

MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

Vol. VIII, No. 6

June, 1959

STAFF NOTES

The Director visited the field station at Rottnest Island for a few days during May and later, on May 20, 21 and 22, accompanied the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Hutchinson, on a visit to Dongara and Geraldton.

* * * * *

The Research Officer, Mr. B.K. Bowen, accompanied the Minister to Margaret River to investigate a complaint of net fishing in closed waters made by the Augusta-Margaret River Tourist Bureau. They were joined at Bunbury by Inspector T.B. Baines. The Minister's secretary, Mr. J.R. Driscoll, also attended.

* * * * *

Later in the month Mr. Bowen visited Pemberton to see the first "stripping" of trout eggs and the commencement of the hatching season. He also conferred with Technical Officer J.S. Simpson, who is spending some weeks working there on trout fertility studies.

* * * * *

Inspector S.C. Stokoe resigned from the public service on May 7. The resignation of Assistant Inspector S. La Roche has also been accepted. He will cease duty on June 4.

* * * * *

We welcome to the staff Mr. Geoffrey David Houston of South Perth, who will commence duty as an assistant inspector on June 2.

(74)

Relieving Inspector G.C. Jeffery and Cadet Inspector R.G. Emery will commence annual leave on June 8.

* * * * *

Cadet Inspector G.J. Hanley will resume duty after annual leave on June 4.

* * * * *

Assistant Inspector E.I. Forster is in command of the p.v. Kooruldhoo in the Geraldton-Abrolhos area.

* * * * *

Inspector A.J. Bateman will visit Bunbury on June 4 to re-install the engine of p.v. Leschenault after its recent overhaul.

* * * * *

Congratulations are extended to Technical Officer R.J. McKay, whose engagement to Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Francis, of Riverton, was announced on May 23.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Mr. F.N. Ratcliffe, Officer-in-Charge, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., will arrive in Perth on a short visit on June 1. He will confer with Mr. Stephen Davies, Research Officer, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, A.C.T., who arrived in Perth on May 26, to undertake a biological survey of the emu. Mr. Ratcliffe will also confer with Dr. D.L. Serventy, Principal Research Officer and Mr. E.H.M. Bailey, Research Officer, of his Section. The opportunity will be taken of calling on the Director and other State officials.

* * * * *

Mr. D.J. Gates, Senior Research Officer (Technical), of the Commonwealth Fisheries Office, Canberra, A.C.T., is expected to arrive in Perth on June 4. A day or two later Mr. Gates will go to Albany accompanied by the Department's Research Officer, Mr. B.K. Bowen, to direct the survey of the crayfish potential in the southern seas between Point Nuyts and Cape Riche. The survey is expected to take at least 12 months and will be carried out by the successful contractors, Poole Bros., in the 66-foot fishing vessel "Bluefin".

(75)

By arrangement with the Commonwealth Fisheries Office, a number of departmental officers will take a turn aboard the "Bluefin" during the investigations, which may possibly be extended to cover the islands of the Recherche Archipelago next year.

* * * * *

Mr. Maurice Drinan called on the Director en route to Sydney after carrying out a preliminary survey for a company he is representing regarding the establishment of a prawn fishery in the Shark Bay area. Mr. Drinan expects to return to the West in command of a 70-foot prawn trawler in a few weeks' time.

* * * * *

Mr. K.F. Dureau, Managing Director of Pearls Pty. Ltd., also made a call on the Director. He was spending a day or two in Perth prior to revisiting the company's establishment at Kuri Bay. He was introduced to the Minister for Fisheries by the Director.

MINISTER'S NORTHERN VISIT

During his visit to Geraldton and Dongara from May 20 - 22, the Minister for Fisheries (Mr. Hutchinson) received a number of requests for governmental assistance in the provision of improved facilities.

At Dongara local residents put forward a case for the provision of a new jetty for the town. At Geraldton representatives of the Geraldton Fishermen's Association and of the Co-operative requested the provision of additional slipping facilities and the construction of finger berths at the West End. They also sought the prohibition of freezer-boats in the Abrolhos area.

As Minister for Health, Mr. Hutchinson, accompanied by the Director, attended a meeting called by the Geraldton Municipal Council to discuss the disposal of crayfish offal. They also inspected all the local crayfish processing factories and the offal disposal site.

RESEARCH VESSEL RENAMED

The 75' vessel "Limicola", which was recently acquired for conversion as a research vessel, has been renamed "Peron" in honour of Francois Peron, an outstanding zoologist who worked in our waters at the beginning of the 19th century.

