

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.

KATANNING WILD LIFE SHOW

This year's show at Katanning was a grand success. Conducted by the Katanning Naturalists' Club, it was officially opened on October 26 by the Superintendent (Mr. A.J. Fraser) in the capacity of Chief Warden of Fauna. The large attendance must have been very satisfying to the organisers and, from the many enthusiastic comments, there is no doubt that the public was surprised at the high standard of the exhibits.

In the absence on leave of Senior Inspector J.E. Munro, who usually looks after matters of this nature, the Departmental exhibit was prepared and attended by the Relieving Inspector, Mr. A.K. Melsom. Captain H.C.W. Piesse, of the research vessel "Lancelin" (who was spending some annual leave in the district at the time) also assisted. As usual, many complimentary remarks were passed about the Department's contribution.