



Vol. IX, No. 9.

September, 1960.

STAFF NOTES.

The Director, Mr. A. J. Fraser, commenced one week's annual leave on August 29. Prior to the Interstate Fauna Authorities Conference, which is to be held in Brisbane during the week commencing September 12, Mr. Fraser will visit a number of ports on the Queensland coast to see something of the development of that State's prawn fisheries. A tour of inspection has been arranged for him by the Queensland Department of Harbours and Marine. He will be taken on their vessel over some of the prawning grounds.

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The Supervising Inspector, Mr. J. E. Bramley, is expected to leave hospital early this month. He will convalesce at his home for a period before returning to duty.

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Inspector E. I. Forster returned to metropolitan headquarters on August 12 and commenced annual leave on August 22. Mr. Forster returned from the Albany area (where he had been temporarily stationed) earlier than had been expected due to the cessation of humpback whaling at Albany.

Inspector F. J. Campbell and Cadet Inspector P. K. Enright will carry out a coast patrol in the Lancelin area during the week commencing September 5.

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Fauna Warden S. W. Bowler commenced ~~one~~ week's annual leave on August 29. Inspector A. V. Green, of Mandurah, also commenced two week's leave on the same date. During his absence, the relieving inspector, Mr. G. C. Jeffery is in charge of the Mandurah district.

Other officers going on leave this month include, Inspector G. D. Houston, skipper of the p.v. "Dampier", from September 5; Assistant Inspector E. Barker, of Mandurah, also on September 5; Mr. G. C. Ferguson, of Head Office, on September 12 and Assistant Inspector D. P. Gordon of the p.v. "Misty Isle", on September 26.

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Officers who resumed duty last month after annual leave include, Inspector T. B. Baines, of Bunbury, on August 22 and Mr. W. K. Cherrington, of Head Office, on August 29.

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Technical Officer, R. J. McKay, who has been working on r.v.'s "Lancelin" and "Peron" and privately-owned prawning vessels operating from Carnarvon, will remain in that area. In his spare time, he is continuing his important work on the speciation and distribution of Western Australian fishes.

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Technical Officers L. G. Smith and J. S. Simpson, under the freshwater research programme, are continuing their work on dams in the Boyup Brook area. It is expected that it will be a further 18 months before the programme is completed.

MOVEMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL VESSELS.

The r.v. "Lancelin", under command of her Master, Mr. C. J. Seabrook, with Mr. C. R. C. Haynes, Mate, and Cadet Inspector R. G. Emery, Deckhand, is expected to finish her investigational work on snapper in Shark Bay towards the end of the month. She will then

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

EXPORT OF CRAYFISH 1960.

DATE OF SHIPMENT	FROZEN CRAYTAILS		FROZEN WHOLE CRAYS		TOTAL WEIGHT	PROGRESSIVE WEIGHT
	No of Cases	No of Cases	No of Cases	Net Weight		
		lb.		lb.	lb.	lb.
Jan. 9	1,193	22,500			22,500	22,500
15	23,189	552,585	745	37,250	589,835	612,335
Feb. 3	8,112	207,600			207,600	819,935
6	29,553	702,320			702,320	1,522,255
18	10,894	266,595	563	20,130	286,725	1,808,980
31	20	840	93	2,790	3,630	1,812,610
Mar. 2	14,463	350,730			350,730	2,163,340
4	1,745	41,885			41,885	2,205,225
18	10,564	254,175			254,175	2,459,400
24	13,156	326,780	1,314	50,420	377,200	2,836,600
31	72	2,123	402	14,740	16,863	2,853,463
Apr. 12	18,892	444,420			444,420	3,297,883
30	19	798	80	4,000	4,798	3,302,681
May 6	23,775	562,575	2,921	126,640	689,215	3,991,896
12	14,618	344,335			344,335	4,336,231
30	13,836	335,795	2,316	94,770	430,565	4,766,796
31	110	3,260	622	19,660	22,920	4,789,716
June 2	943	18,250			18,250	4,807,966
14	2,518	62,950	311	9,390	72,340	4,880,306
30	89	25	120	90	115	4,880,421
July 6	4,015	95,490	1,006	41,860	137,350	5,017,771
22	3,772	91,475	373	16,060	107,535	5,133,156
31	30	450	203	7,400	7,850	5,025,621

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.

