

that they would not appeal to the public), or obtain for 2/6d. lb., New Zealand snapper fillets, which kept indefinitely.

As we have often pointed out in this Bulletin, locally caught fish must have eye-appeal, freshness and purse-appeal to win the housewife's attention and create that volume of demand which warrants large-scale production and processing methods. It is to be hoped that the progressive move by the owners of the "Laakunaki", reported in a previous issue, will do much towards increasing the quality and the sales value of local fish fillets.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INSPECTORS

Almost all members of the staff were gathered in the research section's laboratory to hear the Minister for Fisheries (Mr. Hutchinson) officially open the 1959 Inspectors' Conference on August 31.

Mr. Hutchinson said how pleased he was to have the fisheries portfolio. Acknowledging that he had, as yet, no real personal knowledge of the contribution which each member made to the industry, Mr. Hutchinson said he had looked with pleasure on much of the work he had seen. He added that since he had been given charge of the Department he had been impressed with the growing importance of the fishing industry and the enormous strides that it had made in recent years. He was beginning to appreciate, he said, the need for the Government to recognise the importance of the industry to the State and to assist in the provision of harbour and other facilities. The Minister concluded by drawing attention to the potential value to the State of the recently discovered prawn and scallop grounds in Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf. He cited this as an instance of the way in which research could indicate previously untapped resources.

A vote of thanks to the Minister for opening the conference, and for the confidence he had expressed in the industry and the staff, was moved by the Supervising Inspector, Mr. J.E. Bramley.

Mr. D.D. Lynch, Senior Research Officer of the Department of Fisheries and Game, Melbourne, in an interesting address, outlined the work done by his department. He epitomized its administration and the general organisation of research programmes concerned with Victoria's inland and marine fisheries. He also spoke on the wildlife research carried out to guide his department's game management programme. Mr. Lynch illustrated

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his talk with an attractive selection of coloured slides. The interest his address aroused was indicated by the volume of questions he subsequently received. A vote of thanks to Mr. Lynch, ably moved by Technical Officer J.S. Simpson, was carried with vigorous applause.

The conference was also enthralled by an address by Mr. H.J. Frith, Principal Research Officer of the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O. Mr. Frith outlined his section's and his personal studies of the natural history of mallee fowl and wild ducks. He also described the difficulties likely to be encountered in his projected survey of the red kangaroo problem. A vote of thanks moved by the Fauna Warden, Mr. S.W. Bowler, was endorsed with signal acclaim.