1. Hours of duty and time off.

- (a) Inspectors have no set hours of duty and accordingly "time off" is not obligatory. Some time ago the Public Service Commissioner

granted Fisheries Inspectors 3 weeks' annual leave in lieu of the fortnight previously granted and it was intended that the additional week be in recognition of the extra hours inspectors are required to put in. It is recognised that at times it may be necessary for inspectors to seek time off for various reasons but in all cases prior approval must be sought. Such approval may be granted by District Inspectors to Assistants or Cadets stationed with them. Other officers must secure approval from Head Office.

- (b) Assistant Inspectors and Cadet Inspectors stationed with district officers must submit diaries and reports for scrutiny and initialing by the district officer. Travelling and mileage claims also should be similarly dealt with.

2. Metropolitan Area.

Policy concerning the future of the Swan River was discussed in the light of its potentialities and value as a fishery and its future as a means of recreation for the population of the metropolitan area. The general view was that for the time being and the immediate future the value of the River as a training ground for young inspectors is great and in consequence the present status quo should not be disturbed. It was further considered that fish production is on a scale worth maintaining.

"Borrowing" of staff in the metropolitan area for work in other districts is one for negotiation between the district officer and the Metropolitan Inspector.

3. Monthly Service Bulletin

The conference was unanimous that the Bulletin is enjoyed particularly by country inspectors and that it be continued. Officers are invited to furnish the Department with items of interest for publication.

4. Reporting Damage and Loss etc.

Instances involving the Department in considerable expenditure were remarked upon and the conference informed that where such occurred through negligence the regulations laid down the procedure to be followed. In the future this course

will be applied in all instances. All cases where accidentally or otherwise involving loss and damage must be reported in writing. This requirement includes items found to be missing or damaged on completion of inventories and handing-over statements. Head Office stocks, materials, etc., are now in the charge of an officer in the clerical division who will issue requirements only after a signature.

5. Assistance in Albany.

It was decided that during the whaling season an Assistant Inspector be made available to the district inspector at Albany and accordingly Assistant Inspector L. Oliver has now been stationed there.

6. Section 28 and Regulation 7.

The Fisheries Act and Regulations do not specifically provide for the furnishing of names and addresses on request except under certain circumstances. A recent occurrence indicates the desirability of power being specifically provided to enable an inspector to ascertain names and addresses in all reasonable instances. It is considered that Section 6 (mf) of the Act as amended enables the promulgation of the necessary regulations and accordingly action will be taken thereunder.

7. Section 46(2) - Closed Water Permits.

The desirability of refusing certain persons a permit to pass through closed water under the above section came under discussion but it is thought that no grounds exist for refusing an application unless the applicant has a recent previous conviction in connection with closed water operations. Accordingly action should be taken along these lines in future.

8. Sale of confiscated gear.

Policy in this regard was determined as follows -

- (a) Where the return of a net is sought by the original owner the request will be referred to the relevant district officer for his view.
- (b) Valuation of confiscated nets is to be near market value.

- (c) Where confiscated gear is classed as poor or worse a recommendation should be made as to its being "stripped".
- (d) A lead and cork pool has again been created and will be maintained from stripped gear.

9. Amateur and Professional Licenses.

No present action.

10. 2-inch aperture in craypots.

To ascertain the best method of implementing this requirement the Department will conduct experiments.

11. Standard cray rule.

A rule of the caliper type will be given a try-out at Geraldton during the current season. It is thought that this is the type of rule which will prove to be most likely to be satisfactory.

12. Amateur fishing.

It was generally agreed that the Department follow a policy of setting aside small areas or waters for amateur recreation. These localities would comprise those with no future possibilities as areas of professional fishing. With our rapidly-increasing population pressure is bound to come for access to many of our fishing areas and it is thought that the policy now decided upon will considerably relieve such pressure. Two rivers which attract numbers of holiday-makers and which are at times favoured too by professional fishermen are those mentioned below and the following action in respect of these was decided upon.

(a) Greenough River.

The present only restriction concerning this water is a minimum mesh of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. It is now decided to restrict net lengths to 66 yds. per boat.

