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MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA. DEPT. OF

FISHERIES AND FAUNA

February 1966
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN

CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE

Vol. XV, No. 2

February, 1966

STAFF NOTES

A warm welcome is extended to Messrs. L. Beal, G.B. Faulkner and I. Strauss as new members of the staff. Mr. Beal replaced as Fauna Clerk, Mr. J. McKenzie who has transferred to the Government Tourist Bureau. Mr. Faulkner has joined the crew of the r.v. 'Peron' in the new position of Assistant, G-VII-1/2, while Mr. Strauss will fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. J.P. O'Sullivan from 'Peron's' crew.

* * * *

We extend congratulations to Mr. I.L. Cardon on his promotion to the position of Inspector, Grade 2, Jurien Bay.

Inspector R. Smith's posting to Shark Bay has been confirmed and he is at present making arrangements to transfer his home and family to departmental quarters in that district.

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We also congratulate Mr. P.W. Harrison on his promotion to the position of Assistant Inspector. Mr. Harrison will be proceeding to Geraldton to join p.v. "Dampier" as a replacement for Mr. K.P. Enright.

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Assistant Inspector Enright is transferring to the r.v. 'Lancelin' to the new position of Assistant, G-VII-1/2.

Mr. G. Hanley is transferring to Perth from Geraldton to join the Mobile Patrol which is in charge of Inspector E.R. Hammond.

Inspector D. Wright, skipper of the 'Misty Isle' is transferring to the new position of Technical Officer (Classification G-II-1/2) attached to the Fauna Branch.

Assistant Inspector E.J. Little commenced four weeks' annual leave on February 1.

Mr. R.J. Husband, of Head Office, took 4 days' annual leave from February 1.

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Senior Research Officer B.K. Bowen will join r.v. 'Lancelin' for a few days at Jurien Bay on February 21 and later will spend another two weeks on her at the Abrolhos.

Research Officer R.J. Slack-Smith will leave for Shark Bay on February 22. He expects to stay for some six weeks organizing the prawn marking programme, using staining techniques developed during the past 12 months. He will be accompanied by Technical Officer E.H. Barker.

Also to visit Shark Bay will be Research Officer R.J. Lenanton, who will begin a measuring programme on the two species of whiting caught there commercially, and a scale sampling programme for growth and age studies.

Technical Officer N.E. McLaughlan will visit various centres on extension work associated with the collection of research data from crayfish fishermen.

Temporary Technical Officer D. Donnelly will return to Dongara on February 21 to continue the crayfish measuring programme.

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Fauna Wardens S.W. Bowler and M. MacDonald left on January 26 to carry out patrols in fauna districts in the lower South-West. Wardens I. Evans and K.D. Morrison departed the same day on patrols of the Yilgarn and the outer wheat-belt. All will return to Perth early this month.

On February 7 Mr. Morrison will leave for Geraldton to participate in a further phase of the campaign to eliminate introduced rats (Rattus rattus) on Pigeon Island in the Wallabi Group of Houtman Abrolhos.

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Later this month Wildlife Research Officer T.L. Riggert will investigate reports of high mortality among waterfowl on lakes on the coastal plain north of Gingin. He will be accompanied by Technical Officer D. Wright.

* * * *

The Fauna Officer, Mr. H.B. Shugg, will represent the Department at a meeting and field inspection to be held at Williams on March 18. The meeting has been organised by Mr. W.A. Manning, M.L.A., in connection with a proposal to alienate land reserved for water supply purposes at Contine. Officers of the Country Water Supplies Branch of the Public Works Department will also attend.

MINISTER SEES FOR HIMSELF

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. MacKinnon, made an inspection by plane of close waters between Fremantle and the 30th parallel on Wednesday January 19. The Director and the Supervising Inspector accompanied him.

Up to 1,000 pots and a boat working pots were seen in closed waters.

The Minister expressed both disappointment and some little anger at these discoveries, particularly in view of the assurances previously received from various crayfishing organisations that conservation laws would be respected.

Follow-up action was taken by the p.v. 'Pelsart' and further spot air checks are planned.