Born at Cervilly, France, in 1775, Peron was appointed to the Baudin expedition as assistant zoologist to specialise in ethnology (the study of racial characteristics). With the leader (Nicolas Baudin) in command of the "Geographe" and the "Naturaliste" captained by Emmanuel Hamelin, the expedition sailed from Le Hayre on October 19, 1800, anchoring in Geographe Bay on May 31, 1801. The names connected with this expedition sound like a potpourri of local geographical features. In addition to those previously mentioned, other names now closely associated with our land are Louis Theodore Leschenault de la Tour; Charles Alexandre Lesuer; Louis de Freycinet; François Heirisson and the "goelette" "Casuarina", which was purchased in Sydney.

From Geographe Bay the ships sailed north to Timor, calling in at various points to observe and collect and charting the coastline all the while. From Timor, Baudin led them south round the Leeuwin, to Sydney and Tasmania, eventually returning west and north again to Timor before sailing to Mauritius where he died.

Peron's role in the expedition was no doubt increased in importance through the untimely deaths of both the other zoologists, and of his leader, which added to his responsibility in collecting and observing and also resulted in his commencing the publication of the history of the voyage. Peron also died, however, in 1810 and publication was completed by de Freycinet.

Well-known features named after Francois Peron include Point Peron, near Rockingham, and Peron Peninsula and Cape Peron in Shark Bay. There is also a Mt. Peron north-east of Jurien Bay and within a few miles of the better known Mt. Lesuer, famous in botanical circles for its unique banksia.

NEW PATROL VESSEL LAUNCHED

The launching of the new patrol vessel took place at the Fremantle main wharf on May 12. She was taken on a jinker from the Harbour and Light Department's yard near Fishermen's jetty and was launched with the aid of a Harbour Trust crane.

She is now undergoing trials and receiving finishing touches. The handing over and naming ceremony will take place shortly.

CONFISCATION OF GEAR

Inspectors are reminded that the pink confiscation Form "F" must be completed and forwarded to Head Office on every occasion when seized gear is condemned to the Crown.

BIOLOGICAL CENTRE FOR GARDEN ISLAND

On behalf of the Rottnest Biological Station Committee, the Zoology Department of the University of Western Australia has purchased from the Commonwealth three buildings on Garden Island. One of the reasons for the extension of the Committee's activities is to facilitate the study of the Garden Island tamar (Macropus eugenii). This work is to be undertaken by the Zoology Department of the University of W.A. Mr. J. Kelsall, a Fulbright scholar of the Canadian Wildlife Service, will participate.

CRABS DRAW CROWDS

Mandurah business folk must have been delighted by the inrush of fishermen bent on sharing in the crab bonanza during the month. Reports tell of remarkable numbers of enthusiasts being attracted to the resort which is usually comparatively deserted during the winter months. A number of phenomenal catches of crabs was reported. Many of them were fine specimens measuring more than 2 feet across the claws.

HANDBOOK ON LIZARDS

The former director of the Western Australian Museum, Mr. L. Glauert, has announced the completion of a companion to his handbook on the snakes of Western Australia. This follows more than nine years' research in the classification of the 133 species of Western Australian lizards by Mr. Glauert. The new handbook should have a wide appeal. It has been designed for the general public as well as for scientific use, and many workers should find it invaluable. It lists several species believed to be new to science.

IMPORT-EXPORT ACTIVITY

The growing intricacy of our fish trade was highlighted by the arrival in Fremantle towards the end of the month of a large consignment of snap-frozen New Zealand snapper fillets. They were brought in by a large refrigerated truck from the eastern States and were unloaded into the Fremantle Co-operative Society Ltd's. freezers. The truck then backloaded with Western Australian frozen whiting and other fish.

Meanwhile, the import of Hong Kong snapper heads is reported to be continuing steadily to supplement the supply of salmon heads as crayfish bait.

PEARLSHELL CATCH CUT

The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Adermann, in a press statement, announced recently that the take for the Japanese pearling fleet had been cut to 375 tons this year compared with 474 last year. Mr. Adermann also announced that the Japanese fleet would again not be allowed to operate on the grounds off the Western Australian coast this season.

