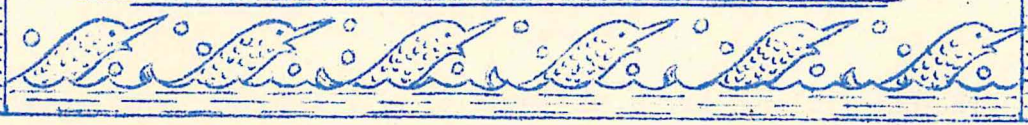




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AUSTRALIA

MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN



Vol. VIII, No. 8

August, 1959.

STAFF NOTES.

The Director, Mr. A. J. Fraser, will leave Perth by air for Canberra on August 3 to attend a conference called by the Minister for Customs and Excise. Problems arising from the dual control of imports and exports of fauna, and the desirability of uniform protection laws, will be discussed. On August 28, Mr. Fraser will accompany the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Hutchinson, to Geraldton.

* * * *

The Fauna Protection Officer, Mr. H. B. Shugg, accompanied by the Government Botanist, Mr. C. A. Gardner, will fly to Wittenoom Gorge on August 11. They will discuss with representatives of the Tableland Road Board the control and future development of the flora and fauna sanctuary at Dales Gorge.

* * * *

The Research Officer, Mr. B. K. Bowen, returned to Perth from Bernier and Dorre Islands on August 28. He was accompanied by Dr. W. D.L. Ride, Director of the Western Australian Museum, and Mr. R. D. Royce, Senior Botanist, Department of Agriculture. A report on the results of the survey of the Island will be presented to the next meeting of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee.

* * * *

Technical Officer R. J. McKay will complete his tour of duty on the "Bluefin" on August 5 and will resume normal duties under Captain H. C. W. Piesse on the research vessel "Peron". Mr. McKay's place on the "Bluefin" will be taken by Mr. P. D. Lorimer, Technical Adviser to the Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industry.

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Technical Officer J. S. Simpson completed his trout work at Pemberton on July 13 and returned to Head Office.

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The Chief Clerk, Mr. B. R. Saville, will commence annual leave early next month.

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Senior Inspector Mr. J. E. Munro will resume duty after annual leave on August 3.

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Mr. G. C. Ferguson, of Head Office, will enter C.M.F. camp at Northam, on August 9, to undergo a further 14 days training.

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Inspector J. Traynor completed a period of special duty at Denmark on July 26 and has resumed normal duties in the metropolitan district.

* * * *

The Fauna Warden, Mr. S. W. Bowler, will accompany the Superintendent of Aerodromes, Mr. Martin, and an engineer of Bell Bros Pty. Ltd., Mr. Bell, on a visit to West Wallabi Island in the Abrolhos on August 10. The visit is being made to carry out a preliminary survey in connection with a proposal to establish a holiday resort and a landing strip on the Island.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Messrs D. J. Rochford, Principal Research Officer, and J. Staniforth, Technical Assistant, of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., were visitors to this State towards the end of last month. They had travelled from Sydney in H. M.A.S. "Diamantina" which will undertake oceanographic cruises in the north-east Indian Ocean on behalf of C.S.I.R.O. The first cruise will commence in October of this year and a second in February, 1960, and altogether about 17,000 miles will be covered. Messrs Rochford and Staniforth will again join "Diamantina" for these cruises, - the purpose of the present trip was to test the scientific equipment with which the vessel has been fitted.

Congratulations are offered to Dr. R. G. Chittleborough and Mr. K. Godfrey of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography. The former has been promoted from Research Officer to Senior Research officer, and the latter from Technical Assistant to Technical officer.

* * * *

Two well-known fishermen from Robe, South Australia, Messrs. A. J. Miller and R. G. Smith, are currently visiting this State. Messrs Miller and Smith have been crayfishing and sharkfishing for a number of years in South Australia's South-East, but by reason of what they describe as a declining fishery they are investigating the prospects of transferring to Esperance or elsewhere on our south coast.

