

After considerable discussion in which reference was made to the fact that approximately 200,000 craypots were used on the coast, it was agreed that the Commonwealth Department of Shipping and Transport, through its Notice to Mariners, should warn all ships of the likelihood of encountering craypots in shipping lanes. It was also considered desirable to ask fishermen to try to avoid setting their pots in shipping lanes. It will be appreciated if Inspectors at Fremantle and Geraldton will mention this to fishermen as opportunity offers.

ADDITIONAL RUSSIAN WHALE MARKS.

The details of the finding and recovery of three additional Russian whale marks have been received from Dr. G. F. Humphrey, Chief of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O. They were numbers 1227, 1275 and 1290. They had been fired into humpbacks in February and March, 1958, about two thousand miles south of Albany. They were recovered in Carnarvon waters in August and September last year.

It will be remembered that, in the previous issue, reference was made to the Russian marks 719 and 720, which had been fired into humpbacks in February, 1959, in approximately the same area. These recoveries reaffirm the previously established fact that the Cheynes Beach and the Nor'-West Whaling Companies are operating on the same Antarctic humpback stock.

BAT-BANDING.

The Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.C., has decided to extend its facilities for bat-banding to approved applicants outside C.S.I.R.O. Mr. H. J. Frith, who was recently appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme, advises that the bat-banding programme has grown from what was originally a hobby project.

Initially, standard bird bands will be used, but special bat-bands might be made available within 12 months.

On the recommendation of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, this Department has agreed to co-operate in the scheme. Any officers interested in obtaining approval to band bats should contact the Fauna Protection Officer.