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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

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STAFF NOTES

During August the Supervising Inspector (Mr. Bramley) visited the Geraldton and Bunbury districts.

In company with the Superintendent, Inspector J. S. Simpson and Cadet Inspector D. Wright, the Minister for Fisheries (Mr. Kelly) was present at the annual meeting of the Pemberton-Warren Trout Acclimatisation Society on August 1, and at the quarterly meeting of the Trout Acclimatisation Council of W.A. on the following day. Both meetings were held at Pemberton.

Inspector F. A. Connell has been at Geraldton for the greater part of August, having taken the place of Assistant Inspector J. L. Gallop, who was compelled to return to Mandurah owing to family illness.

Assisted by Cadet Inspector B. A. Carmichael, Inspector Connell brought m.v. "Garbo" to Fremantle from Geraldton during the month.

Inspector A. J. Bateman, of Fremantle, commenced 3 months' long service leave on August 1. At the conclusion of such leave Mr. Bateman will take his 1953 annual leave, returning to duty towards the end of November.

The Superintendent took a week's leave during the last week in August, and Mr. B. K. Bowen commenced his 1953 leave on August 24. Warden J. Traynor and Inspectors A. K. Melsom and J. S. Simpson took annual leave during August.



Mr. R. M. Lo Presti, who commenced duty in July as Cadet Inspector, has severed his connection with the Department.

Mr. L. G. Smith, Technical Officer, visited Hopetoun, Albany and Denmark during August in connection with ruff and snapper investigations. At Denmark 50 snapper were internally tagged.

#### NOR'-WEST WHALING ACCOUNTS SHOW SMALLER EARNINGS

For the year ended March 31, 1953, Nor'-West Whaling Co. Ltd., which operates the station at Point Cloates, had a net surplus of £68,724 after providing for depreciation and tax. This is down over £50,000 compared with the 1951-1952 trading period. Provision for income tax this year was £56,000 as against £120,000 the year before.

The directors report that at the express wish of shareholders whaling in the 1953 season commenced a fortnight sooner, but the earlier start did not greatly affect the issue, as nine whales only were taken in the two weeks.

A final dividend of 1/- a share (making an unchanged 20% for the year), has been paid.

#### THE SILENT WORLD

This is the title of a most fascinating book written by Captain J. Y. Cousteau, who commands the French Navy's Undersea Research Group.

Cousteau began as a spear-fisherman who could kill his quarry at 60 ft. without breathing aids. Later he developed the aqua-lung, a compressed-air apparatus, and naked but for basic gear, he dived to 300 ft. At this depth the pressure is enormous, sufficient almost to crack the hull of a submarine.



Subsequently thousands of descents were made by Cousteau and his crew, and he reports that aqua-lung divers may do any kind of hard work at 130 ft. Lower still, at 210 ft., he says light labour can be performed for two hours, although highly skilled aqua-lungers are able to carry out brief surveys as deep as 300 ft. Here there is just sufficient light for the taking of photographs.

Cousteau says that at very great depths a sort of blank rapture overtakes the divers - he calls it "the hilarious rapture of the sea". This is brought about by nitrogen intoxication (which causes the "bends" or diver's paralysis), and while under "the influence", divers have been known to give their air pipes to a passing fish which seemed to be in need of air.

The behaviour of various species of fish in their natural element is described, as also is Cousteau's own experience in a tuna net which he had entered to observe what fish do as the net is gradually closed up.

Cousteau's book can only be described as thrilling, and every fishery worker should have a copy. It is available at most Perth bookshops - price 22/6.

#### MARLIN WASHED ASHORE

A fish which was reported to be a "striped marlin", was washed ashore at Cape Riche, about 50 miles as the crow flies N.E. of Albany, about mid-August. The marlin was 12 ft. in length and its weight was estimated at 1,000 lb. Although the fish was dead when found by a local fisherman, it was still in good condition. It showed signs of having been mauled, perhaps by a shark. It is unfortunate that the attention of the Inspector of Fisheries at Albany was not called to the stranding, so that full particulars of the marlin, which was said to be the largest of its kind ever seen on the South Coast, could have been secured.