* * * *

Mr. M. Drinan, accompanied by his brother Jack and two other crew members, arrived in Fremantle during the last week in July after having sailed the 70-foot prawn trawler "Nanango" from Sydney. Mr. Drinan is here to prospect prawn occurrences in the North-West.

* * * *

The Minister for Fisheries (Mr. Ross Hutchinson) has been confined to his bed at his home and in the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, as a result of the recurrence of a complaint contracted while on war service.

* * * *

The Regional Industrial Officer, Mr. Fogarty, of the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service, visited Broome on July 12. He was accompanied by Indonesian officials, Messrs Narto and Sutardjo, who were investigating the conditions under which their nationals were domiciled in the Broome area. The party was met on its arrival in Broome by the Pearlring Inspector, Mr. R. J. Baird. The visitors had discussions with the President, Mr. A. S. Male, and other members of the Broome Shellers' Association. They also attended a meeting of representatives of the Indonesians living at Broome.

Since his return to Perth, Mr. Fogarty has written expressing his confidence that a favourable report would be submitted to their Government by Messrs Narto and Sutardjo. He also expressed his appreciation of the help extended by Mr. Baird.

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS.

The Public Service Commissioner has advised that two salary adjustments have been approved to take effect in July.

The first is the result of the normal half-yearly review of salary rates in other States on July 1, 1959, and will take effect from July 3. It will involve an increase in the marginal allowance of £9 a year to all in receipt of a margin of £317 per annum and above. The allowance to officers in receipt of a smaller margin will be reduced proportionately.

The second follows the lift in the basic wage, and means an increase from July 27 of £9 p.a. for adult male officers stationed in the metropolitan area, £8 for the South-west Land Division, and £5 in other districts.

IMPORTED v LOCAL FISH.

Late last year approaches were made to the Minister for Fisheries that action be initiated either to reduce the volume of imports of fish arriving from overseas, or to increase the Customs duties payable on such fish, so as to increase the sale of locally-produced fish. It was pointed out that imported lines were retailing at such a low figure that it was virtually impossible for local fishermen to compete.

The Minister made a case to the Minister for Trade in Canberra, asking that the Tariff Board enquire into the two points raised. At the same time the Minister for Fisheries in each of the other States was asked whether he would support this State.

In reply the Minister for Trade mentioned that three earlier Tariff Board enquiries had been held. On each occasion, however, the Board had found that there was no justification for either increasing duties or reducing imports.

The replies received from the eastern States indicated that we could expect only lukewarm support, if indeed any support at all, from some, and the enquiries made by the Fishermen's League itself showed that no great support could be expected from the fishermen's organisations in other parts of Australia.

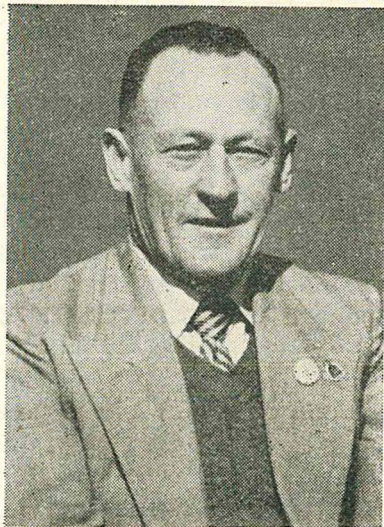
The League has now decided, after considering all aspects, not to proceed further with the matter.

Acknowledgement:

Block of Mr. Bogg (P.113) by courtesy of "Fisheries Newsletter".