ABROLHOS ISLAND PRODUCTION.

The Abrolhos Island crayfish production for July is set out on Page 108. To allow a comparison to be made, the table also shows the catch figures for July, 1959. It will be noted that the catch-per-man for 1960 is lower than that of 1959 in each of the four main areas.

As the Abrolhos season closed on August 15, the next issue of this bulletin will include a statistical analysis of the total catch.

ABROLHOS CRAYFISHERY PRODUCTION.

AREA.	JULY 1959			JULY 1960		
	No. of Men	Total Catch	Catch per Man	No. of Men	Total Catch	Catch per Man
		lb.	lb.		lb.	lb.
North Island	31	55,600	1,793	31	25,522	823
Wallabi Group	49	61,826	1,262	55	50,157	912
Easter Group	51	91,125	1,786	56	58,937	1,052
Pelsart Group	36	48,507	1,347	34	42,735	1,257
TOTALS:	167	257,058	1,539	176	177,351	1,008

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Total for five months (March - July)

1956	2,327,232	Season commenced March 15
1957	2,828,212	" " " "
1958	3,138,451	" " " "
1959	3,438,107	" " " "
1960	3,442,725	" " " 1

CLEARING HOUSE.

Shark Barriers.

The South African Council for Scientific Research has embarked upon a programme of research on shark barriers, according to its most recent annual report. The progress of this research should be of particular interest to Australians.

The work started about two years ago. Electrical repulsion methods have been concentrated upon, and studies have been made of the field distribution between electrodes in fresh water and in salt water, as well as of the power requirements of different electrode types and pulse wave-forms.

The reactions to electrical stimuli of a few species of fresh water fish have been determined and apparatus has been built to generate a wide variety of pulses.

The peak output of the instruments varied from 1 kilowatt to 1000 kilowatts. The latter is at present being used on the Natal coast where tests are being performed on live sharks.

The effect of electrical stimuli on humans is also being investigated.

Coresearch

Melbourne

No. 18. Sept. 1960.

Biggest-ever Marine Probe.

Findings of "great value" to fishery research have resulted from the international expedition, just completed, which set out to find the overspill of cold "heavy" water on the ridge between the Faroe Islands and Iceland.

Dr. John B. Tait, of the Marine Laboratory, Torry, Aberdeen, who organised and led the expedition, stated on his return to Aberdeen last week that it was "a magnificent example of international co-operation". Survey ships of five nations - Britain, Russia, Germany, Norway and Iceland - took part in the three weeks' survey.

Dr. Tait, head of the hydrographic section at Torry, used the laboratory's research vessel Explorer as flagship, and the research ships of the nations kept in radio contact with each other during the three weeks. This was the biggest-ever marine probe of its kind.

The object was to try to trace the overspill of cold "heavy"

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water from the deep Arctic into the North-east Atlantic, which is believed to have highly important after-effects on North-west European fisheries.

The idea was to carry out a survey on each of the three weeks so that the overspill might be traced and measured. The scientists would have felt that their efforts had been rewarded had they found the overspill but once. Instead they located it on every occasion, and a great deal of valuable data was collected with instruments operated to the depth of 2,500 metres.

This "overspill" is believed to affect the flow of nutrient salts in deep oceanic waters, these salts being fertilisers of the marine vegetation on which fish feed. White fish are dependent on this continental shelf for their food and the expedition was, therefore, concerned with the question of the fertilisation of the region, which is about 200 miles wide.

Future Forecast.

"We made a survey three times, with a week's interval between," explained Dr. Tait. He produced charts at a Press conference to show how successful the scientists had been in gauging the extent and direction of the overspill.

