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STATISTICAL BULLETIN:
FISHING AND WHALING
AUSTRALIA

No.3 1956-57



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BY

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : FISHING AND WHALING, AUSTRALIA

NO. 3 - YEAR 1956-57

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PREFACE

This is the third of a series of annual Bulletins dealing with the Fishing and Whaling industry. The statistics contained in the Bulletin relate to the year 1956-57 for fisheries and the 1957 season for whaling, with comparative data for the previous four years.

The Bulletin is divided into two parts, Part I dealing with fisheries and Part II with whaling. In Part I a subdivision is made between the fisheries for edible products and those for inedible products.

Details published in Part I are derived mainly from annual returns supplied by State Fisheries Authorities. These statistics refer, in general, to fiscal years, although pearling statistics are reported on a seasonal basis. The data relating to whaling were supplied by the Commonwealth Fisheries Office which is responsible for the regulation of whaling activities. The details include particulars for the whaling station operating on Norfolk Island. Thanks are due to all these authorities for their co-operation in supplying information and technical advice.

PART I - FISHERIES

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Catch or Take - Details of catch or take published in this Bulletin refer in most cases to the recorded commercial production only. In view of the important part played by amateur fishermen in certain types of fishing, details shown (both for particular species and for totals) fall somewhat short of the total catch.

Landed Weight - Weight of fish landed as reported by fishermen. For particular species, fish may be landed in a headed, headed and gutted, or otherwise reduced condition. In previous issues of this bulletin, "landed weight" was referred to as "reported weight".

Estimated Live (i.e. Whole Fresh) Weight - Conversion factors supplied by State Fisheries Authorities have been applied to the landed weight of individual species in order to provide an estimate of the live weight equivalent. In previous issues, "live weight" was shown as "round weight".

Catch by States - The catch is generally shown according to the State in whose waters it was taken. However a quantity of sharks and crayfish taken by Victorian-based fishermen in Tasmanian waters, but marketed in Victoria, has been included in the Victorian catch, since that State is most directly affected. Similarly, pearl shell taken by Queensland luggers operating in Northern Territory waters has been included in the Queensland take.

Boats and Equipment in Use. Persons Engaged, etc. - These data are derived mainly from the licensing records of the various fisheries authorities. Owing to variations in definitions and licensing procedures, there is a lack of comparability between States, and the statistics published should not be used as a guide to the relative effort applied in obtaining the recorded catch. However, they do give some indication of trends.

SECTION I - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS(1) Quantity and Gross Value of Take.

Particulars of the quantity and gross value of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and shark livers taken are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below. The total value of these items in 1956-57, £9,862,000 was £1,550,000 (18.6 per cent.) higher than in the previous year.

The estimated live (whole fresh) weight of fish taken during 1956-57 was 75.0 million lb. This was 11.7 million lb. (18.5 per cent.) higher than the extremely low level of the previous year.

The crustacean catch fell by 0.7 million lb. (2.6 per cent.) from the 1955-56 level to 24.8 million lb. in 1956-57. The quantity of molluscs taken during the year, at 17.4 million lb. was the highest ever recorded and was 1.8 million lb. (11.6 per cent.) higher than the catch in 1955-56.

TABLE 1 - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS : QUANTITY AND GROSS VALUE OF TAKE, 1956-57.

Particulars	Unit	N.S.W.	Vic. (a)	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas. (a)	N.T.	Aust.
Fish (b)									
Landed Weight ..	'000 lb.	27,327	12,193	8,888	8,328	7,435	2,617	179	66,967
Estimated Live Weight ..	"	28,992	14,136	9,447	9,318	9,545	3,416	179	75,033
Gross Value ..	£'000	2,145	1,203	622	943	578	192	27	5,710
Crustaceans -									
Gross Weight ..	'000 lb.	2,989	1,164	3,210	4,385	10,963	2,104	-	24,815
Gross Value ..	£'000	576	176	401	506	1,380	245	-	3,284
Molluscs -									
Gross (in-shell) Weight ..	'000 lb.	9,695	89	1,399	-	(c) 14	6,247	-	(d) 17,444
Gross Value ..	£'000	636	6	46	-	(c) 2	171	-	(d) 861
Shark Livers for Oil									
Extraction -									
Gross Weight ..	'000 lb.	-	(e)	-	175	-	-	-	(d) 175
Gross Value ..	£'000	-	(e)	-	7	-	-	-	(d) 7

(a) Catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria.

(b) Excludes quantity and value of shark livers for oil extraction which are shown separately below.

(c) Excludes oysters, details for which are not available for publication.

(d) Incomplete; See footnotes to individual States.

(e) Not available.

