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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT
AUSTRALIA

MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

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DECEMBER, 1961

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FROM THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF, FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, PERTH, W.A.



The short-necked tortoise (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) is one of the world's rarest animals. So far as is known, he lives only in an extremely limited region of swamp country less than 30 miles from Perth. In an endeavour to preserve this small tortoise from extinction, the Government of Western Australia has started a Trust Fund with a gift of £1,000 which, together with donations coming from all parts of Australia, and the exchange of Crown land, will enable the Department to acquire the few hundred acres of land on which it occurs and to institute a programme of scientific research into the life history and needs of this extraordinary creature.

STAFF NOTES

On November 3, the Minister for Fisheries, Mr Ross Hutchinson, accompanied by the Chief Clerk, Mr B.R. Saville, and the Minister's private secretary, Mr J.R. Driscoll, visited Jurien Bay. Mr Hutchinson officiated at the opening of the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd.'s new crayfish processing plant.

Research Officer B.K. Bowen returned from Tasmania on November 14 after working at Port Sorell with Mr A.M. Olsen, Senior Research Officer of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O. He also spent a day or two at sea with personnel of the Tasmanian Department, in one of that Department's patrol vessels, inspecting the operations of Crayfishermen. Immediately after his return, Mr Bowen commenced field work in the new crayfish research programme and will spend four days in Geraldton from December 3 to obtain length-frequency distribution and other data. Subsequently sampling will be done in the Jurien Bay-Lancelin-Fremantle region. Technical Officer R.J. McKay is assisting Mr Bowen.

Inspector B.A. Carmichael, of Albany, returned to duty after annual leave on November 28. Inspector J. Traynor, who had been relieving at Albany as inspector-in-charge, returned to Perth on the following day.

Research Officer R.J. Slack-Smith left Perth on November 19 for Shark Bay where he spent a few days making preliminary investigations and arrangements for the development of the prawn research programme.

At an informal function on November 10, the Director (Mr A.J. Fraser), on behalf of all staff, presented to Mr A.J. Buchanan a Parker pen and pencil set in gold and a television lamp on the eve of his departure following promotion to a position in the Department of Industrial Development. Mr Buchanan particularly requested that his appreciation of the gifts, together with his best wishes for the festive season, be conveyed to all those members of the staff who were unable to attend the function.

(168)

Pending the appointment of another officer to Mr Buchanan's old position, the Clerk (Fauna), Mr W.K.H. Cherrington, will act as Statistical Officer.

We welcome Mr Philip John Williams, who was appointed to the Head Office clerical staff on a temporary basis from November 21. He is doing clerical duties in the Fauna Section.

The Fleet Maintenance Officer, Mr A.J. Bateman, will return to duty on December 28 after long service and annual leave.

PERSONAL PARS

Mr and Mrs C.B. George, of the Giralia pearl culture centre in Exmouth Gulf, called on the Director on November 7 to discuss the progress of this new venture.

Mr Dougal Macdonald, an officer of the Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Industry, Canberra, paid a number of visits during the month. He attended one session of the Department's Staff Conference and had discussions with the Director and staff before returning to Canberra after completing his tour of duty on the "Estelle Star".

Mr Douglas Hemingway, President, Victorian Field and Game Association, called on the Director on November 10. Mr Hemingway outlined his Association's functions and discussed the formation of a similar association in this State. During his visit to this State he was taken to an organised trap-shoot at Cherry Tree Pool farm and met leading members of the W.A. Clay Targets Association. He was accompanied by Mr Newton Thomas, oft-times International High Gun and Australian National Double-barrel Champion.

Dr D.L. Serventy, Principal Research Officer, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., left Perth by air on November 22, to continue his field research into the life history of the Tasmanian Mutton-bird (Puffinus tenuirostris).

Mr A.C. Bogg, Director of Fisheries and Game, Adelaide, who, with other members, experts and observers, came to Perth to attend the inaugural meeting of the Western Fisheries Research Committee (see the item elsewhere in this issue), will remain here for separate discussions with the Director and will return to South Australia by air on December 3.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All staff are reminded that the public service holidays over the festive season will be Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, and Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2.

