

CRAYFISH RESEARCH

It was announced last month that samples of Western Australian crayfish would be sent to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, California, by the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative for the study of crayfish pigmentation.

Dr. K. Sheard, Officer-in-Charge of the W.A. Regional Laboratory of the Division of Fisheries, C.S.I.R.O., will examine the crayfish with other experts at the Institute.

Dr. Sheard will leave Perth about the end of August to spend about 4 months abroad, and while overseas will study current research in the United States and Canada on crayfish and plankton. Research workers at the Universities of Miami and Hawaii, and at the Pacific Biological Station in British Columbia, Canada, as well as at the Scripps Institute, have been collaborating with the staff of the Division of Fisheries in this State. Dr. Sheard's visit is designed to further this collaboration.

Population problems of crayfish and prawns will also be considered at the annual conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, and Dr. Sheard will present a paper to this Institute during his trip. He hopes that this conference will provide information to assist scientists here to a better understanding of the Western Australian crayfishery.

MARSUPIAL RESEARCH EXTENDED

It was announced last month that the Chairman of the C.S.I.R.O. (Sir Ian Clunies Ross) had made an offer of financial support for the W.A. University's marsupial research programme.

The programme, which was initiated and has been directed by Professor H. Waring, of Perth, has so far concentrated on local wallabies (quokkas). It will now be possible, however, to extend the work to the larger marsupials (kangaroos and euros) in an endeavour to learn how these animals feed, the amount of water

they require, and how quickly they re-produce.

This knowledge is of paramount importance to the agricultural and pastoral industry in this State, as from it methods of control of kangaroo populations might be evolved.