PERSONAL PAR

Dr. G. van Tets, of the Division of Wildlife Research, C.S.I.R.O., will arrive on a short visit to the State on February 23. Dr. van Tets, who has been working on the problems of removing the threat that birdlife poses to jet aircraft at Australian airports, will survey the situation at Perth airport where banded plovers congregate, and at Jandakot airport where brush wallabies and grey kangaroos are threats to the safety of light aircraft during landing and take-off.

N.S.W. SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES

Mr. Noel Vere Harris, Superintendent of Fisheries since 1952, retired last month after 48 years in the N.S.W. public service.



Mr. Harris, who was in earlier years a colleague of the Director (Mr. Fraser) during the latter's period with the N.S.W. Department, is a man whose term as chief fisheries officer has greatly enriched the mother-State. It was very largely due to his efforts that the Inland Fisheries Research Station at Narrandera, and a chain of trout hatcheries throughout the State, were established. Under his direction, the activities and function of his Department, traditionally enforcement and detection, were liberalised,

and there is now a group of academically trained young men embarking on a much needed programme of research and development.

Noel Harris has never by any means been a "back-room boy". He has always gone into the field to see things for himself and to face up, when necessary, to critics of departmental administration and management policies. But he was nevertheless a planner and most thorough in his work. He would never dream of putting up any half-baked scheme.

We wish him well in the years of leisure which lie ahead.

"DICK" ANDREWS RETIRES

Mr. E.E. Andrews, known to his friends as "Dick", has retired from the position of Senior Fisheries Extension Officer with the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture.

Until relatively recently Mr. Andrews was Senior Inspector of Fisheries in Tasmania, but latterly, when the need for extension activity among fishermen became increasingly apparent, he was promoted to the position he occupied at his retirement.

It goes without saying that he has the best wishes of all his friends in this State for a long and happy retirement.

D.D. FRANCOIS NOW FISHERIES HEAD IN N.S.W.

Dr. Donald Francois at the unusually early age of 32, has been appointed to the position of chief officer of the N.S.W. fisheries administration. The new title of Director, which has been bestowed on him, has been in abey-



ance for many years. Indeed, it has not been used since the late A.W. Wood retired from the directorship about 1929.

Dr. Francois is not unknown to us in Western Australia. A number had met him at various interstate conferences, of course, but when he visited the State last November at the invitation of the Department to advise on the future planning of our freshwater fisheries programme, he got to know many more of us.

A native of the U.S.A., Donald Francois graduated B.Sc., majoring in biology, at Cornell University, New York. He obtained his M.Sc. in vertebrate zoology and his Ph.D. in ichthyology and marine biology from the same University.

He first came to Australia about eight years ago as a Fulbright scholar, and the thesis which gained him his doctorate on his return to the United States was based largely on his studies on the freshwater crayfishes of N.S.W. In 1962 he returned to Sydney and joined the N.S.W. Department of Fisheries as biologist.

To Dr. Francois all of us in the West offer sincere congratulations on his preferment and extend best wishes for success in his new and important appointment.

LONDON APPOINTMENT

Mr. Arthur G. Bollen, Assistant Director of Fisheries, Department of Primary Industry, Canberra, leaves Australia this month to take up a three-year appointment in London with the Australian Trade Commissioner Service.

Mr. Bollen, an economist, has visited Western Australia on several occasions. It was he who designed and was responsible for implementing the economic survey of the crayfishing industry a few years ago.

A native of England, Arthur Bollen went to Tasmania with his parents at an early age. Later he became a school teacher in that State, but later still left the teaching service to join the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra. While an officer of the Bureau, he was sent to the U.S.A. for several months to enquire into the economics of the poultry industry, and was able to apply many of his findings in teaching poultry farmers in Australia how to eliminate wasteful procedures.

Mr. Bollen has now been associated with Fisheries for several years, and leaves his present post with the very best wishes of the many friends he has made in all parts of the Commonwealth.

(Blocks of Mr. Harris and Dr. Francois by courtesy of "Fish Trades Review", Sydney).

MOVEMENT OF RESEARCH VESSELS

The r.v. 'Peron' will leave on February 14 on a two-month visit to Shark Bay. She will be engaged on a prawn-staining programme designed to trace the movements of prawns over the fishing grounds. 'Peron' will be under the command of her skipper, Mr. J.W. White. Other members of the crew will be her Mate, Mr. J.K. Simnett, Engineer E.A. MacKenzie, crew members G.B. Faulkner and I. Strauss and Technical Assistant P.G. Yewers.

