It is to be hoped that this American fad does not become a fashion here as we already have a surfeit of pests. The introduction of the beetles into Australia would be prohibited by law, but the attention of the Customs Department will be drawn to the new fashion.

THE AFFINITY OF FISHERIES

Another example of the similarity of problems encountered in fisheries management appears in a recent issue of "Sea Secrets", published by the University of Miami. Answering a question relating to the Florida Keys spiny lobster (crawfish) fishery, "Sea Secrets" says -

"Although the annual production of crawfish has not changed markedly, there has been a considerable increase in the number of traps fished, and fishermen are complaining about poor catches. The problem has become serious enough to warrant a study of the fishery by the University of Miami Institute of Marine Science, under the auspices of the Florida State Board of Conservation."

CHRISTMAS TREES HINDER TRACKING STATION

At the May meeting of the Royal Society an unusual exhibit was displayed by the Botany Department of the University of Western Australia. A note to this effect was recorded in the June 1963 issue of the Society's Proceedings which said that it had been explained to the meeting that American workers in the Muchea area had been worried by the erratic behaviour of some of their buried cables.

Examination revealed that the cables were being attacked by the haustoria (the modified roots by which certain parasitic plants attach themselves to their hosts) of the Christmas Tree (Nuytsia floribunda). The shielding on the cables was reputed to be resistant to termites and many other agents which perhaps indicates the efficiency of this beautiful tree to parasitize selected hosts. Cases of attack were said to have occurred up to 2 chains from the nearest tree and were most prevalent in the region of severed tree roots.

The Christmas Tree, the sole representative of its genus, is confined to Western Australia.