WESTERN FISHERIES RESEARCH COMMITTEE

A meeting which is expected to usher in a new epoch in the history of our marine resources was opened in Perth by Fisheries Minister Ross Hutchinson on the morning of November 27. Welcoming the delegates, experts, and observers, the Minister said he was pleased that his suggestion to the Commonwealth-States Fisheries Conference in Perth earlier in the year had been accepted and such a committee formed. Declaring the meeting open, Mr Hutchinson said that he looked forward to the practical advice on the management and development of our growing fishing industries which, he expected, would be forthcoming as a result of the co-ordination and direction the committee would bring to bear on fisheries research in the State. The Director, Mr Fraser, as Chairman of the committee, also extended a welcome to the visitors and those of our own staff who were present. Mr Fraser pointed out that there could be no sound development of fisheries without proper management, and proper management was not possible without adequate research. He emphasised that such research required the complete support of the administration and, for that reason, was particularly glad that the research people and the administrators were able to get together around the same table and decide what needed doing and how it could best be done.

Those present at the opening ceremony were -

Members:

Mr A.J. Fraser, Director of Fisheries, W.A. (Chairman);
Dr G.L. Kesteven, Assistant Director (Fisheries),
Division of Fisheries and Oceanography,
C.S.I.R.O.;
Mr A.C. Bogg, Director of Fisheries and Game, S.A.;
Dr A.R. Main, Reader in Zoology, University of W.A.;
Dr W.D.L. Ride, Director, Western Australian Museum;

(170)

Mr B.R. Saville, Chief Clerk, Fisheries Department of Western Australia (Secretary).

Experts and Observers:

Dr J.M. Thomson, Principal Research Officer, Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O.;
Dr R.G. Chittleborough, Senior Research Officer, Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O.;
Mr J.P. Robins, Research Officer, Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O.;
Dr R.W. George, Curator of Invertebrates, Western Australian Museum;
Mr P. Cawthorn, Technical Officer, Western Australian Museum;
Mr B.K. Bowen, Research Officer, Fisheries Department;
Mr R.J. Slack-Smith, Research Officer, Fisheries Department;
Capt. H.C.W. Piesse, Master, r.v. "Peron";
Capt. C.J. Seabrook, Master, r.v. "Lancelin";
Mr R.J. McKay, Technical Officer, Fisheries Department.

Responding to the Minister's opening address, Dr Kesteven expressed the appreciation of members of Mr Hutchinson's attendance and pointed out that fisheries research was a specialised, applied science which required official recognition. He said that fisheries research work in Australia had been largely done with lip-service in the past and our Minister's efforts, firstly, in the formation of the committee, then at Cronulla at the recent field officers' training school, and generally by his recognition of the value of fisheries science, were most heartening. "We are sensible", Dr Kesteven concluded, "of the contribution you are making to the future of Australian fisheries and we thank you most sincerely".

In three days of intense discussion and study, the committee dealt with future procedural matters, then in technical sessions considered no less than nine prepared reports on items of current fisheries research. The reports covered past results and recommended future research activities in relation to crayfish, net selectivity, prawns and prawn fishing, salmon, trawling in the Great Australian Bight, tuna, and sperm and hump-back whaling. After deliberating on the reports the Committee recommended -

1. That Dr Thomson be appointed project leader and have a seat on the Committee to co-ordinate approved research

- items, and to evaluate reports to be submitted quarterly by all research workers;
2. that each worker responsible for a specific study prepare a synopsis of data on the species, using the FAO technique;
 3. that Dr George's crayfish research should -
 - (i) determine appearance of early larvae and their geographical distribution in the Rottneast area and follow them through to metamorphosis,
 - (ii) follow out the 1960/61 larvae until they disappear, and in particular to find and follow through the missing stages (2 to 7 inclusive) and determine their distribution,
 - (iii) attempt aquarium studies of early stages hatched from parent in order to make positive identification of stages;
 4. that Mr Bowen should give first priority to obtaining length-frequency distribution data from the commercial catches of our crayfish;
 5. that Mr Bowen's net selectivity studies at Mandurah be terminated and it be recommended to the Standing Committee on Fisheries that a properly staffed and equipped gear technology section be created and placed within the framework of the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., to work in collaboration with fisheries biologists;
 6. that the work of the "Peron" in prawn research be limited to experimental fishing for prawns along lines laid down by the project leader;
 7. that research on salmon be continued;
 8. that the trawling records of the "Southern Endeavour" be processed and analysed with those of the "Ben Dearg" and "Commiles";
 9. that research on sperm whales be continued and that the cost of aerial surveys to establish their occurrence and distribution would be a legitimate charge to the Fisheries Development Trust Account, and
 10. that the committee, as newly constituted, be appointed a sub-committee of the Standing Committee on Fisheries.

