

he thinks, have had some effect, but the available evidence indicates that the stock of whales hunted in the West is continuing to decline. From an examination of females over the period 1951-57, it appears to Dr. Chittleborough that in this declining population the younger whales are now growing at faster rates than the whales of similar age during the period 1951-54.

As opposed to this situation, Dr. Chittleborough concludes, after examining the catches in the eastern States, that the humpback stocks on the east coast are in relatively sound condition.

ABROLHOS CRAYFISHERY

The table at page 103 compares production in the different island groups in June 1957 and 1958. It reveals that the catch this year was substantially greater than June, 1957, but was little different from that of June, 1956.

There is no doubt that when this season has ended, a new Abrolhos production record will have been achieved.

RECOVERIES OF BANDED PETRELS

Only four banded petrels have been recovered along our coast this year so far. They were all first-year birds, banded as nestlings at Signy Island in the South Shetland Islands, south of South America. This Island is situated roughly at 61° south latitude and 45° west longitude.

Inspector Carmichael reported that another two banded petrels were sighted in Frenchman's Bay, but attempts to catch them to record the band numbers were not successful.