This year's maximum permissible catch is by far the smallest the Japanese fleet has been granted since it commenced work in Australian Waters in 1953. The maximum set in 1956 was 1,000 tons. The Japanese fleet will comprise eleven ships this year as against fifteen last year and it was expected it would sail from Japan about May 28. By agreement between the Australian and Japanese Governments, the fleet would be permitted to fish for shell only on the eastern section of the Northern Territory grounds and in the waters west of Torres Strait. The season will last until October 28.

Referring to the publicity campaign being conducted to increase the demand for pearlshell in the United States, Mr. Adermann said that the first reports were most encouraging. It now appeared likely that the extensive publicity would offset the effect on the pearlshell industry of the improved quality and greater use of plastic buttons.

INTERNATIONAL WHALING CONFERENCE

On June 22, the conference of the seventeen-nation International Whaling Convention will open in London. Australia will be represented by the Commonwealth Director of Fisheries (Mr. F.F. Anderson). A pre-convention conference of representatives of Norway, Britain, the Netherlands and Japan failed to agree on the Antarctic whaling quotas, according to a recent press report. The Director of the Japanese Fisheries Board, Mr. Hidio Okuhara, who acted as chairman of the conference, emphasised, however, that it laid the foundation for later discussions on the future of Antarctic whaling. Japan had been opposed in principle, he stated, to the quota system, but had agreed to further discussions in the hope that a solution might be reached which would stabilise whaling operations in the Antarctic.

According to Japanese press reports, their delegates proposed an allocation of quotas on the basis of the actual catches during the past one or two years. This would have given the Japanese fleets a quota of between 4,900 and 5,000 whales. The Norwegian delegates, on the other hand, suggested that the quotas should be based on a five-year average catch. This would have resulted in a quota of 4,000 to Japan and 5,000 to Norway.

Mr. Okuhara said that the Soviet Union would be invited to attend a further pre-convention meeting to be held in London.

IRRUPTION OF CATTLE EGRETS

A telephone message on May 11 from Mr. C.E. Gibbs, of Wanneroo, was the first advice the Department received of the re-appearance of cattle egrets in the South-West. Later it was learned that the Government Entomologist, Mr. C.F.H. Jenkins, had observed fourteen in a herd of cattle in the Wanneroo district during the previous week. Reports of further sightings in the metropolitan area appeared in the press; thanks to advice from Mr. G.B. Harris, of Midland, three birds were observed among cattle in Whiteman's quarry yards. Other birds were photographed at Osborne Park and various correspondents reported their presence as far south as Nyabing and Bremer Bay. The belief that the birds occasionally seen in the metropolitan area were the progeny of cattle egrets introduced into the Kimberleys in 1933, has been discarded. It was now thought that their occasional appearances are due to natural migrations and that they are, at times, quite common in the Kimberleys.

1959 HERRING SEASON

Writing from Fremantle, the District Inspector, Mr. A.K. Melsom, advised that the herring season opened at Rottnest Island on May 1, when the first three boats to start brought in a total of 10,000 lbs. Later, thirteen boats operated in the area. Early in the season, Mr. Melsom said, most of the fishermen reported that although they had to work long hours the quantity of herring caught was greater than in the previous year. The run, however, appeared to be of thin fish and cut out very early. From May 12 onward, catches declined rapidly and the season was practically finished by May 19.

Inspector A.J. Bateman advised that fishermen using $2\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh estimated that only one quarter of the possible catch was meshed and some maintained that even $2\frac{1}{8}$ " mesh was not small enough. It was significant, he said, that the big catches had been made by the two or three boats which used beach seines.

NO TIDDLER !

A Public Works Department employee, Mr. Bill Iverson, landed quite a large fish at Derby last month. The fish, a 5'9" groper weighing 200 lbs., was the largest caught from the Derby jetty for many years. Mr. Iverson used a very strong line and 3 lb. of bait to hook the fish which had previously broken three reputedly strong lines.

The groper was dragged on to the decking of the 40-foot high jetty by a winch and was scaled with a tomahawk!

WARNING SOUNDED ON EXPORT HOPES

Criticisms of statements attributed in the press to the Manager of the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative, Mr. McGowan, have been voiced in some informed fishing circles here during the month. Warnings were sounded that it might be a dangerous approach to regard potential markets for octopus and cuttlefish as a sideline to be exploited should the demand for crayfish subside. It was also pointed out that the production potential of cuttlefish and octopus was far from certain; indeed some believe our grounds are not suitable for the dragnetting operations used to catch these species. Unless we can guarantee to supply regular deliveries of uniform quantity and quality, our export trade might be done more harm than good by any hasty attempt to develop such potentials.

