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STAFF NOTES

During the absence of the Superintendent (Mr. A.J. Fraser) on Long Service Leave, Mr. B.R. Saville is Acting Superintendent of Fisheries and Acting Chief Warden of Fauna. Mr. Shugg is Acting Clerk-in-Charge and Mr. A.J. Buchanan is Acting Fauna Protection Officer.

We welcome to the staff Mr. W. Johnson who has been seconded from the Chief Secretary's Department as Acting Statistical Officer.

Technical Officer L.G. Smith is recuperating at home after his recent operation.

Technical Officer J. Traynor is continuing the wild duck banding programme in the Dandaragan district.

Assistant Inspectors S. LaRoche and K. Brooks are expected to return to Perth on March 7 after a fortnight's work at Pemberton. Mr. LaRoche will return to normal duties at Mandurah, but Mr. Brooks has tendered his resignation from the service as from March 7.

Research Officer B.K. Bowen and Technical Officer J.S. Simpson will visit the Narrogin area during the coming month to carry out empirical tests of trout in dams.

Mr. A.J. Buchanan will spend a week early this month in the Geraldton area to obtain statistical information on the Abrolhos and Geraldton crayfish fisheries.

OBITUARY

We record with regret the passing of Philip Crosbie Morrison, one of Australia's leading naturalists. Mr. Morrison was known through Australia, New Zealand and South Africa by thousands who listened to his recorded wild life talks. He was editor of the magazine "Wild Life" from its foundation in 1938. He was also a Director of National Parks in Victoria.

PERSONAL PAR

Dr. Keith Sheard, of the W.A. Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., was recently elected a member of the Senate of the University of Western Australia. His appointment is for six years.

MOVEMENTS OF DEPARTMENTAL VESSELS

The p.v. "Kooruldhoo" will depart next week for Geraldton for the opening of the Abrolhos Islands crayfish season. Inspector G.H. Lyon will be assisted by Cadet Inspector E. Barker. Inspector S. Stokoe will accompany Inspector Lyon on the first trip to the Islands and then return to Fremantle.

PRIVATE WORK - PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION 29

All officers are directed to note carefully the following instruction -

1. Attention is drawn to the provisions of Public Service Regulation 29, particularly in relation to an officer accepting paid employment for reward other than in connection with the duties of his office in the Service.

2. The regulation provides that an officer shall not engage in any form of paid private employment without the express permission of the Governor. It also requires an officer to apply for this permission through the normal departmental channels before undertaking any private work for which payment is made. Furthermore, the regulation provides that neglect on the part of the officer to apply for permission will be regarded as an offence under regulation 138.

3. It has come to notice that there are a number of officers actually engaged for reward on work outside the duties of their offices but without the permission of the Governor. You are required, therefore, to draw the attention of all officers in your department to the provisions of regulation 29 so that all cases of private work may, where necessary, be put in order.

(sgd) K.J. Townsing.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER.

EXCISE ON DIESEL FUEL

The attention of inspectors ordering diesel fuel requirements is drawn to the issue to this Department of Diesel Fuel Certificate No. 101018/933. It will be necessary for this certificate and number to be quoted on every order placed for diesel fuel for patrol vessels.

SUSPECTED PEARL THEFT

During February, Chan Leung and John Lee were charged in the Broome Police Court with having stolen a pearl belonging to Mrs. M. Dakas, master pearler. They were committed for trial. The 77-grain, lustrous pearl involved, which had been shipped via London to France, created widespread local interest when it was returned to Broome for the court proceedings.

GERALDTON CRAYFISHING BOATS

A series of suspicious incidents on the crayfishing boats in the Geraldton area have caused crayfishermen to seek additional police protection of their property. The incidents have included -

- * a fire on the "Suda Bay";
- * the casting adrift of the crayboat owned by Mr. Robertson;
- * Alan Martin drifting for 3 days in his 20' boat due to someone tampering with his emergency fuel tanks;
- * Roy Worthington having a similar experience half way between Geraldton and North Island. He was more fortunate in that he received prompt assistance from two nearby boats.