The expedition was sponsored by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and Dr. Tait is chairman of the council's hydrographic committee.

(Fishing News

London

July 1, 1960)

F.A.O.'s Assistance to World's Fisheries.

Dr. D. B. Finn Honoured at International Gathering.

Recent fisheries treaties and conventions may be leading to shared ownership of the world's sea resources. Speaking in London on Monday, Dr. D. B. Finn, Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Fisheries Division, said that if such a scheme could be worked out, it might be followed by accelerated developments in the utilisation of the world's fisheries.

Dr. Finn was acknowledging the presentation to him of a specially bound copy of "Fishing Boats of the World: 2" at a luncheon arranged for the occasion by Mr. A. J. Heighway, Managing Director of the publishers, Fishing News (Books) Ltd. Present were outstanding people in fisheries

from many countries including America, Australia, Canada, Denmark and Japan.

Co-operation.

Dr. Finn gave a resume of the F.A.O.'s work since its conception at Hot Springs, Virginia in 1943. He said that the organisation was formed to perform tasks concerning food and agriculture which nations could do better by co-operating with one another than by operating by themselves.

As tangible illustrations of F.A.O.'s work he mentioned the books on "Fishing Boats of the World" and "Modern Fishing Gear of the World."

Understanding.

Among the less tangible achievements was the greater understanding between men of each others problems to which F.A.O. had contributed. Dr. Finn said he was appalled by the difficulties of bringing about the management of the cropping and harvesting of fisheries which nobody owned. He continued, "These difficulties lie, not so much in the lack of scientific knowledge, but rather in the ability of men and nations to come to an agreement that will permit the application of what is already known and will subsequently be found outPerhaps the quality we need most is enlightened selfishness. We need to know where our long term best interests lie. F.A.O. is also helping people to discover where their best interests lie by collecting and disseminating knowledge and bringing it to bear on specific situations."

On the technical assistance given in underdeveloped areas, Dr. Finn stated that during the last ten years some 230 experts had been at work in 53 countries. Many of the newly independent countries are now having to stand on their own feet. Many of the people living in these areas are suffering from animal protein malnutrition and the sea and the fresh waters surrounding them can yield crops which are the gift of nature. F.A.O.'s primary purpose, said Dr. Finn, was to help such countries to help themselves.

Scarce.

He claimed that because fisheries had, on the whole, contributed only a minor portion to the national economies in most lands, fisheries had received scant attention in the way of education. "In the past we

have had no fisheries schools as we had agricultural schools and while we have agricultural economists, fisheries economists are as scarce as hens' teeth." He continued: "Countries like Russia and Japan have for a long time been paying attention to these things, and I think that whether we like it or not, the rest of the world will be forced to follow them."

Dr. Finn thought that the disparity in progress between agriculture and fisheries development might have something to do with the "property" concept as development in agriculture had followed the process of enclosure of the common lands.

Property.

He wondered if the nations were now approaching some sort of enclosure of the last great water common with the evolution of a property concept. "Can we work out some sort of shared ownership?" he asked, claiming that a careful examination of some of the fisheries treaties and conventions might lead to this conclusion. "If some scheme of shared ownership could be worked out," said Dr. Finn, "it might be followed by accelerated development in such matters as oceanography in its fisheries context. We are only beginning to find out about habits of fish or where they live . . . but we do know that newer methods of finding and catching are revealing fisheries that we did not know existed even a few years ago, as for example the tuna and shrimp fisheries.

"When we have done more pioneering on this last terrestrial frontier, we shall be in a position to realize the possibilities of maximising the return for our labours and bringing about the substitutions of husbandry for hunting - which marked the agricultural revolution."

Good Job.

Sir Fred Parkes, doyen of trawler owners, presenting the book on behalf of the publishers, praised Dr. Finn's efforts on behalf of the fisheries. "Dr. Finn has done a darned good job of work," he said. "This has been recognised by the people here, some of whom have travelled 14,000 miles to pay tribute to him."

Leading the Way.