FISHERIES HEAD CHANGES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. F. W. Moorhouse, since 1936 Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game for South Australia - his designation was recently altered to Director and Chief Inspector - has reached the retiring age, and on July 31 left Adelaide with his wife for an extended visit to England. Born in Brisbane on December 1, 1894, Mr. Moorhouse early developed an interest in birds and animals and wildlife generally. After service in Egypt and France with the first A.I.F., when he was twice wounded in action, he spent some time exploring the islands of



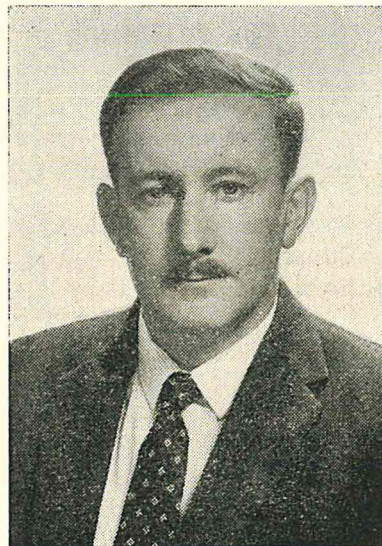
Mr. F. W. Moorhouse, M. Sc.

New Guinea and the Great Barrier Reef. He then read for a science degree at the University of Queensland and on graduation was appointed a member of the Great Barrier Reef Expedition of 1928-29. He studied the life history of the trochus, an important product of the Queensland fisheries, and afterwards, having in the meantime been appointed marine biologist to the Queensland Government, extended his research to sponges, beche-de-mer, edible oysters and mullet. Subsequent work on the life history of the green turtle earned for him the degree of M.Sc.

In 1935 he joined the then C.S.I.R. as marine biologist, but soon afterwards resigned to take up his South Australian appointment. With characteristic energy Mr. Moorhouse set to work to import new ideas and new techniques into what was then a somewhat backward industry. During his tenure of office considerable advances were made and new fisheries based on crayfish, sharks, salmon and tuna sprang into being, canneries were established and net-fishing was developed.

Mr. Moorhouse was a vigorous administrator, and his colleagues in other States, and fishermen generally, will miss his direct and forthright style.

As his successor, Mr. Allan C. Bogg, senior research officer of the Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industry, Canberra, has been appointed. Mr. Bogg, who is 35, is a native of New South Wales. He served with the A.I.F. from 1942 to 1946 and after discharge became a student at the University of Sydney. Upon graduation as Bachelor of Economics in 1950, he joined the Commonwealth Public Service. A year or two later he was promoted to a position in the Commonwealth Fisheries Office. For four years during the formative stages of the Commonwealth administration, Mr. Bogg acted as personal research officer to the Director.



Mr. A. C. Bogg, B. Ec.

In 1956, during a period of special leave, he was in Britain, where he served with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and with the White Fish Authority. In the course of his duties he visited most of the major fishing ports, many of the processing and canning works, and the main marketing centres in the United Kingdom. Since his return to Australia, Mr. Bogg has been officer-in-charge of the Economics and Statistics Section of the Fisheries Division.

To both Mr. Moorhouse and Mr. Bogg, this Bulletin extends its best wishes: to the former for many healthy, happy years in retirement, and to the latter for many successful, fruitful years in administering and developing South Australia's fishery and fauna resources.

PEARL AND TROCHUS SHELL.

Figures released by the Department of Primary Industry for the pearling year 1958/9 (Feb. 1, 1958 - Jan. 31, 1959) show that activity in the M.O.P. and trochus shell industries was well below the level of the 1957/8 period. According to the Department, the number of Australian vessels fell from 139 to 116 and employment decreased by 54 to 1,460 persons.

The slowing down of effort affected all three pearl shell producing regions, Western Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory. Altogether production from Australian luggers totalled 1,284 tons or 30% less than in the immediately preceding season. Moreover, reports in relation to the Japanese fleet operating in the Arafura Sea show that its take of M.O.P. shell dropped from 702 in the previous year to only 475 tons in 1958/9. The production of trochus - virtually confined to Queensland - went down from 548 tons to 420 tons. This is a continuation of the downward trend during the past several years.

The following production tables are interesting -

PEARL SHELL (Tons)

	<u>1955/6</u>	<u>1956/7</u>	<u>1957/8</u>	<u>1958/9</u>
Western Australia	652	894	995	750
Queensland	482	503	505	397
Northern Territory	<u>175</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>137</u>
	1,309	1,658	1,839	1,284
	====	====	====	====

TROCHUS (Tons)

	<u>1955/6</u>	<u>1956/7</u>	<u>1957/8</u>	<u>1958/9</u>
Queensland	939	848	539	410*
Other	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
	945	853	548	420*
	====	====	====	====

*Tentative figure only.