(b) Murchison River.

Similar remarks apply here as in the case of the Greenough River and it is decided that the River be closed entirely to net fishing upwards for a quarter of a mile from its mouth.

13. Policy re percentage of undersize fish.

This matter was raised by several inspectors with a view to some consideration being given fishermen where fishing operations have been unduly arduous or catches of a magnitude which preclude or render difficult the measuring of fish. However it is considered impossible to approve any allowance for short-length fish or any percentage. Breaches of this nature must be reported and the circumstances fully described. The Department has always adopted the policy of prosecuting only where such is warranted but it is essential that Head Office be fully informed in each case. It is a practice followed by district inspectors to give verbal warnings from time to time. These when given should be reported upon to Head Office when such will be placed as a matter of record on the file of the fisherman concerned.

14. Prawn dredge nets and season.

A proclamation concerning the Murray River near Mandurah prescribed that the only net permissible for prawn fishing is one which is held in the hand and has a diameter not exceeding 2 ft. During the recent prawning season in that area a net was evolved which, although coming within the scope of the description laid down in the proclamation, was used in the manner of a dredge in that the aperture to the net was shaped in the form of a half-circle and the handle elongated to enable the gear to be pushed along the river bed. Drop nets were also used in a certain part of the river with considerable success. The mesh permitted for the capture of prawns is not permitted to be less than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and the minimum length for greasy-back prawns is 2 ins. Discussion on the matter presented the view generally held that the minimum length should be increased and that possibly a larger mesh size could be permitted. It was finally decided that tests with $\frac{3}{4}$ in. and larger mesh will be carried out by Inspectors Murray and Gallop. Experiments in the use and affect of the dredge nets described will be undertaken and the question of a season for the taking of prawns will be deferred for the time being. The inspectors mentioned are to furnish weekly samples of prawns of various sizes from the Murray River and these will be forwarded for examination in the Eastern States. Action concerning the closure of the upper portion of the Murray River against prawn fishing will be decided following an investigation to be carried out in the area concerned.

15. Policy re Trout Administration.

Inspector J. Simpson outlined the difficulties of control particularly as to transport arrangements and maintenance matters. He feels that the whole of the control policy should be reviewed and that the matter of transport of trout should be a responsibility of the local society. It was finally decided that the Superintendent and Inspector Simpson would meet the Pemberton Trout Society Council and discuss the whole matter.

16. Fauna Act, 1950 (proclaimed 1/7/52.)

An outline of the major features was given by the Superintendent and implementation of the Act discussed. Certain sections of the Act came under criticism but it was pointed out that the Act is the direction of Parliament after they had considered the original Bill and accordingly we have to accept the law as it stands.

The Department is conducting a duck-banding experiment and a description of this is given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

17. Fishermen's Advisory Committee.

Discussion on the value of, representation upon and the necessity for any change in the Committee was discussed. No finality was reached.

FAUNA PROTECTION ACT, 1950, AND REGULATIONS

By Proclamation published in the "Government Gazette" on June 13, 1952, the Fauna Protection Act, 1950, and Fauna Protection Act Regulations, 1952, were proclaimed to come into operation on the 1st instant. A copy of the regulations has been issued to each Inspector.

Under the Act, all fauna, except to the extent which the Governor declares by Proclamation, is wholly protected throughout the whole of the State at all times. No protected fauna may be taken without license issued in accordance with the Regulations and no fauna which has been declared not protected or for which an open season has been declared, may be taken for the purpose of gain or reward without a license issued in accordance with the regulations. Any person may take and kill any fauna that has been declared "not protected", but should

he desire to sell the fauna or dispose of the skin of the fauna, he must obtain a license from the Chief Warden of Fauna.

The following licenses have been prescribed in the regulations -

1. Regulation 4:

Licenses to take Kangaroos for food purposes only, will be issued to those persons who live in isolated localities and are unable to obtain regular supplies of fresh meat. The fee for this license, which authorises the holder to take one kangaroo per week only, within the boundaries of the Road Board District in which he resides, is five shillings.