Sir Fred spoke about F.A.O. leading the way in the proper development of fisheries which were reaped but not sufficiently sown. He deplored the destruction "by certain countries" of millions of fish every

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day. "We don't want to see the sea cleaned out nor do we wish to be at loggerheads with Iceland or any other country. The seas are there for all to use as long as they are used in the right way."

(Fishing News

London

June 24, 1960)

Norway To Take Unilateral Action On 12-Mile Limit.

While Canada "considers the problems" created by the failure of the Law of the Sea conference at Geneva, Norway has decided to extend her fishing limits to 12 miles.

The foreign minister told the Norwegian parliament on May 13 that his government sees no alternative but to make the necessary preparations for extending Norway's fishing zone from 4 to 12 miles. He said the extension will provide better protection for coastal fishermen against the damage to fixed gear wrought by foreign trawlers year after year, and thus assure the livelihood of Norwegian fishermen in the future.

Up to this time, foreign fishing vessels were barred from a zone within a series of straight lines drawn 4 miles from, and parallel to, so-called base lines between extreme points of North Norway.

The foreign minister said the government was aware the extension of the fishing limit might cause serious difficulties for foreign fishing vessels now operating in Norwegian waters between 4 and 12 miles. To make it easier for these fishermen to adjust to the new situation, the government is willing to begin negotiations with other countries on reasonable transition arrangements. Whether such negotiations should be conducted on a bilateral basis with individual foreign countries, or multilaterally with a group of countries, is a question that has not been decided as yet.

Norwegian fishermen's organizations have repeatedly demanded that the fishing limit be extended to 12 miles, and each time the government has urged patience while the United Nations was seeking a global solution. Now, however the government feels that it would no longer be justified in postponing the extension.

(Western Fisheries

Vancouver

June, 1960)

Soviet Fish Landings Reach 6.8 Billion Lbs.

Fish landings in the Soviet Union in 1959 were almost 6.8 billion

pounds, compared to about 6.5 billion pounds in 1958, according to the Russian trade magazine Rybnoe Khozjajstvo.

The increase in landings in 1959 was about the same level as the average increase during the 1954-58 period, or about 135,000 metric tons annually. If the increase continues at the same level for the remaining six years of the seven-year plan, the goal of the plan (4.626 million tons or about 10.2 billion pounds in 1965) will not be reached. Soviet authorities, however, expect to increase the annual level. For 1960, the plan's requirements have been increased to 10 percent over the landings, that is, 306,000 tons. The Soviets failed to meet the planned quota in 1959 by 40,000 tons.

One of the stipulations of Russia's seven-year plan (1959-65) for the development of quick-freezing facilities for many foods is the three-fold expansion of quick-freezing of fish.

The plan calls for the production of 1,300,000 metric tons of frozen fish by 1965. Of this amount, 900,000 tons will be frozen aboard vessels at sea and 400,000 tons frozen ashore. This is three times the amount of fish frozen at present.

(Western Fisheries

Vancouver

June, 1960)

New Type Gillnetting in Nylon Announced.

Development of a new nylon gill netting called "Tanglefin" is announced by The Linen Thread Co., Inc. It was described by the company as one of the most important advances in commercial fish netting in more than a century. The formal announcement was preceded by prolonged testing of the new netting by commercial fishermen, and by Linen Thread's laboratory.

Made of continuous filament nylon on especially developed machines at Line Thread's Blue Mountain, Ala., plant, the new gill netting was reported to be remarkable for its wet strength, knot retention, mesh stability and exceptional handling qualities - all long-sought goals in nylon gill netting.

According to H. C. Johnson, Manager of Line Thread's Netting Division, the new netting represents results of years of Linen Thread Company research. This research, he stated, was directed at perfecting the manufacture of nylon gill netting so that full benefits could be gained by fishermen from nylon's inherent advantages as a rot-resistant, non-absorbent, light-weight material of proved efficiency as a gill netting.

(Pacific Fisherman

Portland

July, 1960)