

CARNARVON FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

An inter-departmental committee under the chairmanship of the Administrative Officer, Mr. B. R. Saville, has been appointed by the State Government to study the prospects of developing the fishing industry in the Carnarvon-Shark Bay area.

Amongst other things, the Committee will inquire into the extent of the fishing grounds, fish species, the economics of processing in the north, including the possible integration of fish, fruit and vegetable processing.

The other members of the committee are Mr. E. K. Steere, Public Works Department; Mr. K. G. Forsyth, Harbour and Light Department; Mr. D. Kilpatrick, Department of Industrial Development and Mr. R. Fletcher, Department of North-West.

CRAYFISH SEASON 1965/66

The 1965/66 crayfish season will again open on November 15. It is unlikely that there will be any increase in overall production this year and, unless exceptionally good seasonal conditions determine otherwise, it is unlikely that the production of 5,589,723 lb. caught last year during the "white" season will be maintained. However, the price paid to fishermen at the end of last season had exceeded 7/- per lb. and any fall in the catch this year should be offset by the high price. It is more than likely that last year's prices will be maintained.

Approval has been obtained to appoint an additional mobile patrol to assist in policing of the crayfish industry. Applications will shortly be called for a Grade 1 and a Grade 2 inspector to constitute the new patrol. Four new vehicles and two new caravans will be purchased. These will be used by inspectors in outlying areas such as Cervantes, Ledge Point and Cape Leschenault.

COMPLAINT OF CRUELTY TO KANGAROOS

Last month, the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna received a complaint that kangaroos were being subjected to unnecessary cruelty by professional hunters. The complaint was forwarded by Mr. T. Bogue Atkinson, President of the Australian Branch of the World League for the Protection of Animals. Mr. Atkinson wrote that his society was "receiving letters from citizens from the U.S.A., in which country it is freely stated that kangaroos are shot deliberately in the hip and left alive in agony on the ground until daylight and then finally killed by being beaten over the head with stones. Thus is the meat kept fresh."

We have had no other reference to this practice in this State and feel sure that it does not occur here. The Fauna Officer (Mr. Shugg) advised that when he was in Canberra at the recent Commonwealth State Conference on the export of kangaroo meat, he was informed by other representatives that they knew of no similar occurrence in their respective States.

While it appears probable that there is little, if any, substance in the report, stories like this do much harm to Australia's image overseas. Although there is no specific prohibition of hip shooting in the regulations as they stand, any unnecessarily cruel practices would be prohibited if they were to start. ALL officers should, therefore, forward to this office any complaint or report of cruelty being inflicted on the native fauna, together with their comments as to whether the report in their opinion has any substance.