TABLE 2 - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS : QUANTITY AND GROSS VALUE OF TAKE, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars	Unit	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Fish -						
Landed Weight ..	'000 lb.	72,951	71,176	63,692	57,093	66,967
Estimated Live Weight ..	"	81,379	78,828	70,422	63,298	75,033
Gross Value ..	£'000	4,514	4,716	4,632	4,626	5,710
Crustaceans -						
Gross Weight ..	'000 lb.	19,722	22,265	27,668	25,474	24,815
Gross Value ..	£'000	2,106	2,510	2,929	2,873	3,284
Molluscs -						
Gross (in-shell) Weight ..	'000 lb.	11,719	13,570	15,931	(a) 15,632	(a) 17,444
Gross Value ..	£'000	487	641	829	(a) 788	(a) 861
Shark Livers for Oil						
Extraction -						
Gross Weight ..	'000 lb.	308	254	170	215	(b) 175
Gross Value ..	£'000	40	34	22	25	(b) 7

(a) Incomplete; excludes oysters in Western Australia.

(b) Incomplete; excludes details for Victoria.

(ii) Boats and Equipment in Use, Persons Engaged, etc.

Tables 3 and 4 provide details of the number of boats, value of boats and equipment and persons employed in the taking of fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and data relating to oyster leases. As indicated in the explanatory notes at the front of the Bulletin, these statistics should be used with some reserve in making comparisons between States, but they do give some indication of trends in the industry.

TABLE 3 - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS : BOATS AND EQUIPMENT IN USE,
PERSONS ENGAGED, ETC. 1956-57

Particulars	Unit	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A. (a)	Tas.	N.T.	Aust.
General Fisheries (b)									
Persons Engaged ..	No.	2,201	930	10,731	5,550	1,285	958	52	21,707
Boats Engaged ..	No.	(c)2,239	703	4,857	1,470	706	472	28	10,475
Value of Boats and Equipment ..	£'000	1,557	851	1,627	595	1,414	840	7	6,891
Edible Oyster Fisheries -									
Persons Engaged ..	No.	719	5	146	-	(d) (e)	-	-	(f) 870
Boats Engaged ..	No.	980	4	47	-	(d) (e)	-	-	(f) 1,031
Value of Boats and Equipment ..	£'000	130	-	30	-	(d) (e)	-	-	(f) 160
Leases Granted ..	No.	5,154	5	293	-	-	-	-	5,452
Length of Foreshore in Leases ..	'000 yd.	954	16	(g)	-	-	-	-	(f) 970
Off-shore Leases ..	acres	6,037	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,037

(a) Year ended December, 1956. (b) Includes Crustacean and Scallop fisheries.

(c) Includes 4 steam trawlers valued at £140,000. (d) Confidential; Not available for publication. (e) Included in General Fisheries. (f) Incomplete; See footnotes to individual States. (g) Not available.

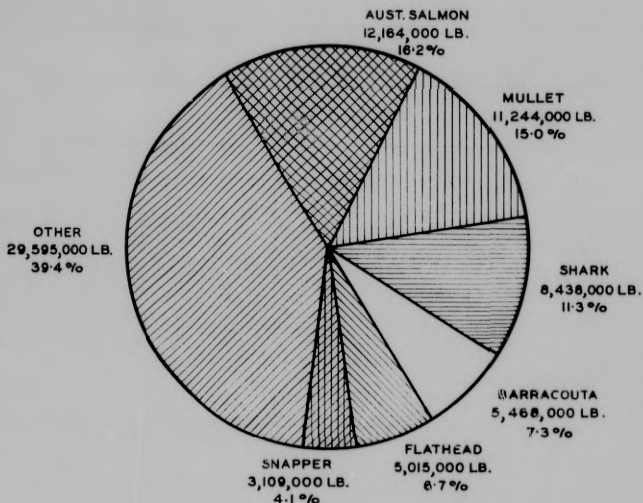
TABLE 4 - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS : BOATS AND EQUIPMENT IN USE,
PERSONS ENGAGED, ETC., AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
General Fisheries (a) -						
Persons Engaged ..	No.	17,401	18,598	19,685	20,627	21,707
Boats Engaged ..	No.	9,407	9,877	10,030	10,223	10,475
Value of Boats and Equipment	£'000	5,028	5,936	6,240	6,606	6,891
Edible Oyster Fisheries -						
Persons Engaged ..	No.	871	700	922	819	870
Boats Engaged ..	No.	1,079	978	1,104	810	1,031
Value of Boats and Equipment	£'000	103	129	123	115	160
Leases Granted ..	No.	5,543	5,634	5,660	5,474	5,452
Length of Foreshore in Leases	'000 yd.	1,039	1,020	1,043	1,127	970
Off-shore Leases ..	acres	5,888	6,296	6,547	5,251	6,037

(a) Includes Crustacean and Scallop fisheries.

FISH: PRODUCTION OF MAJOR SPECIES AUSTRALIA, 1956-57

TOTAL PRODUCTION - 75,033,000 LB. LIVE (L., WHOLE FISH) WEIGHT.



GENERAL FISHERIES: BOATS AND PERSONS ENGAGED AUSTRALIA, 1947-48 TO 1956-57



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T.
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(iii) Fish Processing.

Statistics available on the processing of edible fisheries products are restricted by the confidential nature of much of the information collected from processors. For this reason it is not possible to publish details according to species. Such data as are available are shown in Table 5 following. In 1956-57, the approximate live weight of fish processed was 13.3 million lb. or about 18 per cent. of the total catch. This was 12 per cent. more than the quantity processed in the previous year.