The meeting closed at 4 p.m. on November 29.

(172)

A STRANGE GET-TOGETHER!

An unusual sighting was recorded recently by Senior Inspector J.B. Munro. On November 14, while patrolling the Swan River, he saw several garfish near the Middle Swan Bridge and, close by, a native trout. Mr Munro said that the saline waters from downstream had not yet reached that point but the garfish were clearly seen while the spots along the body of the native trout left no doubt as to its identity.

Technical Officer R.J. McKay, to whom we turned for comment, agrees that this was an unusual occurrence. Garfish are denizens of marine and brackish waters while records of galaxias (this was probably Galaxias occidentalis) have been limited to pure fresh water streams.

ALBANY CO-OP. SOLD

Advice has been received that the fish-shop of the Albany-Denmark Fishermen's Co-operative Pty.Ltd. has been sold for an undisclosed figure. The shop, which now trades under the name "Albany Fish Supply", has, we are told, been purchased by members of the Birss family and Mr Percival Wheatcroft. The Co-operative's property on the foreshore adjacent to the cannery has been bought by Messrs L. and B. Mouchemore.

FISH AND THE HUNGRY

The potential of fishery products in meeting health and dietary needs of the peoples of the world was discussed at a world-scale conference in New York last September.

Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the conference was attended by more than 300 delegates from about 50 nations. Something over 100 abstracts of scientific papers were available at the proceedings which stressed the importance of fish as a source of animal protein which could be made available to remote sections of the world.

In view of the fishing potential believed to exist off our shores, we look forward to receiving details of any suggestions made at the conference for increasing fisheries production and its distribution to the undernourished of tomorrow's world.

NOTES FROM THE NEWS

On Monday, November 6, a 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. mulloway was landed at North City Beach on a 15-lb. breaking-strain line. Hooked by

a member of the Perth Surfcasting and Angling Club, Mr Gill Clohessy, the big fellow took half an hour to land and worked his way more than half a mile down the beach from where he first struck. He had a girth of 29 in. and was 53 in. long.

About the middle of the month, the 30 ft. all-steel crayfishing vessel "Carol Lee" disappeared with all hands during a run from Fremantle to Jurien Bay. Launched on October 20 last, she had new equipment valued at £1,000 on board and was skippered by Frederick Hunt, of Rivervale. Colin Boot, of Hilton Park, and Brian Sharp, of South Fremantle, were her crew members. It has been announced that the Harbour and Light Department will hold a preliminary inquiry into her loss when enough evidence has been obtained. A marine court of inquiry will be held if the findings of the preliminary hearing warrant it.

U.S. CRAYTAIL MARKET

The September 20, 1961, report of Market News Service on frozen fishery products shows that Australian crayfish tails command as good a price as any offering on the New York market. At that date prices offering per grade category were -

Midget 4-6 oz.	Small 6-8 oz.	Medium 3-10 10-12 oz. oz.		Large 12-16 oz.	Jumbo Over 16 oz.
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1.50- 1.55	1.57- 1.60	1.67- 1.72	1.75- 1.80	1.75- 1.80	1.75

The report also shows that the prices commanded by the Australian product, on a weight for weight basis, are at least the equal of those offering for similar products from any other country and, in fact, are higher than most. South Africa, which does not offer tails in our jumbo category, divides the remaining four categories into 7 size ranges to obtain the highest prices for those most in demand. Although our tails are graded into four categories for export, American dealers repack the "medium" group into two ranges, as shown above. It is interesting to note that New Zealand, whose fishery is based on the large southern species Jasus lalandii, marketstails in 2-4 oz. range. They wholesale at up to \$1.12 per lb.

SPERM WHALING AT ALBANY

New records in the taking of sperm whales were established this season by the Cheynes Beach Whaling Co. Ltd. Operating from its base at Frenchman's Bay, the Company took 454 sperms in the season which extended from March 23 to November 30. During that period the Company also secured its quota of humpbacks in record time, the allotment of 105 being taken in 8 weeks.

Allowing for time spent purely in search of humpbacks, the sperms were taken at an average rate of 13 a week, the best week's catch being for the week ended June 33, when 32 were landed. Production reached its peak in September when 87 were taken, but November was almost as successful, for 82 were caught during that month.

Generally, the sperm whales were well in excess of the minimum size of 35 feet. The average length was about 43½ feet and a little less than one barrel of oil was produced per foot. Meal production was 752 tons.