Competition from plastics is largely responsible for the slackening of activity in these two fields. This has brought about considerable stockpiling, particularly of shell below the best grades. A substantial reduction in prices is anticipated. In total, M.O.P. exports were slightly in excess of £A1 million during 1958/9, the principal buyers being in the U.S.A., West Germany and the U.K.

In an attempt to boost sales, the Commonwealth Government has contributed something like £40,000 to a promotion fund and producers and buyers have also subscribed substantial sums. The Government of Western Australia has this year granted £5,000 towards the cost of the campaign.

ABROLHOS TRAGEDY.

The accidental drowning of professional fisherman, Richard Lumley, occurred during the height of a storm at Little Pigeon Island in the Wallabi Group of Houtman's Abrolhos on July 24, 1959. A report of the occurrence has been received from Inspectors H. D. Kavanagh and E. I. Forster, who were aboard the "Kooruldhoo" which was anchored nearby at the time. Mr. Lumley attempted to swim to his boat "Florence" which was moored about 50 yds from the landing. He disappeared when only a few feet from the boat and it is understood that his body had not been recovered when we went to press. The shocking conditions caused by gale-force winds prevented effective rescue action being taken either by our inspectors or other fishermen close at hand. A press report indicated that professional fishermen will start a benefit fund to aid Mr. Lumley's bereaved family, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

CHEAP SNAPPER SNAPPED UP.

The arrival, on July 12, of the first consignment of new-season snapper catch from Shark Bay attracted thousands of eager buyers to Fremantle. The consignment was believed to be a record catch for one boat. It had been taken by the new aluminium-alloy freezer boat "Our Lady of Fatima", using fish-traps to secure her catch instead of the normal hand-lining methods. The use of traps has been adopted by a number of boats this season as they appear to be most efficient during the snapper run.

The Managing Director of the W.A. Fishermen's Markets Ltd., Mr. S. Cicarello, was reported as saying that his company had sold 25,000 lb of snapper in four days but it still could not be sold quickly enough to make room for the catches coming in. Mr. Cicarello said that the fish traps enabled a boat to secure its maximum load in much less time than was taken by hand-lining. Radio-telephone facilities were used to overcome distribution problems and to report the amount of fish coming forward for sale.

"LAAKANUKI" SAILS.

The 120-foot licensed fishing boat "Laakanuki" sailed from Fremantle at 6 a.m. on July 9 to operate during the snapper run in Shark Bay. Registered in the name of the Western Trawling Pty. Ltd. of North Fremantle, she was skippered by Mr. R. Waters, formerly of the "Trident".

TROUT FISHING RECORD.

We are very grateful to Mr. R. G. Agnew, of Nodlands, who has donated to the Department a meticulously kept record of trout caught during the 1958/59 season. Mr. Agnew recorded the date and locality of the catching and the sex, length, weight and stomach contents of each fish and whether it was a rainbow or a brown trout. He also noted the lure or bait used.

Of the 155 trout caught during the last open season, 98 were kept and the remainder returned as undersize. The average length and weight of the males was slightly in excess of the females, although the longest and heaviest fish caught were both female rainbows. The average length of males was 14.6 inches, and that of females 14.25 inches. Males averaged 21.2 ounces in weight compared with 19.9 ounces by females. The longest fish Mr. Agnew caught was 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, with a weight of 3 lb 12 oz. The heaviest was a 4 lb 2 oz fish which measured 21 inches in length. Stomach contents consisted mainly of gilgias and grass-hoppers. A few frogs and some insects of unknown species were recorded in a few cases, one or two fish contained pygmy perch, and one had a bird's wing-bone.

ABROLHOS CRAYFISHERY.

A table showing details of crayfish production in the Abrolhos area during June appears on page 117.

