

Primary Industry (Mr Adermann) has indicated that no action will be taken until the present survey of tuna resources in southern waters has been completed. Preliminary examination of the question of a tuna investigation in north-western waters has indicated, Mr Adermann said, that present knowledge is so limited that a different type of survey involving a more scientific approach may be more appropriate. The Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Fisheries Development, which advises in respect of expenditures from the Development Fund (which is meeting the cost of the present survey), concurs that no testing of northern resources should be made until the southern survey has been completed.

MAJOR TAXONOMIC WORK FOR STATE LIBRARY

As the result of support given by the Minister for Fisheries to representations made jointly by the State Library Board, the Western Australian Museum and this Department, the Premier recently approved the purchase, for £500, of an extremely important and rare work on fish taxonomy. It is Cuvier and Valenciennes' "Histoire Naturelle des Poissons" which runs into 22 volumes and which was published 140 years ago. It has been out of print for many years; in fact it is believed that only 200 copies still exist. It is the standard authority for the identification of a large number of fish in the waters off our coast and will be the only set in Western Australia.

At the suggestion of our Minister, the set will be kept in the State Library where all workers in this State will have ready access to it.

QUAIL AND MARRON SEASONS TO OPEN

From December 1 until March 31, an open season for stubble quail will apply in all that part of the State lying north of the 31st parallel - i.e., northwards from Lancelin Island. The remainder of the State south of that parallel will not open until March 1 next year. Both seasons only apply to stubble quail.

The marron season will open on January 1. After having been closed for two years to conserve the marron in them, the waters of the North Dandalup River will be included in the next open season. There will thus be no waters specifically closed to the taking of marron. The embargos on selling them, and taking females in berry, and on taking undersize marron, will be enforced as usual.