PATROL POINTERS

(by J. E. Munro, Metropolitan Inspector)

There are many ways of doing patrols. Some are modern and popular; others old-fashioned and decidedly unpopular. The two which are probably the most efficient in closed waters are no doubt the least popular - the row-boat and "Shanks' pony".

There is no doubt at all about it but the use of a launch or outboard for night patrols makes it more comfortable for the inspector. Moreover, the poacher prefers that we use this method as it is so much easier for him to detect the approaching Nemesis because of the chug-chug of the motor.

Therefore don't make a launch or outboard your first choice on closed water patrols. Always use the paddles. When on open water patrol, or in a hurry, use motor-propelled vessels by all means.

The old-fashioned foot patrol is much more effective generally than the new-fangled car patrol. Furthermore when on foot you can always get out of anything you get in. It is not so easy with a vehicle. Take your car with you, certainly, but always leave it some distance away from the river or closed area. The "cockatoos" will get to know your bus soon enough without your inviting their inspection. Then walk down to and along the bank or foreshore.

One thing to remember when visiting outlying parts of your district is that Head Office; ogriish and all as they are, don't expect you to rush back home almost before you arrive. In fact they take a very dim view of uncompleted jobs.

Fishermen generally are very keen to have a yarn, and inspectors can often obtain a lot of useful information from them. Make it your business always to see as many men as you can - go out of your way to find them; you will perhaps be surprised at the good it does. When in the more remote parts of your district - and even when closer home - always contact the local governing authorities, the angling and gun clubs and professional fishermen's associations. Call on the



Town Clerk or Road Board Secretary. They will always be glad to see you and will generally be found to be the fountain-head of local information.

Keep these points in mind when on night patrol -

- (1) Oars and rowlocks to be effectively muffled;
- (2) Smoking is taboo. The glow of a cigarette can be seen for long distances at night, and the smell of tobacco smoke carries a long way;
- (3) A grapnel is a must for night patrols. Only by this means can you locate sunk nets or nets the corks of which have been forced under the surface by the current or tide;
- (4) Torches should be used judiciously. Never flash yours unless absolutely necessary;
- (5) If alone row by "pushing" the boat, so that you can see where you are heading. Even if two men are present one rowing is usually sufficient - if both row the speed of the boat is stepped up to such an extent that the patrol loses most of its efficiency and usefulness;
- (6) Always keep in mind the fact that the moon, or street, shop or house lights, or the like, can disclose your presence. Keep close inshore and as well hidden as possible;
- (7) Use a car with discretion. Rushing here and there at night seldom gets results, although mobility, i.e., the ability to move quickly from vantage point to vantage point, is a prerequisite of all inspectors, and sets the poacher thinking.

#### WILD DUCKS

Following on an American idea, the Department is trying, through the co-operation of the Gun Clubs, to secure information which will lead to a reasonable estimate of the wild duck population of the State.



Gun Club members and prominent duck shooters will be asked to complete a score card indicating the number of banded and other ducks bagged, the number crippled, and the locality in each case, and also whether more ducks were taken this season than last season.

Reports as received will be tabulated into an informative statistical statement and together with reports from Honorary Wardens and Departmental Inspectors provide a good measure of information on which to base reasonable regulations for conservation and rational taking.

All inspectors are requested to endeavour to sell the idea of sportsmen co-operating with the Department to obtain any information likely to secure these objects. It would assist also in mileage economy. If inspectors would advise this office of any authentic reports on duck congregations in their areas where duck banding operations could be profitably pursued. Where desired cards will be made available to inspectors for distribution.

#### CORMORANT CONFERENCE

On August 13, in the Minister's office, members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee (Mr. A. J. Fraser, Chairman; Dr. D. L. Serventy and Mr. A. M. Douglas (deputising for Mr. Glauert)) met representatives of the Yacht Racing Association, comprising Mr. W. J. Lucas (Royal Perth), President; and Messrs. S. Craig (Rear-Commodore, Royal Freshwater Bay); W. Crommelin (Commodore, Claremont) and R. Tough (Claremont). Also in attendance were Messrs. H. B. Snugg, Acting Secretary of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, and J. Traynor, Fauna Warden.