Improvements to be effected at the station include a new office and a new separator. Machinery will be overhauled and the chasers will be slipped and refitted in time for the re-opening of operations. This has been tentatively scheduled for April next. Inspector Carmichael reports that 'plane spotting has proved so successful that the company has made arrangements for the purchase of a new aircraft, a Cessna 172-A fitted with floats to enable it to operate from an approved site at the mouth of the Kalgan River in Oyster Harbour. The Cessna is expected to arrive from America in the first week of the new year.

MARINE EXPOSITION - AN APPRECIATION

Writing to Mr Hutchinson as Chief Secretary and Minister for Fisheries, the Secretary of the Marine Exposition and Festival Committee (Mr R.S. Hunter) said last month that the support of his Departments had contributed materially to the success of the Exposition and was most appreciated by its organisers.

Altogether, the Exposition was attended by over 70,000 people who contributed more than £2,500, which will be handed over to Legacy.

In a letter to the Director, the Secretary particularly thanked our own staff and anticipated that a similar Exposition would be staged in the future.

CRAYFISHING

The provision of new or additional processing facilities at Geraldton, Dongara, Jurien Bay and Fremantle makes it difficult to determine how production this "white" crayfish season compares with previous ones. Individual reports are often misleading and the true position will not be known until returns have been received and processed. However, information to hand so far suggests that the northern centres have experienced a good season but the areas between Jurien Bay and Fremantle have not been so fortunate. Fremantle and Safety Bay, on the other hand, have been quite good while an experienced skipper working between Bouvard Reef and Bunbury has done sufficiently well to be optimistic about the area's future prospects.

During a recent visit to the Victoria district, Supervising Inspector J.E. Bramley looked over new processing works at Dongara and Geraldton. He reports that an additional compressor is being installed at the Dongara factory as the existing one was overloaded and had broken down. The new works at Geraldton was functioning very satisfactorily. Mr Bramley was most concerned, however, to find that, in some instances, labelling requirements were not being properly enforced. All inspectors are required to ensure that the procedures laid down in this regard are rigidly applied as failure to do so will imperil the successful enforcement of restrictions on the trading in under-size crayfish.

MINISTER OPENS NEW PROCESSING WORKS

The Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative Society's £50,000 crayfish processing works at Jurien Bay was officially opened by the Minister for Fisheries, Mr Hutchinson, on November 3. During his opening address, the Minister referred to the current high prices being obtained for craytail exports. One of the causes, he said, was America's dispute with Cuba, and there could be a recession if alternative supplies became available. He was pleased, therefore, that the society had decided to expand its processing facilities in the form of a land factory because processing on land was 20 to 25 per cent cheaper than using a freezer boat. The society would, as a result, be better prepared to meet a price drop.

With the staff for the new works, and their families, the population of Jurien Bay is expected to approach the 500 mark during the height of the season.

AUSTRALIAN WATERFOWL COMMITTEE

Advice has been received from the Secretary, Australian Waterfowl Advisory Committee, that a meeting of the committee will be held in Sydney from January 16-18. This State's representative will be Mr H.B. Shugg, Fauna Protection Officer and Secretary, Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. Mr Shugg, who attended the committee's last meeting in Brisbane as an observer, was recently appointed as Western Australia's delegate, vice Mr B.K. Bowen. As reported elsewhere, Mr Bowen is now carrying out his crayfish research programme on a full-time basis.

The theme of the 1962 meeting will be "Planning for Waterfowl Conservation". It is being designed to set out the technical and other requirements for setting up or expanding a State programme for the conservation of wild ducks. As such, it should be of particular benefit to this State, for although we have had a waterfowl research programme "on the books", as it were, for nearly a decade, staff and finance limitations have constricted activities, particularly in recent years, to the adventitious banding of wild ducks. We now need to take a long look at what research is essential and what staff and equipment will be required to carry out an effective programme.

At the same time, the Waterfowl Committee will discuss other matters of practical importance to all States, principally in relation to measures of interstate co-operation in the fields of both research and conservation. Banding carried out in the past by the States and the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O. has already established that Australia's duck population must be considered on an overall basis as well as from the differing points of view of the respective States. While Western Australia may be considered to be fortunate in that we have virtually no interstate border controversies, there is no disputing that grey teal range over the whole continent and our open season does commence months before other States think it wise to allow shooters to operate in their duck grounds.

It is expected that all States, the Northern Territory and the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., will be represented.

