

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA  
AUSTRALIA

*Report*



STATISTICAL BULLETIN:  
FISHING AND WHALING  
AUSTRALIA

No. 1 1954-55

PREPARED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE TREASURER  
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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

STATISTICAL BULLETIN : FISHING AND WHALING, AUSTRALIA

NO. 1 - YEAR 1954-55

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PREFACE

This Bulletin is the first of an annual series dealing with the Fishing and Whaling industry. The statistics contained in the Bulletin relate to the year 1954-55 for fisheries and the 1955 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 through State Statisticians. 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. My thanks are due to all these authorities for their co-operation in supplying information and technical advice.

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CANBERRA. A.C.T. 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1956.

PART I - FISHERIESDEFINITIONS 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.

Reported Weight - Weight as reported by fishermen. For particular species, fish may be reported in terms of headed, headed and gutted, or otherwise reduced weight.

Estimated Round Weight - Conversion factors supplied by State Fisheries Authorities have been applied to the reported weight for individual species in order to provide as estimate of the fresh round weight equivalent.

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, have 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. As a result of 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.

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## SECTION I - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS

## (a) SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS.

(i) Quantity and Gross Value of Take. In the two tables which follow, particulars are shown of the quantity and gross value of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and shark livers taken. The total value of all these items in 1954-55 was £8,334,000, of which fish contributed £4,566,000; crustaceans £2,917,000; and molluscs £829,000. The value of fish was lower than that for the previous year, but the values of crustaceans and molluscs were each at record levels.

The recorded catch of fish, which rose from 71.3 million lb. round weight in 1950-51 to 81.4 million lb. in 1952-53, fell slightly in the following year and further in 1954-55 to 68.7 million lb., the lowest level reached in the post-war period.

Apart from 1951-52, when there was a slight decline, the crustacean catch increased steadily from 17.7 million lb. in 1950-51 to a record 27.6 million lb. in 1954-55, the catch in the latter year being 5 million lb. above that recorded in 1953-54. The quantity of molluscs taken increased steadily during the period and the 15.9 million lb. taken in 1954-55 was also a record.

TABLE 1 - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS : QUANTITY AND GROSS VALUE OF TAKE, 1954-55

| Particulars                          | Unit     | N.S.W. | Vic.<br>(a)(b) | Q'ld. | S.A.  | W.A.   | Tas.<br>(b) | N.T. | Aust.  |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|-------|-------|--------|-------------|------|--------|
| Fish (c) -                           |          |        |                |       |       |        |             |      |        |
| Reported Weight ..                   | '000 lb. | 24,752 | 10,291         | 9,009 | 7,061 | 8,586  | 2,498       | 118  | 62,315 |
| Estimated Round Weight ..            | "        | 26,441 | 12,148         | 9,368 | 8,154 | 9,393  | 3,115       | 118  | 68,737 |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | 1,824  | 800            | 499   | 768   | 510    | 153         | 12   | 4,566  |
| Crustaceans -                        |          |        |                |       |       |        |             |      |        |
| Gross Weight ..                      | '000 lb. | 5,385  | 1,215          | 2,565 | 4,590 | 10,951 | 2,895       | -    | 27,601 |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | 755    | 135            | 279   | 396   | 1,099  | 253         | -    | 2,917  |
| Molluscs -                           |          |        |                |       |       |        |             |      |        |
| Gross (in-shell) Weight ..           | '000 lb. | 10,198 | 30             | 185   | -     | 51     | 5,450       | -    | 15,914 |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | 669    | 1              | 7     | -     | 2      | 150         | -    | 829    |
| Shark Livers for Oil<br>Extraction - |          |        |                |       |       |        |             |      |        |
| Gross Weight ..                      | '000 lb. | -      | 60             | -     | 110   | -      | -           | -    | 170    |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | -      | 8              | -     | 14    | -      | -           | -    | 22     |

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria. (c) Excludes quantity and value of shark livers for oil extraction which are shown separately below.

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

| Particulars                          | Unit     | 1950-51<br>(a) | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55<br>(b) |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Fish -                               |          |                |         |         |         |                |
| Reported Weight ..                   | '000 lb. | (c) 64,051     | 63,468  | 72,951  | 71,176  | 62,315         |
| Estimated Round Weight ..            | "        | (c) 71,337     | 71,634  | 81,379  | 78,828  | 68,737         |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | (c) 3,317      | 3,810   | 4,514   | 4,716   | 4,566          |
| Crustaceans -                        |          |                |         |         |         |                |
| Gross Weight ..                      | '000 lb. | (c) 17,657     | 17,260  | 19,722  | 22,265  | 27,601         |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | (c) 1,290      | 1,863   | 2,106   | 2,510   | 2,917          |
| Molluscs -                           |          |                |         |         |         |                |
| Gross (in-shell) Weight ..           | '000 lb. | 8,632          | 9,761   | 11,719  | 13,570  | 15,914         |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | 369            | 436     | 487     | 641     | 829            |
| Shark Livers for Oil<br>Extraction - |          |                |         |         |         |                |
| Gross Weight ..                      | '000 lb. | (d) 250        | 199     | 308     | 254     | 170            |
| Gross Value ..                       | £'000.   | (d) 25         | 25      | 40      | 34      | 22             |

(a) Details for South Australia and Western Australia relate to year ended December, 1950.  
(b) Subject to revision. (c) Incomplete : excludes catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters. (d) Estimated.

(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.

There was an overall increase in employment of persons and equipment over the period. However the number and value of steam trawlers in New South Wales dropped from 10 and £415,000 respectively in 1953-54 to 6 and £195,000 in 1954-55, the lowest recorded since the war.