2. Regulation 5:

Licenses to take fauna causing damage to property will be issued to all genuine applicants, for a term of twelve months from date of issue, on payment of the prescribed fee of five shillings.

3. Regulation 6:

License to take marsupials for gain or reward authorises the taking of marsupial fauna, which has been declared not protected throughout the whole or part or parts of the State, during the period of time when such fauna is not protected. The fee for this license is two pounds.

4. Regulation 7:

The fee for a license to buy, sell or in any other way deal in skins of Marsupial Fauna is five pounds. This license does not authorise any agent of the holder or any person who is not an employee of the holder to operate under such license.

5. Regulation 8:

License to take Fauna other than marsupial fauna for gain or reward authorises the holder to take fauna which has been declared not protected or such fauna for which an open season is declared. Under the Game Act, 1912-1913, these licenses were issued to bird trappers who operated

in the Kimberley Division during the open season for finches. The fee is two pounds.

6. Regulation 9:

The fee for a licence to buy, sell or in any other way deal in Fauna other than marsupial fauna has been increased from two pounds to five pounds.

7. Regulations 11 and 12:

A fee of one pound has been prescribed for each license to export live fauna and for each license to import live fauna. Evidence of the prior consent of the importing or exporting authority of the State or country concerned must be submitted to the Chief Warden of Fauna before such license may be issued.

The Minister has delegated his power to issue licenses pursuant to Section 15 of the Act to the Chief Warden of Fauna. All applications for licenses must be made in writing to the Chief Warden of Fauna and accompanied by the prescribed fee. District Inspectors should submit a recommendation when forwarding applications to Head Office. Every license issued in pursuance to regulations 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, shall be for a period of twelve months from date of issue and no longer.

The holder of every license issued in pursuance of regulations 4, 5, 6 and 8 must furnish to the Chief Warden of Fauna a return setting out full particulars of the fauna taken during the term of the license, within one month of the expiration of the said license.

The holder of every license issued in pursuance of regulations 7 and 9 must furnish to the Chief Warden of Fauna a monthly return as prescribed in forms "K" and "L" in the regulations.

Every person consigning for sale skins of marsupial fauna shall attach to the package of such skins a label showing his name, address and license number. No person licensed pursuant to regulations 7 and 9, shall purchase, receive for sale or deal in fauna received from any person who is not the holder of a license. Should an Inspector seize on the premises of a person licensed under regulation 7, a package of skins to which a label is not attached, he may authorise the sale of the said skins provided the merchant is prepared

to hold the proceeds therefrom pending enquiries being made by the Department. The Inspector will serve a notice on the firm concerned to hold the proceeds and forward a copy of such notice to Head Office, where further action will be taken.

Skins of all marsupial fauna other than possums, red kangaroos and grey kangaroos are exempt from payment of royalty. All skins of prescribed fauna intended for export shall be branded with the brand as prescribed in form "M" in the regulations. A regulation is being prepared to prescribe the forms for the receipt for royalty paid and for the debit note for royalty to be paid. This regulation will be published in the "Government Gazette" on the 11th instant. In the meantime officers may use the existing forms "H" and "T".

Each Inspector of Fisheries is a Warden under the Fauna Protection Act, 1950, pursuant to his appointment under the Fisheries Act, 1905-1951. His authority under the Fauna Protection Act is similar to the authority he had under the Game Act, 1912-1913, with this exception. All fauna and articles which may be seized by him while carrying out his duties as Warden shall be delivered to the Officer-in-Charge of the nearest Police Station for safe custody. A receipt should be obtained for any fauna or article so delivered. This receipt should then be forwarded to Head Office with the usual report on the breach of the Act or regulations that has occurred. It will also be necessary for the Warden to furnish a similar statement, for the Crown Law Department, to that which is submitted for a breach of the Fisheries Act.

The Game Act, 1912-1913, has been repealed. All appointments under this Act are automatically cancelled.

RECEIVERS OF ROYALTY ON SKINS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7(2) of the Fauna Protection Act, 1950, Messrs. A. J. Fraser, E. J. Brownfield, B. R. Saville, B. K. Bowen, W. Davidson, S. W. Bowler, J. Traynor and A. K. Melsom have been appointed receivers of royalty on skins.