The increase in fishing intensity and overall production and the fall in the catch-per-man, has continued. While the latter does not appear to be serious, it should be borne in mind that the area being fished has expanded. The continual working of new grounds may disguise to some degree the true state of the fishery in the Abrolhos area proper.

It is obvious that production this year will exceed last year's total of 3,276,132 lb.

INCREASED ALLOWANCES.

The Public Service Commissioner has instructed that reimbursement rates for travelling, transfer and relieving expenses will be increased by 1/- per day from July 1. The rates to be claimed by officers from that date are as follows:-

Travelling	-	For the first 14 days - 43/- per day. After 14 days in the one place - 40/- per day.
Transfer	-	43/- per day N.B. - Limited to 14 days.
Relieving	-	For the first 21 days - 43/- per day. after 21 days - 20/- per day for married men and 12/- per day for single men.

The reimbursement rate for meals remains at 3/- per meal.

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.

KANGAROO RESEARCH BY C.S.I.R.O.

Mr. H. J. Frith, Principal Research Officer, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., will commence a long-term study of the biology and habits of the Red Kangaroo. Graziers in many parts of Australia, particularly in western New South Wales, have been concerned at the build-up in numbers of the animal. Their request that C.S.I.R.O. should define a practicable mass-destruction method has received the approval of the Commonwealth Government. Techniques developed during the recently completed four-year survey of the Euro at Woodstock Station in the Pilbara, will be used.

ABROLHOS CRAYFISHERY.

Area.	JUNE 1958.			JUNE 1959.		
	No. of Men.	Total Catch. lb.	Catch per Man. lb.	No. of Men.	Total Catch. lb.	Catch per Man. lb.
North Island	17	23,936	1,408	41	41,614	1,015
Wallabi Group	50	89,573	1,791	58	95,526	1,647
Easter Group	52	66,620	1,281	55	78,748	1,432
Southern Group	28	28,933	1,033	34	33,518	986
Total:	147	209,062	1,422	188	249,406	1,326

Total for four months (March - June)	1956	2,119,288 lb
do	1957	2,521,536 "
do	1958	2,886,110 "
do	1959	3,181,049 "

VISITING SCIENTISTS.

In addition to the distinguished scientists and administrators attending the ANZAAS Conference in the last week of this month, a number of biologists will visit this State in the next few weeks.

Dr. Mary E. Gillham, Lecturer in Botany at the University of Exeter, England, will study the plant ecology of as many of our offshore islands as possible. In addition to Rottnest, Garden and other local islands, she hopes to visit the Archipelago of the Recherche, the islands off Albany and the Abrolhos.

Dr. Klaus Immelmann, of Wiesbaden, Germany, intends to further his studies of the biology and behaviour of Australian finches and will work mainly in the far north, using the Kimberley Research Station as his headquarters.

Dr. Graham Brown, Associate of the National Museum of Victoria, will collect natural history specimens in the Kimberleys and intends to visit Wyndham, Derby, and Broome. Scientific knowledge of the fauna of this area is sadly lacking and it is expected that Dr. Brown's contribution will be extremely valuable.

CLEARING HOUSE

What Speed Should An Engine Run?

In every field of industry and transport, the trend has been to turn machinery faster." The faster engines are made to turn, the smaller and lighter they may be for a given power output. The smaller and lighter (within limits) they are, the less expensive they become.

Scottish fishermen have used Diesel engines in the 1,000 r.p.m. range for many years, and although it is only since the war that English owners of seiners have adopted this class of engine, they are considered well proved in the field. Now, only the diehards claim that Scandinavian semi-Diesel, or equally slow-running full-Diesel is superior to the moderate speed British Diesel (the diehards actually call 1,000 r.p.m. "high speed"). They have often irked me by suggesting that, "because the Danes mostly have semi-Diesels, we must be wrong to use anything higher revving," but, aware that the Danes were now adopting high-speed engines, I for one, had been content that British fishermen were leading in this field, and was pleased to note that some British engines were now being installed in Danish boats.