CLEARING HOUSE

Turtle's find

Apropos accidentally discovered treasure, comes a story recently resurrected by the New Zealand Department of Island Territories, of the wild trading days of the South Seas and the Cook Islands atoll of Suwarrow.

In 1867, a man named Sterndale was set upon Suwarrow (where he had once been marooned) as a trader for a big company. He proved no man of business, and the firm sent a ship to bring him back.

But Sterndale was prepared to repel boarders, and opened fire with three cannons set up in a small fort. The ship retired and two weeks later a brig arrived with full instructions to bring him back by force. Aboard was a friend, Henry Mair.

Determined to help his beleaguered comrade, Mair slipped overboard at night and swam ashore through the shark-infested lagoon.

Gasping for breath on the sands, Mair saw a turtle digging a hole to lay its eggs. He heard the clink of metal, and on investigating found Spanish American dollars, rings and other valuables bursting out of an iron chest. He carried the trove further up the beach and hid it.

Sterndale and Mair were eventually taken from Suwarrow and Mair later was killed in the New Hebrides before he could return to reclaim his treasure. Since then many have looked in vain.

(Fishing News

London

July, 1961)

She Had A Halibut's Tail

Do any of today's fishermen believe in mermaids? It's very doubtful but once it was common enough.

Proof of that has turned up in Shetland. When Sir Stanley Nicholson died recently, Lady Nicholson went through a large assortment of papers, and came across a statement written by a predecessor of Sir Stanley's in 1823.

Three fishermen from the island of Yell had sworn before a JP that in July of that year, while they were fishing 36 miles from land, they hooked a creature about three feet long, and about thirty inches in circumference across the shoulders.

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The top part resembled a female human, and the document goes to describe the form in detail, but the lower half resembled the tail of a halibut. One of the main features of the "face" was the mouth - it was so big that when opened wide it could admit a man's fist.

When the men spoke the animal answered, but they did not bring proof of their catch ashore.

The three men were William Manson, Daniel Manson and John Henderson, all from Cullivoe, North Yell, Shetland.

(Fishing News

London

August, 1961)

Irate Lobster

After his retirement from lobster fishing, Mr. Alec MacDougal, of Quinish, Denvaig, continued to work two or three creels as a hobby.

One day not so long ago he returned to shore with one large lobster. He anchored his boat, tied the lobster with string to the mooring rope in the water and went ashore in this dinghy.

He worked in his boathouse for about two-and-a-half hours, during which time the tide receded, leaving the crustacean high and dry. Mr. MacDougal looked up to see a hooded crow diving for his dinghy.

Thinking the bird might be after his catch, which weighed three-and-a-half pounds, he hurried to investigate, to find the crow lying dead - with its head crushed - beside the disgruntled lobster.

(Fishing News

London

August, 1961)

Japs Worry New Zealand Fishermen

Tuna fishing has suddenly come into the news in New Zealand. Interest in the subject has grown rapidly since Japanese tuna fishing trawlers started calling at New Zealand ports.

One canning company has bought a tuna trawler and has engaged an American tuna fishing expert who, with a New Zealand crew, is to try to fish tuna off the coast of the North Island.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand Fishermen's Federation has announced that it intends to renew its appeal to the Government to extend New Zealand's territorial limits from three miles to 25 miles from the coast, because, it says, Japanese vessels are ruining fishing close off-shore.

A similar appeal was rejected a year ago. But, said Mr. E. Mansfield, president of the federation, "that was before the effect of Japanese fishing was known."

This season, he said, has been the worst for nearly 20 years and the shortage of fish is attributed to the Japanese.

(Fishing News

London

October, 1961)

W. Nigerian 'Grow Your Own Fish'

Campaign For Diet And Health

A unique "Grow Your Own Fish" campaign is providing good food, finance and fun for the people of Western Nigeria today. It is one in a series of measures by Premier S.L. Akintola's Action Group Government to improve the diet and health of the people.

The cultivation of fish in reservoirs and ponds to produce fresh fish on the spot and at reasonable prices has been undertaken by the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dry Areas

Although Nigeria as a whole is fortunate in having a long sea coast and two major rivers - the Niger and the Benue - as well as five or six lesser rivers, there are many dry areas where little streams run into the ground during the dry season and local inhabitants have to walk long distances to get water for every-day needs. As most of Western Nigeria's fish comes from the sea and rivers, it is apparent that fresh fish in these dry, tropical areas is a rare commodity because of transport and preservation difficulties. The people have therefore had to make do with dried fish from the neighbouring Northern Region or imported stock fish. The dried fish is less nutritious and expensive because of transport and primitive processing methods.

