

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT

Advice has been received that on November 30 His Excellency the Governor signified Royal Assent to the Fisheries Act (Amendment) Act, 1962. The highlights of this new legislation were discussed in the last issue of the Bulletin.

OPEN SEASONS

Wild Ducks -

The 1962 season will open at 6 p.m. in the evening of Saturday, December 22, in the south-west corner of the State from Harvey to Manjimup, and at 5 a.m. in the morning of Sunday, December 23, in the remainder of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions.

Full details of the open season, of the restrictions which apply during its currency, and of the areas remaining closed to shooting, are set out in the duck shooter's guide, a copy of which is attached to this issue.

Quail -

A four months' open season for Stubble Quail commences each year, on December 1 in all that part of the State south of the 31st parallel of South Latitude, that is, from a line drawn from Lancelin Island through Coolgardie. North of that line an open season commences on March 1 in each year and continues until June 30. There is no bag limit for quail nor is there any area specifically exempted from the open season.

Marron -

The annual marron season will open on January 1, 1963, and continue until midnight on April 30. The following restrictions apply -

- * Legal minimum carapace length - 3 ins. from a point between the eyestalks to the end of the carapace, measured dorsally;
- * The use of unattended traps is prohibited at all times;
- * The taking of females in berry is prohibited.

There are no areas specifically exempted from this open season.

PRAWN TRAWLING LICENSES

In view of the general interest in the allotment of prawn trawling licenses, some of a series of questions asked in Parliament by the member for Gascoyne, Mr D. Norton, and the replies given by the Minister for Fisheries, are set out hereunder -

1. Has his Department made any decision regarding the number of licenses it will issue for prawn trawling for the 1963 season in the Shark Bay waters?

REPLY Yes.

2. If the answer is yes, how many trawlers will --

- (a) be licensed,
(b) operate from shore stations in Shark Bay and Carnarvon,
(c) be freezer boats operating with or without catcher boats.

REPLY (a) 25
(b) 17
(c) 7 without catcher boats.

One license has not yet been allocated.

3. Have any licenses been granted and if so, to whom?

REPLY No licenses have been granted. The under-mentioned have been advised that they will be permitted to trawl for prawns in the Shark Bay-Carnarvon area.

Nor'-West Whaling Company	10 boats
Planet Fisheries, Shark Bay	5 "
Eureka Fishing Company	1 boat
Poole's Fisheries	1 "
Kingfisher Corporation	1 "
M. de Sousa	1 "
R.J. Phillips	1 "
Ocean Trawling Company	1 "
Tropical Traders Ltd.	1 "
T. Doak	1 "
W.P. & D.I. Goode	1 "