

The Manager of one fishing company also criticised a reported statement that big orders for Shark Bay snapper might be obtained from overseas buyers. It was pointed out that Western Australia imported a considerable quantity of Hong Kong snapper \* at 2/9 per lb., a price well below the minimum at which Shark Bay snapper is sold. It would be hard to imagine our comparatively highly priced fish selling in the fierce competition of international markets against fish caught and processed by countries with cheaper labour. The quality of our fish needs to be above that of foreign origin if it is to compete even on the local market. The proposal, recorded on page 65 of the previous issue, to fillet and snap-freeze large quantities of snapper in Shark Bay for sale direct to retailers in the metropolitan area, was hailed as a more promising move. Although she may not be able to afford the prices paid by her counterpart in the United States, the Western Australian housewife would buy much more fish if it were offered to her in an attractive pack of uniform quality.

Critics of the press reports attributed to Mr. McGowan have suggested it would be better to try to remedy difficulties in the local marketing of fish, and to attempt to improve the grading and packing of craytails, before we enthuse over what were described as "highly improbable overseas markets".

#### TROUT DELIVERIES

Fourteen thousand advanced fingerlings were transported in plastic bags to trout societies during the month, the Research Officer, Mr. B.K. Bowen, has reported. On each occasion the fish arrived in excellent condition and no losses were sustained. The fish, which were transported by Technical Officer L.G. Smith, were delivered to Bridgetown, Harvey, Dwellingup, Jarrahdale and Beverley.

#### NATIONAL PARKS PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Hopes in conservational circles that the Australian outlook towards nature reserves will improve have risen as a result of the decision of the Australian Academy of Science to set up a national committee to advise on all aspects of these reserves in all States.

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\* This is not our snapper, but is very similar to nannygai.

Besides the national committee, which comprises some of Australia's foremost scientists, a sub-committee has been appointed in each State. The members of the sub-committee for Western Australia are -

- Dr. W.D.L. Ride, Director of the Western Australian  
Museum, - Chairman;
- Mr. A.J. Fraser, Director of Fisheries;
- Mr. A.C. Harris, Conservator of Forests;
- Dr. A.R. Main, Department of Zoology,  
University of W.A.;
- Mr. C.A. Gardner, Government Botanist;
- Mr. R.D. Royce, Senior Botanist of the Agriculture  
Dept.;
- Dr. A.R. Wilson, Department of Geology, University of  
W.A.
- Mr. T.A. Cleave, Divisional Surveyor, Lands Department.

Dr. Ride, who is a paleozoologist, is also a member of the Australian Committee.