

"industry where prawns are sorted into a number of grades in order to obtain the best prices. Our fishermen, however, are not yet accustomed to this method of trading."

Mr. Harris wrote to America for prices of prawn-sorting machines, and it now appears that a co-operative which has agreed to export prawns to the United States is importing a sorting machine. Other societies desire to observe the working of the machine before deciding to follow suit.

In the meantime action to lift the existing size restrictions is being held over until mechanical sorting appliances have been generally installed. Mr. Harris cannot see how sorting may be done satisfactorily otherwise.

PROFITS IN WHALING

A report just released by Nor'-West Whaling Co., Ltd., for the year ended March 31, 1956, indicates that the company is still earning steady profits. Although the company's quota of whales was reduced by one hundred during the year in question, and despite £22,000 higher tax provision, net profit at £118,227 is almost £2,000 more than it was during the previous year. An unchanged 20% dividend is being paid.

At March 31 the company's paid capital was £270,000, and reserves stood at £304,000. From the 500 whales taken in the 1955 season there was a yield of 4,162 tons of oil worth £443,000. In the previous year, when the quota was 600 whales, the oil yield of 4,700 tons brought only £436,000.

The company, which until this year operated the Point Cloates station, recently purchased the Carnarvon station from the Commonwealth Government. The directors report that no further issue of capital related to the purchase of the Australian Whaling Commission's station is contemplated at present.