On February 21, r.v. 'Lancelin' will sail from Fremantle initially for Jurien Bay and later for Easter and Pelsart Groups in Houtmar Abrolhos. Skippered by Mr. C.J. Seabrook, and with Mate R. Duckrell and crew member P.K. Enright, she will be engaged on a continuation of the crayfish research programme. Technical Officer J.S. Simpson will be aboard for the whole cruise.

UNIFORMS FOR INSPECTORS AND WARDENS

At the departmental conference in 1965, a proposal was put forward that a modified type of uniform be supplied to inspectors and wardens at an approximate cost of \$12.

This proposal was supported by a meeting of Branch heads and submitted to the Public Service Commissioner for his favourable consideration.

The Commissioner now states that he is unable to accede to this request. The following is the text of his reply:-

"It is not policy to supply any particular group of Public Service officers with uniforms. Apparel is only provided at departmental expense in exceptional circumstances, for example, where a health hazard or safety factor necessitates the provision of protective clothing.

The importance of maintaining a high standard of personal appearance and neatness of dress, as well as the other points mentioned by you, is fully appreciated. However, these considerations, in themselves, do not justify any change in existing policy."

CRAYFISH POT ENTITLEMENTS

Please note that the third paragraph of the section entitled 'Crayfish Pot Entitlements' in the Ministerial Directive 'Boat Replacement Procedure' published in the January, 1966, issue of this bulletin was printed in error and is hereby cancelled.

Any staff using that issue of the bulletin as a guide to licensing must delete the whole of the paragraph.

MINISTERIAL NOTICES

As a result of amendments to sections 9, 10 and 11 of the Fisheries Act passed last year, authority has been conferred on the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna to exercise powers previously the prerogative of the Governor in Executive Council.

The Minister by notice published in the Gazette may declare close fisheries, may close waters against any method of fishing, and may specify exceptions and restrictions which he considers desirable.

The first of these notices to appear in the Gazette specified the inclusion of escape gaps in craypots.

Copies of the Ministerial Notices will be forwarded to members of the staff in the same manner as copies of Proclamations were in the past.

INCREASED TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES

Advice has been received from the Public Service Commissioner that payment for travelling expenses has been increased to 61/6 as from January 1, 1966. The decimal currency equivalent of this amount is \$6.15. Dollars and cents should be used when claiming for the whole of the month of February.

MILEAGE RATES - DECIMAL CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Decimal currency equivalents for mileage rates in general use will be:-

| Area | Mileage Rates | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | 1-5,000 | | 5,000-10,000 | |
| | Pence | Cents | Pents | Cents |
| Metropolitan | 10.9 | 9.08 | 7.7 | 6.42 |
| South-West | 12.7 | 10.58 | 9.5 | 7.92 |
| Other areas | 13.6 | 11.33 | 10.4 | 8.67 |

Where the total amount due contains a decimal figure of .5 of a cent or more, the amount paid shall be the next whole cent.

Where the total amount due contains a decimal figure less than .5 of a cent, such decimal figure shall be disregarded.

These equivalents should be used for the whole of the month of February.

PRACTICAL AWARDS

An interesting and notable example has been set by the Australian Fisheries School in the awards given for success in the course it conducts for Field Officers.

Prizes took the form of free subscriptions to Fishing News International; a three-year subscription for first prize; a two-year subscription for second prize; and a one-year subscription for third prize.

Mr. I.L. Cardon of this Department was awarded third place and will receive a full year's free subscription to this journal, which is now published monthly instead of quarterly.

WILD DUCK OPENING DAY AT TAARBLIN

The Fauna Officer, Mr. Shugg, reports that sportsmen enjoyed good shooting at Taarblin, east of Narrogin, on opening day last December. Shooting commenced as early as 4 a.m. and by 9 a.m., he says, those interviewed had averaged 8 ducks per gun. Most birds were in good condition. Freckled ducks, which are considered to be one of our rarer species, were more frequently bagged than usual but grey teal predominated as the following summary shows:-

| Species | Number Shot | Percentage of Total Bag |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Grey Teal | 279 | 74.4 |
| Mountain Duck | 34 | 9.1 |
| Black Duck | 27 | 7.2 |
| Freckled Duck | 15 | 4.0 |
| Pink-eared Duck | 12 | 3.0 |
| Blue-wing Shoveller | 5 | 1.3 |
| Wood Duck (Maned Goose) | 3 | 1.0 |

AMERICAN'S VIEWS ON AUSTRALIAN FAUNA CONSERVATION

The American writer, Virginia Kraft, recently had these strong words to say on our attitude to fauna. Writing in "Life International" and "Sports Illustrated" she said -

"No land anywhere is more earnestly and energetically committed to sport than the wonderful world down under.