FAUNA PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Fauna Protection Act, 1950, Messrs. H. M. Whittell, O.B.E., L. Glauert, B.A., F.G.S., and D. L. Serventy, B.Sc., Ph.D., have been appointed members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee for a period of three years from July 1, 1952. The Conservator of Forests, Mr. T. N. Stoate, and the Chief Vermin Control Officer, Mr. A. R. Tomlinson, with the Chief Warden of Fauna, Mr. A. J. Fraser, as chairman, are ex officio members of the Committee.

WILD-DUCK BANDING PROGRAMME

The Department is this year embarking upon an interesting new investigation programme on the native ducks, of which several species occur in Western Australia and are of considerable interest to the general public and naturalists. Very little real information is known about their habits locally, but impressed by the far-reaching results obtained in Great Britain and the United States, this State now follows New Zealand and Victoria in adopting the technique.

The rings being used are of aluminium and each bears a serial number and an inscription requesting the finder to return the ring to the Fisheries Department, Perth. The Department will operate regularly a duck-ringing trap at Queens Gardens, Perth, in association with the Perth City Council. The co-operation of the State Gardens Board has been obtained in working traps in other parts of the metropolitan area. Soon it is hoped to establish trapping stations in various other centres of the South West in association with competent ornithologists.

From the information obtained from the ringing programme, the Department hopes to trace the dispersal and general movements of the various species of ducks. Other factors of biological value for the conservation programme, such as the average life span, homing tendencies and the like, will be revealed.

Each district Inspector is requested to furnish a monthly report on the wild ducks in his district.

THE CLEARING-HOUSE

The following paragraphs culled from overseas and eastern States periodicals are published for information.

International Fishery Conference

The Bureaux Techniques de Documentation de la Peche du Commerce et de l'Industrie du Poisson, Minque 12 and 13, Zeebrugge, Belgium, is organising an international fishery gathering to be held from June 21 to June 30 inclusive. Covering all branches of the industry, it will include exhibitions, film shows, conferences, etc. There will be particular emphasis on the shrimp trade. Some 29,000 invitations are going out to bodies and firms all over Europe. Idea behind the project is to increase consumption of fish through the modernisation of fleets, techniques and distribution.

The European Institute for the Economical Protection of the Fish Industry has been founded to exchange information on problems, experiments, results, etc., of the industry. The inaugural meeting of the institute will be held during the gathering.

Guest speakers and the loan of trade films will be welcomed. Full details of the gathering may be obtained from the address above.

(The Fishing News, London, April 26, 1952)

Trolling Speed of Tuna Trollers

Australian tuna fishermen troll at a speed of $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 knots, with fish being caught freely at a speed up to 10 knots, but when special tests were made at 5 knots, among fish which had been biting well, the catch rate dropped.

Apart from speed, the catch rate depends largely upon the dexterity with which the baited hook is handled, and upon the weight of the fish biting. The dexterity with which the fish can be handled depends upon the speed of the vessel.

When trolling at the higher speeds is in progress the tuna when hooked is quickly brought to the surface; because of its habit of attacking a lure from the side it is nearly always hooked in the side of the mouth and so skids side-on over the surface of the water when being hauled on board. Reduced speed has the tendency to permit the hooked fish to "sound", and it is then that greater tension is placed on the line and the jaw of the fish, with the result that the jaw gives way and the fish is lost.

It is said that the striped tuna is more likely than any other species to be the mainstay of a tuna fishery in south-eastern Australian waters.

(Western Fisheries, Vancouver, April 1952)

New Fishery Technique

A new method of finding flying fish schools is being practised in Barbados. It is the analysis of plankton, the minute floating animal and plant organisms on which they feed. This technique for increasing the catch was described by Mr. D. W. Wiles, the Barbados Fishery Officer, who was a delegate to the recent Fisheries Conference sponsored by the Caribbean Commission. Mr. Wiles reported that the Government's experimental boat, using a plankton indicator, and relying on the evidence afforded by examination of the gills and stomach of freshly captured fish, was able to find profitable fishing grounds with much greater expedition and accuracy than by traditional methods. The results have been reported to Dr. C. F. Hickling, Fishery Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who considers them so important that it is proposed to send a student trained in plankton research to Barbados.

