

## ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 1968 WHALING SEASON

In the Annual Report on the 1968 Whaling Season, the Department's Whaling Inspector stationed at Albany, said that a total of 658 sperm whales were taken by the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company during the period March 5 to December 15, 1968. The Company used its three chasers "Cheynes II", "Cheynes III", and "Gascoyne" to capture the whales. These were aided by a spotter aircraft, a Cessna 337 Twin Engine push-pull centre line thrust aircraft. The aircraft was flown by two pilots and clocked 1212 hours during the season. Included in this are flights made to Jandakot for servicing. Apparently, sonar radar is to be fitted to the "Cheynes III" during 1969, and it is claimed that this device should assist in the tracking of whales, particularly "deep divers".

During the season the company employed 88 people in the following capacities - 10 as flenzers on a contract basis, 47 on the whale chasers, 22 at the whaling station, 6 office personnel, 2 mess contractors and 1 pilot, with one of the office staff acting as second pilot.

### Production for this season realized:

Whale oil - 4026.3 tons (24,158 barrels), at an average price of \$111 per ton	= \$446,919
Whale solubles - 1933.26 tons, at an average price of \$106 per ton	= \$204,925
Whale meal - 968 tons, at an average price of \$111 per ton	= \$107,448
Filtered oil - 94 tons	= \$16,152
Whale teeth - 2,673 lbs (\$1.00 lb.)	= \$ 2,673
Ambergris - 146½ lbs, sold at an average price of 43c per oz.	= \$ 5,452
Whale meat - 31,498 lbs	= \$ 1,100

### Statistics of Catch

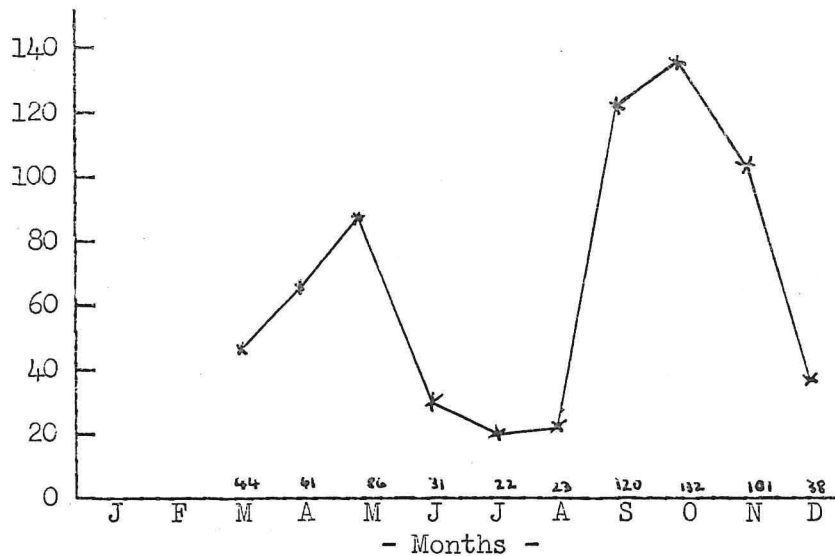
Females	73
Males	585
	<u>658</u>

A total of 606 of the whales taken were of legal size, the remaining 52 (7.9%) were undersize. In the 1967 season the percentage of undersize whales was .51%. Of the 14 embryos located 10 were males and 4 females. The smallest embryo was a 2' male and the largest a 13' male. The smallest female taken was 31'9".

Another interesting statistic provided is the average number of barrels of oil per whale realized in the past three seasons:

1966 - 43.5 barrels  
 1967 - 39.33 barrels  
 1968 - 36.71 barrels

The following chart shows the catch per month



According to the report the weather conditions during the 1968 season were the worst experienced by the company. A total of 125 days, which includes half days, was lost due to the adverse conditions prevailing. This left a total of 159 days (half days included) where whaling was possible, giving an average catch of 4 whales per day.

#### Market

Whale oil was sold in the United Kingdom and in the U.S.A., but the filtered oil was sold on the Australian market. Solubles were sold to Japan as well as on the

Australian market. Whale teeth were sold in Seattle, U.S.A. for scrimshaw work.

### Plant Improvement

A pilot oil filtering plant was successfully operated during the year using a cloud point temperature of 72°F. Apparently, the lower the temperature is when filtering the wax from the whale oil, the lower the cloud point becomes and greater the amount of wax residue that can be removed by the filter. The full-scale filter plant, which is to be built and operated in 1969, will incorporate a freezer and operate on a cloud point of 40°F. This should produce an even purer product than the pilot filter plant. The new plant will have a capacity of 1800 tons per year, but the probable output will be approximately 1000 tons per year.

The wax residue which has been subject to laboratory experiments by the company's industrial chemist during the past year has, according to the report, numerous uses ranging from facial creams to de-greasing oil, and even fish lure. Small quantities of hand lotion and fish lure were sold on the local market on a trial basis.

Other improvement work planned during 1969 includes office extensions and replacing timber on the top flenzing deck. Although the company made a profit of \$34.00 during the 1968 season, the 52 undersize whales taken and included in this figure must be considered when the economics of the overall situation are studied.