

OPENING OF DUCK SEASON

Although on opening day ducks appeared to be reasonably plentiful, the average bag was not, according to reports, much larger than six or seven ducks. The legal limit is 15.

The Fauna Protection Officer (Mr. Shugg) with the acting Fauna Warden (Mr. Carmichael) visited Gundaring Lake, near Wagin, on the opening day. About 120 shooters had assembled there for the explosion of a plug of gelignite at 5 a.m. to announce the opening time. Less water than usual was in Gundaring, and shooters were able to proceed farther into the lake and to get reasonably good cover. Shooting was quite good.

In the Beverley district a feature of the opening was the large number of mountain duck taken. Duck-shooting in recent years had not been particularly good in this district, but quite good bags were recorded on the opening day.

At Lake Mears, where thousands of ducks are usually congregated just before Christmas, shooting is said to have been particularly poor. It is believed that thunderstorms in this and many other country areas just prior to the opening date had the effect of scattering ducks from a number of their usual haunts.

CRAYFISH - SHARK BAY

Inspector McLaughlan has reported that in November and December, L.F.B. "Saturn" was operating a number of craypots off Dirk Hartog Island, Shark Bay. Using South Passage as an anchorage, "Saturn" set his first line of 100 pots south-west of False Entrance on October 30, and then gradually moved the lines northwards, eventually reaching the vicinity of Herald Heights.

Mr. McLaughlan has been told that the results obtained south of South Passage were not encouraging, but when the pots were set north of the Passage, the daily catch increased from 4 to 5 bags to about 10 to 12 bags, and was still improving.