

"The Fishermen's Co-operatives at Fremantle and Geraldton have adopted a more realistic approach to the marketing of fish than we know in Victoria. There is no doubt that this form of marketing is tremendously popular with the public here. Prices of fish are generally lower in Western Australia than in Victoria. The auction system at the Perth markets seems a good and fair system to producer and consumer, better than the Victorian markets."

Mr. Barclay also said his Committee was most interested in the safety precautions adopted in this State to protect fishermen and their craft.

The party will leave for Adelaide by rail on July 2.

PEARLERS ADAMANT.

At a meeting of the Broome Shellers' Association in Broome on June 8, the members told the Minister and the Director, who were present, that they were still most emphatic that they did not want foreign pearling fleets in Western Australian waters. The pearlery also said they were not entirely happy with the Commonwealth Government's efforts on behalf of the industry.

These comments were made when Mr. Hutchinson mentioned he had represented a sound case to Canberra in regard to Japanese pearlery in Western Australian waters, and had received an assurance that no foreign fleets would be allowed in this year.

OPEN SEASON FOR GREY KANGAROOS.

The open season for Grey Kangaroos has been curtailed in three Road Districts in the lower South-West. This was announced on June 20 by the Minister (Mr. Ross Hutchinson), who explained that a recommendation to this effect by the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee had been accepted.

The open season continues in the following Road Districts until May 31, 1962 -

Albany, Augusta-Margaret River, Balingup, Bridgetown, Busselton, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Denmark, Gingin, Kojonup, Nannup, Plantagenet, Preston, West Arthur and Upper Blackwood.

Additionally, the open season applies in the Northcliffe Ward of the Manjimup Road District and in all that part of the Woodanilling Road District west of the Great Southern Railway.

The areas which were previously included in the open season but were closed from June 1 include all the Manjimup Road District outside the Northcliffe ward, and the whole of the Cranbrook and Greenbushes Road Districts.

In reaching its recommendation, the Committee had taken into account advice received from departmental officers, honorary wardens, local authorities and other interested persons, said the Minister. Although it had to be admitted that kangaroos did cause damage in parts of the districts to be closed, the effects of commercial exploitation of these marsupials for the pet food trade had to be watched very closely and were causing some local concern.

The status of kangaroos and the damage they caused in the closed districts were still under review, Mr. Hutchinson continued. He added that it might be decided later to include some of them or parts of them in the open season area. He wished to make it clear, however, that farmers whose properties were being damaged could take out licenses to authorise them to destroy as many kangaroos as they considered necessary to protect their properties.

"It must be clearly understood that all persons taking kangaroos for profit must be licensed and that professional hunters must not operate in areas where the open season does not apply", concluded the Minister. "I would like to issue a warning that these restrictions will be enforced strictly to ensure that kangaroos are only reduced in numbers and not exterminated."