

MID-YEAR INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE

The following is a brief resume of some of the matters dealt with:-

1. Marketing and Distribution of Fish.

The Superintendent outlined the marketing systems in Queensland and New South Wales. He also referred to the opinions expressed by various sections of the industry at the conference held in Perth on this subject. Although the opinions of the field staff were somewhat varied as to the best method of controlling the marketing and distribution of fish, it was the unanimous opinion of those present that the industry was not ready for legislation of this nature and that the matter should be left in abeyance for the time being.

2. Research.

The Superintendent said that we all realised the very important part that research work played in industry today and he was very gratified by the creation of a research division within the department. In future, partly because of a change in policy of the Fisheries Division of the C.S.I.R.O., most of the field work in Western Australia will be carried out by our own officers in the new division. The Superintendent added that these officers would be under his personal direction until such time as a qualified biologist is appointed to the vacant position of "Research Officer." It was proposed to embark on an extensive research program later in the year. In the meantime Technical Officer L.G. Smith would commence tagging mullet at Shark Bay, 2,000 internal belly tags, each bearing a serial number and an inscription, "Return to the Fisheries Department, Perth," having been purchased for this purpose.

3. Amendments to the Act.

It was agreed that provision should be made for regulations concerning the packing of fish for market - particularly in respect to the use of sterilised boxes of a standard size - the preparation of fish for market and the marketing of uncleaned cobbler. It was also agreed that the Act should be amended whereby the owner or skipper would be responsible for the licensing of all fishermen engaged on a licensed fishing boat.

4. Diaries, Reports etc.

The Supervising Inspector outlined the responsibilities of district inspectors in relation to the information contained in their diaries and reports generally. He also discussed the issue of licenses, motor mileage, fishermen's returns, telephone calls and referred to the discussion of departmental policy outside the Department. District Inspectors, he said, should instruct junior officers working in their district on departmental procedure in these matters.

5. Minimum Legal Length.

Several officers were of the opinion that the legal length of sand and school whiting should be increased to 9", yellow-eye mullet to 9½", ruff to 8" and snapper to 13". It was decided to :-

(a) Make check measurements of yellow-eye mullet at the Perth fishermarkets;

(b) Check departmental records in respect to the minimum lengths of whiting and ruffs, and

(c) Discuss with Mr. Malcolm of the C.S.I.R.O. the minimum length of snapper.

6. Second Schedule to Act.

It was decided to remove leatherjackets from the Second Schedule.

7. Dealers Returns.

The Superintendent said he was very concerned over the non-furnishing of these returns, especially as they were essential for the checking of statistical data. In future it would be the responsibility of the district inspectors to collect returns from all fish dealers in their districts and to forward them to head office.

8. Closed Waters.

Several officers were of the opinion that the water known as "Rous Head", Fremantle should not be closed to net fishing. It was agreed to make an inspection of the area concerned and, subject to a favourable report, action would be taken to cancel the existing proclamation.

9. Fish Tagging.

It was the general opinion of all district inspectors that the department should define a policy in relation to the method of securing fish for tagging purposes and also as to the method of payment to fishermen for their assistance. The Superintendent indicated that the creation of the new research division would overcome to a large extent many of the difficulties experienced in the past. He would, however, discuss the matter with senior officers of the C.S.I.R.O. and Technical Officer L.G. Smith who would be responsible for most of the field work involved.

10. New Patrol Vessel.

The Superintendent intimated that subject to Treasury approval of finance, it was proposed to construct a new patrol vessel during the 1954/55 financial year. The Harbour and Light Department had undertaken the construction of the vessel, which would be powered to give her a cruising speed of 12 knots. The vessel would be used mainly for patrolling the Abrolhos Islands.

11. Protective Clothing.

It was decided to leave this matter in abeyance until a decision is reached in the Arbitration Court in respect to an appeal by assistants of the chemical laboratories. Their claim would be submitted to the Court within the next two or three months.

12. Monthly Bulletin.

The Superintendent stressed the need of articles of common interest from district inspectors for publication in the bulletin. A little more effort in this direction would be appreciated.

13. Honorary Wardens Bulletin.

April 1 had seen the introduction of a departmental bulletin published quarterly for the information of Honorary Wardens of Fauna. It was also supplied to all Departmental officers.

The Superintendent explained that the reports submitted each quarter by Honorary Wardens were sifted and tabulated and a summary prepared and published in this new Bulletin. The Superintendent said that he was aware of the onerous volume of clerical duties which

the inspectors had already to perform, and he was loath to give them more, but the reports were extremely simple to prepare and he would appreciate all inspectors submitting one quarterly on their observations of fauna occurrences.

14. Professional Fishermen's Licenses.

The consensus of opinion was in favour of a reversion to the policy of granting licenses indiscriminately. After a very lengthy discussion, it was decided to defer further consideration of this question until the annual conference.

15. Venue of next Mid-Year Conference.

It was decided to hold the next half-yearly conference in Bunbury.

WIRE ROPES AND CORDAGE

For your information and guidance methods of arriving at the strengths of various kinds of ropes are set out below:-

Hemp Rope

For a rough method of finding the Breaking Proof, and Safe Working Load, of a hemp rope, up to 6-inch size:-

Square the size of the rope and divide consecutively by 3, 9 and 18. For instance 3-inch rope :-

<u>Breaking Load</u>	<u>Proof Strain</u>	<u>Safe Working Load</u>
$\frac{(3)^2}{3} = 3 \text{ tons}$	$\frac{(3)^2}{9} = 1 \text{ ton}$	$\frac{(3)^2}{18} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ ton}$

Sisal Rope

Same tables may be used as for hemp.

Coir Rope

Strength is $\frac{1}{4}$ of hemp rope of similar size, and the weight is about $\frac{1}{3}$ rd.

Extra Special Flexible Wire

Breaking strain equals (Circumference)² x 3.6 = result in tons.