

by lines starting from the intersection of 28 degrees South Latitude and 113 degrees 50 minutes East Longitude and extending south-easterly to the intersection of 30 degrees South Latitude and 114 degrees 40 minutes East Longitude, thence west to 113 degrees East Longitude, thence north to 28 degrees South Latitude and thence east to the starting point.

(6) Freezer-boats shall be permitted to catch crayfish north of the 28th or south of the 33rd parallel and to process their own catch, but shall not be permitted to process crayfish caught by any other boat or person.

(7) North of the 27th parallel of South Latitude, freezer-boats shall be permitted to process crayfish caught by other boats or persons.

This information was published in the Government Gazette of July 22. The notice which appeared in Gazette No. 40 of May 20, 1960, has been cancelled.

The new conditions are very similar to the earlier ones, the principal amendment being the substitution of the word "process" for "possess" in paragraph 5.

#### ORGANISED DESTRUCTION OF KANGAROOS.

The Fauna Protection Officer, Mr. H. B. Shugg, and Inspector T. B. Baines, of Bunbury, have separately attended, in recent months, kangaroo hunting drives organised in the West Arthur and Kojonup Road Districts. They have reported that the drives, besides being an efficient method of reducing the kangaroo population in trouble areas, have become a part of the social life of the district. They consider that, in areas where the country is divided into comparatively small paddocks, this method of hunting is extremely efficient. A number of horsemen, varying from 9 to 20, depending on the size of the area, drive the kangaroos before them to a line of between 20 and 40 shooters armed with 12 gauge shotguns. The shooters are positioned about a chain apart and very few kangaroos escape unless they slip through the line of horsemen. Experienced shooters maintain that kangaroos which have survived a previous shoot are harder to drive and learn by experience to break through the line of approaching riders.

After the kangaroos have been butchered, the hind quarters only are sold to pet-food processors. The proceeds are invariably paid

to local charitable, welfare or sporting funds.

In view of the efficiency of this method of hunting, its disregard of costs and efforts, and the tendency for a competitive spirit to develop among the shooters, it appears a careful watch must be kept to ensure that needless destruction does not reduce the population beyond the point of "no return".

In scientific circles, support has been forthcoming for the old belief that marsupials are prone to outbreaks of virus diseases. Whereas a year or two ago, scientists had considered that epidemics only occurred when the condition factor of the animals had been lowered by unfavourable conditions, epidemics have recently been observed in well-fed populations. It is evident, therefore, that there is a danger that if any marsupial population is reduced severely during the disease-free time, it might be decimated to near extinction by a wide-spread epidemic.