

IN THE NORTH WEST

Supervising Inspector J.E. Bramley carried out an inspection of the Shark Bay-Carnarvon area early in September. He was prevented from going further north than Onslow by the closure of the north road following heavy rains.

On patrols on the p.v. "Vlaming" the trawler "Nanango" was contacted working out of Cape Leseur. The "Nanango" had been trawling for 12 hours during the night for a reward of only 200 lb. prawns. Carnarvon operators had not been having much better luck and one skipper stated that the previous nights operation were totally unsuccessful.

However at Exmouth the processing works was busy with prawns coming in in good quantities. Very few banana prawns were being received and the feeling is that they will be missed this year.

At Shark Bay net fishing had picked up and all fishermen were doing well. The main catches were whiting, garfish and mullet with a few yellow fin bream. Line fishermen, concentrating on mackerel, were obtaining good catches.

Some concern is being expressed in the area over the quantity of fish being removed by "professional" amateurs who are taking fish in up to 3,000 lb. lots in freezer equipped trailers. Not only are the professional fishermen suffering but there is a potential danger of ruining the tourist attraction of the fishing ground.

Fishermen at Exmouth claimed fish were scarce. However, some yellow fin bream were being netted.

On the fauna side a number of Pelicans were sighted at Sunday Island banks by Mr. Bramley and he stated that he had not previously seen them in this area.

Kangaroos were thick on Hamlin Station where shooting is not allowed and they were not concerned by passing vehicles. Wild turkeys were seen on the station and reports were that they were fairly plentiful near the Salt Works. A number of ducks, swans and snipe of several varieties were seen at Hamlin.

Between Carnarvon and Exmouth kangaroos and emus were the only fauna noted. Bird life was confined to scrub adjacent to tanks and troughs.