TABLE 5 - FISH PROCESSING. AUSTRALIA

('000 lb.)

Particulars	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57 (a)
<u>Fish Used (b)</u>					
Whole	4,526	4,936	3,081	3,528	6,689
Headed and/or Gutted	7,883	6,170	6,721	7,075	5,582
Estimated Live Weight Equivalent (c)	13,800	12,200	11,000	11,900	13,300
<u>Production -</u>					
Canned Fish (d)	7,705	6,605	6,645	6,008	7,920
Canned Oysters	(e)	16	8	-	(f)
Smoked Fish	409	286	66	123	487
Fish Paste	844	(e)	1,055	(e)	(e)
Fish Meal	293	(e)	270	(e)	(f)

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) Fish used for canning (including fish loaf), smoking and the manufacture of fish paste, but excluding the weight of oysters used for canning.

(c) The weight of headed and/or gutted fish is taken as 85 per cent. of live weight.

(d) Includes fish loaf, fish cakes, etc.

(e) Not available for publication.

(f) Not yet available.

(iv) Overseas Trade in Fresh and Processed Fish.

Table 6 shows details of the quantity of Australian imports and exports of edible fisheries products for the years 1952-53 to 1956-57.

Imports, particularly fresh and canned fish, have increased sharply since the relaxation of the import restrictions imposed during 1952-53. In 1956-57, the live weight equivalent of fish imported was of the same order as that of the total Australian catch, the imports of canned fish being more than double the output of local factories.

Exports of items other than crayfish tails in 1956-57 remained at the low levels of earlier years, but crayfish tails increased in importance, 4.8 million lb. being exported.

TABLE 6 - IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FRESH AND PROCESSED FISH, AUSTRALIA
(¹000 lb.)

Particulars	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
IMPORTS					
Fresh or Frozen (a) ..	9,676	15,768	18,488	19,257	18,799
Potted or Concentrated (including Extracts) ..	65	152	155	158	76
Smoked or Dried ..	6,264	5,633	6,774	7,743	3,482
Other (including Salted) ..	770	1,265	1,377	2,055	910
Canned -					
Herrings ..	2,243	6,863	6,781	6,328	4,984
Salmon ..	2,784	3,062	6,484	9,691	5,514
Sardines ..	379	4,575	5,718	5,693	4,584
Pilchards ..	52	95			
Crustaceans ..	241	464	551	1,053	218
Other (b) ..	128	433	680	496	1,403
Total Canned :	5,827	15,492	20,214	23,261	16,703
EXPORTS					
Fresh or Frozen -					
Crayfish Tails ..	(c)4,429	(c)4,326	4,469	4,445	4,775
Other ..	80	103	1,079	482	829
Potted or Concentrated (including Extracts) ..	29	8	2	2	-
Smoked or Dried ..	19	10	11	6	8
Other (including Salted) ..	3	8	-	-	-
Canned -					
Fish (d) ..	789	646	419	430	413
Crustaceans and Molluscs ..	23	61	50	62	257
Total Canned :	812	707	469	492	670

(a) Includes Crustaceans and Molluscs. (b) Includes canned molluscs. (c) Includes whole Crayfish and other Crustaceans. (d) Includes exports of other than Australian produce amounting to (quantity expressed in ¹000 lb.): 1952-53, 294; 1953-54, 217; 1954-55, 166; 1955-56, 151 and 1956-57, 136.

(v) Consumption of Fresh and Processed Fish.

Particulars of the estimated supplies of fish, crustaceans and molluscs available for consumption per head of population, in terms of edible weight, are included in the Table below. For the purpose of compiling this table, the non-commercial fish catch has been estimated at 10% of the recorded catch.

Fish is not a staple item in the diet of Australians and the consumption of fisheries' products remained at the comparatively low level of 9.0 lb. per head in 1956-57, more than half of this quantity being fresh fish.

TABLE 7 - ESTIMATED SUPPLIES OF FISH ETC. AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMPTION, AUSTRALIA
(lb. edible weight per head per annum)

Particulars	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Fish - Fresh	5.2	5.7	5.2	4.9	5.1
Cured (incl. Smoked and Salted)	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.5
Canned - Australian Origin	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.8
Imported	0.6	1.7	2.2	2.5	1.7
Crustaceans and Molluscs	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.9
Total :	8.1	9.8	10.2	10.1	9.0

(vi) Detailed Production Statistics

(a) Fish. Table 8 contains details by States of the recorded production of fresh fish for each of the years 1952-53 to 1956-57.

In terms of live weight, the Australian catch at 75.0 million lb. in 1956-57, was 6.3 million lb. (7.8 per cent.) less than the 1952-53 catch but 11.7 million lb. (18.5 per cent.) more than the 1955-56 catch. The increase in 1956-57 on the previous year was the result of increases of 5.9 million lb. (25.7 per cent.) in the catch for New South Wales; 3.3 million lb. (30.5 per cent.) for Victoria, 2.0 million lb. (27.2 per cent.) for South Australia, and 0.9 million lb. (34.2 per cent.) for Tasmania. Small decreases were recorded in the catch for Queensland (0.2 million lb. or 2.3 per cent.) and Western Australia (0.2 million lb. or 2.2 per cent.).