Police have warned all fishermen to check their gear and fuel before putting to sea.

FISH TAGGING

Mr. W.J. Rosson, of Rivervale, has forwarded to the Department a tag taken from a black bream which he captured at Mandurah on January 25, 1958. The fish was tagged by Technical Officer L.G. Smith at Bunbury on September 6, 1957. It is the first recovery of a black bream far distant from where it was tagged.

ANNUAL INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE

The 1958 Conference was held in the conference room of the State Government Insurance Office building on February 12, 13 and 14. The Superintendent (Mr. A.J. Fraser) presided and all members of the field staff attended. In the absence of the Minister for Fisheries (Mr. L.F. Kelly) in the eastern States, the Conference was officially opened by Mr. K.J. Townsing, Public Service Commissioner.

In welcoming Mr. Townsing to the Conference, Mr. Fraser congratulated him on his appointment at a comparatively young age to the responsible position of head of the Public Service in Western Australia. It augured well for the future of the Service, Mr. Fraser said, that the Government was prepared to place high responsibility on young men of proven ability. He wished Mr. Townsing every success.

Mr. Townsing, during his address, referred to the benefits derived by the officers and the Department, from conferences of this nature. He said that two of the most important objectives of the Conference were the discussion of local problems and the opportunity to learn and teach for the mutual benefit of all concerned. He drew attention to the important part that inspectors could play in public relations and in gaining respect for the Public Service which they represented. Mr. Townsing also referred to the harmonious relationship which has existed in recent years between the Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Civil Service Association. In formally declaring the Conference open, Mr. Townsing said he felt sure that it would be successful and that all the members would enjoy the social activities that had been arranged.

Mr. Fraser extended a welcome to Inspector S. Stokoe, Assistant Inspectors K. Brooks, E.I. Forster and D. Kavanagh and Cadet Inspectors R. Emery and D. Smith, who were attending their first Conference.

During the Conference informative addresses were given by Dr. D.L. Serventy, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., and Dr. W.D.L. Ride, Director, W.A. Museum.

Dr. Serventy spoke on a variety of unusual occurrences to illustrate the important part that inspectors could play by reporting anything out of the ordinary, whether it related directly to their work or not. He alluded to reports from various inspectors which had later proven to be of scientific worth. Dr. Serventy suggested that inspectors should take care to record as much as they possibly could of present conditions and events as, by doing this, they could establish evidence which could prove of inestimable value in later years and which might not be obtainable from any other source.

Dr. Ride's address was titled "Evolution of Today's Fish". He traced the evolution of the vertebrate marine life from its origin some 600 million years or more ago in the Paleozoic Era up to the present time. His talk was supplemented with a display of fossils and specimens with which he illustrated evolutionary trends and changes of structure resulting from specialization.

LABOUR DAY PROCESSION

To publicise the fishing industry, the Department, with the co-operation of the Fremantle Fishermans Co-operative Society and Hunt's Canning Co. Pty. Ltd., entered a float in the Labour Day ProceSSION. The exhibit was prepared by Mr. A.J. Buchanan with the assistance of Senior Inspector J.E. Munro.

SALMON RUN

Inspector Carmichael has reported that the salmon run in the Albany area commenced on February 17. Reports from various beaches indicate an average season.

FISHERIES ACT

Procedure Relating to Apprehension and Prosecution of Offenders

(a) APPREHENSION OF OFFENDERS.

