

The close season, which extends right up to the week-end before Christmas, will be actively policed this year. This State has the longest open season of any in Australia, which makes even more indefensible the poor sportsmanship of those who try to beat the gun. Any such person who is apprehended can expect seizure of his firearm and prosecution. A strong effort will also be made to stamp out the illegal practices of using spotlights and capturing ducks in traps.

"An interesting outcome of the Department's duck research programme is the consideration at present being given to the proclamation of a long open season in outback areas where shooting intensity is low," said Mr. Kelly. "It is expected that a decision on this suggestion will be reached in the next few weeks. The research programme is being continued and, on opening day, departmental officers will examine as many ducks as possible on the shooting grounds before they are plucked and drawn. Every shooter is requested to co-operate in the programme and to return all bands recovered as soon as possible. They are also asked to keep a careful record of the ducks shot during the season and to complete a scorecard, supplies of which will be available from the Department and all gun clubs.

"Reports indicate," Mr. Kelly concluded, "that the season has not been a very good one for breeding, and shooters might not have things all their own way later on when surface water is expected to be at a minimum."

FAUNA PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A special meeting of the Committee was held on October 21 to make recommendations concerning the 1957/58 duck shooting season. The recommendations, which were accepted by the Minister, are reported elsewhere in this issue.

At the next meeting of the Committee, to be held on November 15, consideration will be given to extending the open season in outback areas where shooting intensity is low.