

again it was less than the record 1959 catch of 30,328,670 lb. The main increases in 1961 were in the production of crayfish, mullet and cobbler. Increased production of snapper, whiting, tailor and turtles also took place. The most notable falls occurred in respect of prawns, salmon, ruff, shark, yellow-eye mullet, jewfish and oysters.

The total value to the fishermen of the 1961 catch was estimated at close to £5 million.

UNPROTECTED FAUNA

The Fauna Protection Act provides that all fauna is protected until it is declared to be not protected or until an open season in respect of a particular species is proclaimed. Hitherto, it has been the practice to declare a list of certain species, which are considered to be pests or are of exotic origin, to be not protected for set periods of five years. As the 1957 proclamation lapsed on June 30 last, the list was reviewed and past practice re-considered. It has been decided that the new proclamation shall be of a permanent character and include a number of new exotic species. Protection is therefore not now accorded to the species specified in the new list.

To coincide with the revised list, a new folder has been printed publicising the unprotected species and setting out very briefly some of the needs of conservation. The cover of the folder features the Numbat, or Banded Anteater, the scientific name of which is Myrmecobius fasciatus. It is a marsupial: harmless, attractive and almost purely Western Australian. It has been adopted by the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee as its mammalian emblem. A copy of the pamphlet will be found as a loose insert in this issue. Additional copies are being forwarded to all district officers and more will be made available to any office or to any individual officer on request.