

are generally agreed that a wet winter invariably results in a poor crab season.

Tailer and mulloway (river kingfish) are both plentiful, while cobblers in the lower reaches are offering spear fishermen excellent sport at night.

### OPEN SEASONS

#### Wild Ducks -

The 1963/64 season for wild ducks will open at 6 p.m. in the evening of Saturday, December 21, in the south-west corner of the State from Harvey to Manjimup, and at 5 a.m. in the morning of Sunday, December 22, in the remainder of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions.

Full details of the open season, of the restrictions which will apply during its currency, and of the areas remaining closed to shooting, are set out in the Duck Shooters' Guide, a copy of which is attached to this issue.

A late request received from a gun club in the central wheat belt, that the opening of the season be delayed until January, had been considered but finally rejected. While the unselfish and conservation-minded thought behind the request was appreciated, the probable presence of young broods and "flappers" in many areas on opening day was an annual occurrence. Grey Teal, in particular, would nest at any time in the year when conditions were suitable. An overall view had to be taken of the situation throughout the whole of the open season area; while the season may be too early in some districts it was too late in others and just about right in the remainder. A number of opening dates would be most confusing to the public and almost impossible for our limited number of wardens to police.

#### Quail -

A four months' open season for Stubble Quail commences each year on December 1, throughout all that part of the State lying north of the 31st parallel - that is, north of a line drawn from Lancelin Island through Coolgardie. South of that line the season is from March 1 to June 30 in each year.

There is no bag limit for the species.

Marron -

The annual marron season will open on January 1 and continue until midnight on April 30, 1964. The following restrictions will apply -

- \* Legal minimum carapace length is 3 inches from a point between the eyestalks to the end of the carapace, measured down the mid-dorsal line.
- \* The use of unattended traps is prohibited at all times.
- \* The taking of females in berry is prohibited.

CERVANTES PROCESSING WORKS.

Tropical Traders Limited are leasing their crayfish export establishment at Thirsty Point, Cervantes, to Mr. A. Avens, of 51 Stirk Street, Alfred Cove. It is pointed out, for the benefit of the inspection staff particularly, that Mr. Avens will be responsible for the running of this processing works.

VISIT OF "UMITAKE MARU" AND "KOYO MARU"

The Japanese fisheries training ships, "Umitake Maru" and "Koyo Maru", are to visit Fremantle this month. The "Umitake Maru" called at Broome on November 28 and will call at Geraldton on December 14 for a few days, before coming on to Fremantle where she will arrive on December 27. The "Koyo Maru" will visit Fremantle from January 14 to 18. Both these vessels form part of the large fleet of Japanese research and training vessels engaged in that country's fishing industry. They are, at present, carrying out a cadet training programme besides being engaged on specific research projects. Supervising Inspector J.E. Bramley, on behalf of the Director (who will be in the eastern States), will make official calls on both vessels and will extend an invitation to the cadets to observe local crayfishing operations. While the vessels are in port they will be open to our own staff for observational purposes. The "Umitake Maru" will sail on January 2.