

occurred. It was vital, he said, that the pots be dropped off as soon as possible for the safety of the boat and her crew. The collision with the "Linda", he said, had occurred when both vessels were racing for the same pots, and he maintained that he had no intention of ramming because to do so would have endangered his own boat as well. Finding den Hartog guilty, Stipendiary Magistrate K.A. Philp said that there was no doubt in his mind that den Hartog had deliberately tried to ram the "Linda" and, after the first glancing blow was struck, had circled around for another attempt. He convicted den Hartog on both counts, fining him £100 on each. Costs totalling £32. 10. 0 were allowed against the defendant. The Magistrate also ordered the confiscation of the 41 craypots seized. These were valued at between £500 and £600.

NOR'WEST SELLS CHASER

The Nor'West Whaling Company Ltd., of Carnarvon, has announced that it has sold the whale chaser "Minilya" to the Cheyne Beach Whaling Company, of Albany. The price has not been disclosed.

LACK OF LIFEBOAT BLAMED FOR DEATHS

The City Coroner, Mr. R.P. Rodriguez, adjured owners and skippers of fishing boats to adhere strictly to regulations prescribing the type of equipment to be carried. He said this last month during the inquest into the cause of death of the skipper, Mr. J. Roberts, and crew member P. Hind, of the fishing boat "Linda" which foundered on a reef near the mouth of the Moore River on October 21.

Skippers of departmental vessels concerned are reminded that they, too, must comply with the regulations and not leave port without proper equipment.

WATER-BIRDS DIE

By the middle of February, what appeared to be an outbreak of botulism was decimating the population of ducks and swans and other aquatic birds on Lake Monger, West Leederville. As we mentioned last month, towards the end of most summers, considerable numbers of water-birds, waders and shore birds become affected and many die. This year, the incidence of the disease seemed

to arise much earlier than in previous years. It was estimated that something like 300 ducks, swans and coot died in a fortnight at Lake Monger alone. Many sick birds were picked up, the majority of which have been cared for by Miss L. Nicholls, Technical Assistant, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O. Residents around the lake have also looked after many others. A large number of specimens have been taken to the microbiological laboratories at the Royal Perth Hospital where Professor N. Stanley is continuing the studies recorded in the last issue of this Bulletin.