

small containers and for the transport tank. By this means water temperatures may be equalised and thus prevent the young fish from being subjected to sudden variations.

Advice was given at each centre on the type of container to be used and the best methods of transferring fish from the container to the dam. The officers also discussed methods of improving the carrying capacity of dams.

They were told that trout planted last year in dams in the Quairading district were making good growth and that no losses had been reported. Small dams in this district were reported still to be very low, although dams with good catchments had built up considerably.

Appreciation of the officer's visits and the information given was freely expressed at different meetings. Quite apart from the advice which it was possible to impart, the meetings were worthwhile in that past misunderstandings were cleared up and good relations established. It is hoped that many of the past losses will be avoided through the farmers being brought to realise the important part they play in the successful establishment of fish in their dams.

WHALING

Repellants tried

Assistant Inspector V.J. Sinclair has reported from the Nor'West Whaling Company's station at Point Cloates that late in June carbide was used experimentally to deal with the shark menace. Carbide, which had previously been soaked in oil, was placed inside cuts of whale liver and tossed overboard. One shark took a bait and shortly afterwards came to the surface thrashing around in mortal agony. Other sharks soon attacked and killed it.

It was said that this method has already been tried at other whaling stations in Australia with some

success. The theory is that a number of sharks will take the baits and as they writhe and thrash about in pain other sharks attack them and leave the whale alone. It seemed, however, that during experiments at Point Cloates sharks preferred to tear their meat directly from the whale and were not greatly interested in any floating pieces. Further experiments with this method will be carried out by the Company, which is sanguine of greater success.

Permission was granted in July to the Company to use explosives as a trial shark repellent. Under the supervision of Assistant Inspector Sinclair charges of gelignite consisting of four 8" x 1" grade 60 plugs with a 16 seconds' fuse were used. When the first charge was thrown into the water about 20' from the whales, which many sharks were attacking, those nearest the charge were able to swim some distance away before it exploded. Some continued to feed off the whales and none seemed to suffer any effects from the blast.

The second charge was exploded close to five sharks, but of these only one was temporarily affected and the other four swam away. The affected one was blown over on its back, but quickly recovered and swam away. The second explosion did cause the sharks to move from the whales and to circle about some distance away. They were then so scattered that it was considered that to explode a third charge would have had no effect at all. Inspector Sinclair says that he counted four dead snapper floating on the surface, but these were the only casualties from the experiment. Half an hour later the sharks had returned and were continuing their attack on the whales. All the repellants which the Company has tried to date have proved ineffective.

Publicity was given in this Bulletin some time ago to a new American invention which the manufacturers claimed was highly satisfactory, and it is understood that supplies of this product have been ordered from the United States. They have not yet arrived.

Abandoned Baby at Albany

On July 13, it was reported to Inspector G.C. Jeffery at Albany that a baby whale was stranded at Middleton Beach and was still alive. After leaving the

Whaling Station that night Inspector Jeffery was unable to locate the calf in the dark, but, early next morning his search was successful. It proved to be a new-born female sperm whale 12'8" long. Assistance was needed to tow the whale off the beach. This was accomplished about 3 p.m. that afternoon. In spite of the fact that some sadist had made a cut approximately two inches deep all around the neck the poor animal was still breathing.

As this species of whale suckles its young for six to eight months, Inspector Jeffery decided that although it had displayed a remarkable tenacity to life the baby had no chance of survival and had it towed to the Whaling Station. It was during this tow that death through drowning occurred. After examination the carcass was eventually towed to sea and abandoned.