(New Commonwealth, London, April 28, 1952)

Pepping Them Up!

A British atomic weapon test on the Monte Bello Islands, off Western Australia, might cause whales to play around in the area more than usual and help the whaling industry, according to Mr. J. C. Bowes, chairman of Australia's Whaling Commission.

Mr. Bowes said that it was almost certain that the tests would not harm the whaling industry.

The whales would be on their seasonal trek along the West Australian coast right up to the islands until October or later, he added.

Catcher next season had better be careful not to harpoon radioactive whales. Atomic whale-steaks might produce more startling results than indigestion.

(The Fishing News, London, May 3, 1952)

Collared:

While fishing in the River Don, at Kintore, Mr. John Dinnie, younger son of Provost John Dinnie, landed a 1 lb. brown trout wearing a collar! Round the fish, just behind the gills, was a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. flat rubber washer of about 3 in. in diameter.

It must have become lodged round the fish when the latter was very young, for at the junction of the gills and the back was a groove in the flesh almost $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. deep, and there was a similar indentation on the lower part of the "neck" behind the throat. Both had been caused by the grip of the washer, which had stretched as the trout grew in size.

While not prepared to vouch for the age of the fish, Provost Dinnie, an expert fisherman, said that it must have been wearing its collar for at least a year.

(The Fishing News, London, May 3, 1952)

A Seagoing Laboratory

Torry Station's New Vessel

A new trawler, designed both for trawling and as a seagoing laboratory, has been ordered by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the Torry Research Station, Aberdeen. The builders are Hall, Russell and Co., Ltd., Aberdeen. The vessel will carry out work on fish immediately after being caught on the distant grounds and will provide fish of known history in sufficient quantities for use in the M.O.F.'s experimental factory.

The work of the vessel should prove of value to the fishing industry and to the general public. The industry should benefit, for, if some of the investigations to be made are successful, and are

developed on a large scale losses due to spoilage of fish would be greatly reduced, while the general public would be able to buy much fresher fish.

The need for this new research vessel lies in the history and development of fish eating in Britain. Until 150 years ago, most people in inland towns had never tasted fresh seawater fish. They relied almost entirely on heavily salted, smoked and dried varieties. As roads improved in the early part of the 19th century and railways developed in mid-century, it became possible to distribute sea fish rapidly inland in fresh condition. The use of ice, at first natural ice and later artificial ice, by the latter half of the century enabled the storage life of fresh fish to be considerably extended. Fishing vessels could go farther afield, discovering new grounds, and still bring back fresh fish.

The nearer waters were soon over-fished as a result of increased exploitation by ever more efficient methods. Steam trawling, which was developed in the last years of the century, permitted still longer voyages to more and more distant grounds. The principal grounds are distant water - around Iceland, in the Barents Sea and near Bear Island in the Arctic, and in the Davis Straits between Greenland and Northern Canada - and involve round trips of about three to four weeks. As a result, a large proportion of the fish has been caught a good many days before it is landed and some of it is going stale in spite of having been stored in ice.

Extensive studies of the spoilage of fish have been made at the Torry Research Station, and recommendations have been made for bringing fish home in the most satisfactory condition that the present technique of icing permits. But the station knows in theory that the problem can only be overcome by freezing the fish at sea immediately it is caught. The new research trawler will permit, among other things, practical investigations on the fishing grounds of various aspects of this radical change in technique.

The ship will be a diesel-electric vessel of about 125 ft. b.p. and of 600 s.h.p. She will be equipped for trawling on a commercial scale and the fish-hold will have a capacity of over 4,000 cu. ft. In addition, there will be space for the testing of fish-processing plants, and a laboratory for chemical and bacteriological investigations of fish preservation and by-products. The fuel endurance will be over 20 days, enabling the ship to visit all the North Atlantic

fishing grounds. There will be accommodation for six scientists and a crew of 13 to 15.

