

more efficient method of diving or (b) the uncontrolled influx of Bantu in unlimited numbers, would inevitably lead to overfishing and depletion of the rock lobster population. The socio-economic repercussions of such a condition are obvious."

It is particularly interesting to note the similarity between the South African and West Australian average catch per man. Although they differ between districts and seasons the catch in our waters averages about 14,000 lb. a year. As indicated the South African catch is in the vicinity of 13,000 to 14,000 lb. a year. Another point of interest is the South African comment that soft shell specimens are not tolerated on the South African market. The importance too, of the socio-economic factors in both fisheries is not surprising when one considers the universal nature of these problems which must be considered when planning conservation of any natural resource.

#### NOTES FROM THE NEWS

##### Export of Lampreys

Recently, Mr. F. Shoobridge, curator of the Pemberton Hatchery, despatched to Melbourne a parcel of some 400 lampreys which had been caught at the wall of the Pemberton weir over a period of a few weeks.

The lampreys were killed in a mild formalin bath after they had been caught and were stored until the desired quantity was available. They were then packed in formalin-saturated gauze and sealed in a plastic container.

The consignment, which weighed 250 lb., was airfreighted to Professor D.F. Burr, of the University of Melbourne where the lampreys were to be used in pathological studies and laboratory demonstrations. It is expected that further consignments will be required.

The lamprey has a curious life cycle. It spawns near the source of small streams in the mud and after hatching takes place, the larvae, as they grow, move down stream until eventually they reach the sea. They are semi-parasitic creatures which fasten on to a host fish and live so attached by sucking the unfortunate fish's blood as they travel through the ocean. As the lamprey's life cycle draws to a close it returns to spawn in the stream in which itself was spawned some years before.