

Dr. Thomson pointed out that the weed was probably one of the filamentous algae usually referred to by fishermen as slime. While it could be killed by certain weedicides, or towed ashore, its removal would reduce the food values in the estuary and affect its carrying capacity. Dr. Thomson likened the process of removing the algae to mowing a paddock and removing the cropped grass which reduced the amount of food available to the stock in the paddock. He suggested that nature should be allowed to take its course. With the onset of late summer and autumn, he said, the weed would die off and would help replenish the estuarine nutrients which were essential, indirectly, to all the plant and animal life of the estuary.

CRAY-BAIT PROBLEMS.

Although large quantities of crayfish bait are held in cold storage in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, refrigerated shipping space has been difficult to obtain for the transport of the bait to Fremantle. Notwithstanding the assistance of the Western Australian representatives in Melbourne and Sydney, shipping space cannot be booked and the position regarding bait supplies in this State is becoming desperate. Arrangements are in hand to freight some hocks from Melbourne overland by refrigerated truck. Also, an appeal sent to the Director of Fisheries and Game, Adelaide (Mr. A. C. Bogg) has met with an immediate response. Seven tons of tuna heads, part of an order of thirty tons which has been awaiting shipment from Port Lincoln, will be carried by the Commonwealth Railways to Kalgoorlie, from whence it will be brought by refrigerated truck. At the time of going to press, however, the bait situation remains critical.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EELS.

Inspectors are invited to keep a particular watch out for fresh water eels in the South-West. Two such eels have been recorded in this State - Anguilla bicolor and Anguilla australis. A. bicolor is the northern species and is quite commonly found in the creeks in the North-West and Kimberley Divisions. A. australis is found on the eastern coast and the south coast west to South Australia. In our State, however, its ecological position appears to have been taken over by the lamprey. A. australis nevertheless has been recorded in Western Australia. One was taken many years ago at Busselton and one just recently was caught in a drain at Carlisle. This species was recorded by both McCullough and Whitley as having been introduced into Western Australia, but this now appears to be open to question. It may occur here naturally.

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A. australis may be readily distinguished from its near relative, A. bicolor, by the position of the dorsal fin. In the former, it commences immediately above the vent, while in A. bicolor it commences well forward of the vent. The latter is also spotted, while A. australis is more uniformly dark.