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.

* 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.

DUCK BAND RECOVERIES

Hereunder are details of further duck bands returned since the previous list was published in the January issue of this Bulletin - Volume VIII, No. 1. As more than 100 bands have been returned during the period, space limitations necessitate only some black duck bands being recorded here. Recoveries of grey teal and other species will appear in the next issue.

One of the more interesting recoveries was No. 2330, a black duck in its fifth year of banding. It had been ringed at Cook's Farm, Moora, on February 14, 1954, and was recovered near Cowaramup on January 1, 1959, about 230 miles from its banding site. Unfortunately, age of the bird at banding was not established so that we cannot say how old it was when shot but, through further recoveries of this nature, the research programme will eventually give us a picture of the age structure of the duck population.

Two other recoveries worth commenting on were from ducks banded in the Dandaragan district on January 6 and 7, 1957. The first, No. 6290, was shot near McAlinden in the Collie district on February 15, 1959; while the second, No. 6298, was only 18 miles from its banding site when it was shot a week earlier at Moora.

These two recoveries and that of bands 11925 and 11926 illustrate the impossibility of predicting in which direction ducks will move. The latter were banded at Coolup in January of this year.

The first, 11925, was recovered 345 miles away at the Murchison River Crossing on March 8. The second was shot on the Harvey River on March 21, only 25 miles from its banding site.

Band No. 6587 was also of particular interest as it demonstrated a marked easterly movement of black duck which has seldom been so definitely recorded. This duck was banded at Karrinyup Lake in February, 1957, and was shot 290 miles away in March of this year on the upper reaches of the West River near Ravensthorpe.

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
			<u>Black Duck</u>		
2330	14/2/54	Cook's Farm, Moora.	1/1/59	About 3 miles S.E. of Cowaramup	230 miles
7302	29/3/58	Near Murapin Lake, Woodanilling District	22/12/58	9 miles west of Quindanning	55 miles
7784	12/4/58	do	3/1/59	Taarblin Lake	45 miles
7600	6/4/58	do	21/12/58	Beermullah, via Gingin	175 "
7138	17/1/58	Karrinyup Lake	27/12/58	Wannamal Lake	60 "
7324	30/3/58	Murapin Lake (near)	10/1/59	Dornducking Lake, 20 miles east of Wagin	20 "
6927	4/4/57	Queens Gardens	Mid-Dec. 1957	Three Springs	167 "
6981	8/4/57	do	do	do	do
2294	25/1/54	do	57/58 season	Wanneroo	16 miles
6401	27/1/57	Craigs Lake Kewdale	12/1/59	Balingup River	120 "

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
11916	14/1/59	Y anjettee Farm, Coolup	18/1/59	Browns Dairy Coolup	
7972	9/5/58	Queens Gardens	9/1/59	Mouth of Harvey River	58 miles
7970	do	do	do	do	do
6410	27/1/57	Craigs Lake, Kewdale	31/1/59	do	57 miles
3268	3/2/55	Cape Riche	? Jan. 1959	Cape Riche	
6298	7/1/57	Yere Yere Stn Dandaragan	8/2/59	About 2 miles north of Moora	18 miles
11929	4/2/59	Coolup	5/2/59	On Welsley Rvr.	35 miles
6220	12/12/56	Flagstaff Lake	8/2/59	Just below Winnijup Brdge. Bridgetown	67 miles
7869	27/4/58	Karrinyup Lake	31/1/59	Runnymede Swamp about 6 miles north of Leschenault Estuary	90 do
4022	12/4/56	Yathroo Stn.	10/2/59	Grass Patch	390 do
11911	12/1/59	Coolup	8/2/59	Property of D.R. Clarke "Mayolea" Waterloo.	40 do
7261	11/3/58	Yathroo Stn. Dandaragan	7/2/59	Lake Clifton	135 do
7505	4/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	1/1/59	Meelup Swamp	105 do
6290	6/1/57	Yere Yere Stn.	15/2/59	On River approx. 20 miles from Collie. (McAlinden dis.)	200 do