The Minister opened the proceedings by referring to the deputation from the Association which had waited on him previously, and to the subsequent meeting he had had with the F.P.A.C. (vide July "Bulletin"). He also read one of many letters received from members of the public, and stated that for every person who wanted cormorants destroyed there were three who did not want them harmed. He said that the dissection of the three



shags by Dr. Serventy at the meeting on July 20 gave a fair indication that the types of shag dissected fed on fish of no commercial value. The bird which created the greatest nuisance as far as boats were concerned was the Little Pied Cormorant - the other types were more inclined to perch on the spit posts and dolphins in the river.

Mr. Craig said his Association would like to know whether digestion occurred in the shags' stomachs post mortem and what was the volume of food consumed. He said that regardless of what fish was found in the birds' stomachs, that could only be taken as an indication that the birds in question had fed on that type of fish that day, and that to obtain a proper picture of their feeding habits it would be necessary to carry out a year-round survey.

Dr. Serventy contended that the report of his survey in 1936 - a copy of which he would make available to Mr. Craig - answered the Association's points.

Mr. Lucas said that his Association's particular worry was the damage done to members' craft, and that they were not so interested in the fish the birds consumed. He found Dr. Serventy's earlier findings hard to believe, as he himself and many other yachtsmen had seen shags taking good size fish and cobbles. He would like to ask Dr. Serventy what useful function cormorants fulfilled in the scheme of things.

Dr. Serventy replied that without doubt shags did take some edible fish, but the main miscreant in this regard was the Large Black Cormorant, which was not protected. This species caused very little fouling of river craft. He said shags served a useful purpose in that they kept some sort of balance between useless fishes like gobies and gobbleguts and the edible species. If the small fishes of no economic value were permitted to build up indiscriminately they would consume the food upon which the more valuable species depended. He said a large body of public opinion favoured the protection of shags. He recommended that the yacht clubs persevere with measures to protect their craft properly and suggested that a trial be made of the carbide gun which was widely used to frighten away birds from orchards.



Dr. Serventy then dissected the four Little Black Cormorants that had been secured by Warden Traynor on the preceding morning. The results were noted as follows:-

1. Female taken at South Perth (large ova) - 29 gobies, 1 gobbleguts, quantity mush.
2. Female taken at Como (large ova) - 29 hardyheads (smelt) and quantity mush.
3. Female taken at Como (very large ova) - 58 gobies and quantity mush.
4. Female taken at Como (immature) - 6 hardyheads and quantity mush.

(NOTE: The fish varied from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 ins. in length. All birds were taken in fine weather while feeding.)

Dr. Serventy remarked that these results were in line with his 1936 findings.

Concluding the meeting the Minister said further investigations on the feeding habits of cormorants might be of some advantage, but as a year-round picture would need to be made, no little expense would be involved. He would discuss the matter further with Mr. Fraser. He said he realised that shags were quite a nuisance to boat owners, but the views of all sections of the community would need to be considered.

#### NETTING RESTRICTIONS RELAXED

The waters of Broke Inlet (sometimes known as Brookes' Inlet), lying on the south coast some 75 miles west of Albany, which were closed absolutely to net-fishing in August, 1949, have been the subject of consideration by departmental officers and the Fishermen's Advisory Committee. On the recommendation of the latter a fresh proclamation was gazetted on August 7 declaring the Inlet open to netting from June 1 to September 30 in each year.

A proclamation will be published in the Gazette of September 4 rescinding the closure of Cowaramup Bay to net fishing. The opening is effective immediately.



CRAYFISH CONSERVATION

It has been decided to close all waters between the 30th and 33rd parallels against the taking of crayfish from September 1 to November 30 inclusive. This means that the season south of the 30th parallel will open a fortnight later this year. The requisite proclamation will be gazetted on September 4.

