

Standards of seamanship and maritime knowledge required by skippers, coxswains and engineers are set down in the new regulations, which also provide that fishermen must understand English and be naturalised. Skippers are required to be able to read and write the language. Twelve months' grace has been granted before men will have to conform to the regulations, and there is also a provision that men with many years' experience at sea may qualify on the basis of experience.

OUTSIZE KINGFISH LANDED

At a metropolitan beach early in October a mulloway (river kingfish) measuring 4'9" in length with a girth of 31" was caught on a joined scrap nylon line. The weight of the fish was given as 64 lb.

NET RESTRICTIONS AT SHARK BAY

The recent enforcement of a regulation prohibiting the use of $1\frac{7}{8}$ " mesh whiting nets was suspended shortly after being enforced. A deputation of two Shark Bay professional fishermen, Messrs G.W. Fry and R.O. Hoult, was introduced by the Minister for the North-West, Mr. Strickland, to the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Kelly. The Superintendent was also present. After listening to their case, Mr. Kelly decided that the suspension would stand pending a thorough investigation into the position.

DOLPHINS AT GUILDFORD

Another indication of a very early season was given by the appearance of six big dolphins near the confluence of the Swan and Helena Rivers on October 10. The big fish appeared to be feeding on

small mullet which were known to be plentiful in that part of the river. Due to the poor winter rains, there has been very little fresh water coming down, and consequently there is only a shallow layer of slightly fresh water on the top at Guildford. This is thought to be responsible for the unusually early appearance of the porpoises, as they are commonly termed.