

Local Government Journal of W.A. indicates that the Cottesloe Town Council has adopted new by-laws to control poultry and pigeon keepers. The by-laws, which are reported to be aimed at assisting in combating fly and vermin breeding, require that keepers of these birds must register their premises at a 5/- registration fee. Poultry keepers may keep no more than 20 fowls in clean, properly constructed enclosures, at least 30 feet from a house. Pigeon keepers will be limited to numbers ranging from 20 to 75.

Regulation 12A made under the Fauna Protection Act requires any person to be licensed who has more than 9 unprotected birds or any other fauna whatsoever in captivity. It is anticipated that the new by-laws, the adoption of which other local authorities are said to be considering, will inevitably be confused with the Fauna Protection Act Regulation. Whether domestic pigeons in captivity are fauna within the meaning of our Act is not clear and a legal opinion will be sought on this point and on the interaction of the regulation and the by-laws.

#### SEASONS CLOSE

The attention of all inspectors is drawn to the impending closure of the season for wild ducks and marron. Both will terminate on April 30. The duck season will probably re-open in December of this year, but the next open season for marron will not commence until January 1, 1964. The long close seasons must be enforced rigidly to conserve the stocks during their breeding seasons.

#### BOAT LICENSES

All licensing officers are asked to note carefully that original boat licenses are to be issued in all cases except those in which the same boat is being re-licensed by the same person. Some officers have mistakenly issued renewals when a previously licensed boat has changed hands. If a fishing boat was not licensed at December 31 of the previous year, or if it has changed hands since it was previously licensed, a new license and not a renewal is required.

#### WHALING RECOMMENCES

The Cheynes Beach Whaling Company resumed sperm

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whaling operations on March 10 when the first whale for the season was taken. Despite unsatisfactory weather the Company's chasers operated successfully and by the end of the month had procured 64 sperms as compared with 50 at the same date last year. It is reported that the Company's replacement chasers and its new plant are operating successfully and functioning efficiently. The chasers and the plant were described in our January, 1963, issue.