The propeller can be controlled direct from the wheelhouse, and provision is made for fine speed control from a few revolutions per minute upwards. The vessel will thus be able to employ most commercial methods of fishing.

The main machinery sub-contractors are the Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd. Power for both the propulsion and the trawl winch motors is to be supplied by four main generators on the constant-current system. The maximum shaft horsepower will be 600 at 200 r.p.m. and the maximum output of the winch motors will be 150 b.h.p.

Two auxiliary generators will each have an output of 135 kw., which will allow the fitting of large-scale quick-freezing plant. Main and auxiliary generators will be driven by Meadows high-speed 6-cylinder, four-stroke, turbo-charged engines developing 200 b.h.p. at 1,400 r.p.m. The six engines will be identical and easily removable.

The design of the ship is being prepared by Hall, Russels to meet a functional specification drawn up by the Admiralty and the Food Investigation Organisation engineering staff, who have received valuable help from the British Shipbuilding Research Association and the Ship Division of the National Physical Laboratory.

(The Fishing News, London, May 3, 1952)

Reorganisation of Greek Fishing Industry

Official in Britain for Ideas

On an extensive tour which is taking him to various places in England and Scotland, M. Alexandre Stephanidis, Inspector of Fisheries, Ministry of Industry, Athens, spent last week based on Hull. Already he had spent three weeks in Scotland and he next moved on to Grimsby.

The Greek fishing industry is in the throes of reorganisation and M. Stephanidis is in search of ideas. He told The Fishing News last week that he had found the British Government and all sections of the industry in this country most co-operative.

"My object," he said, "is to study the administration of the fishing industry here. I am studying the organisation of the various services associated with the industry and the marketing of fish. Transportation and distribution are phases which particularly interest me. Twenty-five per cent. of our fishing fleet was destroyed and we lost 100 per cent. of our gear, which we were not able to replace ourselves because of a lack of raw materials.

"We are now building a number of new vessels, but for the most part they are like the smallest in England. We do most of our fishing in the Mediterranean and have doubled pre-war production. A scheme prepared in 1944 is developing quickly. We are constructing our fleet and are trying to build up markets in the big ports. Our climate is a very warm one and our scheme provides for refrigerating plant for keeping unsold fish, concentrating on Patras and Piræus in this respect.

"The types of fish you handle over here are not familiar to us, except hake. Unfortunately, the Mediterranean is a bad sea for fish, but we get our sardines and our anchovies. You are lucky here because you get a lot of fish, and fish is very cheap in Britain. I reckon that in Greece hake, for instance, is about 5s. a lb. for the first quality. A lot of our herring are imported from England, especially from Yarmouth."

M. Stephanidis, who was accompanied during his Hull tour by Mr. W. A. Whytock, District Inspector of Fisheries, North-Eastern area, spent a day studying the inshore fisheries at Bridlington, Filey, Scarborough and Whitby.

(The Fishing News, London, May 17, 1952)

World's Biggest Game Fish taken in S.A.

Alf Dean lands 2,333 lb. White Pointer Shark

Mr. Alfred Dean, of Melbourne, broke the existing world record on April 5, by hooking and gaffing a white pointer shark weighing 2333 lb.

He was fishing from a launch in Streaky Bay, South Australia, when he hooked the monster, which took him an hour to boat. It measured 16 ft. 3 in., but the girth was not given. It is the first game

fish weighing more than a ton that has ever been landed on hook and line.

Fishing in the same bay a few days later, Mr. Dean hooked another monster shark, known to local fishermen as "Barnacle Bill". After hooking it, he played it for an hour and a half, and had it within 30 ft. of the launch when his reel seized, and to avoid being dragged overboard, Mr. Dean had to cut his line.

He said the shark surfaced near the boat and grabbed at a seal lure hanging over the side. He saw enough of it to identify it as a female, which he estimated at 20 ft. long and easily 3000 lb. in weight. It got away with a steel hook and trace embedded in its jaw.

Mrs. Patricia Dean, wife of the angler mentioned above, just missed breaking the world record for women the following day, when she landed a 784 lb. white pointer shark. This was 27 lb. below the existing world record.

(Tight Lines, N.S.W., June 15, 1952)