

At Carnarvon, the Committee first called on the Town Clerk and then, accompanied by the Engineer for the North-West, Mr. E.K. Steere, visited Beacon Point and were shown suggested sites for a jetty to give access to Tegg's Channel. The Nor'West Whaling Company's station on Babbage Island was also visited and the Committee discussed with the Company's Manager, Mr. H. Martin, the possibility of co-operating with the Australian Pearling Company regarding the handling and processing of prawn catches. They were also shown over the Whaling Company's jetty and saw the town jetty, and the proposed additions to the former and the suggested mooring points off the Island were explained. A public meeting called at night by the Carnarvon Municipal Council was also attended. Different points of view were put to the Committee regarding the desirability of the Government providing jetty facilities for fishing craft and other small vessels. Some wanted a new jetty to be built which would give access to Tegg's Channel, while others maintained that less expensive additions could be made to either the Whaling Company's jetty or the town jetty. Reference was made to the alleged depletion of mullet and other fish stocks in off-shore waters and complaints were heard regarding illegal activities of amateur fishermen to the detriment of professionals. The possibility of exploiting reputedly large schools of tuna was reviewed.

In due course a full report of the tour and the recommendations made in respect of evidence submitted will be forwarded to the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Hutchinson.

WHALING

Last month the directors of the Nor'West Whaling Company Ltd. issued a report to shareholders on the Company's activities for the year ended June 30, 1960. It said that, in contrast to the highly successful seasons of a few years ago, the 1959/60 financial year ended with a loss of £9,722. The prime cause of the company's reversal was the season's poor catch - 440 whales (the quota allotted by the Minister for Primary Industry was 750). It was thought that the shortage of whales was due to heavy catching of humpbacks in Zone 4 in the Antarctic. Despite the season's loss, the Company paid a 15% dividend requiring £40,500. This payment was met from reserve funds which at £683,664 were still substantial.

The future welfare of the Company must be closely affected by Antarctic whaling operations on Zone 4 stocks and is no doubt the reason why two of the Company's directors, Messrs. R. Moore and G. Bunning, formed part of the Australian mission

to discuss conservation of humpback stocks with Japanese whaling authorities in Tokyo. The delegation, which was led by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry, Mr. J.V. Moroney, has just returned to Australia. A recent press release by the Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Adermann) indicates that the mission had been able to convince the Japanese of the need for a greater restriction on their operations in the Antarctic. The Japanese had agreed, the Minister said, to restrict their operations to two instead of four days next summer. A number of Japanese whale chasers and supply ships have called at Fremantle in recent weeks to take on fuel and stores. They were bound for the Antarctic and the start of the four months' season.

HUMPBACK WHALES - 1960 SEASON

STATION	WHALES TAKEN				AVERAGE LENGTH		PRODUCTION					APPROXIMATE VALUE
	Males	Females	Total	% of males in total	Males	Females	Oil			Meal	Solubles	
							Total	per whale	per whale foot			
					ft.	ft.	barrels	barrels	barrels	tons	tons	£
Carnarvon	209	231	440	47.5	38.08	39.75	20,678	46.99	1.14	1192	1128	500,000
Albany	62	43	105	59.05	37.56	39.81	5,076 (a)	47.23	1.11	200 (a)	-	120,000
Totals	271	274	545	49.72	37.99	39.76	25,754 (a)	47.04	1.14	1392 (a)	1128	620,000
1959	331	369	700	47.29	37.94	39.87	32,884 (b)	46.06	1.16	1916 (b)	1150 (b)	785,000
1958	509	458	967	52.36	39.34	41.15	48,885 (c)	50.3	1.26	2877 (c)	1968 (c)	984,000
1957	582	537	1120 (d)	51.96	39.81	41.61	56,844	50.7	1.24	3005	2142	1,231,000
1956	675	444	1119	60.00	40.34	42.31	55,995 (e)	49.99	1.21	3193 (e)	1952 (e)	1,232,000

- (a) Includes 2 blue whales.
- (b) Includes 12 blue whales, 1 fin whale,
1 sperm whale.
- (c) Includes 2 blue whales and 3 bryde whales.
- (d) Includes one sex unknown.
- (e) Includes 1 fin whale.