Revolution in revolutions.

Very recently however, I had the opportunity to examine an interesting engine installation, in a Danish seiner landing in this country, and while it was an eye-opener for the diehards who had considered British engines too fast revving, it also set me wondering if the Danes were getting a jump ahead of us again, in the matter of machinery for seiners.

The engine, which replaced a semi-Diesel, was a 2,200 r.p.m. 205 h.p. Swedish "Penta". Basically a straight six truck engine, which when normally aspirated developed 130 h.p. at 1,600 r.p.m., this marine version was turbo-blown and intercooled to run at the higher rating. Seventy-five normally aspirated engines of this type had already been installed, when this particular skipper/owner, unabashed with 1,600 r.p.m. had for the sake of higher power for occasional herring trawling, gladly accepted the super-charging and higher r.p.m. together with a considerable saving of capital expenditure, and was well pleased with his bargain. 2,200 r.p.m. is high speed for a Diesel, but this engine purred like a pussy cat and did the job required of it, and even if, as one engineer remarked, "Pussy-cats spit when they get tired" a replacement will not cost very much.

The complete installation was very tidy, and the overall length including power transmissions at each end and propellor control

gear, was approximately 10 ft. A winch drive clutch and reduction gear was mounted on the fore end, and the controllable pitch propellor was coupled to the engine through a 4:1 reduction gear and dry plate clutch. Closed circuit fresh water cooling was provided, using an engine mounted, combined oil and water cooler. The sea water discharge from the cooler was used to eject the bilge, the only mechanical means provided. A wash-deck pump was driven off the winch drive shaft.

What is the significance of this very high-speed installation, and the seventy-five normally aspirated engines of the same type? High rev engines are being proved, and it has been shown possible to make a neat, simple and economical installation. Economics must be given prime consideration in these days of high costs and if we are to compete with other countries we must use machinery which is at least as economical as theirs. There are excellent British-made Diesels in the 1,800 r.p.m. range and pressure charging is often available if required. British engineers and fishermen should be in the forefront of any developments and they should get together without delay if they do not want to be left behind. "Pelops".

("World Fishing"

London.

June, 1959.)

River Board would like to Demolish "Parson's Trap"

Should the Rev. David Ogden, Vicar of Cockerham (Lancs.) give up his ancient right to the "Parson's Catch" of fish, taken twice a month from the wattle fish trap in the estuary of the River Lune. This is the problem facing the Lancashire River Board, and the new owners of the trap - known locally as a baulk - who consider it a danger to fishing and would like to demolish it, says a special correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

The new owners of the trap cannot demolish it, however, because it is quite legal if operated by a "privileged person", such as the Vicar of Cockerham.

Immemorial Right

The fuss began two years ago when the Board took over the trap, which stretches across 300 yards of the estuary. Up to then it had been the unchallenged right of any vicar of Cockerham to take fish from the baulk on the first tides after the new and full moons. This right was granted by the local fishermen, who thought it better that the vicar caught his own fish instead of receiving the fish tithe of one-tenth of every catch made, says the correspondent.

Built by the monks of Cockersands Abbey in the 12th century, the fish trap has caught tasty salmon and sea trout on almost every receding tide.

Right in Trust

The Vicar explained that as the tide comes in a grill in the baulk opens and the fish swim through up-river. The receding tide closes the grill and the fish are trapped. "All you do then is to walk out and bonk them on the head with something heavy.

"The River Board have suggested that I relinquish my rights and consider compensation from them instead," said Mr. Ogden. "I have refused because I feel it is my right in trust."

His right to fish the baulk is reckoned as part of the benefice income, but the Vicar says it isn't a money-making business. "I catch a few whitebait and now and then perhaps a salmon or a sea trout. Sometimes I give them away or sell them or I might eat what I catch."

Because the Vicar will not relinquish his rights the Board has to employ a man to work the baulk twice a day. He selects all fish under two pounds in weight and returns them to the river, so that the baulk will not be injurious to fish stocks, an official of the Board explained.