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
7775	12/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	7/2/59	Lake Meelup	105 miles
6265	17/12/56	Flagstaff Lake Woodanilling	28/2/59	Irwin Inlet	103 do
7914	8/5/58	Queens Gardens	20/2/59	Green Lake east of Snag Island	145 do
8098	20/2/59	Craigs Lake	3/3/59	Queens Gardens	(Died of Botulism)
7966	9/5/58	Queens Gardens	2/3/59	Lake Toolibin	123 miles
7639	10/4/58	Near Murapin	21/12/58	Queerearrup Lake	1 mile
6341	15/1/57	Yathroo Stn.	21/2/59	3 miles west of Moora	24 miles
6520	7/2/57	Craigs Lake Kewdale	25/2/59	Wannamal Lakes	62 miles
8019	16/1/59	Queens Gardens	25/2/59	do	60 do
6080	18/4/56	Yere Yere Stn.	14/3/59	R. Cook's property, Moora	20 do
11925	17/1/59	Coolup	8/3/59	Murchison Rvr. at crossing of main Carnarvon road	345 do
7696	10/4/58	Near Murapin Lake, Woodanilling	20/3/59	Swamp 7 miles from Bunbury and 3 miles east of the Estuary	85 do
6378	18/1/57	Yathroo Stn. Dandaragan	21/3/59	Moora	16 do

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
11926	19/1/59	Coolup	21/3/59	On the Harvey Rv.	25 miles
7839	23/2/58	Cape Riche	28/3/59	Nomans Lake	132 do
7770	11/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	13/3/59	Narrogin	40 do
6587	12/2/57	Karrinyup Lake	28/3/59	Upper reaches of West River. Approx. 20 miles west of Ravensthorpe	290 do
7405	3/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	26/3/59	Swamp 7 miles from Bunbury	90 do
7145	17/1/58	Karrinyup Lake	22/3/59	Chittering Lake	35 do
7479	3/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	? March 1959	West Arthur Road District	23 do
7581	5/4/58	do	4/4/59	Near Bokal	18 do
6190	4/5/56	Queens Gardens	5/4/59	Head of Estuary, Bunbury	85 do
7326	30/3/58	Near Murapin Lake	26/1/59	Lake Quocanrup via Wagin	
7674	10/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	16/4/59	12 miles north of Kojonup	7 miles
7668	do	do	8/2/59	do	do
7478	3/4/58	do	15/2/59	do	do
7453	do	do	do	do	do
7573	1/4/58	do	8/2/59	do	do

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Flown
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
6902	4/4/57	Queens Gardens	18/4/59	Wannamal Lake	57 miles
7550	5/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	8/3/59	Toolibin Lake	47 do
7341	31/3/58	do	18/4/59	Lake Dumbleyung	30 do
7249	9/3/58	Yathroo Stn.	5/4/59	Wannamal Lake	43 do
8088	14/2/59	Craigs Lake	April 1959	Forrestdale	14 do
11928	3/2/59	Coolup	19/4/59	Head of Leschenault Inlet	34 do
8028	18/1/59	Queens Gardens	1/3/59	Brunty Swamp, Narrogin District	105 do
7336	31/3/58	Murapin Lake, Woodanilling	25/4/59	Lake Murapin, Woodanilling	
6649	20/2/57	Queens Gardens	23 or 24th Dec. '58	Ludlow	116 do
7386	2/4/58	Near Murapin Lake	? April 1959	Woodanilling	
7658	10/4/58	do	? April 1959	Woodanilling	

LUCKY BAND WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The names of five persons, who had returned a lucky band and thereby won a case of 500 shotgun cartridges, were announced last month.

The competition, which was organised by Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Ltd., in co-operation with the Department, made provision for a possible 50 winners. Before

the season commenced the Chief Warden of Fauna selected 50 secret band numbers which were lodged at a city bank and opened after the season closed on May 1. The successful shooters and the details of their birds were as follow -

T. Mincham, 135 Chelmsford Road, North Perth.	3894	Grey Teal banded near Wardering Lake 25.3.56. Shot at Taarblin Lake Saturday February 14, 1959. Flight 43 miles.
F. Neve, 22a Turner Street, Kalgoorlie.	4403	Grey Teal banded Metcalf's lake, Dowerin, 14.11.57. Shot at Hannan's Lake near Kalgoorlie on 11.10.1958. Flight 270 miles.
F. Gibbs, 10 Wynward Way, Thornlie.	6902	Black Duck banded Queen's Gardens 3.4.57. Shot at Lake Wannamal on 18.4.59. Flight 57 miles.
B. Clifford, Brookhampton.	7770	Black Duck banded Woodan- illing 11.4.58. Shot at Narrogin 13.3.59. Flight 40 miles.
E.J. Moore, Three Springs.	7914	Black Duck banded Queen's Gardens 8.5.58. Shot at Green Lake, east of Snag Island on 22.2.59. Flight 145 miles.

