

WHALING QUOTAS FOR 1959.

According to a press announcement, the Federal Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Adermann) has fixed the whaling quotas for the five Australian land-based stations this year at 2,020 humpbacks. No reduction has been made in the quota of 1,000 for the Nor'-West Whaling Company of Carnarvon, nor of the 120 quota for the Cheynes Bay Whaling Company of Albany.

When announcing the quotas the Minister said that the catch on the west coast last season was 148 below the maximum quota of the two Western Australian stations. However, in view of the explanations made for the reduced take, it had been decided not to interfere with the existing quotas.

Mr. Adermann added that the future of the International Whaling Agreement, which governs the operations of pelagic whaling fleets in the Antarctic, might not be clarified until the International Whaling Commission met in London in June of this year. *

* The future of pelagic whaling is rather in the air at the moment, following the withdrawal from the Agreement of Norway and Holland - Ed.

DEPARTMENTAL PROSECUTIONS.

January 1 - March 31, 1959 :

Date	Defendant	Court	Charge	Result
23.1.59	Contorinis, Geo.	Bunbury	Undersize fish	Fined £5.
27.1.59	O'Brien, R.B.	Collie	Fishing in closed waters	" £5.
12.1.59	Cesare, B.	Fremantle	Crayfish pots in closed waters	" £5.
do	Iannello, F.	do	do	" £5.
16.2.59	Carnemolla, F.	do	Undersize crayfish	" £10.