TABLE 8 - PRODUCTION OF FRESH FISH

State or Territory	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-), 1956-57 on 1952-53	
	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	1952-53	1955-56
LANDED WEIGHT							
New South Wales	30,486	30,132	24,752	21,427	27,327	(-) 10.4	(+) 27.5
Victoria (a)	11,282	11,679	11,668	9,226	12,193	(+) 8.1	(+) 32.2
Queensland	10,501	9,766	9,009	9,002	8,888	(-) 15.4	(-) 1.3
South Australia	7,120	7,217	7,061	6,395	8,328	(+) 17.0	(+) 30.2
Western Australia	8,420	10,072	8,586	8,953	7,435	(-) 11.7	(-) 17.0
Tasmania (a)	5,055	2,210	2,498	1,989	2,617	(-) 48.2	(+) 31.6
Northern Territory	87	100	118	101	179	(+) 105.7	(+) 77.2
AUSTRALIA:	72,951	71,176	63,692	57,093	66,967	(-) 8.2	(+) 17.3
ESTIMATED LIVE (i.e. WHOLE FRESH) WEIGHT (b)							
New South Wales	32,660	32,332	26,441	23,062	28,992	(-) 11.2	(+) 25.7
Victoria (a)	13,069	13,820	13,833	10,826	14,136	(+) 8.2	(+) 30.5
Queensland	11,354	10,525	9,368	9,668	9,447	(-) 16.8	(-) 2.3
South Australia	8,102	8,317	8,154	7,328	9,318	(+) 15.0	(+) 27.2
Western Australia	9,225	10,913	9,393	9,768	9,545	(+) 3.5	(-) 2.2
Tasmania (a)	6,882	2,821	3,115	2,545	3,416	(-) 50.4	(+) 34.2
Northern Territory	87	100	118	101	179	(+) 105.7	(+) 77.2
AUSTRALIA:	81,379	78,828	70,422	63,298	75,033	(-) 7.8	(+) 18.5

(a) Catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria.

(b) Estimated on the basis of conversion factors applied to individual species.

Tables 9 and 10 contain an analysis of the Australian fish catch according to species, the classification being based on that used by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. Table 11 provides a more detailed analysis of the most important species.

There have been minor changes in the relative importance of the various species groups over the period covered, but the general pattern has remained the same. Thus the "Perches, Croakers, Breams, Basses and Similar Species" group, which supplied 33.7 million lb. or 44.9 per cent. of the total catch in 1956-57, has been the dominant group for each of the five years. The "Barracudas, Mulletts and Similar Species" group was next in importance and accounted for 12.3 million lb. or 16.3 per cent. of the total catch. Freshwater species accounted for only 2.5 per cent. of the recorded catch.

Australian salmon displaced mullet as the principal species taken in 1956-57, with greatly increased catches in New South Wales and Victoria. Mullet was taken mainly in New South Wales and Queensland. Shark was the third most important species taken, with South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales supplying the bulk of the catch. The barracouta catch improved considerably on the level of the previous year with large increases in the catch in Victoria and Tasmania.

TABLE 9 - FISH, PRODUCTION BY SPECIES, 1956-57
('000 lb. live (i.e. whole fresh) weight)

Species Group	Common Name	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	N.T.	Australia
Fish -									
Fresh-water Species -									
Teleostean Fresh Water Species	Murray Cod	145	18	20	187	..	..	..	370
	Gallop	618	107	80	400	..	..	..	1,205
	Other	154	129	..	..	..	..	..	283
Total Fresh-water Species		917	254	100	587	..	..	..	1,858
Marine Species -									
Salmon and similar Species	Whitebait	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
Teleostean Flat-fishes ..	Flounder and Sole ..	..	212	..	3	1	13	..	229
Cod, Hake and similar Species	Rock Cod and Cod (Mora dannevigii)	..	42	..	..	..	53	..	95
Herring and similar species	Pilchard	54	5	..	..	7	..	..	66
	Anchovy	..	309	..	..	..	..	..	309
	Other	..	9	..	..	31	..	..	40
	Total :	54	323	..	..	38	..	..	415
Tunas, True Mackerel and similar Species ..	Barracouta	154	2,887	..	..	1	2,426	..	5,468
	Mackerel; Spanish and School ..	..	..	1,190	..	43	34	..	1,267
	Tuna	1,683	35	2	438	14	38	..	2,210
	Other	(a)225	..	..	..	1	..	..	226
	Total :	2,062	2,922	1,192	438	59	2,498	..	9,171
Barracudas, Mullots and similar Species ..	Mullet	4,603	578	4,269	650	1,131	13	..	11,244
	Pike, Snook and Barracuda ..	..	199	48	350	21	1	..	619
	Other	..	..	(b)342	..	3	..	45	390
	Total :	4,603	777	4,659	1,000	1,155	14	45	12,253
Jacks, Pompanos and similar Species ..	Silver Trevally, Trevally ..	55	133	71	..	105	46	..	410
	Tailor	422	..	615	..	148	..	..	1,185
	Yellowtail Kingfish	433	4	4	12	..	..	..	453
	Other	(c)304	3	84	..	78	..	12	481
	Total :	1,214	140	774	12	331	46	12	2,529

For footnotes see end of this table.