By proclamation published in the Government Gazette on May 18, 1951, all coastal waters between latitudes 29° 40' 00" S. and 30° 23' 28" S., i.e., between approximately Knobby Head and Hill River, were closed to the taking of crayfish for three years from that date. On the recommendation of the Fishermen's Advisory Committee it has been decided to open the area in question during the open season of 1954. This will be for 1954 only, and it is intended that the prohibition be re-imposed as from December 1, 1954. A proclamation to this effect will be published on September 4.

The Minister (Mr. Kelly) in pursuance of his powers under Section 17 of the Fisheries Act, 1905-1951, directs licensing officers to endorse conditions on licenses where necessary to the effect that -

- (1) Fishermen and boats engaged in the taking of crayfish between the 30th and 33rd parallels of south latitude may not during the same calendar year be so engaged anywhere between the 28th and 30th parallels.
- (2) Fishermen and boats so engaged between the 28th and 30th parallels may not during the same calendar year be so engaged anywhere between the 30th and 33rd parallels.
- (3) Save as mentioned in clauses (4) and (5) hereunder, no restrictions in regard to the operations of fishermen or boats engaged in taking crayfish anywhere between the 28th and 33rd parallels shall be applied in relation to waters north of the 28th parallel or south of the 33rd parallel.
- (4) No freezer-boat shall engage in the taking or processing of crayfish in the Abrolhos Islands.
- (5) Freezer-boats shall be permitted to catch crayfish north of the 28th or south of the 33rd parallel and to process their own catch, but shall not be permitted to process crayfish caught by any other boat or person.

Paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) are to be effective forthwith.



SUPERINTENDENT IN TALKATIVE MOOD

Lunch-hour addresses were delivered by the Superintendent to the Rotary Club of Fremantle on August 5 - subject, "The Romance of Crayfishing" - and to the Y-s Men's Club of the Y.M.C.A. at Perth on August 13 - subject "Whaling in Western Australia". On the evening of August 10 he attended, in company with the Supervising Inspector, the inaugural meeting of the W.A. Aquarists' Club, and delivered a short talk.

M.V. "LANCELIN"

Under the command of Captain H. C. W. Piesse, and with Inspector R. M. Crawford and Assistant Inspector J. C. Thair as crew, <sup>"Lancelin"</sup>sailed from Fremantle for Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf on August 18. Mr. K. Godfrey, of the Division of Fisheries, C.S.I.R.O., accompanied the vessel as technical officer.

A few days earlier a party comprising the Minister and Superintendent, as well as other departmental officers, joined the ship on her trials after refit. The chief purpose of the trial run, which was made in Cockburn Sound, was to test the new hydraulic winch and echo-sounder recently installed.

At the conclusion of the trials, which were eminently satisfactory, Mr. Kelly issued the following statement -

"A three-year fisheries research programme for the Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay areas is being embarked upon. This work will be a joint effort by the Division of Fisheries of the C.S.I.R.O. and the State Fisheries Department. Its purpose is to determine the commercial possibilities for prawns, tuna, mackerel and skipjack (trevally).

"The decision to initiate a three-year programme, which will begin next week, was made after the successful preliminary research work last year off the North-West coast from Geraldton to Broome.



"Mr. Kelly said it was hoped that this and other investigations would make fishing a major industry in Western Australia."

#### EMU DEPREDATIONS

In recent months representations have been made by the Kojonup and Cranbrook Road Boards and the Farmers' Union to have protection on emus lifted in those road districts. In order to obtain some further information Messrs. H. B. Shugg, Acting Secretary, Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, and J. Traynor, Fauna Warden, made an inspection of the areas concerned between August 3 and 6.

On the first day the country from Arthur River out to Lake Towerinning and Capercup was covered and Kojonup approached through Muradup. The secretaries of the Kojonup Road Board and the local branch of the Farmers' Union were interviewed on Tuesday morning and information obtained as to the localities where emus were said to be troublesome. Inquiries were pursued and observations made along a route taken via Orchid Valley and Chowerup, and thence by the Boyup Brook road to Cranbrook. On Wednesday, after calling at the Road Board office and running out to Tom South Lake at Pootenup, the inspection was continued south-westerly to Frankland River and Rocky Gully, and on to Lake Muir and Boyup Brook. The return to Perth was made on Thursday, August 6.

