

type seen off the west coasts of South America and South Africa could develop off the west coast of Australia? My answer is that I don't think so, but of course one can't be sure until actual survey work is undertaken.

The waters off those two land masses, South America and South Africa, are rich in nutrients which in turn means that an abundance of fish food is available. These nutrients are brought from the lower water layers into the upper waters by means of an upwelling of cold water. In other words, the upwelling ensures that the nutrients are mixed throughout the water layers and not allowed to gradually drift to the bottom and out of the effective range of the sun.

However, off the west coast of Australia we have not been so fortunate. There is no similar upwelling and the nutrient level is very low compared with other parts of the world. Without an adequate nutrient level the plankton and fish food must be minimal. Because of this set of circumstances I doubt the existence of a resource of the size found off South America and South Africa and therefore, we are unlikely to have a large international fishery on our door step. On the other hand, there is little doubt that increased technology of fish finding and fish capture will allow us to obtain a better understanding of precisely what resources we do have and this in turn will, I hope, lead to new fisheries for Australian fishermen, even if they are of a limited nature only".

ROYAL SPOON BILL SIGHTED

Fisheries inspector L. Moss reported that on a recent patrol along the coast a Royal Spoon Bill was observed while crossing the lake on Mullaloo Road.

Sightings of this bird are very rare. It was wading near the roadway and was very easily identified.

"A penny saved is a penny earned. A dollar saved is an enormous temptation".