TABLE 9 - FISH, PRODUCTION BY SPECIES, 1956-57 (Continued)
('000 lb. live (i.e. whole fresh) weight)

Species Group	Common Name	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	N.T.	AUSTRALIA
Perches, Croakers, Breams, Basses and similar Species	Bream ..	412	109	(d)355	..	58	..	18	952
	Australian Salmon ..	3,256	3,621	..	900	4,314	73	..	12,164
	Ruff, Tommyruff, Sea Herring ..	..	153	..	750	1,015	..	..	1,918
	Snapper ..	1,803	83	135	35	1,035	..	18	3,109
	Morwong, Jackass Fish, Perch, Queen Snapper ..	3,725	155	..	..	4	11	..	3,895
	Whiting ..	151	194	472	1,400	463	..	..	2,680
	Flathead ..	2,904	1,810	234	..	25	42	..	5,015
	Luderick, Blackfish, Black Bream (Girella tricuspidata) ..	831	30	36	..	..	..	..	897
	Mulloway ..	237	..	58	88	8	..	..	391
	Other (e) ..	1,059	100	772	..	600	76	56	2,663
	Total:	14,378	6,255	2,062	3,173	7,522	202	92	33,684
Other Teleostean Marine Species ..	Leatherjacket ..	1,838	18	8	..	21	..	..	1,885
	Nannygai, Redfish ..	436	..	..	..	1	..	..	437
	Garfish ..	361	377	129	650	50	66	..	1,633
	Mixed Fish and other varieties	(f)1,337	248	390	280	3	2	30	2,290
	Total :	3,972	643	527	930	75	68	30	6,245
Elasmobranchs ..	Shark ..	1,792	(g)2,568	25	3,175	359	(g)519	..	8,438
	Other (h) ..	..	..	108	..	5	..	..	113
	Total :	1,792	2,568	133	3,175	364	519	..	8,551
Total Marine Species		28,075	13,882	9,347	8,731	9,545	3,416	179	73,175
Total Fish		28,992	14,136	9,447	9,318	9,545	3,416	179	75,033

(a) Slimy Mackerel.

(b) Queensland Salmon, King and Treadfin.

(c) John Dory.

(d) Includes Tarwhine.

(e) Most important species are Teraglin (N.S.W., 482,000 lb.); Barramundi (Q'ld., 418,000 lb.); Gurnard (N.S.W., 341,000 lb.);
Cobbler (W.A., 331,000 lb.); Westralian Jewfish (W.A., 221,000 lb.); Latchet (N.S.W., 211,000 lb.) and Sweetlip (Q'ld., 187,000 lb.)

(f) Mainly trawled fish.

(g) 956,000 lb. caught by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters are included in Victoria.

(h) Ray, Skate and Bugler.

TABLE 10 - FISH : PRODUCTION BY SPECIES. AUSTRALIA
('000 lb. live (i.e. whole fresh) weight)

Species Group	Common Name	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Fish -						
Fresh-water Species -						
Teleostean Fresh-water Species	Murray Cod	505	476	599	486	370
	Callop					
	Other	1,580	1,796	1,515	1,146	1,205
Total Fresh-water Species		2,085	2,272	2,331	1,881	1,858
Marine Species -						
Salmon and similar Species	Whitebait	40	134	64	34	3
Teleostean Flat-fishes ..	Flounder and Sole	252	283	232	170	229
Cod, Hake and similar Species	Rock Cod and Cod (Mora dannevig)	146	166	149	102	95
Herring and similar species	Pilchard	151	75	110	275	66
	Anchovy	144	248	237	103	309
	Other	18	41	16	64	40
	Total :	313	364	363	442	415
Tunas, True Mackerel and similar Species ..	Barracouta	9,275	5,768	6,949	3,445	5,468
	Mackerel; Spanish and School	2,303	1,997	1,213	1,523	1,267
	Tuna	676	1,129	997	1,141	2,210
	Other	165	222	86	77	226
	Total :	12,419	9,116	9,245	6,186	9,171
Barracudas, Mulllets and similar Species ..	Mullet	13,969	12,801	12,528	11,576	11,244
	Pike, Snook and Barracuda	724	719	355	512	619
	Other	204	200	224	333	390
	Total :	14,897	13,720	13,107	12,421	12,253
Jacks, Pompanos and similar Species	Silver Trevally, Trevally	240	272	250	300	410
	Tailor	1,201	969	766	987	1,185
	Yellowtail Kingfish	365	478	272	335	453
	Other	396	393	370	394	481
	Total :	2,202	2,112	1,658	2,016	2,529

TABLE 10 - FISH : PRODUCTION BY SPECIES, AUSTRALIA (Continued)

('000 lb. live (i.e. whole fresh) weight)

