

The Minister said he was anxious that the principle of escape-gaps would be accepted by all fishermen and during the phasing-in period the aim would be education rather than prosecution. If a fisherman made an honest attempt to comply with the escape gap requirements, any device used by him, would be approved. Departmental inspectors had been instructed along these lines.

CAPE BARREN GEESE - BANDING

Advice has been received from the Animals and Birds Protection Board, Hobart, Tasmania, that a programme of Cape Barren Geese banding would be carried out this year.

In October a banding party, operating on Chappell, Goose and Badger Islands in the Furneaux Group in Bass Strait, banded 618 birds. Of these 605 have been banded with a red neck-band.

Field staff are requested to report any sightings of Cape Barren Geese, particularly any that might be observed carrying a red neck-band.