The return of Band 4403 by Mr. F. Neve drew attention to the five-year open season for all species in the Eastern Goldfields, North-West and Kimberley divisions. In those areas, where shooting pressure is low and duck stocks fluctuate according to weather conditions, the season opened in December, 1957, and will close in 1962.

CLEARING HOUSE

READ CAREFULLY -

Here is the official U.S. Position
On the Matter of the 12-Mile Limit

By Loftus E. Becker, legal advisor,
U.S. Department of State.

"Because of the requirements of our national security interests and our responsibility with respect to the defense of the free world, the United States cannot accept an extension of the breadth of the territorial sea out to 12 miles, and will seek in every way possible to reach an agreement which will provide for a narrow territorial sea . . .

"This objective can be achieved through mutual co-operation, and by meeting the legitimate economic interests of a number of states which would then support our position for a narrow territorial sea.

"The success of our efforts will depend largely on our ability to solve the fisheries question . . .

"An arrangement envisaging a narrow territorial sea coupled with an exclusive fisheries zone, which preserves the right of those who have historically fished there to continue to do so, would accrue to everyone's benefit.

"It would strike a just balance between the interests of the coastal state and the interests of fishermen off another state's coasts . . .

"It is hoped that the exact terms of such a compromise can be formulated prior to the 1960 conference . . .

"Failure to agree on these questions of the breadth of the territorial sea and fisheries limits at the next conference will result in extensive unilateral extensions of the territorial sea with very grave political, economic, and military consequences for the free world."

("Pacific Fisherman"

Portland, Ore.

April, 1959.)

America Makes a Bid :

"Exclusive Fishing Zone"
With "Historic Rights"

Law of the Sea will dominate much of the serious thinking at the National Fisheries Institute convention in New York this month -

Just as it did at the San Francisco NFI meeting last year -

Just as it will at the meeting in New Orleans next spring.

The subject is vital to American fisheries - and perhaps to America.

It all comes down to this:

The traditional narrow territorial sea, commonly considered as being bounded by a "three-mile limit," has been brought under heavy fire in recent years by nations whose ambitions for world domination would be well served by the advantages which a wide territorial sea would provide for their submarines.

Other nations have sought extended jurisdiction for fisheries in efforts to retain these economic advantages of the seas along their shore for their own fishermen, to the exclusion of all others.

In the 1958 Conference on the Law of the Sea this latter view gained great headway among nations which generally supported the narrow territorial sea for security purposes, but wanted a wider zone of exclusive fishery for their own nationals.

The 1958 conference failed to resolve the matter. Another has been called for 1960 to make an end of it. A year ahead, the United States is at work to bring the questions of the territorial sea to a conclusion which will not only save the security of the free world from critical impairment, but which at the same time will protect the coastal fisheries of nations from exploitation by the fleets of nations which have not historically shared in them.

(1x)

This is the meat of the compromise proposal which the United States has frankly offered to the world.

The proposition echoes with formal phrases: "narrow territorial sea," which means the three-mile limit; "exclusive fishing zone," which means extension of a nation's authority over fisheries in its coastal waters beyond the three-mile limit; "Historic rights," which means that nations which have fished historically within the "exclusive fishing zone" would be preserved in their right to continue to do so.

American fishermen have a vital interest in this new bid of their nation for a compromise.

It is not difficult for the acute reader to sense that, if it cannot sell the "historic rights" provision, the Department of State is prepared to make a deal for a "narrow territorial sea" and an "exclusive fishery zone" without provision for "historic rights."

The words of an official spokesman of the Department of State (quoted on page lviii) make this plain, saying:

"The United States cannot accept an extension of the breadth of the territorial sea out to 12 miles and will seek in every way possible to reach an agreement which will provide for a narrow territorial sea."

He who has ears to hear notes the voices of American fishermen paraphrasing these words:

"The United States fisheries cannot accept provision for exclusive fishing zones which does not also provide for historic rights, and will seek in every possible way agreements which will protect those rights."

("Pacific Fisherman"

Portland, Ore.

April, 1959)

Fishing Round the World

A Monthly News Service on Events Far and Wide

Spain . . .