Species Group	Common Name	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Perches, Croakers, Breams, Basses and similar Species ..	Bream ..	1,389	1,338	1,242	1,138	952
	Australian Salmon ..	8,118	11,398	7,415	7,652	12,164
	Ruff, Tommyruff, Sea Herring ..	1,324	1,294	1,460	1,068	1,918
	Snapper ..	3,501	3,399	3,197	3,127	3,109
	Morwong, Jackass Fish, Perch, Queen Snapper ..	3,320	2,784	2,913	2,712	3,895
	Whiting ..	2,941	2,194	2,452	2,804	2,680
	Flathead ..	6,661	6,050	5,874	4,958	5,015
	Luderick, Blackfish, Black Bream (Girella tricuspidata) ..	1,432	1,137	1,043	991	897
	Mulloway ..	526	611	453	393	391
	Other ..	2,346	2,416	2,404	2,332	2,663
	Total :	31,558	32,621	28,453	27,175	33,684
	Leatherjacket ..	3,187	2,709	1,809	2,280	1,885
	Nannygai, Redfish ..	1,546	1,709	1,014	495	437
Other Teleostean Marine Species ..	Garfish ..	1,530	1,492	1,143	1,147	1,633
	Mixed Fish and other Varieties ..	3,407	3,446	2,982	1,845	2,290
	Total :	9,670	9,356	6,948	5,767	6,245
Elasmobranchs ..	Shark ..	7,698	8,586	7,766	6,987	8,438
	Other ..	99	98	106	117	113
	Total :	7,797	8,684	7,872	7,104	8,551
Total Marine Species		79,294	76,556	68,091	61,816	73,175
Total Fish		81,379	78,828	70,422	63,298	75,033

TABLE 11 - FISH + PRODUCTION OF MAJOR SPECIES

('000 lb. live (i.e. whole fresh) weight)

State	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
<u>MULLET</u>					
New South Wales	6,699	6,288	6,206	5,083	4,603
Victoria	1,096	751	634	816	578
Queensland	4,866	4,561	4,451	4,234	4,269
South Australia	500	500	477	550	650
Western Australia	792	691	731	871	1,131
Tasmania	16	10	29	22	13
<u>Australia :</u>	13,969	12,801	12,528	11,576	11,244
<u>AUSTRALIAN SALMON</u>					
New South Wales	2,423	2,578	575	1,225	3,256
Victoria	763	1,427	1,099	864	3,621
South Australia	800	1,000	876	536	900
Western Australia	3,997	6,011	4,435	4,771	4,314
Tasmania	135	382	430	256	73
<u>Australia :</u>	8,118	11,398	7,415	7,652	12,164
<u>SHARK</u>					
New South Wales	1,183	1,903	1,818	1,227	1,792
Victoria (a)	2,081	3,149	2,895	2,724	2,568
Queensland	-	-	-	27	25
South Australia	2,000	2,100	2,114	2,119	3,175
Western Australia	207	318	276	248	359
Tasmania (a)	2,227	1,116	663	642	519
<u>Australia :</u>	7,698	8,586	7,766	6,987	8,438
<u>BARRACOUTA</u>					
New South Wales	339	337	86	83	154
Victoria	4,926	4,632	5,378	2,091	2,887
Western Australia	-	-	-	-	1
Tasmania	4,010	799	1,485	1,271	2,426
<u>Australia :</u>	9,275	5,768	6,949	3,445	5,468
<u>FLATHEAD</u>					
New South Wales	4,362	4,011	3,662	2,539	2,904
Victoria	1,889	1,696	1,856	2,055	1,810
Queensland	241	214	210	216	234
South Australia	-	-	4	-	-
Western Australia	18	23	27	66	25
Tasmania	151	106	115	82	42
<u>Australia :</u>	6,661	6,050	5,874	4,958	5,015

(a) Catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria.

(b) Crustaceans

The following table contains details of the production of crayfish, prawns, crabs and total crustaceans for the period 1952-53 to 1956-57. Crayfish are not taken commercially in Queensland, but shovel-nosed lobsters are included with crayfish for convenience.

In 1956-57, the crayfish catch increased by 0.4 million lb. (2.4 per cent.) to 18.9 million lb. Largest increases were in South Australia (0.4 million lb. or 9.6 per cent.) and Western Australia (0.2 million lb. or 2.2 per cent.), while there was a decrease of 0.3 million lb. (13.8 per cent.) in Tasmania. Western Australia is the largest producer, contributing more than half of the Australian total.

In 1956-57, there was a substantial fall in the prawn catch (1.1 million lb. or 17.5 per cent.) to 5.1 million lb. from the level of the previous year. This was mainly brought about by a decrease of 1.3 million lb. (35.0 per cent.) in the New South Wales catch.