From inquiries all along the route it was apparent that the Land Settlement schemes in the South Stirling and Rocky Gully areas had forced emus to change their habitat and to penetrate over a wide field into new areas. It was considered that there were sufficient grounds to support a recommendation for the lifting of protection for a period ending on March 31, 1954, to coincide with the termination of the open season for emus in the Albany, Denmark, and Plantagenet road districts. Action will be taken accordingly.



## THE CLEARING HOUSE

### Fishing Pioneers

#### They Followed Columbus - For Cod

by Frank A. King

While fifteenth-century Portuguese seamen were exploring the African coasts and growing wealthy on the sale of African slaves, while the Spanish were penetrating deep into the forests of South America and forcing the natives to mine precious metals for them, a much humbler product was drawing English seamen to the coasts of North America - cod!

Records show that as early as 1390 English fishermen were making regular voyages completely round Iceland in quest of the same fish.

Following Columbus's discovery of America in 1492, Newfoundland was discovered five years later by two English navigators, John Cabot and his son, Sebastian. Returning to Bristol after declaring Newfoundland an English possession, they brought with them some Indian traps for catching game and wild turkeys ( a bird the English had never seen) and the rib of a whale, which they had found on the beach at Nova Scotia. (In the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, at Bristol - described by Elizabeth I as "the most beautiful building of its kind in England" - still hangs a whale-rib, believed to be the one the Cabots brought home with them.)

But the two explorers had more important things to report. The Newfoundland waters, they said, were heavy with cod and other fish.

#### Small and Fragile Boats

The fishermen of France, Portugal and England were swift to act upon the information. As early as 1499, two or three small smacks made a fishing voyage to the Newfoundland coasts. These fishermen must have had great luck in their daring enterprise, as their vessels were so small and fragile. Such things as distant-water trawlers and quick-freezing were unheard of!



The early visitors to the cod-fisheries of Newfoundland found plenty of fish to bring back with them. Even now, the abundance of fish all along the shores of New England and British America remain one of the wonders of the natural world. Besides the vast population of cod, the seamen found shoals of mackerel and herring, and as the rivers joined the open sea, they captured salmon of "vast size".

An American naturalist once said: "As I have often myself stood on those rock-bound shores and marvelled at the inconceivable variety and number of the inhabitants of the deep, I am the less surprised at the great number of European fishing-vessels that came thither for fish almost as soon as Cabot had found out the way".

In 1527, a little more than a quarter of a century after the discovery of the coast, the records of one navigator state that in one Newfoundland harbour he counted 12 French fishing-vessels and that there were then as many as 50 vessels in all - French, Portuguese and English - on the coast.

#### Four Hundred Vessels

Fifty-one years later, in 1578, there were seen in one Newfoundland harbour no fewer than 36 fishing-vessels, but another Elizabethan navigator states that at one period, during 1600, there were 400 fishing-vessels on the banks of Newfoundland.

In 1610, an Englishman commented: "England may boast that the discovery of the northern parts of America, from the year 1497 to this very day, hath afforded the subject annually one hundred and twenty-thousand pounds, and increased the number of many a good ship, and mariners, by their fishing in Newfoundland."

So the maritime greatness of England dates from the time of the discovery by the Cabots of the abundance of fish on the banks of Newfoundland, but it was her fishermen, too, that made the pathway across the ocean familiar and prepared England to become, at length, the chief colonising nation of the world.

("Fish Industry", London, July 1953)



## Rainbow Trout Fry

### New Season's Hatch Now Available

The new season's hatchery of Rainbow trout at the Pemberton Hatchery are now ready for distribution. After allowing for 200,000 for holding in the ponds for later distribution and for the 100,000 ova which was sent East, there is still 200,000 available for immediate planting.

These can be picked up at the Hatchery from August 1, and the price will be the same as last year, £5 per 1,000. Unless the demand is very heavy it is expected that a bonus of 1,000 for each 1,000 purchased will be made available.

In order to give purchasers a clear idea of the best time to take their trout, it is pointed out that the fish are distributed in three periods.

