1 mm = 0.03937 inch
0.1 mm = 0.003937 inch

$$= \frac{3.937}{1000} \text{ inch}$$

$$= \frac{4}{1000} \text{ inch}$$

Therefore the two crayfish were, in fact, 4/1000 inch under the legal minimum length.

Reversing the procedure, if an inspector had a clock-face gauge, he could, theoretically, take a crayfish which had been called "size" by a fisherman who had tested it with a brass gauge and show it to be undersize. However to do this without using a vernier gauge (which is what an inspector with a crayfish gauge would have to do) an inspector would have to be convinced that he could differentiate between a "size" and an "undersize" crayfish with a tolerance of 4/1000 inch (with a steel gauge the tolerance would be less). It is believed that he is unable to do this. The amount of tolerance an inspector uses before he is able to say that a crayfish is undersize is about 16/1000 inch. This being so, crayfish which are up to 16/1000 inch undersize are still passed as size. Therefore, crayfish which are only 4/1000 inch undersize would most certainly be passed as being not less than the minimum length.

If the normal tolerance given by an inspector is 16/1000 inch and if the greatest difference which could arise between a brass and a steel gauge is less than 4/1000 inch then this difference falls well within the degree of tolerance.

A fisherman could of course still argue that he also gauges to an accuracy of 16/1000 inch (on the undersize side) with his brass gauge, and when the inspector tests the same fish with his steel gauge it measures, say, 18/1000 inch undersize and is therefore rejected. However this cannot be accepted, if we are getting technical as the fishermen seem to be doing, as the crayfish is undersize and outside the limits of gauge variation.

MUSK DUCK RESEARCH.

Mr. A.H. Robinson, of Yanjettee, Coolup, a Deputy Member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, seeks

information to assist him in his research into the status of the musk duck.

Mr. Robinson says there seems to have been a big decrease in recent years of musk duck in its normal breeding habitats in the freshwater swamps. He would appreciate any information that inspectors or wardens could forward to the Department under the following headings:-

(1) Have you noticed any decrease in the number of musk ducks in recent years?

(2) Have speed boats had any effect on their feeding habits, i.e., have the ducks been forced away from certain areas?

(3) Accounts of approximate numbers of musk ducks and blue-billed ducks on any of the lakes of the south and west coasts.