

waters to the north.

The figures for 1953-4 reveal some improvement over 1952-3, but they still fall far short of the record 1951-2 catch. Opening the Jurien Bay area eased the fishing pressure in other adjacent waters and in addition contributed to the increased catch. Jurien Bay will not be open next season.

Not only in the Abrolhos, but also in this region, must the increase in production be to some extent attributed to continued good weather and consequently improved fishing conditions. We cannot therefore afford to be complacent in regard to this fishery either. It too needs very careful management.

DUCK SHOOTING

The attention of all Inspectors is drawn to the fact that the 1953-4 season ended at midnight on May 31 throughout the State. Until the next open season is declared, no ducks may be taken by any person unless they hold a license issued by this Department. Inspectors are requested to pay particular attention, as far as other duties permit, to the policing of the close season, especially in the first few months when clutches have their greatest chance of survival. Shooting in the early winter months causes birds to disperse after which they again have to pair off. This severely delays breeding and nesting and prevents the possibility of double clutches with a marked adverse effect on the duck population.

WHALING SEASON

The season for 1954, as in other years, commenced on May 1, and will close on October 31.

Licenses have been issued to the 3 West Australian stations by the Commonwealth Fisheries Office, who have advised that their whaling officers, Messrs R.Hatten and J.L.Heath will be stationed at Carnarvon and Point Cloates respectively. Inspector G.C. Jeffery will act for the Commonwealth at Albany.