

Cadet Fauna Warden K.D. Morrison commenced annual leave on April 13. He has since received notice of his call-up for two years National Service Training and will be required to commence early in the next financial year.

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Assistant Inspector G.D. Noble commenced annual leave on May 2. He is being relieved at Cervantes by Assistant Inspector W.M. Mahoney.

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Inspector A.V. Green commenced annual leave on April 26. He is being relieved at Mandurah by Relieving Inspector R.M. Crawford.

AERIAL INSPECTION OF COASTAL WATERS

A snap patrol of the one-mile closure between Rottneest and the 30th parallel was made in a twin-engine aircraft on April 20. The flight also covered the Abrolhos Islands and Geraldton waters. On board the aircraft were Inspector A.T. Pearce, Technical Officer N. McLaughlan, and Clerk-in-Charge, A.J. Mearns.

Four fishing boats were seen working lines of pots and more than 200 set pots were counted inside closed waters. The names or license numbers of the boats were noted and photographs taken. The boats used bags to cover identification numbers and one boat manoeuvred so that it was stern onto the aircraft as it passed overhead. After two runs had been made over another boat the crew were seen to lift the engine cover, giving the appearance of having suffered a breakdown.

Photographs were also taken of the crayfish research area in the Abrolhos Islands and of the r.v. "Lancelin" working gear in that area.

PROTECTION OF PORPOISES (DOLPHINS)

Recent press publicity has been given to a porpoise which has established friendly relations with residents of Monkey Mia, Shark Bay who feed it from the jetty. Some fears were expressed regarding the possibility that a tourist stranger may harm the porpoise.

This animal is totally protected under the Fauna Protection Act and any offenders would be liable to a considerable penalty.