"But," the official added, "if we can get the Vicar to give up his rights we will probably make arrangements for the baulk to be dismantled."

("The Fishing News"

London.

June 19, 1959.)

South Africa to Study Habits of Rock Lobster

A 70 foot trawler is to be used off the coast of South Africa to study the habits of the rock lobster. It is hoped that it will be operating by next October or November. The vessel is being built for the Sea Products group. The company is anxious to find the reason for the apparent ebb and flow of the rock lobsters which has been going on in recent years.

The trawler will be fitted with a refrigerated hold and quarters for a team of scientists.

("The Fishing News"

London.

June 19, 1959.)

Electronic Device To Measure Strain On
Otter Trawls Developed

A new electronic device which fits easily on a conventional trawl winch, and which not only saves the net from being torn or lost, but tells how many fish are in the net, is in the process of being patented by an Italian inventor.

The device is the successor to an earlier invention which measured only how many fish were in the net.

The inventor states that his new device is a very simple arrangement of great value to the trawling fleets of the world. It will be especially useful to deep-sea trawlers, and boats dragging in rough waters.

The device consists mainly of two hinged collars attached to the terminals of the winch. Two dynamometers fitted with electro-acoustical devices are coupled to the collars, and anchored to the deck.

Main purpose of the invention is to avoid destroying the net on rough bottom, or on obstacles unseen on sounding equipment. It will also, by measuring the strain on the towing lines, give a measure of how many fish are in the net.

A warning signal, working through a voltmeter, is placed on the bridge and in the engine room, giving a permanent and instantaneous reading of the strains developed by the trawl. A horn is sounded, and a red light flashes immediately if the net becomes fouled on the bottom or on an obstacle.

The device is so set up on the winch that it automatically disengages when the strain reaches the danger level. When this brake is released the winch is then running free, letting out line until the net is free, or until the ship is stopped or diverted.

A San Francisco company is negotiating with the inventor for manufacturing rights, and it is expected the new device will be on the market within a year. Patents are pending in the United States, Canada, Italy and Norway, and manufacturing rights throughout the world have been reserved for a year.

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Prawn Boat Lands Sick Sailor at Beachport

Beachport - The 70-ft. trawler "Nanango" from Sydney, called here last Thursday, to land a crew member who had become ill on the voyage from Sydney to Western Australia.

The sea-sick sailor returned to Sydney, and his place was taken in the crew by Mr. Ron Daniels, of Beachport.

The "Nanango" continued the voyage to Perth, leaving Beachport on Sunday.

Owned and operated by Mr. M. Drinan, of Castle Hill, Sydney, the "Nanango's" normal crew of four were all experienced prawn fishermen from N.S.W., where they have been operating for 10 years.

The trip to W.A. is being made because the Commonwealth Government's Fisheries Department is not prepared to assist the industry, while the W.A. Government has made available the results of six years of research in the industry.

For this reason, the commercial trawler "Nanango" is on the way to thoroughly test the area.

The W.A. Government is the only one to carry out any worthwhile investigations in the prawn fishing potential, Mr. Drinan said during his stay in Beachport.

Modern Boat

The "Nanango" has all modern equipment, including two-way radio, echo-sounding and radio direction-finding gear.

It is powered by a 180-h.p. diesel engine, with a smaller engine for hauling the nets.

Its load capacity is 45 tons and cruising speed nine nautical miles per hour.

Mr. Drinan and his crew were very enthusiastic and appreciative of the many acts of kindness shown to them during their stay in Rivoli Bay.

("The South Eastern Times"

Millicent,
South Aust.

July 7, 1959.)

Cuban Closed Season For Bullfrogs

And Certain Finfish

The Cuban National Fisheries Institute by Ministry of Agriculture Resolutions published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of April 1, 1959, imposed a closed season on the capture of mojarras (perch), joturo, biajaca (tripletail), dajao, and bullfrogs. The closed seasons were effective on April 1, 1959, and will remain in force until cancelled by subsequent Resolutions.

