

ISSUE OF COMMONWEALTH LICENSES

Departmental officers will recall that a year or two ago authority was given by the Commonwealth Fisheries Office to certain inspectors to issue licenses under the Federal fisheries laws. Except at one issuing centre no such licenses have hitherto been taken out by fishermen.

Following recent representations to the Premier by the acting Prime Minister, the Minister for Fisheries (Mr. Kelly) has now issued the following directions to the Superintendent -

- (a) that he instruct licensing officers to point out to every fisherman applying for a license that if he is working in "Australian waters", the Commonwealth law requires him also to take out a Commonwealth license;
- (b) that he instruct licensing officers that, on application being made by any fisherman for such licenses, they issue the required licenses.

Licensing officers will carry this instruction into effect forthwith.

For their information, and that of the fishermen, the term "Australian waters" is defined in the Commonwealth Fisheries Act as meaning -

- (a) Australian waters beyond territorial limits;
- (b) the waters adjacent to a territory and within territorial limits; and
- (c) the waters adjacent to a territory, not being part of the Commonwealth, and beyond territorial limits.

WHALE MARKING EXPERIMENTS IN W.A.

It will be remembered (vide "Bulletin" of September, 1955) that 70 humpback whales were marked from m.v. "Lancelin" in Shark Bay in July and August of that year. One of the marked whales was recovered two days later at a point about 20 miles south. A report is now to hand from the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., that another has been captured in the Antarctic by a Norwegian factory ship in position 64° 05'S, 114° 32'E, a point approximately 2,500 miles due south

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of the marking area. As the open season for humpbacks in the Antarctic extends over the first five days of February only, it is assumed that the marked whale was recovered in February, 1956.