It is all the more shocking therefore that a nation so dedicated to the sporting life is also so singularly amoral about its wildlife.

With some of the same determination they bring to pools and courts, Australians seem to be engaged in an all-out war on everything finned, furred and feathered that moves".

While better informed and more penetrating critics may not judge us as harshly as Miss Kraft, the publication of her flamboyantly expressed opinions will do much harm to our "image" overseas, especially when they appear in such popular and normally conservative journals. As we have been shown in the halls of United Nations, on issues such as the administration of Australian trust territories, our policies and actions are not judged in their local context but against a background of prevailing world opinion. If we wish to keep our good name we must try to anticipate overseas judgments. We are vulnerable to criticism on fauna conservation because we have insufficient data with which to refute many of the charges levelled against us. To gather the required data calls for more funds, more staff and greater legal authority.

CLEARING HOUSE

NEW PLASTIC FISH BOXES

A new lightweight re-usable plastic fish box for transporting fresh and frozen fish has been developed by a firm in Seattle, Wash. A high-density polyethylene material is used in the new boxes to make them tough and flexible. You can jump on them at 40 degrees below zero without cracking them. They will also withstand steam-cleaning heat.

Particularly adaptable to air shipment, the new containers may offer an excellent opportunity to expand fresh fish markets. The weight of the polyethylene containers is about half that of fiberglass, and they have been approved for re-use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. By August 1965, over 2,000 of the new boxes had been sold or leased to 2 airlines based in Seattle, and other airlines were testing the boxes. Using the new containers, an airline transported over 500 tons of fresh fish from Alaska to Seattle during June and July 1965 without a claim for spoiled or damaged fish. In September 1965, an airline announced a one-year experimental rate reduction of 40 percent on Northwest fishery shipments to eastern points.

The new containers are available in two sizes. The larger size will hold 250 to 300 pounds of fresh fish and has outside dimensions of $41\frac{3}{4}$ x $21\frac{3}{4}$ x 18 inches. The smaller size holds 125 to 175 pounds of fresh fish and has outside dimensions of 32 x 20 x 11 inches. Minimum monthly lease costs are said to be 68 cents a box for the larger size and 50 cents a box for the smaller size.

The new boxes are vacuum formed. Strength and rigidity are provided through structural ribbing and bale-reinforced lid. The boxes can be stacked when full and nested when empty.

Additional information is available from the Marketing Office, U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, Wash.

(Commercial Fisheries Review Washington December 1965)

JAPANESE VIEWS ON 12-MILE FISHING LIMIT

Tentative proposals to establish a 12-mile fishing unit in certain areas of southwest Japan were discussed in an article in the Japanese periodical Nihon Keizai, September 26, 1965. According to the article, the action was planned in

connection with the proposed Japanese-Korean Fisheries Agreement. However, it could have wider implications since it would be at least a partial change in long-standing Japanese policy. (Fisheries Attache, United States Embassy, Tokyo, October 1, 1965).

In order to clarify the situation, the Japanese Fishery Agency on October 1, 1965, made an announcement (reported in Suisan Keizai Shimbun, October 4, 1965) which stated that: (1) at the present time Japan does not intend to establish an exclusive 12-mile fishing limit along the entire Japanese coast; (2) the 12-mile fishing zone to be established around Tsushima (a Japanese island situated in the Korea Strait) in accordance with the proposed Japan-Republic of Korea Fisheries Agreement will not affect countries other than Korea; (3) there are moves by various countries to establish a 12-mile fishing limit, but any unilaterally established fishing limit will have no binding power upon Japan; and (4) fishing limits established by agreement between different countries apply only to the contracting powers.