TABLE 3 - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS : BOATS AND EQUIPMENT IN USE,  
PERSONS ENGAGED, 1954-55

| Particulars                      | Unit     | N.S.W.    | Vic.<br>(a) | Q'ld. | S.A.  | W.A.<br>(b) | Tas.  | N.T. | Aust.<br>(a) |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|------|--------------|
| General Fisheries (c) -          |          |           |             |       |       |             |       |      |              |
| Persons Engaged ..               | No.      | 2,239     | 910         | 9,157 | 5,037 | 1,069       | 1,126 | 39   | 19,577       |
| Boats Engaged ..                 | No.      | (d) 2,280 | 670         | 4,331 | 1,439 | 616         | 621   | 17   | 9,974        |
| Value of Boats and Equipment ..  | £'000.   | (d) 1,668 | 700         | 1,561 | 510   | 1,245       | 475   | 5    | 6,164        |
| Edible Oyster Fisheries -        |          |           |             |       |       |             |       |      |              |
| Persons Engaged ..               | No.      | 783       | 5           | 109   | -     | 15          | 10    | -    | 922          |
| Boats Engaged ..                 | No.      | 1,038     | 4           | 52    | -     | -           | 10    | -    | 1,104        |
| Value of Boats and Equipment ..  | £'000.   | 113       | -           | 10    | -     | -           | (e)   | -    | (f) 123      |
| Leases Granted ..                | No.      | 5,291     | 5           | 364   | -     | -           | -     | -    | 5,660        |
| Length of Foreshore in Leases .. | '000 yd. | 1,027     | 16          | (g)   | -     | -           | -     | -    | (f) 1,043    |
| Off-shore Leases ..              | acres    | 6,547     | -           | -     | -     | -           | -     | -    | 6,547        |

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Year ended December, 1954. (c) Includes Crustacean and Scallop fisheries. (d) Includes 6 steam trawlers valued at £195,000. (e) Included in General Fisheries. (f) Incomplete. (g) Not available.

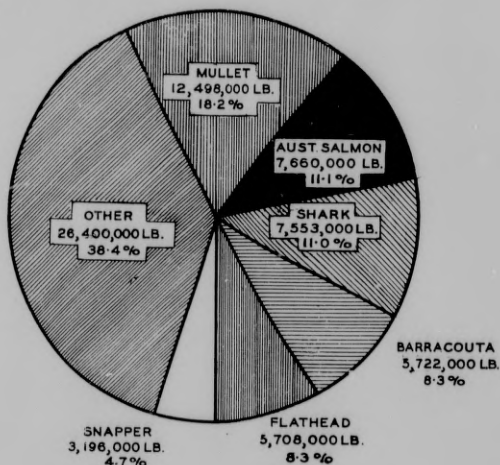
TABLE 4 - FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS : BOATS AND EQUIPMENT IN USE,  
PERSONS ENGAGED, AUSTRALIA

| Particulars                          | Unit     | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55<br>(a) |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| General Fisheries (b) -              |          |         |         |         |         |                |
| Persons Engaged ..                   | No.      | 14,870  | 16,602  | 17,401  | 18,598  | 19,577         |
| Boats Engaged ..                     | No.      | 8,628   | 8,872   | 9,407   | 9,877   | 9,974          |
| Value of Boats and Equipment         | £'000.   | 4,149   | 4,613   | 5,028   | 5,936   | 6,164          |
| Edible Oyster Fisheries -            |          |         |         |         |         |                |
| Persons Engaged ..                   | No.      | 664     | 901     | 871     | 700     | 922            |
| Boats Engaged ..                     | No.      | 1,020   | 1,114   | 1,079   | 978     | 1,104          |
| Value of Boats and Equipment (c) ..  | £'000.   | 90      | 98      | 103     | 129     | 123            |
| Leases Granted ..                    | No.      | 5,403   | 5,495   | 5,543   | 5,634   | 5,660          |
| Length of Foreshore in Leases (c) .. | '000 yd. | 1,016   | 1,006   | 1,039   | 1,020   | 1,043          |
| Off-shore Leases ..                  | acres    | 5,628   | 5,748   | 5,888   | 6,296   | 6,547          |

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Includes Crustacean and Scallop fisheries. (c) Incomplete.

# PRODUCTION OF FISH BY PRINCIPAL VARIETIES AUSTRALIA, 1954-55

TOTAL PRODUCTION 68,737,000 LB. ROUND WEIGHT



## GENERAL FISHERIES - BOATS AND PERSONS ENGAGED AUSTRALIA, 1944-45 TO 1954-55



(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 1955-56, the approximate round weight of fish processed was 10 million lb. This was almost 10 per cent. less than the quantity processed in the previous year, when about 16 per cent. of the total catch was treated.

TABLE 5 - FISH PROCESSING, AUSTRALIA

Unit ('000 lb.)

| Particulars                              | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55 | 1955-56<br>(a) |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| <u>Fish Used (b)</u>                     |         |         |         |         |         |                |
| Whole                                    | 4,246   | 4,611   | 4,526   | 4,936   | 3,081   | 3,041          |
| Headed and/or Guttled                    | 8,979   | 7,390   | 7,883   | 6,170   | 6,721   | 5,899          |
| Estimated Round Weight<br>Equivalent (c) | 14,800  | 13,300  | 13,800  | 12,200  | 11,000  | 10,000         |
| <u>Production -</u>                      |         |         |         |         |         |                |
| Canned Fish                              | 7,279   | 7,295   | 7,705   | 6,605   | 6,645   | 5,941          |
| Canned Oysters                           | (d)     | (d)     | (d)     | 16      | 8       | (e)            |
| Smoked Fish                              | 319     | 279     | 409     | 286     | 66      | 123            |
| Fish Paste                               | (d)     | (d)     | 844     | (d)     | 1,055   | 1,097          |
| Fish Meal                                | (d)     | (d)     | 293     | (d)     | 270     | (e)            |

(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 round weight.

