

PRAWN RESEARCH OFFICER IN MEXICO CITY

Mr. R.J. Slack-Smith has made a successful start to his overseas tour which began with the F.A.O. World Scientific Conference on the Biology and Culture of Shrimps and Prawns in Mexico City late in June.

Shrimp and prawn experts from all over the world received with enthusiasm the two papers presented by Mr. Slack-Smith.

These were :-

"The Prawning Industry in Shark Bay, Western Australia", by R.J. Slack-Smith.

"The Design, Analysis and Evaluation of Marine Resource Surveys", by R.J. Slack-Smith and A.E. Stark (C.S.I.R.O. Division of Mathematical Statistics).

As a result of the interest shown in these two papers Mr. Slack-Smith has been placed on the F.A.O.'s Indicative World Plan for Shrimp Committee, the F.A.O. Committee for Collection of Uniform Statistics and, provisionally, on the Committee of the I.P.F.C. Symposium on Trawling.

Many invitations were extended to Mr. Slack-Smith to visit other countries, amongst which were Thailand, West Indies, the United Kingdom and Central and Southern America.

Apart from attending the F.A.O. Conference, Mr. Slack-Smith visited main fishing areas and took part in a tour organised to Campeche and Merida by the Mexican Government. Here he inspected the fishing fleet, port facilities and processing works in the area. Mr. Slack-Smith also visited the Mexican Fisheries Department regional laboratory and Fisheries Training School at Campeche.

Whilst at Galveston, Texas, Mr. Slack-Smith spent six days at sea in a local prawn trawler.

BRITISH MUSEUM PLANS EXPEDITION TO AUSTRALIA

Major B.D. Booth, of the Natural History Branch of the British Museum, plans to lead an expedition to Australia early in 1968. This will be the fifth and last in the present series of expeditions to Australia.

While in Australia Major Booth hopes to bring the party to Western Australia where they will work in the northern areas of the State.

The expedition will be concerned principally with the areas surrounding the Fitzroy River, King Leopold Range and the Kimberleys towards the Ord River.

Major Booth will collaborate with Dr. W.D.L. Ride, of the W.A. Museum, and Dr. D.L. Serventy of C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Division in the preparation of their itinerary and in overcoming field study problems.

The Department will also make its facilities available to the expedition during its stay in Western Australia.