

not give to a fishing vessel the right to obstruct a fairway or channel.

Sound Signals

One short blast - I am altering my course to starboard.

Two short blasts - I am altering my course to port.

Three short blasts - My engines are going astern.

RATS - ABROLHOS SPECIES

The Director of the Australian Museum (Dr. Evans) has acknowledged with appreciation the receipt of specimens of Abrolhos rats (Rattus glauerti) recently forwarded by this Department. The specimens, which were taken by Inspector McLaughlan from West Wallabi Island on July 23, are the first received into the Australian Museum collection. In his acknowledgment Dr. Evans made the following remarks -

"Rattus glauerti was described from East Wallabi Island by Oldfield Thomas in 1926 and, until recently, has been considered as possibly an insular race of R. fuscipes of the South-West. In a recent revision, however, Dr. Tate of the American Museum of Natural History stated that the relationship is actually with a group of small Austro-Malayan rats, and that glauerti should be regarded provisionally as a full species.

"Tate advances the interesting theory that this rat may have been introduced by early voyagers, but examination of an extensive series would be required to establish such relationship."

In addition to the two specimens forwarded to Sydney, a further specimen was donated to the Perth Museum, after whose curator (Mr. L. Glauert) the species is named.