The "Grow Your Own Fish" campaign was launched to assist in overcoming these difficulties and help defeat malnutrition, one of the chief sources of disease in the tropics.

The Western Nigerian diet contains a preponderance of carbohydrates and very little protein, and prices of protein substances such as meat, fish and milk are normally so high that they are beyond the reach of the lower income groups. The Ministry is attempting to bring these prices down by establishing and encouraging beef cattle, dairy and poultry industries and encouraging the establishment of fish ponds in areas distant from the sea and rivers.

Some of the ponds are owned by the Government but the majority are private enterprise projects. Today there are 72 ponds and eight reservoirs and 15 more reservoirs are being built. Thirty-seven ponds and eight reservoirs are in production.

The present ponds produce four and a half tons of fish annually.

Co-Operation

The ponds are worked by a system of co-operation. Fish are supplied free by the Fisheries Division and introduced into the ponds. Later, when the stocks have established themselves, the Government sends one of its four fisheries station assistants to help with the cropping. Assistants also give technical advice on the management of ponds, and care of fish.

In some areas such as Iwo and Ado, local authorities employ full-time fishermen to do stocking from Government reservoirs and cropping from the local ponds. The methods employed by the fishermen vary, depending on the type of fish they intend to catch. Cast nets, seine nets, set nets, wire traps and silver hooks are all employed.

Fish has always been popular with Western Nigerians and the establishment of fish farming is therefore not creating a preferential taste for fish but is turning it from a luxury enjoyed by a few to something that is within the reach of the masses.

Hobby Too

With more and more eating fish, and the increase in the consumption of protein the problem of malnutrition will be eased.

Apart from this most important effect another advantage of fish farming is the provision of employment for more members of the community, and amateur fishermen are also able to enjoy a hobby which is not only gratifying but materially productive.

(Fishing News

London

October, 1961)

Seven Rules for the Radiotelephone Pest

With a little attention to detail,
you, too, can become a pain in the neck.

By John S.T. Gibson

Notwithstanding any old fashioned ideas to the contrary, your radiophone is no mere means of communication. It is your publicity agent, your status symbol and a companion to whom you can always talk. Make the most of it by following these simple

rules and feel your prestige soar.

(1) If a weaker phone than yours is on the air, don't wait for its owner to finish. You may be able to drown it out. If someone with a powerful phone is talking and this technique would not succeed, press repeatedly on your microphone button to show the world that you are being kept waiting. With luck you may be able to make the other man's conversation unintelligible too.

(2) Once you have the air, talk in a very slow conversational tone as this enables you to spend more time saying less. Try to sound bored and dissatisfied with your catch and at the same time make it quite clear that you have caught more fish than anyone else. (Example: "there's absolutely nothing here, I doubt if I've got 100 coho yet"). If you can't think what to say, keep your thumb on the button and say "ER" in a loud clear voice for 5 seconds between every other word. This interval signal helps to reserve your exclusive right to the air. If you still can't think of anything to say, repeat what you have already said. For those of limited vocabulary, an excellent plan is to learn by heart a few radiophone cliches, and make full use of general purpose expressions such as "okay". Some experts can hold the air for several minutes saying scarcely anything more than "okay", in a wide variety of tones and inflections, with occasional variants such as "okaydokay" and finally signing off with the standard valedictory address, "okay-dokay-fine-and-dandy-see-you- in-the harbour". This implies no commitment actually to see him in the harbour.

(3) Either (a) shout at the top of your voice right into the microphone, and blast those so-and-sos right out of their wheel-houses, or (b) turn your head away and mumble out of the window, using the microphone to scratch the back of your neck. This technique will pry curious eavesdroppers out of their cockpits to glue an ear to the loudspeaker. For best results, allow time for this reaction to take place, then switch quickly to (a) above.

(4) If two or three friends are fishing close enough together to be within hailing distance, they should be able to hear each other above all other phone users, and can thus maintain a continuous running commentary on every fish they catch, and at the same time interfere with other people's conversations over perhaps the entire coast.

(5) If you have a really noisy engine, preferably with less than 4 cylinders, loose bearings on your auxiliary drive shaft, or other interesting noises off, install radiophone as close as possible to the machinery, and give your voice the interesting and distinctive background of a simulated percussion band.