(d) Not available for publication.

(e) Not yet available.

(iv) Oversea Trade in Fresh and Processed Fish.

Table 6 shows details of the quantity and value of Australian imports and exports of edible fisheries products for the years 1950-51 to 1955-56.

Imports, particularly fresh and canned fish, have increased sharply since the relaxation of the import restrictions imposed during 1952-53. In 1955-56, the round weight equivalent of fish imported was of the same order as that of the total Australian catch, the imports of canned fish in that year being almost four times as large as the output of local factories.

Exports of items other than crayfish tails in 1955-56 remained at the low levels of earlier years, but crayfish tails increased in importance, 4.4 million lb. being exported.

TABLE 6 - IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FRESH AND PROCESSED FISH, AUSTRALIA.

| Particulars                                       | ('000 lb.) |          |          |          |         |         |
|---|------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
|   | 1950-51    | 1951-52  | 1952-53  | 1953-54  | 1954-55 | 1955-56 |
| <b>IMPORTS</b>                                    |            |          |          |          |         |         |
| Fresh or Frozen (a) ..                            | 11,640     | 16,909   | 9,676    | 15,768   | 18,488  | 19,257  |
| Potted or Concentrated<br>(including Extracts) .. | 219        | 198      | 65       | 152      | 155     | 158     |
| Smoked or Dried ..                                | 7,179      | 6,298    | 6,264    | 5,633    | 6,774   | 7,743   |
| Other (including Salted) ..                       | 969        | 1,334    | 770      | 1,265    | 1,377   | 2,107   |
| Canned -  |            |          |          |          |         |         |
| Herrings ..                                       | 10,665     | 9,873    | 2,243    | 6,863    | 6,781   | 6,328   |
| Salmon ..   | 1,671      | 2,283    | 2,784    | 3,062    | 6,484   | 9,691   |
| Sardines ..                                       | 9,046      | 7,877    | 379      | 4,575    | 5,718   | 5,693   |
| Pilchards ..                                      | 104        | 453      | 52       | 95       |         |         |
| Crustaceans ..                                    | 694        | 370      | 241      | 464      | 551     | 1,053   |
| Other (b) ..                                      | 530        | 1,778    | 128      | 433      | 680     | 494     |
| Total Canned                                      | 22,710     | 22,634   | 5,827    | 15,492   | 20,214  | 23,259  |
| <b>EXPORTS</b>                                    |            |          |          |          |         |         |
| Fresh or Frozen -                                 |            |          |          |          |         |         |
| Crayfish Tails ..                                 | (c)3,807   | (c)3,323 | (c)4,429 | (c)4,326 | 4,469   | 4,445   |
| Other ..  | 175        | 165      | 80       | 103      | 1,079   | 482     |
| Potted or Concentrated<br>(including Extracts) .. | 68         | 34       | 29       | 8        | 2       | 2       |
| Smoked or Dried ..                                | 60         | 23       | 19       | 10       | 11      | 6       |
| Other (including Salted) ..                       | 52         | 2        | 3        | 8        | -       | -       |
| Canned -  |            |          |          |          |         |         |
| Fish (d) ..                                       | 857        | 898      | 789      | 646      | 419     | 429     |
| Crustaceans and Molluscs                          | 5          | 151      | 23       | 61       | 50      | 62      |
| Total Canned                                      | 862        | 1,049    | 812      | 707      | 469     | 491     |

(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 '000 lb.): 1950-51, 222; 1951-52, 311; 1952-53, 294; 1953-54, 217; 1954-55, 166 and 1955-56, 151.

(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 10.0 lb. per head in 1954-55, half of this quantity being fresh fish. The lower level recorded in 1952-53 could be attributed mainly to the effect of restrictions on the import of fish products in that year.

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

| Particulars                     | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55(a) |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| Fish - Fresh                    | 5.0     | 5.5     | 5.2     | 5.7     | 5.1        |
| Cured (incl. Smoked and Salted) | 1.0     | 0.9     | 0.9     | 0.8     | 1.0        |
| Canned - Australian Origin      | 0.8     | 0.7     | 0.7     | 0.8     | 0.6        |
| Imported                        | 2.7     | 2.6     | 0.6     | 1.7     | 2.2        |
| Crustaceans and Molluscs        | 0.7     | 0.7     | 0.7     | 0.8     | 1.1        |
| Total                           | 10.2    | 10.4    | 8.1     | 9.8     | 10.0       |

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) DETAILED PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(1) Fish. Table 8 contains details by States of the recorded production of fresh fish for each of the years 1950-51 to 1954-55.

In terms of round weight, the Australian catch, at 68.7 million lb. in 1954-55, was 2.6 million lb. (3.6 per cent.) below the 1950-51 catch and 10.1 million lb. (12.8 per cent.) below the catch recorded in 1953-54. The decline in 1954-55 was brought about mainly by a decrease of 5.9 million lb. (18.2 per cent.) in the catch of New South Wales, the major producing State. Other States showing substantial decreases from the 1953-54 level were Victoria (1.7 million lb., 12.1 per cent.), Queensland (1.1 million lb., 11.0 per cent.) and Western Australia (1.5 million lb., 13.9 per cent.). The Tasmanian catch increased by 10.4 per cent. in 1954-55, but was still 4.8 million lb. (60.7 per cent.) below that recorded in 1950-51.

