

SAFETY CAMPAIGN ON PLEASURE CRAFT.

At a meeting convened in November last by the Minister controlling the Harbour and Light Department (Mr. Court), means to combat boating accidents occurring among privately owned craft were discussed. Also present at the conference were the Minister for Health and Fisheries (Mr. Hutchinson), the Manager of Harbour and Light Department (Mr. Forsyth) and the President and representatives of the Yachting Association of W.A. Mr. Rock, the President, reported to the meeting that his Association was willing to assist within its power and that the various clubs would be prepared to inspect privately owned craft of non-members and advise them on the essential equipment and the proper handling of boats in difficult situations.

In accordance with a suggestion made by the Association to the meeting, pamphlets titled "Sailor Beware" were printed. Distributed to all schools before the close of the third term, the pamphlets advised boat owners what precautions they should take, the safety gear they should carry and the "Do's and Don'ts" in yachting and boating generally. Ten thousand copies of the pamphlet were also distributed from police stations along the coast.

Future publicity via the press and radio has since been left in the hands of the Health Education Council.

PROFIT DOWN.

Resulting from the lower catch in 1958 and a fall in whale-oil prices, the net profit of the Nor' West Whaling Co. Ltd. was more than halved in the year ending March 31, 1959. This was announced in the press last month when the directors issued a report to shareholders. The report stated that the 1959 season's oil production had been sold forward at higher prices. The entire production of meal and solubles was also sold forward.

COMMONWEALTH BAN ON FAUNA EXPORTS.

In a press release on December 4, the Commonwealth Minister for Customs and Excise (Senator the Hon. Denham Henty) announced that his Government had decided to prohibit, absolutely, the export of native fauna for commercial purposes. Despite agreements reached at a Commonwealth/State conference as recently as last August, the Commonwealth Government decided to assume full control over export transactions under the powers provided by the Customs (Prohibited Export) Regulations.

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Paying scant heed to the sovereign rights of the States to conserve their respective fauna, Senator Henty said that the only export of live fauna his government would permit would be for bona fide zoological and scientific purposes.

The Premier (Mr. Brand) has written to the Prime Minister protesting against the Commonwealth Government's ex parte interference with the rights of the States and requesting that the proposal be reconsidered with a view to the States carrying out their normal constitutional functions.