- (i) Announce your identify and produce your authority if requested.
- (ii) Establish that a breach of the Act or Regulations has occurred.
- (iii) Obtain the full names, including proper christian names and residential addresses of offenders and witnesses and the ages of offenders if under 21.
- (iv) Wherever possible admissions and witness statements should be obtained in writing and signed by the person making the statement.
- (v) If the offender or witness is not prepared to give a written statement, a careful note of his remarks, using the actual words used or a summary thereof, should be taken at the time they are made or as soon thereafter as possible.
- (vi) Note the date and time of the offence, including the hour of the day.
- (vii) Record where the offence took place and record details sufficient to identify it positively, especially when closed areas are involved.
- (viii) Please note carefully that the only evidence acceptable in Court is that which relates to facts within the personal knowledge of the witness.

(b) REPORT TO HEAD OFFICE.

A report should be prepared as soon as practicable and forwarded to Head Office immediately. In your report include -

- (i) All the details in (a) above which apply.
- (ii) Describe briefly but clearly the events which took place.
- (iii) Forward any written admissions or statements obtained.
- (iv) State whether the offence was aggravated by obstruction or attempted hindrance, or if there were any extenuating circumstances.
- (v) Make your recommendation as to whether the offender should be prosecuted or not and give your reasons for so recommending.
- (vi) Give the number of the section or regulation under which the prosecution, if recommended, should be taken.

(c) COMPLAINT AND SUMMONS UPON COMPLAINT.

These forms are completed by the Crown Law Department if action is considered advisable. One copy of the complaint and four copies of the summons upon complaint should be forwarded by Crown Law for signature. The complainant inspector must sign the complaint below the statement of the offence but above the printed line towards the bottom - reading -

"(Sworn or made) before me, etc"

The Justice then signs below and also signs and dates at least two copies, but preferably all, of the summonses. The inspector is not required to sign the summons at all and the date of the hearing is only to be filled by the Crown Law Department when subsequently returned to them. The complainant inspector must ensure that the J.P. is either a justice for the whole State or for the part of the State where the offence was committed.

The complainant inspector must return the complaint and summons to Head Office for checking before they are returned to Crown Law.

(d) COURT OF ISSUE.

When the complaint and summons have been checked and completed the Crown Law Department will lodge them in a Court of Petty Session. Any court in W.A. may be selected although the practice is to select the court nearest to the place where the offence was committed or alternatively the court most convenient to the defendant, but there is no hard and fast rule.

(e) HEARING.

The complainant inspector will be advised of the date, time and court at which he will be required to attend and to give evidence.

FISH AT EMU POINT

Mr. W. (Bill) Swarbrick, of Emu Point, Albany, claims that the fishing at the Point is the best he has ever known. It should be a good season for anglers.

BANDING OF MUTTON BIRDS

During March, members of the W.A. Naturalists' Club, under the guidance of Mr. V.N. Serventy, will visit Carnac Island, for the purpose of banding mutton birds. While they are there, the opportunity will be taken to do some marine research.

BOTULISM IN WILD FOWL

Last month an outbreak of botulism was reported from Como and Queen's Gardens. A further outbreak has occurred at Lake Claremont.

DUCK BAND RECOVERIES

Since the opening of the duck shooting season the recovery of bands has increased to 332. Of these, 198 were from black duck and 116 from grey teal. This represents a recovery of 7.08% of the total number of birds, 4608, banded to date.

An unusual recording was of a black duck bearing band no. 1044. This bird was banded in June, 1952, at Queen's Gardens and was recaptured there in February, 1958, suffering from botulism. The duck duly recovered and was released again last month with the band, which was in good condition, still attached.