TABLE 8 - PRODUCTION OF FRESH FISH

| State or Territory         | 1950-51       | 1951-52       | 1952-53       | 1953-54       | 1954-55       | Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) |              |     |      |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|--------------|-----|------|
|                            | '000 lb.      | '000 lb.      | '000 lb.      | '000 lb.      | '000 lb.      | 1954-55 on -                            | 1954-55 on - |     |      |
| REPORTED WEIGHT            |               |               |               |               |               |   |              |     |      |
| New South Wales            | 24,206        | 25,472        | 30,486        | 30,132        | 24,752        | (+)                                     | 2.3          | (-) | 17.9 |
| Victoria (a)               | 10,741        | 11,228        | 11,282        | 11,679        | 10,291        | (-)                                     | 4.2          | (-) | 11.9 |
| Queensland                 | 8,897         | 9,020         | 10,501        | 9,766         | 9,009         | (+)                                     | 1.3          | (-) | 7.8  |
| South Australia            | 6,200         | 6,950         | 7,120         | 7,217         | 7,061         | (+)                                     | 13.9         | (-) | 2.2  |
| Western Australia          | 8,017         | 6,765         | 8,420         | 10,072        | 8,586         | (+)                                     | 7.1          | (-) | 14.8 |
| Tasmania (a)               | 5,934         | 3,971         | 5,055         | 2,210         | 2,498         | (-)                                     | 57.9         | (+) | 13.0 |
| Northern Territory         | 56            | 62            | 87            | 100           | 118           | (+)                                     | 110.7        | (+) | 18.0 |
| <b>AUSTRALIA:</b>          | <b>64,051</b> | <b>63,468</b> | <b>72,951</b> | <b>71,176</b> | <b>62,315</b> | (-)                                     | 2.7          | (-) | 12.4 |
| ESTIMATED ROUND WEIGHT (b) |               |               |               |               |               |   |              |     |      |
| New South Wales            | 26,333        | 28,331        | 32,660        | 32,332        | 26,441        | (+)                                     | 0.4          | (-) | 18.2 |
| Victoria (a)               | 12,044        | 13,285        | 13,069        | 13,820        | 12,148        | (+)                                     | 0.9          | (-) | 12.1 |
| Queensland                 | 9,454         | 9,594         | 11,354        | 10,525        | 9,368         | (-)                                     | 0.9          | (-) | 11.0 |
| South Australia            | 6,874         | 7,856         | 8,102         | 8,317         | 8,154         | (+)                                     | 18.6         | (-) | 2.0  |
| Western Australia          | 8,652         | 7,344         | 9,225         | 10,913        | 9,393         | (+)                                     | 8.6          | (-) | 13.9 |
| Tasmania (a)               | 7,924         | 5,162         | 6,882         | 2,821         | 3,115         | (-)                                     | 60.7         | (+) | 10.4 |
| Northern Territory         | 56            | 62            | 87            | 100           | 118           | (+)                                     | 110.7        | (+) | 18.0 |
| <b>AUSTRALIA:</b>          | <b>71,137</b> | <b>71,634</b> | <b>81,379</b> | <b>78,828</b> | <b>68,737</b> | (-)                                     | 3.6          | (-) | 12.8 |

(a) From 1951-52, catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria. For 1950-51 this information is not available and the total catch is understated.

(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. Species data are not available for years prior to 1950-51.

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 28.5 million lb. or 41.5 per cent. of the total catch in 1954-55, 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 13.1 million lb. or 19.0 per cent. of the total catch. Freshwater species accounted for only 3.4 per cent. of the recorded catch.

Mullet was the most important single species for each of the years and is taken in all States, with New South Wales and Queensland predominating. Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria are the principal States in which Australian salmon, the next most important species, are taken. Barracouta is taken mainly in Victoria and Tasmania, the sharp decline in the catch of the latter State during 1953-54 and 1954-55 being mainly responsible for the fall in the Australian catch during those years.

TABLE 9 - FISH : PRODUCTION BY SPECIES, 1954 55.

('000 lb. round or gross weight)