First Distribution: This is with very young trout at hatching time when they can be purchased in large numbers cheaply and can be transported easily in buyers' own containers. The survival is, of course, lower than with larger fish.

Second Distribution: This is with 2-inch fingerlings in November when it is necessary to use special apparatus to transport any number. In co-operation with the Fisheries Department bulk parcels are sent to centres that can absorb upward to 20,000. The price at this stage is advanced to £11 per 1,000.

Third Distribution: This is in May when Registered Societies in the coastal area have priority because this time suits their stream planting best. It is usually possible for private buyers to secure supplies from these centres. At this stage the Rainbows are some 4 inches long and worth £3 per 100.

It will depend on the location of the water to be planted which of these periods suits the purchaser. Those in the coastal belt can take fry from the hatchery or Perth base in August, or 4 inch fingerlings from local societies in May. Those within 50 miles of bases on the Great Southern can take fingerlings in November. For those further afield fry would be best.



It is expected that the bulk delivery of fry to Perth will take place in early September. Inquiries should go forward promptly to the Pemberton Society.

("Elder's Weekly", Perth, July 30, 1953)

Commercial and Sport Fishing

A Reiteration of Policy

Paul E. Thompson  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington 25, D.C.

The argument waxes and wanes and, like many another argument, accomplishes little toward settling a difference of opinion. I do not propose a means for settling the dispute forever; I do think that an armed truce, pending the accumulation of the facts, would go far toward greater amicability between the angler and the commercial fisherman. In the meantime, a close look at both sides might be rewarding:

Says the Sportsman:

When meat fishing is injurious to sport fishing, the commercial interests must give way. A fish which gives an angler a thrill serves a more useful purpose than a fish which finds its way to you via the meat market.

Anglers can't deplete a resource - most fishermen can't even catch fish; they angle for relaxation.

We only want a fair share of the fishing and will be perfectly satisfied if our few favourite marine and fresh-water fishes are reserved. The commercial fishermen can have the rest.

When we see commercial fishermen taking tons of fish from our favourite fishing spots, we resent it, especially when we see illegal sizes dumped to die unused.

If either group must have priority, that group should be the many thousands of sport fishermen who pay far more than the market value of the fish for the privilege of catching them.



Where commercial fishermen are allowed in fresh-water lakes and reservoirs to remove rough fish, they take the game fish, too.

The sport fishery is worth many times the entire commercial fishery and must be preserved, and the commercial fisherman should be brought to understand the importance of preserving this immense asset.

Unfortunately, as in the California mackerel fishery, some commercial fishermen not only destroy their future livelihood by over-exploitation, but they destroy our fishing as well. We have plenty of justification for fighting the commercial interests.

A veteran salmon angler on the Columbia says that for years he hasn't caught a salmon which didn't have net marks on it.

Some commercial fishermen even contribute part of their profits to funds used for preventing the passing of regulations which will preserve our fish supply.

We have been forced to organize sportsmen and conservationists in such groups as the Ocean Fish Protective Association, Inc., to combat the over-exploitation of important fish species, because of the powerful influence of the commercial fishermen.

In any place where the meat fisherman and the angler vie for the same species, the meat fishing can be expected to reduce the catch of the sport fisherman.

The greatest value of angling is its contribution to health and well-being, which cannot be measured in dollars; but studies of the actual monetary value of recreational fishing demonstrate its great economic importance. One survey report gave average expenditures of more than \$9 per fisherman day on an inland reservoir.

Says the Commercial Fisherman:

A lot of sportsmen are as commercial as I am; they sell their fish on the market, competing with me. What's the real difference between us?



Catch statistics are beginning to show what people have been slow to believe without them: in many places sport fishermen take more of a particular species than we do.

In a good many inland lakes and reservoirs we could, if permitted, remove nongame fish for commercial use to the advantage of the angler because the game fish would have more space and food.

Modern conservation means fullest possible use. Set aside a fish solely for the angler and you risk under-utilisation.

We provide high-quality protein food to the American people, many of whom are not sportsmen. Does anyone doubt the need for such food?

We know of many fish hogs who call themselves sportsmen, who load their car trunks with hook-and-line-caught fish; and we know of many instances where such fish have been wasted.

