

AUSTRALIAN WATERFOWL COMMITTEE.

Ministerial approval has been received for this State's participation in the founding of a nation-wide committee on waterfowl. Proposals for the establishment of such a committee were first raised at the Australian fauna authorities' conference in Perth, in 1955, and final details were agreed to by delegates at the conference held in Sydney last November. The committee will function as a clearing-house of ideas and will provide a forum for discussion of the technical and biological problems encountered in waterfowl research in Australia. It will also plan and co-ordinate research activities of a national nature and act as an advisory body to formulate recommendations on policy for decisions by the States, either severally or at the biennial conference. This State's delegate on the committee will be the Research Officer, Mr. B.K. Bowen.

SEASONS CLOSE.

Despite a request from the Council of Gun Clubs of W.A. to extend the season to May 31, it was decided to stand by a previous decision that the duck shooting season end on April 30 - a month earlier than usual. Consequently, from May 1, until the season re-opens - probably the week-end before Christmas - all species of wild duck will be protected in the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions. In all other parts of the State (the Eastern Goldfields, North-West and Kimberley areas) the season will remain open for a further four years.

Winners of the cases of cartridges under I.C.I's. Lucky Band Scheme will be announced in the press by that organisation during the month.

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Inspectors are reminded that the marron open season ended on April 30. Until December 1, the taking of this freshwater crustacean by any means of capture whatsoever is entirely prohibited.

(68)

AREA	MARCH 1958			MARCH 1959		
	No. of men	Total Catch lb.	Catch per man lb.	No. of men	Total Catch lb.	Catch per man lb.
North Island	25	100,690	4,027	35	123,690	3,534
Wallabi Island	63	257,754	3,091	58	183,791	3,169
Easter Group	61	278,458	4,564	73	291,868	3,176
Pelsart Group	41	99,158	2,418	46	174,876	3,802
TOTALS:	190	736,060	3,873	212	774,225	3,652