

Mr. R. Saunier, manager of the company was also on board when the "Laakanuki" sailed in the company of the fishing boat "Sambo". She was later followed to the grounds by the "Aries" and "Norma".

The "Laakanuki" arrived in Fremantle from Sydney on February 5, 1959, after having been purchased from the Navy in which she had served as a refrigerated lighter. She underwent an extensive refit, during which her freezer engines were moved forward, to provide 40 feet of clear deck space amidships for handling and processing her catch. With a registered tonnage of 179 tons, the "Laakanuki" is the largest refrigerated fishing boat on the coast. She has a freezer capacity of 6,000 cubic feet and can snap-freeze three hundred and twenty 25-lb boxes of crabs. She will be taking six fish-traps on board and will also handle fish from the other catcher boats.

30TH PARALLEL BAN TO REMAIN.

The Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Ross Hutchinson, has refused a request that fishermen should be allowed to operate freely in Geraldton and Fremantle waters. The request was made by a four-man deputation from the Confederation of Licensed Fishermen which met the Minister on July 10. The Director, Mr. Fraser, was also present.

Mr. F. Del Rosso, who was described as the principal speaker for the Confederation, said that fishermen should be able to operate in any area they chose. Mr. Hutchinson told the deputation that the restriction, which prevented any boat from operating both north and south of the line in any one year, was designed to protect important industrial establishments at Geraldton. He added that although he sympathised with the Fremantle fishermen's problems, it was necessary to encourage industrial decentralisation and for that reason the restriction had to remain. He was satisfied, he said, that Fremantle cray fishermen earned a reasonable living.

ADDITIONAL BAND RECOVERED.

Mr. W. Hattley, a fisherman of Margaret River, recovered yet another American band from a giant petrel last month. The bird, which was washed up on the beach near Margaret River, carried U.S. Fish and Wild Life Service's band number 528-10703. This was the sixth American band reported to the Department this winter.