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
<u>Maned Goose</u>					
6200	29/11/56	20 mls S.E. of Nyabing	22/12/57	Junction of Williams and Hotham Rivers	128 miles
6196	28/11/56	do.	Late December 1957	27 miles N.W. of Kojonup	90 "
6197	29/11/56	do.	January 5 or 6, 1958	Rosa Brook	185 "
<u>Mountain Duck</u>					
6370	17/1/57	Yathroo Station	11/1/58	Moora	20 "
<u>Grey Teal</u>					
4372	7/11/57	Dowerin	24/12/57	3½ miles W. of Boyanup	175 "

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
<u>Grey Teal (Contd.)</u>					
4380	8/11/57	Koom-berkine	29/12/57	7 mls S. of Wagin	147 miles
4287	28/3/57	Karrinyup Lake	23/12/57	Gundaring	140 "
3058	24/11/54	Lake Mears	5/1/58	Dumbleyung Lake	75 "
3079	27/11/54	do.	28/12/57	28 miles E. of Tambellup	130 "
4454	17/11/57	Dowerin	29/12/57	Dowerin	--
4405	14/11/57	do.	do.	do.	--
4398	13/11/57	do.	do.	do.	--
4383	9/11/57	Koom-berkine	19/1/58	Koom-berkine	--
3982	28/3/56	Wardering Lake	31/12/57	Brunswick Junction	83 "
4148	4/12/56	Gundaring Lake	5/1/58	10 miles N.E. of Kojonup	30 "
4311	1/4/57	Karrinyup Lake	8/2/58	Lake Clifton	65 "
1416	5/2/53	Wardering Lake	20/1/58	Trapped at Karrinyup	(Re-banded with band no, 4528)
3843	24/3/56	do.	15/2/58	Lake Charling, Wagin	5 miles

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
4254	9/3/57	Wardering Lake	17/1/58	Teal Lake, near Lake Clifton	100 miles
4427	16/11/57	Dowerin	5/1/58	Dowerin	---
4446	17/11/57	do.	do.	do.	---
4049	12/4/56	Yathroo Station	do.	do.	90 miles
4340	5/11/57	Koomberkine	2/2/58	do.	8 "

(Due to lack of space in this issue, black duck recoveries are not listed. They will be published next month.)

Since our report in Vol. VI, No. 9, September, 1957, issue of this Bulletin, 15 ducks banded in other States have been recovered in Western Australia. These include two grey teal, one banded at Darwin and recovered at Lake Muir, near Manjimup, and another banded at Lara in Victoria, and recovered near Wagin. The interstate recoveries lead us to suppose that there is a massive movement of grey teal throughout Australia and that the majority migrate to this State via the northern regions. A west-east movement along the southern coast is also probable.

THE CLEARING HOUSE

New Aquarium at Durban will Help Research

Excellent progress is being made with Durban's new marine biological research aquarium and work on the first stage of its construction - which has cost more than £25,000 - will be completed by the end of the month.

The building of the giant 18-foot deep shark tank started in mid-1956 when the foundations were laid. Dr. George Campbell, president of the South African Marine Biological Research Association, laid the foundation stone in March last year.

Mr. A.O. Simpson, Chairman of the Association, said that the aquarium will be the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and one of very few in the world.

In the tanks fish indigenous to the Natal Coast will be seen in their natural state. Conditions in the main tank, where it was hoped to keep a large variety of types, will be as near as possible similar to the real sea bed.

The larger fish, including sharks, will be acclimatised in a smaller tank underneath the main aquarium after being caught. They will then be hauled up by pulley and released into the water in the main tank.

Mr. Simpson said that as virtually nothing was known about the domestic habits of the Natal fish there would have to be many experiments before the ability of different types to live together could be satisfactorily established.

In addition to being an unusual attraction to visitors to Durban, the station will also serve

an important scientific purpose as well for much research into the habits of fish will be undertaken by the Association.

("The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review" South Africa January, 1958.)

Rubber Fishing Net

An American company is marketing a small rubber fishing net which expands and contracts according to the weight of the fish being landed. The net is made of "Plioflex" rubber, a styrene-butadiene copolymer produced by the Chemical Division of The Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company.

Called "The Shark", the new net replaces cord netting with live rubber mesh. It is tangle-free and eliminates bottom-of-the-boat mixups of net, hooks and other gear.

Formed by transfer moulding, the net compound is processed on a heated mill before the actual moulding operation.