| Species Group                               | Common Name                                 | N.S.W. | VIC.<br>(a) | Q'LD.  | S.A.  | W.A. | TAS.  | Australia<br>(a) |
|---|---|--------|-------------|--------|-------|------|-------|------------------|
| Fish -                                      |   |        |             |        |       |      |       |                  |
| Fresh-water Species -                       |   |        |             |        |       |      |       |                  |
| Teleostean Fresh Water Species              | Murray Cod .. ..                            | 295    | 27          | -      | 277   | -    | -     | 599              |
|   | Callop .. ..                                | 681    | 62          | -      | 771   | -    | -     | 1,514            |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | 129    | 86          | -      | 2     | -    | -     | 217              |
| Total Fresh-water Species                   |   | 1,105  | 175         | -      | 1,050 | -    | -     | 2,330            |
| Marine Species -                            |   |        |             |        |       |      |       |                  |
| Salmon and similar Species                  | Whitebait .. ..                             | -      | -           | -      | -     | -    | 64    | 64               |
| Teleostean Flat-fishes ..                   | Flounder and Sole ..                        | -      | 169         | -      | 18    | 1    | 18    | 206              |
| Cod, Hake and similar Species               | Rock Cod and Cod ( <i>Mora dannevigii</i> ) | -      | 69          | -      | -     | -    | 79    | 148              |
| Herring and similar Species                 | Pilchard .. ..                              | 41     | 64          | -      | -     | 5    | -     | 110              |
|   | Anchovy .. ..                               | -      | 237         | -      | -     | -    | -     | 237              |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | -      | 3           | -      | -     | 13   | -     | 16               |
|   | Total                                       | 41     | 304         | -      | -     | 18   | -     | 363              |
| Tunas, True Mackerel and similar Species .. | Barracouta .. ..                            | 86     | 4,151       | -      | -     | -    | 1,485 | 5,722            |
|   | Mackerel; Spanish and School                | -      | -           | 1,199  | -     | 14   | -     | 1,213            |
|   | Tuna .. ..                                  | 921    | 1           | -      | 59    | 6    | 10    | 997              |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | (b)86  | -           | -      | -     | -    | -     | 86               |
|   | Total                                       | 1,093  | 4,152       | 1,199  | 59    | 20   | 1,495 | 8,018            |
| Barracudas, Mulletts and similar Species .. | Mullet .. ..                                | 6,206  | 604         | 4,451  | 477   | 731  | 29    | 12,498           |
|   | Pike, Snook and Barracuda ..                | -      | 61          | 37     | 237   | 17   | 1     | 353              |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | -      | -           | (c)224 | -     | -    | -     | 224              |
|   | Total                                       | 6,206  | 665         | 4,712  | 714   | 748  | 30    | 13,075           |
| Jacks, Pompanos and similar Species ..      | Silver Trevally, Skipjack, Trevally .. ..   | 68     | 26          | 46     | 1     | 78   | 29    | 248              |
|   | Tailor .. ..                                | 175    | 35          | 463    | -     | 93   | -     | 766              |
|   | Yellowtail Kingfish ..                      | 188    | 26          | 13     | 45    | -    | -     | 272              |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | (d)280 | -           | 40     | -     | 49   | -     | 369              |
|   | Total                                       | 711    | 87          | 562    | 46    | 220  | 29    | 1,655            |

For footnotes see end of this table.

TABLE 9 - FISH : PRODUCTION BY SPECIES, 1954-55 (Continued)  
('000 lb. round or gross weight)

| Species Group  | Common Name   | N.S.W. | VIC.<br>(a) | Q'LD.  | S. A. | W. A. | TAS.   | AUSTRALIA<br>(a) |
|--|---|--------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|------------------|
| Perches, Croakers, Breams,<br>Basses and similar Species | Bream .. ..   | 617    | 129         | (e)434 | -     | 61    | -      | 1,241            |
|  | Australian Salmon ..  | 575    | 1,344       | -      | 876   | 4,435 | 430    | 7,660            |
|  | Ruff, Tommyruff, Sea Herring                                  | -      | 37          | -      | 533   | 889   | -      | 1,459            |
|  | Snapper .. ..   | 1,228  | 123         | 151    | 465   | 1,229 | -      | 3,196            |
|  | Morwong, Jackass Fish, Perch,<br>Queen Snapper ..             | 2,900  | 1           | -      | -     | 3     | 9      | 2,913            |
|  | Whiting .. ..   | 163    | 127         | 505    | 1,211 | 419   | -      | 2,425            |
|  | Flathead .. ..  | 3,662  | 1,690       | 210    | 4     | 27    | 115    | 5,708            |
|  | Luderick, Blackfish, Black Bream<br>(Girella tricuspidata) .. | 836    | 22          | 185    | -     | -     | -      | 1,043            |
|  | Other (f) .. ..   | 925    | 70          | 633    | 164   | 970   | 92     | 2,854            |
|  | Total   |        | 10,906      | 3,543  | 2,118 | 3,253 | 8,033  | 646              |
| Other Teleostean Marine<br>Species ..                    | Leatherjacket .. ..   | 1,764  | 14          | 6      | 1     | 22    | -      | 1,807            |
|  | Nannygai, Redfish ..  | 1,012  | 1           | -      | -     | -     | -      | 1,013            |
|  | Garfish .. ..   | 193    | 84          | 110    | 408   | 46    | 75     | 916              |
|  | Mixed Fish and other varieties<br>(g)1,592                    |        | 202         | 565    | 491   | 1     | 15     | (h)2,984         |
| Total  |   | 4,561  | 301         | 681    | 900   | 69    | 90     | (h)6,720         |
| Elaamobranchs ..   | Shark .. ..   | 1,818  | (i)2,682    | -      | 2,114 | 276   | (i)663 | 7,553            |
|  | Other (j) .. ..   | -      | 1           | 96     | -     | 8     | 1      | 106              |
|  | Total   |        | 1,818       | 2,683  | 96    | 2,114 | 284    | 664              |
| Total Marine Species                                     |   | 25,336 | 11,973      | 9,368  | 7,104 | 9,393 | 3,115  | (h)66,407        |
| Total Fish   |   | 26,441 | 12,148      | 9,368  | 8,154 | 9,393 | 3,115  | (h)68,737        |

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) Slimy Mackerel.

(c) Queensland Salmon, King and Threadfin.

(d) John Dory.

(e) Includes Tarwhine.

(f) Most important species are Cobbler (W.A., 594,000 lb.); Mulloway (N.S.W., Queensland, S.A. and W.A.); Westralian Jewfish (W.A., 333,000 lb.); Gurnard and Teraglin (N.S.W.); Sweetlip and Barramundi (Queensland.)

(g) Mainly trawled fish.

(h) Includes Northern Territory catch of 118,000 lb.

(i) 1,469,000 lb. caught by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters are included in Victoria.

(j) Ray, Skate and Bugler.

