

return to Fremantle.

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The Department will take delivery of a new dinghy on September 2, for use in the metropolitan area. She is a 13 foot vessel of battened-carvel construction and on the pattern of the old "Furnissdale", which was constructed many years ago by Mr. Tommy Rann senior. A similar craft, for use in the Fremantle district, is in the course of construction.

1960 CRAYFISH EXPORTS.

On Page 106 is a table showing the progressive weight of frozen crayfish tails and frozen whole crayfish exported during the period January 1 to July 22, 1960. The total exported during the 12 months ended June 30, 1960, was 6,471,898 lb. The record monthly shipment occurred in March, 1952, when 769,585 lb. was exported.

REGULATION AMENDMENT.

In the Government Gazette of August 1, 1960, Regulation 8(1) relating to the disposal of confiscated fish, was amended by substituting for paragraph (ii) a paragraph as follows:-

"(ii) In respect of fish -

- (a) he may deliver them to any hospital or charitable institution for the use of the inmates, or if such delivery cannot be conveniently and economically effected, to any indigent or needy persons; or
- (b) he may sell them at public auction, or by tender, or by private treaty; or
- (c) he may destroy them forthwith if unfit for human consumption.

WHALING.

Local Catches:

Inspector B. A. Carmichael, of Albany, has advised that humpback whaling in the area appears to have finished for the season. He said that the last humpback was taken on August 5, and since then only odd sightings

had been observed but these were either of cows and calves or undersize whales. Sperm whaling operations were resumed, Mr. Carmichael added, with the taking of four of these whales by the chaser "Cheynes", on August 12. Subsequently, bad weather had prevailed and up to the date of his report, August 16, only two more had been taken. During this time, only one chaser, the "Cheynes" was operating. The Company's second chaser, "Kos VII", was laid up to undergo repairs to her boiler tubes. The Company intends to continue to take humpbacks if they are sighted and can be taken with the minimum of expense. Up to August 5, when the last one was caught, a total of 105 humpback and 2 blue whales had been taken. As the Company's quota for the season is the equivalent of 150 humpbacks, it appears that it will not be filled.

At Carnarvon, the Nor'West Whaling Company had secured 321 humpbacks up to the week ended August 20, 1960. Last year, up to the same date, 401 whales had been taken.

Whale Mark Recoveries:

A recent press release, issued by C.S.I.R.O., says that a re-appraisal of the whaling industry in Australia will be necessary as a result of studies of whale movements off the Australian coast.

This follows a delayed report of the recovery of two marked whales at Carnarvon on September 3 and 23, 1959. The marks had been fired into the whales near Moreton Island, off the Queensland coast, on July 23, 1954, and July 26, 1955, respectively. This indicates, the release continues, that the humpback whale populations in the waters off Australia's east and west coasts cannot be considered as entirely independent.

Last month, advice came to hand of the recovery of an additional Russian whale mark at Albany. Writing on August 12, Dr. R. G. Chittleborough of the C.S.I.R.O. Marine Laboratory, Cronulla, said that details of the recovery of mark No. 1388 were being sent to Moscow. He will advise us when the marking details come to hand.