A feature of "The Shark" nets is that the weight of the fish actually determines the depth of the net. The bigger the fish - the deeper the net becomes.

Diameter of the new net is 20 inches and with handle, the length is 49 in. It is easy to use as the total weight, with handle, is only 1½ lb.

("The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review" South Africa January, 1958.)

Will Congress Bar Fish Illegal for Americans?

Closure of the United States market to imported fish produced under conditions from which American nationals are barred by law will be sought of Congress when it reconvenes in January.

This became plain at a hearing conducted in Seattle, November 27, by Senator Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, chairman of the U.S. Senate's Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, which handles fishery matters in the upper house.

Congressman John F. Shelley of San Francisco announced by telegram that he would introduce such a measure in Congress.

Senator Magnuson indicated he would support such a measure, but believed the action should be preceded by a formal request by the American Section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission for an immediate meeting of the commission, with consideration of an emergency zone where there would be cessation of fishing intermingled stocks by anyone as a primary subject on the agenda.

The implication was left that, should Japan and/or Canada reject the proposal for such a meeting, the senator would press for enactment of legislation to exclude fishery products taken under conditions forbidden to American nationals. As U.S. citizens are prohibited from catching salmon on the high seas by means of nets, it is obvious that the legislation would apply to all Japanese salmon.

The congressional hearing in Seattle drew a mass of testimony in support of the American industry's contention that Japanese high seas operations are taking substantial quantities of Red salmon of North American origin; and that the principles embodied in the North Pacific treaty call for cessation of fishing in a broad area where stocks of different continental origin intermingle.

The North Pacific Commission meeting in Vancouver having failed to produce such a zone, opinion was evident that action should be sought thus: (1) by the Department of State calling attention of the Japanese government to the acute concern felt in the United States over destruction of Alaskan resources through failure to apply the principles of the North Pacific treaty; and (2) by act of Congress to forbid import of fish produced under conditions illegal for American nationals.

Long-standing precedent for such a law exists in the U.S. Food and Drug laws; which forbid import of food produced by methods or under conditions illegal in this country.

("Pacific Fisherman" - Portland, Ore. December, 1957)

Protest to the Top Level-

Pacific States Ask U.S. Government
Action of Japan's Fishing Policies

Fishery authorities of the three Pacific states carried the problem of Japan's fishing pressure on salmon stocks of American origin to the highest level of the Department of State, November 20.

In a resolution of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, the states of California, Oregon and Washington requested Secretary Dulles to "express to Japan this country's strong feeling for immediate alteration of Japanese fishing practices so as to conform to the principles of the North Pacific fisheries treaty."

By this action the Pacific states raised the protest against Japanese fishing of salmon of American origin to a new level, and gave it the united voice of the entire Pacific seaboard of the United States.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, the American Section protested at Vancouver and the Japanese Section replied that the subject was not suitable for discussion.

Individuals and organizations since have raised their voices in criticism, and have appealed to Congress.

In the action taken at Portland, the Tri-State Commission spoke in the voice of three great states, and directly to the head of the Department of State - copies to the President, all Congressman and Senators, governors and cabinet officers concerned.

Stripped of some of its formal phrases, the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission resolution declared :

"Washington, Oregon and California have by concurrent legislative action prohibited net fishing for salmon on the high seas by their citizens, and similar and concurrent action has been taken by Canada and the United States, upon the grounds that high seas salmon fishing by nets would nullify and make ineffective programmes of salmon conservation; and because the indiscriminate taking of immature salmon at sea by net gear is a wasteful use of the resource.

"A high seas salmon net fishery of constantly increasing intensity is being prosecuted by Japanese nationals in the area of the western Aleutian Islands and northerly thereto, where large numbers of salmon of Northern American origin are being taken.

"The Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission does not unequivocally indorse and support the position of the U.S. Section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission and does further express its concern that threatened depletion of major stocks of salmon in Alaska will lead to more intense fishing pressure upon remaining salmon populations and will be a serious threat to those salmon stocks which are administered by the several states.

