

7,350,000 lb. which was an increase of 100,000 lb. on the previous year. Part of the increase was due to the greater quantity of salmon taken for canning. Some fishermen refrained from catching tuna and ruffs as they considered the price offered here did not justify the heavy outlay in gear and although blue-fin tuna were plentiful, only 12,146 lb. was marketed which was less than one fifth of the previous year's production. Medium and large crayfish made up a bigger percentage of the catch than in former years and the known production of crayfish at 3,850,000 lb. was 350,000 lb. more than last year.

KANGAROOS AND MARRON - EXPIRY OF SEASONS

(a) The attention of all officers is directed to the closing on November 30 of the open season for grey kangaroos in certain road districts in the lower South-West. As from December 1, therefore, kangaroos are protected in the whole of the grey kangaroo reserve and may only be taken under the authority of a license, except in the Wagin, Dumbleyung, Moora, Lake Grace, Wongan-Ballidu, Mingenew, Mt Marshall and Kondinin vermin districts, where they have been declared vermin.

(b) Officers are also reminded that on November 30 the close season for marron expired and these fish now may be taken by any person (and by any means other than by unattended traps) providing that the legal minimum length of 3", measured from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior margin of the carapace, is observed.

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCKS

On November 2 the Chief Warden of Fauna, Mr. A.J. Fraser, and Dr. D.L. Serventy, members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, accompanied by the Secretary, Mr. H.B. Shugg, and Inspector A.V. Green, of Bunbury, attended a meeting at the Elgin Hall to hear the case put by seventy two local residents for an evening opening.

The Chairman of the Capel Road Board, Mr. N.R. Payne, (who presided) and the Board's Secretary, Mr. D. Wright, also attended.

The main point made by the meeting was that the opening of the duck season was traditionally used to usher in Christmas festivities. The opportunity was taken to have an outdoor evening, in which the shooters' families participated.

Other arguments included the declaration that the local ducks did not "fly" in the morning, as once they were disturbed they disappeared either out to sea or to the broad stretches of the Estuaries where they could rest and could not be approached unobserved.

In the evening, it was said, they came in to feed and though disturbed would fly about and come back again to the feeding grounds.

A motion by the Gun Club urging the Department to open the season at 6 p.m. on December 22 in this and every year was carried unanimously.

On November 25 representatives of the Perth Gun Club and the President of the W.A. Sporting Shooters Association waited on the Committee and offered their views on the merits of what would be the best time and date to open. Each favoured the morning opening on the grounds that it is safer for the shooters, more humane towards the ducks while also allowing a more reasonable bag to be secured. These things, they averred, could only be achieved by a morning opening and were imperilled by evening openings.

The Committee also had to consider views offered by Honorary Wardens and other members of the public, both shooters and bird lovers.

After careful consideration of all the aspects a recommendation was finally made by the Committee to the Minister along the lines of the statement released to the press. The Committee considered that although in many parts of the State the duck population may have decreased and the breeding season been unsuccessful, the reverse applied in as many other

districts. It decided that the case prepared by the Capel shooters warranted the refusal of the plea for a State-wide morning opening made by city shooters. The Committee decided to accept two further recommendations in respect to areas that should be omitted from the open season.

A copy of the statement issued by the Minister is enclosed in this Bulletin.

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCKS

The Minister administering the Fauna Protection Act (Mr. Kelly) announced yesterday that the opens season for wild ducks will commence as follows :-

- (a) at 6 p.m. on the evening of Saturday December 18, in the Harvey, Bunbury, Capel, Dardanup, Collie, Preston, Busselton, Augusta-Margaret River, Nannup, Balingup, Greenbushes, Bridgetown and Manjimup Road Districts;
- (b) at 5 a.m. on the morning of Sunday December 19, in all the rest of the State.

The opens season would not apply in any of the following areas which have been set aside as sanctuaries :-

- (a) The whole of the area within a radius of twenty miles of the General Post Office, Perth.
- (b) All municipalities and townsites in the South-West Land Division.
- (c) The whole of the Rockingham Road District.
- (d) The whole of the waters of Lake Leschenaultia, Yealering and Seppings, and Bambun, Wagin, Nambung, Mungala, Nannerup and Wardering Lakes, and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (e) The whole of the waters of Leschenault, Vasse and Wonnerup Estuaries and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (f) The whole of the waters of the Vasse, King and Kalgan Rivers, and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (g) All that portion of the Capel River between the Capel and Stirling Bridges and all land within twenty chains of the river bank.
- (h) The whole of the waters of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour and all land within a radius of twenty chains of their shores.

- (i) The whole of the area of the Yanchep Caves Reserve.
- (j) The whole of the Harvey Catchment area.
- (k) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Mandurah Post Office.
- (l) All that portion of the Avon River from Dumbarton Bridge to the Railway Bridge, north of Toodyay and all land within twenty chains of the river banks.
- (m) All that portion of the Serpentine River from Road 8629 at the southern end of Goegrup (Willies) Lake to Peel Inlet near the Old Mill and all that land within twenty chains of the river banks.
- (n) All State Forests, Timber Reserves and Flora and Fauna Reserves.

"The Department is very concerned at reports which have been received regarding the shooting of wild ducks during the close season," said Mr. Kelly, "and all Wardens of Fauna have been instructed to take immediate action against offenders. Duck shooters enjoy a much longer open season in this State than in any other part of the Commonwealth, but unless the shooting public is prepared to co-operate during the close season, it may be necessary to reduce the period of the open season in future years."

"There is a bag limit of 15 ducks a day" continued the Minister. "It is illegal for any person to use traps or decoys for the capture of wild ducks and spotlights as a duck shooting aid are prohibited."

The Department's duck research programme is being continued and members of the shooting public can assist by sending in immediately to the Department any bands recovered and also by each completing a duck shooters scorecard which will be available from Gun Clubs and Fauna Wardens before the season opens."

"In spite of the poor conditions this year," Mr. Kelly added, "it has not been considered necessary to make any alteration to the duration of the season which will close as usual at midnight on May 31, next."

It is very important to have the opportunity to review policy in regard to some of the experiments which are being carried out by the Department, particularly in some of its field centres. The benefits that will accrue from this review of the work of the Department and the advances made on the technical side cannot help but have a good financial result for the industry and the State.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I declare this conference open."

A full report of the discussions at the conference will be published at a later date.

CLAIMS FOR TRAVELLING AND REIMBURSEMENT

The following information has been prepared for the guidance of officers in the submission of claims.

(a) Travelling and milage:

Under the Consolidated Allowances Agreement the daily travelling rate is divided into four equal parts - breakfast, lunch, tea and a bed - and the appropriate time limits are 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. The daily travelling rate is at present 31/-d per day, if the officer is absent from his headquarters overnight. If an officer leaves his headquarters and returns in the same day he is entitled to claim an allowance of 7/6d for each meal that he actually purchased providing that he makes the following endorsement on his claim :-

"I hereby certify that the meals were purchased by me.

signature

Milage, overnight travelling and sea-going subsistence claims need no certification and the only entries in respect of these that need be made on the face of the claim form (P.S.C. 10.) are :-