TABLE 10 - FISH : PRODUCTION BY SPECIES, AUSTRALIA  
( '000 lb. round or gross weight)

| Species Group                               | Common Name                                 | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55<br>(a) |
|---|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| <b>Fish -</b>                               |   |         |         |         |         |                |
| <b>Fresh-water Species -</b>                |   |         |         |         |         |                |
| Teleostean Fresh-water Species              | Murray Cod .. ..                            | 395     | 591     | 505     | 476     | 599            |
|   | Callop .. ..                                | 739     | 1,048   | 1,580   | 1,796   | 1,514          |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | 244     | 258     |         |         |                |
| Total Fresh-water Species                   |   | 1,378   | 1,897   | 2,085   | 2,272   | 2,330          |
| <b>Marine Species -</b>                     |   |         |         |         |         |                |
| Salmon and similar Species                  | Whitebait .. ..                             | 116     | 54      | 40      | 134     | 64             |
| Teleostean Flat-fishes ..                   | Flounder and Sole .. ..                     | 201     | 210     | 252     | 283     | 206            |
| Cod, Hake and similar Species               | Rook Cod and Cod ( <i>Mora dannevigii</i> ) | 355     | 141     | 146     | 166     | 148            |
| Herring and similar Species                 | Pilchard .. ..                              | 94      | 252     | 151     | 75      | 110            |
|   | Anchovy .. ..                               | 105     | 129     | 144     | 248     | 237            |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | 47      | 38      | 18      | 41      | 16             |
|   | Total                                       | 246     | 419     | 313     | 364     | 363            |
| Tunas, True Mackerel and similar Species .. | Barracouta .. ..                            | 8,336   | 8,151   | 9,275   | 5,768   | 5,722          |
|   | Mackerel; Spanish and School ..             | 1,450   | 1,560   | 2,303   | 1,997   | 1,213          |
|   | Tuna .. ..                                  | 320     | 259     | 676     | 1,129   | 997            |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | -       | 120     | 165     | 222     | 86             |
| Total                                       |   | 10,106  | 10,090  | 12,419  | 9,116   | 8,018          |
| Barracudas, Mulletts and similar Species .. | Mullet .. ..                                | 10,449  | 11,155  | 13,969  | 12,801  | 12,498         |
|   | Pike, Snook and Barracuda ..                | 657     | 461     | 724     | 719     | 353            |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | 222     | 198     | 204     | 200     | 224            |
|   | Total                                       |         | 11,328  | 11,814  | 14,897  | 13,720         |
| Jacks, Pompanos and similar Species         | Silver Trevally, Skipjack, Trevally         | 344     | 251     | 240     | 272     | 248            |
|   | Tailor .. ..                                | 1,178   | 1,182   | 1,201   | 969     | 766            |
|   | Yellowtail Kingfish .. ..                   | 310     | 311     | 365     | 478     | 272            |
|   | Other .. ..                                 | 237     | 300     | 396     | 393     | 369            |
|   | Total                                       |         | 2,069   | 2,044   | 2,202   | 2,112          |

For footnotes see end of this table.

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

('000 lb. round or gross weight)

| Species Group   | Common Name  | 1950-51             | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55<br>(a) |
|---|--|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Perchas, Croakers, Breems, Basses<br>and similar Species .. | Bream .. ..  | 1,427               | 1,135   | 1,389   | 1,338   | 1,241          |
|   | Australian Salmon .. ..  | 6,845               | 6,629   | 8,118   | 11,398  | 7,660          |
|   | Ruff, Tommyruff, Sea Herring .. ..                               | 1,055               | 1,037   | 1,324   | 1,294   | 1,459          |
|   | Snapper .. ..  | 3,875               | 2,872   | 3,501   | 3,399   | 3,196          |
|   | Morwong, Jackass Fish, Perch, Queen<br>Snapper .. ..             | 2,437               | 2,606   | 3,320   | 2,784   | 2,913          |
|   | Whiting .. ..  | 3,006               | 3,001   | 2,941   | 2,194   | 2,425          |
|   | Flathead .. ..   | 6,256               | 5,887   | 6,661   | 6,050   | 5,708          |
|   | Luderick, Blackfish, Black Bream<br>(Girella tricuspidata) .. .. | 1,393               | 1,601   | 1,432   | 1,137   | 1,043          |
|   | Other .. ..  | 2,738               | 2,502   | 2,872   | 3,027   | 2,854          |
|   | Total  | 29,032              | 27,270  | 31,558  | 32,621  | 28,499         |
|   | Other Teleostean Marine Species                                  | Leatherjacket .. .. | 3,350   | 4,719   | 3,187   | 2,709          |
| Nannygai, Redfish .. ..                                     |  | 2,801               | 1,080   | 1,546   | 1,709   | 1,013          |
| Garfish .. ..   |  | 1,064               | 1,254   | 1,530   | 1,492   | 916            |
| Mixed Fish and other Varieties .. ..                        |  | 3,467               | 3,929   | 3,407   | 3,446   | 2,984          |
| Total   |  | 10,682              | 10,982  | 9,670   | 9,356   | 6,720          |
| Elasmobranchs ..  | Shark .. ..  | (b)5,824            | 6,707   | 7,698   | 8,586   | 7,553          |
|   | Other .. ..  | -                   | 6       | 99      | 98      | 106            |
|   | Total  | 5,824               | 6,713   | 7,797   | 8,684   | 7,659          |
| Total Marine Species  | 69,959   | 69,737              | 79,294  | 76,556  | 66,407  |                |
| Total Fish  | 71,337   | 71,634              | 81,379  | 78,828  | 68,737  |                |

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) Incomplete, excludes catch by Victorian Fishermen in Tasmanian waters.