TABLE 12 - CRUSTACEANS + PRODUCTION BY TYPE

('000 lb. gross weight)

State	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
<u>CRAYFISH</u>					
New South Wales	549	601	545	446	480
Victoria (a)	961	1,519	1,263	1,026	1,164
Queensland (b)	2	8	9	12	9
South Australia	3,500	3,850	4,589	4,000	4,385
Western Australia	8,100	9,224	10,906	10,530	10,763
Tasmania (a)	2,694	2,218	2,895	2,442	2,104
<u>Australia :</u>	15,806	17,420	20,207	18,456	18,905
<u>PRAWNS</u>					
New South Wales	2,825	3,558	4,603	3,672	2,386
Victoria	-	-	19	1	-
Queensland	488	700	2,000	2,400	2,500
Western Australia	23	45	26	75	189
<u>Australia :</u>	3,336	4,303	6,648	6,148	5,075
<u>CRABS</u>					
New South Wales	83	131	237	200	123
Queensland	459	395	556	649	701
Western Australia	38	16	19	21	11
<u>Australia :</u>	580	542	(c) 813	870	835
<u>TOTAL CRUSTACEANS</u>					
New South Wales	3,457	4,290	5,385	4,318	2,989
Victoria (a)	961	1,519	1,282	1,027	1,164
Queensland	949	1,103	2,565	3,061	3,210
South Australia	3,500	3,850	4,590	4,000	4,385
Western Australia	8,161	9,285	10,951	10,626	10,963
Tasmania (a)	2,694	2,218	2,895	2,442	2,104
<u>Australia :</u>	19,722	22,265	27,668	25,474	24,815

(a) Catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria.

(b) Shovel-nosed lobster.

(c) Includes South Australian catch of 1,000 lb.

(c) Molluscs

The table below contains details of the production of oysters, scallops and total molluscs.

New South Wales is the only State in which oyster-farming techniques have been applied to any great extent, activities in other States being restricted largely to the harvesting of naturally grown stock. Australian production rose to 10.3 million lb. (in-shell) during the year 1956-57. This was an increase of 0.7 million lb. (7.4 per cent.) on production in the previous year. Scallops are now taken commercially in both Queensland and Tasmania and in 1956-57 Australian production rose to 7.1 million lb. (in-shell), an increase of 1.1 million lb. (18.1 per cent.).

TABLE 13 - MOLLUSCS : PRODUCTION BY TYPE
(¹000 lb. in-shell weight)

State	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
OYSTERS					
New South Wales	7,771	9,283	10,198	9,197	9,695
Victoria	95	71	15	4	42
Queensland	404	275	158	146	154
Western Australia	-	-	39	(a)	(a)
Tasmania	6	59	44	214	373
Australia :	8,276	9,688	10,454	(b)9,561	(b)10,264
SCALLOPS					
Queensland	-	-	-	200	1,200
Tasmania	3,229	3,779	5,406	5,788	5,874
Australia :	3,229	3,779	5,406	5,988	7,074
TOTAL MOLLUSCS (c)					
New South Wales	7,938	9,331	10,198	9,197	9,695
Victoria	114	96	47	57	89
Queensland	427	297	185	370	1,399
Western Australia	5	8	51	(b)6	(b)14
Tasmania	3,235	3,838	5,450	6,002	6,267
Australia :	11,719	13,570	15,931	(b)15,632	(b)17,444

(a) Confidential; not available for publication. (b) Incomplete; excludes Oysters in Western Australia. (c) Includes squid.

SECTION II - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL

(1) Quantity and Gross Value of Take.

In the following two tables, particulars of the quantity and gross value of pearl shell and trochus shell are shown. For 1952-53 and 1953-54 details for Queensland refer to the year ending in June. For subsequent years, figures relate to the season ending in January. Details for Western Australia and Northern Territory refer to seasons ended previous December and January respectively.

The total value of shell taken in 1956-57 was £1,363,000, of which pearl shell contributed £1,006,000. Since 1951-52, the quantity of pearl shell taken has increased steadily and the take in 1956-57 at 3,724,000 lb. was considerably above the level of previous years. Since 1953-54, Western Australia has replaced Queensland as the major producer of pearl shell. Production of trochus shell which fell substantially in 1955-56, fell again in 1956-57 to 1.9 million lb., the lowest production recorded in recent years.

TABLE 14 - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL : QUANTITY AND GROSS VALUE OF TAKE
SEASON ENDED JANUARY, 1957

Particulars	Unit	Queensland	Western Australia	Northern Territory	Australia
Pearl Shell -					
Weight	¹ 000 lb.	(a)1,127	2,012	(b)585	3,724
Gross Value	£'000	276	584	146	1,006
Trochus Shell -					
Weight	¹ 000 lb.	1,900	11	..	1,911
Gross Value	£'000	356	1	..	357

(a) Shell taken by Queensland luggers in Northern Territory waters is included in Queensland. (b) In addition, 1,458,000 lb. were taken by Japanese pearlers operating in Northern Territory waters.

