

PEARLING RESULTS - 1962

In his annual report for 1962, the Pearling Superintendent, Broome, Inspector R.J. Baird, said that a total of 350 tons of shell was fished during the year. The shell was taken in a period of 9 months by 15 luggers manned by 141 crew members. Mr. Baird added that the sale of shell had been slow because prices offered by the overseas buyers had not been acceptable to some of the master pearlers. First grade shell brought up to £1,000 a ton, but the lower grades were down to £120. to £300. a ton. The cost of fishing and exporting the shell was said to approximate £500. a ton and, unless the divers were able to take a high percentage of first class shell, very little profit accrued to the owners.

Mr. Baird also reported that the pearl culture venture at Kuri Bay had enjoyed another successful year, while that at Exmouth Gulf had encountered some trouble with slime forming on the shell - possibly due to unsatisfactory water temperatures experienced in the winter months.

CROCODILE SHOOTERS' SUCCESS

With the export to Singapore of skins in excess of 1,300, crocodile shooters in the Kimberley Division enjoyed a profitable year. This was also revealed by Inspector R.J. Baird in his annual report for 1962. The average price received was between £12. and £15. a skin, Mr. Baird said. The variation was due to the size of the skin, he said, and added that most of the crocodiles were shot in the area between Cockatoo Island and Cambridge Gulf.

There were 6 persons licensed to take crocodiles for profit on December 31, 1962, although 8 licenses were current during different periods of that year.

MELBOURNE CRAYFISH CONFERENCE

A noteworthy effort of interstate co-operation was highlighted in a press release issued