(6) If you are not sure your transmitter is transmitting, blow your nose, whistle, or belch into the microphone. Remember that the more disgustingly loud your noises are, the brighter the little light will glow.

(7) If your ego needs still further boosting, buy a more powerful radiophone, hire a deckhand to do the actual fishing, and spend all your time sitting in the wheelhouse talking on the radiophone about your deckhand to other employers of labour. This gives the impression that you are a very big shot indeed. Any resemblance to suburban housewives discussing the "servant problem" is purely coincidental.

(Western Fisheries

Vancouver, B.C.

July, 1961)

1962 Peruvian Meal Output Of

One Million Tons Forecast

Production of fish meal by Peru in 1962 will exceed one million tons, according to industry estimates. This startling prediction was carried in a report from Lima by U.S. Embassy officials on September 13, which revealed that Peruvian fish meal producers, up to early August, had already sold for delivery during 1961, more than the annual quota of 600,000 tons (set by the Paris meeting of fish meal producers in October, 1960) and that total production for this year will reach 800,000 tons.

The Peruvian meal industry is still expanding rapidly. Several new fish meal plants are being built, and fishing vessels continue to be launched from the numerous shipyards along the Peruvian coast at the rate of about one a week. Many of them are 65-foot steel-hulled vessels.

The U.S. Embassy reports that "there has been no indication of any effort on the part of the Government of Peru or the industry itself to control its growth or to take the restraining action necessary to prevent a recurrence of the 1960 slump in the market for fish meal."

Prices during the second quarter of 1961 were maintained at a fair level, due to the efforts of the industry organization (Consortio Pesquero del Peru, S.A.) and the stronger world market for fish meal. Data published by the Consortium show a price of \$102 per metric ton (U.S. \$92.53 a short ton) c&f European markets at the beginning of the April quarter. Late in the quarter prices increased to \$121 a metric ton (\$109.77 a short ton) and to \$125 a metric ton (\$113.40 a short ton) and reached \$128 a metric ton (\$116.12 a short ton) about mid-May. They remained at that level until the end of June.

(Western Fisheries

Vancouver, B.C.

September, 1961)

Japanese Try New Invisible Nets

Japanese mothership-type salmon fleets operating in the North Pacific used a new type of transparent nylon gillnet this year which promises to mark "a revolutionary step in the field of fishing gear development."

According to a Japanese fisheries paper, Suisan Tsushin, the fleets will all be equipped with the new nets next year.

The invisible nets were produced jointly by two Japanese firms, and supplied to all 12 fleets engaged in the salmon fishery, on an experimental basis. Catch per unit of gear is said to have been about twice that of nylon-type gear normally used, and cost was limited to less than 60 percent of regular gear.

Other Japanese net manufacturers hope to start producing "transparent nets" in the near future and experiments are now being conducted to utilize the new net for other fisheries.

(Western Fisheries Vancouver, B.C. September, 1961)

New Japanese Regulations on Frozen TunaLandings and Transshipments

The Japanese Fishery Agency made public in September 1961 the following regulations governing the operations of Japanese tuna vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean.

Atlantic Ocean: Medium-type tuna vessels, distant-water tuna vessels, and portable-vessel-carrying tuna motherships shall be authorized to operate in the Atlantic Ocean for specified periods, except (1) when they do not have plans to export their catches to foreign countries; (2) when their operations are considered to have a bad effect on international relations; (3) when they plan to operate in the Atlantic Ocean for a period of over two years.

Essentially, all vessels must file with the Fishery Agency applications indicating their intent to engage in the Atlantic Ocean tuna fishery and must submit certain prescribed documents.

Permission to land or transfer catches, including products produced from the catches, at ports bordering the Atlantic Ocean shall be granted separately for each trip, as a rule.

However, permission will not be granted (1) when it is not altogether clear whether the catches, including products produced from the catches, will be consumed in the country to which they are delivered; (2) when it is felt that approval may result in obstructing the promotion of direct Japanese tuna exports.

Transfer at sea from one vessel to another of catches, including products produced from those catches, shall be prohibited.

Medium-type tuna vessels and distant-water tuna vessels planning to land or transfer their catches, including products processed from the catches, at ports bordering the Atlantic Ocean must submit applications beforehand for clearance.

