

TROUT DELIVERIES

On Monday, October 15, Technical Officers Simpson and Traynor proceeded to Pemberton to transport trout fingerlings to various country centres. On the first trip, fish were delivered to Pinjarra, Rockingham, Cockburn and Perth, and on subsequent trips to Beverley, Quairading, Wagin and Kulin.

At Rockingham 4,000 fish were placed in Lake Richmond in the presence of members of the Rockingham Road Board. Thomson's Lake and Bibra Lake were also stocked, each receiving 2,000 fish.

Plans had been made to air-freight 1,000 fish to Onslow and Ravensthorpe and 500 to Esperance. They were to be sent in plastic bags filled half with water and half with oxygen. However, due to the poor condition of the fish when they arrived in Perth, the Ravensthorpe and Esperance orders were not sent. The Onslow fish were forwarded, but as anticipated the majority of them died before they reached their destination.

The remaining four deliveries were carried out without incident, and the fish arrived at the farmers' dams in excellent condition. A frequent comment by the farmers was to the effect that the fish were smaller this year than in previous years. This was confirmed by Mr. Simpson, who reported that whereas last year 1,000 fish displaced $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches of water in his measuring can, this year 1,000 fish displaced slightly less than 1 inch of water.

Mr. Simpson anticipates that he will finish this season's fingerling deliveries by the end of November. He has yet to deliver fish to Lake Grace, Moora, Narrogin, Cunderdin, Harrismith, Highbury and Beverley.

SPERM WHALING

Attracted by the absence of quota restrictions on the taking of sperm whales, the Cheynes Beach

Whaling Co.'s chaser "Cheynes" began exploratory sweeps early in 1955. From indications then offering it appeared that the sperms could be located along the edge of the continental shelf, south of Albany. Though initial trips were not successful, sufficient evidence was obtained to encourage further work at the close of the 1955 season.

In its first cruise in October, 1955, the "Cheynes" was successful in the capture of one sperm whale and further kills added up to a total take of seven for the season. The present season has already proved a much more successful one, for up to October 31 the Company had obtained 34.

Sperm whales often feed at great depths, and have the ability to stay submerged for long periods. They remain in open water and are much harder to sight. Weather conditions, therefore, have a large influence on operations, particularly as the sperms, unlike the humpbacks, seem to prefer to stay about 25 miles or more off the coast.