

The statement concludes with the comment that persons using wildlife for commerce or sport should contribute towards improved conservation facilities. The South Australian Government has taken action to increase gun license fees from 5/- to £1 and game licenses from £1 to £2 in accordance with this principle.

The proposed appointments will bring South Australia into parity with the rest of the Commonwealth. Previously, it was the only State which did not have a special section responsible for the conservation of wildlife.

EURO INVESTIGATIONS.

Mr. E. H. M. Ealey, Research Officer, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., has kindly let us have a further brief report on his marsupial research during the 1959-1960 year. It is a summary of his more recent field work and studies of the habits and life histories of euros. Mr. Ealey's previous report was published in the March, 1959, edition of this Bulletin.

The new report reads -

"Analysis of records from tagged animals suggested that some euros could exist, if necessary, without access to free water. This suggestion was supported when a sparse population was located in the desert between Marble Bar and Broome where caves were available as heat refuges but which was far from water. This population must depend on dew and sap from vegetation, apart from occasional rain.

"Woodstock was revisited in November, 1959, and over 100 euros were trapped. This was a big enough sample to measure changes in age structure of the Woodstock population. Recapture of previously marked animals gave further data for age/growth studies.

"During this trip a visit was paid to Talga Talga station where a pastoralist had poisoned according to C.S.I.R.O. recommendations. A survey showed that near extermination had been achieved over an area of 120,000 acres. A conservative calculation indicated that more than 12,000 euros had been poisoned in two months.

"Three more samples of female euros have been taken to obtain reproductive data. A total of 500 were shot in the months August and November, 1959, and February, 1960. Because of drought conditions in the Marble Bar area, breeding had almost ceased by early summer, 1959. Breeding appears to have occurred in October and November that year, despite the drought conditions then operating. The cyclonic rains experienced early in 1960 caused a further flush of breeding and also a high survival rate among the drought-bred progeny. Following rains have ensured that euro numbers will increase by approximately one third in 1960".

RECOVERY OF RUSSIAN WHALE MARKS.

It will be remembered that in the July, 1959, issue of this Bulletin, it was reported by Inspector B. A. Carmichael that two additional Russian whale marking darts had been recovered at Albany. They were numbers 719 and 720 taken from a humpback whale captured by the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company's vessel,

"Kos. VII", on June 29, 1959. The whale was a male, 36'1" in length taken at 35° 2' S. and 117° 58' E.

Advice has now been received from Dr. G. L. Kesteven, Assistant Chief (Fisheries) of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., that the whale had been marked by the Russians on February 2, 1959, at 63° 47' S. and 111° 49' E. At the time of its recovery, therefore, the whale was slightly over 2,000 miles from, and almost due north of, its point of marking.