To amplify the Fishery Agency announcement, the article in Suisan Keizai Shimbun, summarised Japanese views on extending fishing limits as follows:

(1) At the Second Law of the Sea Conference convened in Geneva in 1960, a proposal was made concerning 12-mile fishing limits. The Japanese position is that the proposal was not intended to codify existing international custom, but to harmonize the claims of various countries concerning the breadth of territorial waters and to achieve international agreement. Therefore, it was not an attempt to recognize any right to unilaterally establish a 12-mile fishing limit. Moreover, since the proposal was defeated, the countries that had voted for it must conform as before to international law.

(2) Since 1960, some countries have concluded bilateral or multilateral fishery agreements with the aim of establishing 12-mile fishing limits. In those cases, Japan considers that the agreements were concluded solely to enable the contracting countries to solve problems affecting their fishery interests, which the Second Law of the Sea Conference failed to resolve. Therefore, the fishing zones established under such agreements were not for the purpose of unilaterally asserting the rights of the coastal countries, but were special arrangements developed on the basis of mutual agreement. Thus, their establishment affects only the contracting countries, and generally has no effect on other countries.

Any fishing zone established unilaterally will not be recognized as having binding power on Japan.

(3) With regard to the proposed Japan-Republic of Korea Fisheries Agreement, the two countries, based on the special relationship existing between them, have mutually agreed to recognize a right to establish special fishing zones. Thus, restrictions on fishing zones established by Japan are not applicable to any country other than Korea.

Note: See Commercial Fisheries Review, March 1965 p.83 and December 1964 p.104.

(Commercial Fisheries Review Washington December 1965)

LOBSTER HATCHING EXPERIMENTS IN GUERNSEY

In the Channel Islands, the Guernsey Sea Fisheries Committee started a lobster-hatching experiment in the spring of 1965. Lobster berries (eggs) were placed within specially constructed boxes and planted in coastal waters. The lobsters were expected to hatch in about a month's time. A Guernsey fisheries officer said a critical stage in the experiment would come shortly after hatching when efforts would be made to feed the "free-floating" baby lobsters with minced calf liver.

The specially-constructed hatching boxes are about 3 feet long and have a nylon mesh shelf to hold the lobster eggs. At the port of Grand Havre, one of the boxes was planted on the ocean bottom and another was anchored 6 to 7 feet off the bottom. Two of the boxes were placed at Bordeaux harbor and others were to be laid in coastal waters at Portelet, Perelle, and St. Peter Port.

The experiment is a long-term project since it will take at least 6 years for the lobsters hatched in 1965 to reach the minimum 8-inch size which can be landed in Guernsey. It is hoped, however, to eventually build up lobster stocks around the Channel Islands, possibly even to the extent of having export surplus.

A pioneer lobster hatching experiment was carried out many years ago in the Channel Islands. During the years 1899-1905, over 200,000 young lobsters were hatched and released from several stations in the islands. In 1906, a report on that experiment said, in part, "many small lobsters about 4 or 5 inches long are now found in shallow water...." Another follow-up report in 1907 reported a good lobster catch includ-

ing "a large number from 8 to 9 inches long." Unfortunately, a heat wave in 1906 apparently ended the experiment by destroying the lobster hatchery stock (The Fishing News, London, June 25, 1965).

(Commercial Fisheries Review Washington December 1965)

MIGRATION DISCOVERIES

Scientists on board the Royal Research Ship "Discovery" have traced a mysterious pattern of migration of huge numbers of fish and animals in the North Atlantic.

Mr. R. Currie, principal scientist, disclosed this recently when the ship returned from a voyage lasting three months.

New echo sounders had shown that the animals migrated up and down in the water, their depth varying by about 2,000 feet twice a day.

"It is a greay mystery why," said Mr. Currie.

(Fishing News London December 1965)

OUR FABULOUS FRIEND... THE TREE

You can climb it
 get cool under it
 Make a bow and arrow out of it
 build a tree house in it

BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN.....

Drive on it
 Take a picture with it
 Blow your nose in it
 Drink from it
 Go into orbit because of it ????????

It has better plumbing than a house!
 It starts smaller than a button.
 It gets bigger than a building.
 It runs like a machine on sun fuel.
 It cooks its own food----free!
 It's tougher than rock.
 It's tall, terrific and BEAUTIFUL

AND

It comes in a thousand models.....

And so let us respect OUR FABULOUS FRIEND - THE TREE.