

Fish populations present in commercial quantities are made up mainly of ruffs, garfish, trevally, groper, samson fish and shark. In spite of this, the absence of a fishing fleet in the harbour never fails to surprise the visitor interested in commercial fishing. At first sight, Esperance waters appear to have everything necessary to maintain a commercial fishery, and this promise has lured many fishermen to the district. However, they have without exception failed to establish themselves; the lack of quality fish, the areas' great distance from markets and the lack of a local market all combined to render the ventures abortive.

AERIAL OBSERVATIONS!

Mr. Kitch Godfrey has reported some of the observations he made during the fauna survey flights in September.

Small Turtles

Numerous small turtles, apparently green turtles, were sighted approximately 50 miles north-west of Broome. They appeared to be less than half size. Mr. Godfrey said that this was the first time that such large numbers of small turtles were observed since the aerial tuna surveys commenced last December.

Bernier Island

The survey aircraft flew over this island on September 22 in a northerly direction at a height of 500 feet at 1312 hours.

A total of 19 goats and kids were seen in small groups up to 5 in number, north of Boulder Point. Apparently some goats were lying up or concealed in bushes.

On the return flight, the party flew over Bernier Island on September 28 (in a southerly direction) at a height of 500 feet at 0915 hours.

A total of 24 goats and 3 kids were seen in the same area.

Reporting on the general conditions, Mr. Godfrey said that it was warm and many goats could have been under cover. Several were close to bushes with only head and neck showing. The area where the goats were sighted is the most thickly covered part of the island.

The sand erosion and sparse growth along all the edges and at the southern end of the island were quite apparent from the air.