Although the Spanish coast is more than 3,000 km. long, and more than half is on the Mediterranean, fish landed in the Mediterranean harbours is only about 25 per cent of the total landed in Spain. Since the majority of more populous towns are on the Mediterranean coasts the majority of fish consumed is brought from the Bay of Biscay, and the Canary Islands. In Barcelona, for example, only one-third of the fish consumed is caught in Mediterranean waters. The rest comes mainly from the Basque lands (55 per cent), Canary Islands (20 per cent) and Galicia (15 per cent).

All fish coming into Barcelona must be sold in a Central Fish Market, built and administered by the municipal government. Every consignment of fish which arrives, by ship, truck or train, receives at the municipal boundary a statement upon which is written roughly the amount of fish carried and the time; should the consignment not arrive at the Central Fish Market, or should it arrive late, the carter can be held responsible. At the Central Fish Market there are a number of stalls each allocated by the municipal government to one fish salesman who receives the fish from the fishermen or, more frequently, from a wholesale dealer. The fish salesman makes the fish ready for auction in boxes.

The fish landed is sold by Dutch auction in small lots by a fishermen's syndicate to the wholesaler, who conveys it to a fish salesman in the Central Fish Market. This must be done on the same day because it is not permitted to keep the fish in stock for more than 24 hours. After a 3-day journey from the more distant suppliers the fish arrives at its destination, where, in a Central Fish Market the fish salesman arranges the fish for auction to the retailers who will afterwards sell it in their shops. This procedure, although it involves handling the fish three times, ensures a reliable supply and adequate inspection.

Fishermen Want To Control The Market

Fishermen will shortly ask State Government to appoint a Fish Board to control the industry in N.S.W. and to implement the recommendations of the 1953 Inquiry on Fish Marketing.

The Union of Regional Fishermen's Co-operative Associations of N.S.W. decided this at a meeting this month.

The 1953 inquiry into fish marketing was conducted by a committee, comprising Mr. C.J. King, Chief of the State Marketing Bureau; Mr. A.G. Kingsmill, now Under-Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department, and Mr. G.J. Boreham, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies in N.S.W.

Its recommendations were not adopted by State Government.

The committee recommended establishment of a Fish Authority (or Board), consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor. The chairman to be nominated by the Minister and the remaining members to be representatives of producers, nominated by the Minister on the following basis:-

"Stooge" body

Three from nominations submitted by the co-ops. which may be added to by the Governor.

Two from nominations submitted by the steam trawlers.

One from nominations submitted by the seine boat operators.

(Since the inquiry was concluded, steam trawlers have been put out of business and seine boat operators no longer exist as an organized body. The co-ops. now have the field to themselves).

Wide powers were proposed in the 1953 recommendations for a State Fish Board.

The board would be responsible for the conduct of the Sydney Fish Market and branches with specific powers to undertake the purchase, sale, supply and distribution of fish and "other foodstuffs."

It would "fix" wholesale prices, issue licences, create fish districts, manufacture and sell ice and fix charges for the sale of fish inside and outside the market.

Although the recommendations of the 1953 Inquiry were never adopted by the Government, in 1954 it set up a Fish Advisory Committee, as a step toward producer control.

The Advisory Committee was disbanded because the Steam Trawler and Seine Boat Owner representatives refused to work under Mr. Buttsworth, former Under-Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department.

In a letter to the Minister, Mr. Kelly, the trawler owners said that so long as the market remains under its present departmental control, an Advisory Committee is completely powerless to improve its functions.

"Any suggestion that the setting up of the Advisory Committee gives producers an immediate voice in the running of the market is a complete myth", it said.

The trawler owners pointed out that the establishment of a Fish Authority merely meant changing from control by the Chief Secretary as Corporation Sole to control by an "Authority" completely dominated by the Chief Secretary.

The change would be in name only and would be ineffective in dealing with marketing problems.

So the businessmen walked out and left the industry to the bureaucrats.

("Fish Trades Review"

Sydney, N.S.W.

April, 1959)

Submarines for Fishing?

An idea recently submitted to the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome suggested that the day might come when submarines would be used for fishing. This was stated by Dr. D.B. Finn, Director of the Fisheries Division of FAO, in his remarks made during last Monday's opening session of the Second World Fishing Boat Congress, held in Rome.

Dr. Finn stressed that his staff, although hard-headed realists, were quite capable of using enough imagination to consider the possibilities in such ideas as this.

("Fishing News"

London.

April 10, 1959.)