We resent the charge that we "are quite willing to destroy" the supply of salt-water fish, to our "own future disadvantage, as well as to the disadvantage of sport fishermen". We do not believe any one group has a corner on good sense.

We were here first; it is only in very recent years that hordes of anglers have pushed into our fishing grounds.

Even the sportsmen's advocates speak of angling as "big business", and indeed it is. Even the "sportsman" as exemplified and glorified by the party boat and charter-boat operator who takes parties of 2 to 50 people out fishing for commercial species, isn't at all compatible with either the lone sportsman or the fancy angling club.

Big-time commercial fishing in the T.V.A. reservoirs hasn't seemed to make a dent in the sportsmen's catch; and in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota it has been proved to result in greater angling success.

Sure, we have among us people completely ignorant of conservation, people who flagrantly affront the majority's antipathy to wanton waste and



violate conservation laws and regulations; but we have seen long lists of violations - by "sportsmen" - of hunting and fishing laws and regulations designed to prevent waste and perpetuate hunting and fishing. Don't judge us all by the standards of the few.

We really feel strongly about the immoral quality of the efforts expended by groups of anglers to set aside areas, bodies of water, or species of fish for themselves in the interest of "Conservation". The emotional appeal undoubtedly is strong, but in most cases the motive is the interest of special privilege for a special group, often just for a special group of anglers who like to fish in a special way (no worms!).

We don't like to be sneeringly called "meat fishermen" by anglers. We are 165,000 businessmen, primary producers of food worth \$345,000,000 a year to us.

#### Fish and Wildlife Service Policy

Now, the Fish and Wildlife Service has a policy on this question. In fact, the Service was less than 3 months old when a statement of policy was demanded. The New York State Sportsmen's Council asked for a speaker at a mass meeting, expressing the hope that the person chosen would be sympathetic to the problems of the sport fishermen and not one primarily interested in the commercial fisheries. That was in 1940, just after the union of the Bureau of Fisheries and the Biological Survey. In the years since then, population and fishing pressures, industrialization, needs for more wholesome recreation, and needs for more protein food have, if anything, accentuated the competition between fishing groups.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is, in one way, in a good position in the argument. The Service, you see, has no regulatory jurisdiction over the fisheries of the several States, and only recommends conservation measures to the States for consideration. This distinction between the advisory capacity of the Service and the regulatory power of the States is clear, and the policy is based on this principle.

Former Assistant Director Charles E. Jackson was spokesman for the Service at the mass meeting in New York. The policy which he expressed then not only



is applicable today - it needs reiteration for a new generation of anglers, commercial fishermen, and administrators.

The Fish and Wildlife Service will not take sides on the issue and will continue to divorce itself from any division as between the commercial fishermen and the sports fishermen. It is not concerned with social and political issues or in controversies between groups of fishermen. This is not an attempt to avoid responsibility, for the Service is an agency for the conservation of certain living natural resources and is responsible for recommendations to the States based upon research results. The Service is against waste, against overfishing, and against depletion; but it does not proceed or recommend on the basis of suspicions of waste, overfishing, or depletion or irresponsible charges of these crimes against conservation. The service is for research to build up a fund of information usable for conservation purposes.

A corollary policy worth mentioning again is that where a fish resource is not sufficiently large to permit both commercial and recreational fishing, the resource should be used in such a manner that the greatest number of citizens will benefit. The well-known Federal and State laws prohibiting the taking, transportation, sale, and possession of black bass for commercial purposes were based on this related policy. In the case of many other species, the benefit accrues to the recreational fishermen.

The facts do not justify exclusion of one kind of fishing for the benefit of another kind for most marine fishes. Of course, either side may advocate exclusion, but the Service will not support one side against another. The fishery resources of the United States do not belong to the commercial fishermen and they are not the property of the recreational people.

