

Despite the open season in those districts, any person wishing to take kangaroos for gain or reward, or to sell their meat or skins, must be licensed. The open season has the effect of allowing farmers to destroy kangaroos causing damage without the need to apply for individual licenses and to authorise licensed professional hunters to operate. It also, of course, permits sporting shooters to follow their sport within the affected districts.

FISH MORTALITY IN SHARK BAY

Early last month, the Minister for Fisheries issued a press release on the result of the investigation ordered by him into the phenomenon of the large-scale fish mortality reported in Shark Bay last April.

It was established that the majority of fish killed were deep-water reef varieties, such as gropers, cods, wrasses, parrot fishes and blow-fishes. The water was olive-green in colour and looked dirty. It was so thick that even in shallow water it was impossible to see the bottom. The surface was covered with a slimy substance, apparently decomposed algae. It emitted a most unpleasant odour, redolent with the smell of stagnation, and it was thought probable that the mortality was caused by de-oxygenation of the water resulting from the take-up of oxygen by the decomposing algae.