

reveals that our crayfishery is not only the largest by weight of any single fishery in Australia, but also by far the most valuable. Although the total weight of edible fish products landed in New South Wales is much greater than that landed in this State, the estimated value of our catch is £700,000 more. In fact, the W.A. catch is 30% of the Australian total.

As we also maintain oversight of the whaling, pearling and pearl culture industries, it can be seen that Western Australia is easily the foremost State, by both landed weight and value of all marine products.

While our production is substantial by Australian standards, it is infinitesimal by world standards. The whole of the Australian catch of edible fish in 1961-62 approximated 66,000 metric tons. The world catch, on the other hand, totalled 41,000,000 metric tons in 1961.

SYNTHETIC NET FIBRES

An interesting comment on the use of synthetic fibres in fishing nets comes from Mr W.A. Wilkinson, a fisheries officer in the Ministry of Forest Development, Kenya. Mr Wilkinson's comment was contained in a reply to a query from the Director who had written following the publication of a reference to synthetic nets by that officer in the February, 1963, issue of the British commercial fisheries publication "World Fishing".

It appears that fishermen in Kenya are much further advanced than ours in the transition to the use of nets of synthetic fibres. Mr Wilkinson commented that he was surprised to hear that the evolution has been so gradual here. In Kenya, he said, the transition was practically completed. Actually, he said, a second stage had been reached and an entirely new type of synthetic called "isotactic polypropylene" will soon oust nylon in the manufacture of gillnets and seines. Mr Wilkinson said that nets of this twine had been tested by his Division and had been found to be superior with a very low specific gravity and a higher wet strength than ordinary nylon. Polypropylene has a fairly low stretch under normal fishing conditions but a high one when subjected to occasional fishing loads.

FAUNA ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Dr W.D.L. Ride, Director of the Western Australian Museum, has been appointed by His Excellency the

Governor-in-Council to be a member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee of Western Australia from March 7 until June 30, 1964. Dr Ride replaces the late Ludwig Glauert, who died on February 1. Dr Ride was previously Mr Glauert's deputy on the committee.

Dr Glen M. Storr, Assistant Curator of Vertebrates in the Western Australian Museum, has been appointed by the Minister for Fisheries, Mr Ross Hutchinson, to be Dr Ride's deputy on the committee. Under the provisions of the Fauna Protection Act the term of office of both men is limited to Mr Glauert's incompleeted term.

UNUSUAL USE OF DIRECTIVE POWERS

The Minister for Fisheries, Mr Ross Hutchinson, has directed that the license of J.C.J. Gregory be endorsed to restrict Gregory's crayfishing activities to waters lying south of the 30th parallel of south latitude. The Minister reached his decision after receiving representations from the Geraldton Licensed Fishermen's Association and from Mr Gregory's solicitors. It might be remembered that Mr Gregory was convicted in the Geraldton Court of Session on February 8 on a charge of having stolen 2 craypots, ropes and floats, at the Abrolhos Islands. He was convicted and fined £50. Inspector A.T. Pearce served the Minister's directive on Mr Gregory on March 3 while he was fishing at the Wallabi Group. As instructed Mr Gregory ceased fishing that day and his gear was brought in by carrier boat a few days later. It is understood that he moved from Geraldton about the middle of March and commenced fishing at Jurien Bay.

NOTES FROM THE NEWS

Fauna conservation and fisheries interests were to the fore in the news during last month's visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

At Broome, which still claims to be the world's biggest pearling centre, the Royal couple partook of refreshment from what was claimed to be, "undoubtedly the world's original crockery ... pearlshell." The report said that the crockery had been prepared by Mr T.B. Ellies and described it as being fit for a Queen. Prince Philip's profound interest in and knowledge of wildlife was again evinced on this visit. As