

WHALING

The Nor'-West Whaling Company's station at Carnarvon ceased operations on October 21, the scarcity of whales of good size rendering further operations uneconomic. By that date 885 humpbacks had been taken. Two blue whales and three bryde whales had also been secured. The value in humpback units of the latter is not known, as they are believed to be the first taken in our waters, but the two blue whales would, of course, be the equivalent of five humpbacks.

At Albany, the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company has been enjoying a very successful period in its operations on sperms. On October 20, operating in the chaser Kos VII, Captain F. Hughes took 6 of this species, thus equalling his present record for that Company. The total of sperm whales taken this year had reached 186 by October 22.

RUSSIAN WHALE-MARKS RECOVERED

Prior to his return to Perth, the Department's whaling inspector at Babbage Island (Mr. David Wright) supplied details of four whale-marks recovered at the Nor'-West Whaling Company's Station. Three were numbered 1007, 1027 and 1030 and were all inscribed "Kindly return to Moscow, U.S.S.R." The fourth was a British Museum of Natural History mark, numbered 162392. The first two were found in the digestors while the third was recovered from the back blubber of a female (No. 659) taken on September 4. The British mark was recovered from the shrapnel trap.

The Chief of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O. (Dr. G.F. Humphrey), to whom details of the recoveries were sent, has advised that he is seeking marking data from the respective authorities for each of these four marks, and also for an additional Russian mark, No. 1165.

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On his return to Perth, Mr. Wright reported that a second British mark had been recovered. It was No. 11903, and was believed to have been fired by the "Discovery". It was found in the grax tank on October 23.