TABLE 11 - FISH : PRODUCTION OF MAJOR SPECIES

('000 lb. round or gross weight)

| State                    | 1950-51   | 1951-52   | 1952-53   | 1953-54   | 1954-55<br>(a) |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| <u>MULLET</u>            |           |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 4,479     | 4,571     | 6,699     | 6,288     | 6,206          |
| Victoria                 | 773       | 1,175     | 1,096     | 751       | 604            |
| Queensland               | 3,747     | 3,795     | 4,866     | 4,561     | 4,451          |
| South Australia          | 650       | 770       | 500       | 500       | 477            |
| Western Australia        | 779       | 825       | 792       | 691       | 731            |
| Tasmania                 | 21        | 19        | 16        | 10        | 29             |
| Australia:               | 10,449    | 11,155    | 13,969    | 12,801    | 12,498         |
| <u>AUSTRALIAN SALMON</u> |           |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 849       | 1,958     | 2,423     | 2,578     | 575            |
| Victoria                 | 1,318     | 917       | 763       | 1,427     | 1,344          |
| South Australia          | 850       | 1,000     | 800       | 1,000     | 876            |
| Western Australia        | 3,788     | 2,643     | 3,997     | 6,011     | 4,435          |
| Tasmania                 | 40        | 111       | 135       | 382       | 430            |
| Australia:               | 6,845     | 6,629     | 8,118     | 11,398    | 7,660          |
| <u>SHARK</u>             |           |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 848       | 987       | 1,183     | 1,903     | 1,818          |
| Victoria                 | (b) 1,326 | (c) 3,045 | (c) 2,081 | (c) 3,149 | (c) 2,682      |
| South Australia          | 1,190     | 1,600     | 2,000     | 2,100     | 2,114          |
| Western Australia        | -         | 210       | 207       | 318       | 276            |
| Tasmania                 | 2,460     | (c) 865   | (c) 2,227 | (c) 1,116 | (c) 663        |
| Australia:               | (b) 5,824 | 6,707     | 7,698     | 8,586     | 7,553          |
| <u>BARRACOUTA</u>        |           |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 21        | 76        | 339       | 337       | 86             |
| Victoria                 | 4,000     | 4,592     | 4,926     | 4,632     | 4,151          |
| Tasmania                 | 4,315     | 3,483     | 4,010     | 799       | 1,485          |
| Australia:               | 8,336     | 8,151     | 9,275     | 5,768     | 5,722          |
| <u>FLATHEAD</u>          |           |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 3,405     | 3,940     | 4,362     | 4,011     | 3,662          |
| Victoria                 | 2,266     | 1,418     | 1,889     | 1,696     | 1,690          |
| Queensland               | 226       | 237       | 241       | 214       | 210            |
| South Australia          | 3         | -         | -         | -         | 4              |
| Western Australia        | 60        | 61        | 18        | 23        | 27             |
| Tasmania                 | 296       | 231       | 151       | 106       | 115            |
| Australia:               | 6,256     | 5,887     | 6,661     | 6,050     | 5,708          |

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Incomplete, excludes catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters. (c) Catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria. Quantities involved were 1,763,000 lb. in 1951-52, 763,000 lb. in 1952-53, 1,523,000 lb. in 1953-54 and 1,459,000 lb. in 1954-55.

(ii). Crustaceans

The following table contains details of the production of crayfish, prawns, crabs and total crustaceans for the period 1950-51 to 1954-55. Crayfish are not taken commercially in Queensland, but shovel-nosed lobsters are included with crayfish for convenience.

During the period under review, the crayfish catch increased steadily in the main producing States. The 1954-55 Western Australian catch, at 10.9 million lb., was more than half the Australian catch, being 1.7 million lb. (18.2 per cent.) above the 1953-54 level and 3.3 million lb. (43.6 per cent.) above the take recorded in 1950-51. The South Australian and Tasmanian catches in 1954-55 increased by 19.2 per cent. and 30.5 per cent. respectively over the 1953-54 figures, the total Australian catch increasing by 2.7 million lb. (15.6 per cent.).

The New South Wales prawn catch fell sharply in 1951-52 from the high level of 4.2 million lb. recorded in the previous year, but then increased steadily to reach a record level of 4.6 million lb. in 1954-55. From 1951-52, the Queensland prawn catch also increased steadily until 1953-54 and almost trebled in 1954-55, to reach 2 million lb., the largest catch ever recorded for that State. As a consequence of these increases, the 1954-55 Australian prawn catch was 50 per cent. above that recorded in the previous year.

TABLE 12 - CRUSTACEANS : PRODUCTION BY TYPE  
( '000 lb. gross weight)

| State                    | 1950-51    | 1951-52   | 1952-53   | 1953-54   | 1954-55<br>(a) |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| <u>CRAYFISH</u>          |            |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 487        | 688       | 549       | 601       | 545            |
| Victoria                 | (b) 491    | (c) 930   | (c) 961   | (c) 1,519 | (c) 1,196      |
| Queensland (d)           | -          | -         | 2         | 8         | 9              |
| South Australia          | 2,200      | 2,750     | 3,500     | 3,850     | 4,589          |
| Western Australia        | 7,596      | 8,343     | 8,100     | 9,224     | 10,906         |
| Tasmania                 | 1,689      | (c) 1,879 | (c) 2,694 | (c) 2,218 | (c) 2,895      |
| Australia:               | (b) 12,463 | 14,590    | 15,806    | 17,420    | 20,140         |
| <u>PRAWNS</u>            |            |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 4,220      | 1,792     | 2,825     | 3,558     | 4,603          |
| Queensland               | 378        | 375       | 488       | 700       | 2,000          |
| Western Australia        | 28         | 37        | 23        | 45        | 26             |
| Australia:               | 4,626      | 2,204     | 3,336     | 4,303     | (e) 6,648      |
| <u>CRABS</u>             |            |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 54         | 52        | 83        | 131       | 237            |
| Queensland               | 472        | 392       | 459       | 395       | 556            |
| Western Australia        | 42         | 22        | 38        | 16        | 19             |
| Australia:               | 568        | 466       | 580       | 542       | (f) 813        |
| <u>TOTAL CRUSTACEANS</u> |            |           |           |           |                |
| New South Wales          | 4,761      | 2,532     | 3,457     | 4,290     | 5,385          |
| Victoria                 | (b) 491    | (c) 930   | (c) 961   | (c) 1,519 | (c) 1,215      |
| Queensland               | 850        | 767       | 949       | 1,103     | 2,565          |
| South Australia          | 2,200      | 2,750     | 3,500     | 3,850     | 4,590          |
| Western Australia        | 7,666      | 8,402     | 8,161     | 9,285     | 10,951         |
| Tasmania                 | 1,689      | (c) 1,879 | (c) 2,694 | (c) 2,218 | (c) 2,895      |
| Australia:               | (b) 17,657 | 17,260    | 19,722    | 22,265    | 27,601         |