"The Secretary of State of the United States is requested to express to Japan this country's strong feeling for an immediate alteration of Japanese fishing practices so as to conform to the principles of the North Pacific treaty."

("Pacific Fisherman" Portland, Ore. December, 1957)

Where Japanese Report Finding Atlantic Tunas

Fishing results reported by the Japanese research vessels for their prospecting voyages in the Atlantic are briefed in a report by Dr. Mitsua Nagai and Jun Nakagome of the resources department of the Kanagawa Prefectural Fisheries Experiment Station.

They find species distribution and fishing productivity thus:

Yellowfin are found in abundance in the North Equatorial Current area, the South Equatorial Current, the Equatorial Counter-Current Area, and the Guinea Current Area. They are definitely less abundant in the Brazil Current Area.

Bigeye tuna have been found in prevailing abundance in all current areas except the Guinea Current, where none have been taken.

Albacore are plentiful in the Brazil Current Area. They are very scarce in the Guinea Current Area in summer. Occurrence in the North Equatorial Current is not known.

Atlantic Blue Marlin are extremely numerous in the winter in the North Equatorial Current and the Brazil Current, although unknown in the other areas under study.

Sailfish distribution is almost identical with that of the Bigeye.

("Pacific Fisherman" Portland, Ore. December, 1957)

Shark Diet Kept Fishermen Nourished

Following a five-day search, a Coast Guard plane from St. Petersburg, Fla., finally discovered the 34-foot commercial fishing boat, "Josephine", anchored out in the Gulf of Mexico about thirty miles off Cedar Key. She had been missing for about twelve days.

After the vessel had been towed to Cedar Key by a Coast Guard ship, Capt. Oscar Coxwell, 53, told of the troubles endured by him and his crew of two.

Trouble started the fourth day out, he said, the "Josephine" beginning to leak "so bad we cut off the motor and all three of us spent the next eight days and nights bailing steadily.

"All we had to eat for the last six days was a shark, a can of sardines and a grunt. We didn't have any water to drink for the last three days. The shark tasted all right at the time," he added, "but I'd hate to eat it again."

The captain and his crew were in reasonably good shape when rescued, although one of the latter was suffering from a foot infection.

("Fishing Gazette" New York October, 1957.)

Cheap Japanese Oysters

Quick-frozen Japanese oysters will be landed in Melbourne before Christmas according to a reliable trade authority.

They will not be sold as Japanese oysters, but under a trade name.

And their price - 6d a dozen.

There is no restriction on the import of processed sea food from Japan.

The Japanese quick-frozen oysters are in caterers-packs and will be sold to cafes and canners.

Already Japanese canned oysters are on sale in Australia.

Very Much Cheaper

They are underselling local canned oysters. A 10 oz. can of local oysters retails at 8/6.

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Japanese oysters in 10 oz. cans are being landed here at 1/11 a can and retailed at 5/11 to 6/6, according to the retailer.

They are called Morjohn (a trade name), not Japanese oysters.

Trade authorities point out that the real oyster-lover won't buy the Japanese product because of their strong taste.

However, as only six oysters per head of population are produced in Australia, there are many who don't know the difference.

It is estimated that only one person in 100 Australians has tasted oysters.

So, if the Japanese can produce the oysters - the market's wide open for them.

("Fish Trades Review" Sydney November, 1957)

Salt and Fresh Ice Tests

Saltwater and freshwater ice were used in comparative preservation studies of gutted haddock on the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries' research vessel "Delaware". No significant differences in preservative effects were noted. Fish, stored under laboratory conditions, were of from excellent to good quality until the ninth day, and of acceptable quality up to the thirteenth day. Fish stored in saltwater ice cooled faster and to a lower temperature and the ice melted faster and therefore more was needed to maintain the desired temperature.

("The Fishing News" London February 7, 1958.)