

MARINE SEISMIC SURVEY

The Burmah Oil Co., of Australia has been given approval to conduct a marine seismic survey for the purpose of oil exploration in offshore areas up to a distance of 200 miles off the coast of Western Australia. These areas extend from the northern offshore boundary of Western Australia to an area immediately north of Monte Bello Islands.

In the course of the survey, small charges of an average of approximately 28 lbs. will be detonated near the ocean surface at intervals of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ miles along the line traversed.

An identical survey has been carried out by this Company last year. Similar surveys with a much greater density have been carried out in the North Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Persian Gulf and other areas with no noticeable damage to the fishery.

CARNARVON TROPICAL FESTIVAL

The Rotary Club of Carnarvon is organizing a festival to be held between September 1 and 4. One of the attractions will be a tagged fish competition, and to facilitate the tagging, the Department has given approval for the necessary netting to take place in fascines during the festival.

Arrangements have been made for Technical Officer, E.H. Barker to supply the required fish tags.

SIX MONTHLY REPORT ON THE SHORT NECKED TORTOISE

Following the research in connection with the ecology of the short necked tortoise, a six monthly report was submitted by the University of Western Australia.

Nine animals were fitted with radio transmitters and released on the two reserves during November, 1964. Due to the difficulty in catching the animals, only two of these were from the Warbrook Road reserve. The technical problems of fitting transmitters to the animals proved to be greater than expected and only four of the instruments stayed on the air for more than a week or two. All were fitted to animals

released on the 21-miles peg reserve. Radio location showed conclusively that the animals on this reserve retire to the "crabholes" for the summer months. Only one radio stayed on the air for more than three months and this animal (Zoo Dept. No. 18) was dug up on March 18, 1965. It proved to have a large sebaceous cyst on its plastron (not near the radio) and died a few days later. The other animal handled since the last report is a young female (Zoo Dept. No. 19) which was found on the highway next to the 21-mile peg reserve on January 27 by Mr. J.A.D. Treloar, of the Town Planning Department. This animal is being held at the Zoology Department for the present.

Following information received, swamps in the Mogumber area were inspected during early March. It seems possible that the short necked tortoise occurs in this area, particularly on property owned by a Mr. Neames, of Yericoin. Further searches will be made after the swamps have filled.

THE TURTLE

The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks
Which practically conceal its sex
I think its clever of the turtle
In such a fix to be so fertile.

Odgen-Wash