Portable-vessel-carrying tuna motherships planning to land or transfer their catches, including products produced from the catches, at ports bordering the Atlantic Ocean must submit certain prescribed documents before departing their Japanese home ports. They must also apply for clearance each time they want to land or transfer their catches at ports bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

Vessels which plan to export tuna to those localities not governed by the export regulations of the Export Frozen Tuna Producers Association, and plan to land or transfer their catches at ports bordering the Atlantic Ocean over an extended period of time at intermittent intervals, must first be cleared before they leave their Japanese home ports.

Indian and Pacific Oceans: Medium-type tuna vessels, distant-water tuna vessels, and portable-vessel-carrying tuna motherships will not as a rule be permitted to land or transfer their catches, including products processed from the catches, at ports other than Japanese ports. This rule will not apply in the case where it is clear that the catches or products will be consumed in the foreign country that they were delivered to. Landings of tuna at Samoa and Santo are also exempted from this ruling.

Applications to land catches, including products produced from the catches, at ports other than Japanese ports must be submitted in accordance with regulations governing the landing or transfer of tuna in the ports bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

Transfer of catches, including products processed from the catches, for the purpose of shipping them to Japan by vessels other than by vessels which originally landed the fish shall be prohibited. Such transfers shall be allowed only when it becomes necessary to transship tuna from the Atlantic Ocean to Japan to stabilize market conditions or permit the maximum utilization of the catch.

Medium-type tuna vessels and distant-water tuna vessels must submit a report to the Fishery Agency Director within 30 days after they land or transfer their catches, including products produced from the catches, at a foreign port.

(Market News Service, New York September, 1961)

Million-Ton Pilchard Catch Forecast for Africa

The remarkable run of good fishing off the West Coast of South Africa continued into the 1961 shoal season when the catch of pilchards, maasbanker and mackerel exceeded 500,000 short tons for the first time and reached a total of 542,429 tons. The season, which started with the largest monthly catches ever brought in by West Coast boats, lasted from January to the end of July.

A total of 140 boats brought in the catch, and 15 processing factories produced 119,388 short tons of fish meal, 40,327 long tons of fish body oil, and 43,226,744 lbs. of canned pilchards, maasbanker and mackerel.

Scientists of the South African Division of Sea Fisheries were surprised by the big increase in the 1961 catch over the record landings in the same period of 423,524 tons. From temperature and other observations made during the autumn of 1960, they had anticipated landings about the same as in 1960. But a newly-discovered phenomenon is thought to have produced the 1961 bonanza.

For years now, fishery scientists engaged in the south and southwest African pilchard research program have suspected some connection between the fish shoals of the Cape West Coast and those of Walvis Bay - where six factories are expected to process a new record total this year of 375,000 short tons.

To check this link a tagging program was started in 1956. Small metal tags have since been inserted in the side of the bellies of pilchards taken by research vessels and released. In 1957 and 1958 three Walvis Bay tags were recovered by magnets in Cape factories. This season 12 tags inserted off Walvis Bay two to four years before were recovered.

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in the Cape, and fishery scientists now believe that the big shoals of high-quality fish of the early part of the season were a movement of mature pilchards from the Walvis Bay area 700 miles to the north. For some reason that has still to be discovered these fish seem to move south against the north-flowing Benguela Current.

The quality of the fish was about the best ever seen in Cape factories. They gave an outstanding canned product and in the first two months of the season gave an oil yield of more than 20 gallons to the ton. In one factory the oil yield reached 33 gallons from a ton of raw fish.

With pilchards comprising 443,499 tons of the Cape catch and likely to comprise almost all of the 375,000 tons taken off Walvis Bay, landings of this fish in the Southern African fishery in 1961 should exceed the highest ever in the peak years of the California fishery. The season is also almost certain to push the south and southwest African catch of all fish beyond 1,000,000 short tons for the first time.

(Pacific Fisherman Portland, Ore. October, 1961)

Early Sardine Catch Tops 1960 Total

California sardine fishery, which this year is facing its first six-months-long season in many years, was ahead of last year at date of writing. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries figures for the season through September 16 showed a total state catch of 6,053 tons, just passing the 1960 year-to-date total of 6,023.

The fishermen were encouraged by a good starting price, \$50 per ton, which is \$15 ahead of last year's figure.

The market for sardines seemed improved this year over last, canners accepting about all the fish they could get. Early in the season, with short catches and a discouraging season forecast from the California Fish and Game Department, canners were hunting for fish harder than they have for some years.

(Pacific Fisherman Portland, Ore. October, 1961)