

University of Western Australia. The work will be integrated and disciplined to produce a management programme for the species. It will be keyed with work to be done by another scholar in connection with a Ph.D. thesis on the three species of tortoises found in this State south of the Kimberleys. They are the Long-necked tortoise of the Murchison (Chelodina steindachneri), the common Long-necked tortoise of the South-West (Cheladina oblonga) and the rare Short-necked species of Bullsbrook.

COCONUT IN WHALE

A brief but interesting report has been received from Assistant Inspector D.H. Smith, of Albany. He tells us that during the week ended July 27, a sperm whale taken by a chaser of the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company was found to have in its stomach a whole coconut still encased in its husk. The outside diameters of the fruit were said to be approximately 10" and 8" respectively. When the coconut was opened it was found to contain mature milk and "meat" about one quarter of an inch thick.

Mr. Smith added that the finding of the coconut added to the belief that sperm whales sometimes feed on the surface. This had previously been indicated by the presence in their stomachs of small squid, which are known to occur in masses of up to 100 acres on the surface of the sea out from Albany.

How the sperm whale and the coconut came together is, of course, not known. It is possible that the whale picked it up in tropical waters, but far more likely that the fruit came south on ocean drifts, or was released from a ship.

GAME-FISH CAUGHT

The press last month carried an unusual number of reports of the taking of prize game-fish - marlins and sailfishes. Included among them was a 63 lb. sailfish, which was the first ever taken on regulation game fishing gear in our waters. It was caught, on July 25, by Dr. H. Illingworth, a member of the recently formed Norwest Game-fishing Club. The fish, which was taken on live mullet bait, was reported to be 8'4" long, with a bill