According to press reports, a group of bullfrog fishermen from the provinces of Las Villas and Habana requested that their union petition the Government to suspend the closed season on the capture of bullfrogs, since such closed seasons had never been imposed in prior years before the end of the month of May. In addition to complaints that the closed season was premature and would deprive them of a source of income, the fishermen protested that they were underpaid for fresh bullfrogs which could be sold at high prices in the United States by Cuban freezing plants.

("Market News Service"

New York.

April 22, 1959.)

U.S. Research Entails Use of Blimps

The U.S. Navy had dropped 1,000 drift bottles into the Atlantic from blimps as part of research into the habits of the cod. Scientists want to discover whether the ocean drift in the cod spawning areas during spawning times is such that the young fish are taken to deep water, depriving them of the haven of the Continental Shelf.

The cod spawns at the surface of the ocean, placing its eggs at the mercy of the wind, waves and weather, and soon after the eggs hatch the cod head for the bottom, says National Fisherman. As far as is known the young cod can find bottom down to 600 feet. If the bottom is deeper than that, the fish cannot make it and die. This makes the Continental Shelf an important place in the life cycle of the cod.

("Fishing News"

London.

June 5, 1959.)

Boil-In-Bag Food Products

The housewife is now finding an ever-increasing variety of frozen food products packaged in air-tight plastic bags. The product is cooked by immersing the unopened bag in boiling water. Advocates of this method of packaging claim that plastic bags retain flavour even better than most other types of packaging and cooking. Using this method, a housewife can prepare as many as six courses with the use of a single pot of boiling water.

Since this method of packaging and preparation seems to be "catching on", fish processors may wish to explore the possibility of using this packaging technique with fishery products. A few fishery products are being packaged in this manner.

("Market News Service"

New York.

March 31, 1959.)

Dr. White Appointed Chairman.

Frederick William George White, C.B.E., M.Sc., Ph.D., has been appointed Chairman of C.S.I.R.O. by the Governor-General. He has been a member of the Executive since C.S.I.R.O. was first constituted in 1949, and has held the office of Deputy Chairman since 1957.

His special interests have been in the physical sciences, in wool textiles research, and in the financing and organisation of research generally.

He has made a number of trips abroad since the War to maintain close contact with trends in research organisation in other countries. He has been particularly interested in the financing of research by industry through trade research associations.

Dr White was born on May 16, 1905, in New Zealand and was educated at the Victoria University College, Wellington. He graduated B.Sc. in 1927 and M.Sc (with first class honours) in 1928.

In 1929 he won a postgraduate scholarship which took him to St. John's College at Cambridge. He worked in the Cavendish Laboratory under the late Lord Rutherford and was awarded his doctorate in 1932.

From Cambridge, Dr. White went to Kings College, London, where he served as a lecturer in physics in Sir Edward Appleton's Department. During this period he carried on research in various aspects of radio propagation and published a text book on Electromagnetic Waves.

In 1937 he was appointed Professor of Physics at Canterbury University College in New Zealand.

In New Zealand he took a leading part in the establishment of the Research Laboratory of the British Empire Cancer Campaign Society.

In 1941 Dr. White was given leave by his University to assist C.S.I.R. in the organisation of its Radiophysics Laboratory in Sydney, and in 1942 he was appointed Chief of the Division of Radiophysics.

In 1945 Dr. White resigned his professorship and joined the Head Office staff of C.S.I.R. as Assistant Executive Officer. He was appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the Council in 1946.

In 1955 Dr. White spent six weeks in Egypt on a U.N.E.S.C.O. project. His task was to advise the newly created National Research Council on the organization and development of its research programme.

Dr. White is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, and was created a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1954.

In 1957 he was elected President of Section A of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. He has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission since 1953.

Dr. White lives at Brighton Beach, a Melbourne bayside suburb, with his wife and two children, both of whom are under-graduates at the University of Melbourne.

He has a New Zealander's love for the mountains, and likes to spend his holidays fishing the trout streams. He has been an active member of the C.S.I.R. Ski Club in Victoria.