

USE OF EXPLOSIVES PROHIBITED

Last month, the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Hutchinson, issued a warning to underwater explorers against using explosives without a permit. He drew attention to the provisions of Section 26 of the Fisheries Act, which prohibits the use of dynamite or any explosive substance in Western Australian waters. He said that he had been disturbed to learn that explosives had been used in connection with the recovery of historical material from wrecks in crayfishing areas. Mr. Hutchinson has directed that all inspectors patrolling the Abrolhos and other crayfishing grounds report any further cases for prosecution.

Inspectors should also point out to spear-fishermen that the underwater use of explosives to propel spears or other missiles is illegal.

TURTLE IDENTIFIED

On June 3, Mr. R. Kidman of White Lodge, Darlington, found a small turtle on the beach near Quinn's Rocks, a few miles north of Fremantle.

Dr. G.M. Storr, Curator of Reptiles at the Western Australian Museum, advised last month that the animal had been identified as a juvenile loggerhead (Caretta caretta). Dr. Storr added that young green turtles and loggerheads were liable to be carried south by the northerly drift in winter and to be cast ashore during storms. He added that no marine turtles were known to breed south of the Abrolhos.

BETTER OPENING AT WILSON INLET

Fishermen, Shire officials and other interested persons consider that the opening of the bar at Wilson Inlet this year was more efficacious than in previous years. This advice was conveyed to us last month in a report from Inspector B.A. Carmichael, of Albany. Mr. Carmichael said that the opening had been undertaken by the Public Works Department on July 4 and that the cut was made seven chains closer to the western cliffs than normally. Mr. Carmichael added that there was an impression in Denmark that the channel would be opened in successive years closer to the cliffs, so that eventually the old channel would be brought back into use. He could not obtain confirmation of this suggestion from any authority, but apparently it remains the impression of local townsfolk.