TABLE 15 - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL : QUANTITY AND GROSS VALUE OF TAKE,
AUSTRALIA (SEASONS ENDED JANUARY)

Particulars	Unit	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
<u>Pearl Shell -</u>						
Weight - Queensland (a)	'000 lb.	1,109	965	896	1,142	1,127
Western Australia	"	679	1,001	1,250	1,460	2,012
Northern Territory	"	260	(b) 371	(b) 343	(b) 311	(b) 585
(a) Australia	"	2,048	(b) 2,337	(b) 2,489	(b) 2,913	(b) 3,724
Gross Value	£'000	487	595	647	771	1,006
<u>Trochus Shell -</u>						
Weight	'000 lb.	2,238	3,057	2,784	2,114	1,911
Gross Value	£'000	146	260	350	346	357

(a) Shell taken by Queensland luggers operating in Northern Territory waters is included in Queensland. (b) In addition, 2,110,000 lb., 2,105,000 lb., 1,657,000 lb. and 1,458,000 lb. were taken by Japanese pearlers in Northern Territory waters in 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 respectively.

(ii) Boats and Equipment in Use. Persons Engaged, etc.

Details of employment of persons and equipment in the shell fisheries are contained in the following two tables.

TABLE 16 - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL : BOATS AND EQUIPMENT IN USE,
PERSONS ENGAGED, 1955-57.

Particulars	Unit	Queensland	Western Australia	Northern Territory	Australia (a)
Boats Engaged	No.	98	42	10	150
Value of Boats and Equipment	£'000	500	251	75	826
Persons Engaged	No.	1,155	464	123	1,742

(a) Excludes Japanese pearlers operating in Australian waters.

TABLE 17 - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL : BOATS AND EQUIPMENT IN USE,
PERSONS ENGAGED, AUSTRALIA (a)

Particulars	Unit	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Boats Engaged	No.	114	124	127	136	150
Value of Boats and Equipment	£'000	441	502	564	727	826
Persons Engaged	No.	1,152	1,386	1,506	1,571	1,742

(a) Excludes Japanese pearlers operating in Australian waters.

PART II - WHALING

The whaling industry was re-established in Australia in 1949, operations being carried out from shore-based stations. In 1949, a privately-owned station began operating at Point Cloates, Western Australia. The Australian Whaling Commission was established in the same year. The Commission built a station at Babbage Island near Carnarvon, Western Australia, but did not begin operating until almost the end of the 1950 season. In 1956, legislation was passed to dissolve the Commission and its assets were sold to Nor' West Whaling Company. There is also a small station operating at Cheynes Beach near Albany (W.A.). A large station began operating in 1952 at Moreton Island (Q'ld.) and in 1954 a small station began operating at Byron Bay (N.S.W.). In 1956, the company operating the Byron Bay station established a station at Norfolk Island, while in the same year, the station operating at Pt. Cloates (W.A.) closed down.

Table 18 below summarises the statistics supplied by the Commonwealth Fisheries Office in respect of the five seasons, 1953 to 1957.

Whale quotas, fixed by the Minister for Primary Industry, have been directed towards the conservation of the stock in order that the industry might continue on a stable basis.

In the 1957 season, the full quota of 1,960 whales was taken and yielded 102,966 barrels of oil valued at £1,820,000, other by-products being valued at £385,000. Most of the oil was exported to Europe.

TABLE 18 - WHALING STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1953	1954	1955	1956(a)	1957(a)
Stations Operating	No.	4	5	5	5	5
Chasers Engaged	"	9	9	10	10	11
Value of Chasers and Other Catching Equipment	£'000	(b) 520	(b) 562	(b) 540	(c)	(c)
Persons Employed - At Sea	No.	110	114	124	124	140
Quota of Whales (d)	"	2,000	2,040	1,840	1,990	1,960
Whales Taken	"	(e) 2,001	(f) 2,039	(g) 1,840	(e) 1,990	(h) 1,961
Whales Processed -						
Males	"	1,235	1,203	1,075	1,253	1,166
Females	"	761	825	764	737	794
Total	"	(i) 2,001	(i) 2,039	(i) 1,840	1,990	(i) 1,961
Average Length of Whales Processed	Ft.	40.0	39.8	40.8	41.1	40.7
Value of Shore-based Buildings, Plant, etc.	£'000	1,250	1,259	1,580	(c)	(c)
Persons Employed - Ashore	No.	390	420	433	396	431
Whale Oil Produced -						
Quantity	Barrel(j)	102,354	100,068	95,258	102,366	102,966
Value	£'000	1,535	1,668	1,667	1,835	1,820
Value of By-products (Meal, Solubales, Baleen)	"	268	292	286	398	385
Average Production of Oil per Whale	Barrel(j)	51.2	49.1	51.8	51.6	52.5

(a) Includes details for station at Norfolk Island.

(b) Includes 1 oil tanker.

(c) Not available.

(d) In terms of humpback whales, as determined by the Minister for Primary Industry. For quota purposes, 1 blue whale is taken as equivalent to 2 fin whales, 2½ humpback whales, or 6 sei whales.

(e) Includes 1 fin whale.

(f) Includes 1 blue whale.

(g) Excludes 1 minke whale and 6 humpbacks taken for scientific purposes.

(h) Includes 1 humpback whale taken on special permit.

(i) Sex unknown of 5 whales in 1953, 11 in 1954, 1 in 1955 and 1 in 1957.

(j) 6 barrels = 1 ton.

Source : Commonwealth Fisheries Office.

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CANBERRA. A.C.T.

1ST JULY, 1958.