

three tons for each whale. Both Japan and Italy are interested in this product, which will be priced at approximately £75 per ton.

Other machinery additions and factory improvements include a new DeLaval oil purifier, a new oil storage tank with capacity of 750 tons, and an additional 50,000-gallon water storage tank. A new 500 h.p. Cleaver Brooks boiler will be installed to power the solubles plant. The existing catwalk has been extended and improved to carry permanent whale oil lines as well as those for sea water, fuel oil and compressed air. A new laboratory is to be erected in the soluble plant building.

Two additional leading hands and four other persons to operate the soluble plant will be employed during the coming season, which, if all goes according to plan, will open on February 25.

DISPOSAL OF CONFISCATED FISH AND FISHING GEAR

The attention of the staff, particularly the field staff, is drawn to the requirements for the disposal of confiscated fish and fishing gear. Unfortunately, on not a few occasions, seized fishing gear, crayfish pots, holding crates, nets etc., have been disposed of in a manner which does not fulfil the requirements of the Fisheries Act. Section 50 of the Act makes the following provision -

"The Chief Inspector of Fisheries may, subject to the approval of the Minister, and in the manner prescribed by the regulations, sell or dispose of all boats, nets, lines, engines, implements, appliances and other articles and all fish forfeited in accordance with the provisions of this Act."

In future no confiscated fishing gear may be sold or otherwise disposed of, or transferred from one district to another district, or to a boat, without the authority in writing of the Director or, in his absence, the Administrative Officer. All officers must comply strictly with this direction.

FAUNA AUTHORITIES CONFERENCE

Earlier in this publication it was advised that the Director and Mr. Shugg would be attending the 1965 Australian

Fauna Authorities Conference at Kangaroo Island, South Australia, early in April. Some of the matters to be raised at this conference and which are of concern to Western Australia are as follows -

- (1) Illegal exports and quarantine regulations.
- (2) Export of Johnstone crocodile skins.
- (3) Research and management reports.
- (4) Pet food trade.

Background papers will be submitted in association with items 1 and 2 and also reports on the Western Australian situation in respect to items 3 and 4 relating to research and management and the ramifications of the pet food trade in this State.

There is a fairly lengthy agenda for the meeting. The following are some of the topics set down for discussion:-

1. Public relations and wildlife conservation.
2. Training and acquisition of staff.
3. Government-sponsored areas for the conservation of wildlife.
4. Non-Government-sponsored areas for the conservation of wildlife.
5. Conservation of rare fauna.
6. Re-establishment of rare species.
7. Utilization of fauna for sporting purposes.
8. Utilization of fauna for commercial purposes.
9. Acquisition and disposal of fauna by zoological societies.
10. Research programmes.
11. Bird banding.
12. Inspection duties under fauna legislation.

- (13) Australian Conservation Foundation.
- (14) Pesticides and vermin control.