The protection needed by both sides in the controversy is provided through adequate technical information, coordinated jurisdiction over migratory fishes, and a rational management policy. In the years since Mr. Jackson spoke in New York, more knowledge about fishes has been accumulated, inter-State compacts on the



three coasts have provided the means for coordination, and at least some progress has been made toward more rational management. Still, fishery conservation is in its infancy. The best way to adjudicate the argument between sport and commercial fishermen is to support ardently the three means of protection of the resource, which I have listed. Active, constructive support of sportsmen's or commercial fishermen's associations, cooperation with Federal and State fact-finders who are trying to acquire the information necessary to a rational conservation programme, individually expressed interest in good conservation legislation, and acceptance of a more equitable distribution of conservation costs between the fresh-water and salt-water anglers and between anglers and commercial fishermen: these are some of the ways in which a reasonable compromise between groups may be reached more quickly than through a running fire of criticism.

("The Progressive Fish-Culturist", Washington, U.S.A.,  
January, 1953)

#### The Sea as Nature's Free Food Storehouse

Man found that he could obtain inexhaustible supplies of food from the sea before he learned to crop the land.

Fish in the sea is the only food that man does not have to labour to create. This food is vital for the existance of humanity.

Generally speaking, fish schools require no care or cultivation beyond permitting a sufficient escapement of spawning fish each year in order to insure reproduction of the species. So are sustained the schools of fish in the sea, in nature's free storehouse, schools which are ours for the taking.

Yet on the land we find that field crops require seasonal effort and attention. As do herds of cattle; flocks of poultry, and crops of fruits and vegetables.

All nations, regardless of creed, colour or political opinion should be mutually interested and co-operative in the matter of sea food conservation.

("Western Fisheries", Vancouver, B.C., July, 1953)



**FAUNA PROTECTION ACT, 1950**

Australia's birds and animals are unique and of considerable economic and scientific importance. A great deal of harm, as is apparent in the grasshopper menace, has already been done by indiscriminate destruction, and many species of fauna are nearing extinction—and extinction means that they will be lost to the world forever. In the hope that this trend may be halted, steps have been taken under the Fauna Protection Act to provide protection to those birds and animals which are of economic, scientific or aesthetic value.

In addition, in regard to fauna which to some extent are inimical to agricultural development, an endeavour has been made to maintain a reasonable balance between the needs of agriculture and the needs of conservation by the proclamation of open and close seasons. Such seasons operate also for a few traditionally sporting birds, but it must be emphasised that the penalties for taking in a close season are just as severe as for taking fully protected species.

Under the Act all birds, animals and reptiles are protected in all parts of the State with the exception of those which are specifically declared to be not protected.

**ANIMALS**

Practically all native animals are protected. The following, all of which are recognised as being harmful in some way or other are **not protected**:—

Spotted Native Cat (Chuditch)	Black Rat (Tree or Ship Rat)
Wambenger	Brown Rat
Red Kangaroo (Marloo)	Mouse
Hill Kangaroo (Euro or Biggada)	Domestic Cat (gone wild)
except form occurring on Barrow	Wild Dog (Dingo)
Island	Fox
Jungle Kangaroo (Sand Wallaby)	Gould Flying Fox
Rabbit	Pigmy Fruit Bat

**BIRDS**

Quite a few kinds of birds are unprotected. Mainly they are the species which do damage to cereal crops or fruit. The following are **not protected**:—

Indian Turtledove	Smoker
Senegal Turtledove	King Parrot
Black Cormorant	Port Lincoln Parrot (Twenty-eight)
Goshawk	Budgerygah
Collared Sparrowhawk	Silvereye
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Raven
Little Falcon	Little Crow
White-tailed Black Cockatoo	Crow
Little Corella	Domestic Pigeon (gone wild)
Galah	Goldfinch

**REPTILES**

Only a few species of reptile are protected. They are either useful (for example, as "mousers" in farmers' barns) or quite harmless. The following list contains the names of the **protected** reptiles:—

Rock Python	Ramsay Python (Womo)
Brown Rock Python	Goannas
Children Python	Bob-tailed Lizard
Carpet Snake	Friiled Lizard
Black-headed Python	Slender Snake Lizard

Further particulars in regard to open seasons and other matters may be obtained from the Fisheries Department, 108 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.

A. J. FRASER,  
*Chief Warden of Fauna.*