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Incomplete, excludes catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters. (c) Catch by Victorian fishermen in Tasmanian waters is included in Victoria. Quantities involved were 307,000 lb. in 1951-52, 108,000 lb. in 1952-53, 309,000 lb. in 1953-54 and 364,000 lb. in 1954-55. (d) Shovel-nosed lobster. (e) Includes Victorian catch of 19,000 lb. (f) Includes South Australian catch of 1,000 lb.

(iii) 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. The New South Wales and Australian production increased steadily during the period, standing at record levels of 10.2 million lb. (in-shell) and 10.4 million lb. respectively in 1954-55. Scallops were taken commercially in Tasmania only, and the production in 1954-55 was 5.4 million lb. (in-shell), a post-war record. Other molluscs taken are pipi, clam and squid, but these are of minor importance.

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

| State                     | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <u>OYSTERS</u>            |         |         |         |         |         |
| New South Wales           | 6,496   | 7,603   | 7,771   | 9,283   | 10,198  |
| Victoria                  | 45      | 97      | 95      | 71      | -       |
| Queensland                | 257     | 369     | 404     | 275     | 158     |
| Western Australia         | -       | -       | -       | -       | 39      |
| Tasmania                  | 11      | 29      | 6       | 59      | 44      |
| Australia:                | 6,809   | 8,098   | 8,276   | 9,688   | 10,439  |
| <u>SCALLOPS</u>           |         |         |         |         |         |
| Tasmania                  | 1,803   | 1,628   | 3,229   | 3,779   | 5,406   |
| <u>TOTAL MOLLUSCS (a)</u> |         |         |         |         |         |
| New South Wales           | 6,496   | 7,603   | 7,938   | 9,331   | 10,198  |
| Victoria                  | 57      | 113     | 114     | 96      | 30      |
| Queensland                | 265     | 384     | 427     | 297     | 185     |
| Western Australia         | -       | 4       | 5       | 8       | 51      |
| Tasmania                  | 1,814   | 1,657   | 3,235   | 3,838   | 5,450   |
| Australia:                | 8,632   | 9,761   | 11,719  | 13,570  | 15,914  |

(a) Includes pipi, squid and clam.

## SECTION II - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL

(i) 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. The earlier figures refer to years ending in June, those for Western Australia and the Northern Territory refer to seasons ended previous December and January respectively. For 1954-55, Queensland figures refer to the season ended January, 1955.

The total value of shell taken in 1954-55 was £997,000, of which pearl shell contributed £647,000. Since 1951-52, in which year there was a slight decline, the quantity of pearl shell taken has increased steadily and the take in 1954-55 was slightly above the 1950-51 level. By 1953-54, Western Australia had replaced Queensland as the major producer of pearl shell. Production of trochus shell has fluctuated in recent years without showing any definite trend, the production of 2.8 million lb. in 1954-55 being lower than in 1953-54.

TABLE 14 - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL : QUANTITY AND GROSS VALUE OF TAKE  
SEASON ENDED JANUARY, 1955

| Particulars            | Unit     | Queensland | Western<br>Australia | Northern<br>Territory | Australia |
|------------------------|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| <u>Pearl Shell -</u>   |          |            |                      |                       |           |
| Weight                 | '000 lb. | (a) 896    | 1,250                | (a)(b) 343            | (b) 2,489 |
| Gross Value            | £'000.   | 202        | 356                  | 89                    | 647       |
| <u>Trochus Shell -</u> |          |            |                      |                       |           |
| Weight                 | '000 lb. | 2,775      | 9                    | -                     | 2,784     |
| Gross Value            | £'000.   | 349        | 1                    | -                     | 350       |

(a) Shell taken by Queensland luggers in Northern Territory waters is included in Queensland. (b) In addition, 2,105,000 lb. were taken by Japanese pearlery operating in Northern Territory waters.

TABLE 15 - PEARL SHELL AND TROCHUS SHELL : QUANTITY AND GROSS VALUE OF TAKE,  
AUSTRALIA

| Particulars                  | Unit     | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54   | 1954-55   |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>Pearl Shell -</u>         |          |         |         |         |           |           |
| Weight - Queensland (a)(b)   | '000 lb. | 1,561   | 999     | 1,109   | 965       | 896       |
| Western Australia (c)        | "        | 791     | 719     | 679     | 1,001     | 1,250     |
| Northern Territory<br>(a)(b) | "        | 89      | 188     | 260     | (d) 371   | (d) 343   |
| Australia                    | "        | 2,441   | 1,906   | 2,048   | (d) 2,337 | (c) 2,489 |
| Gross Value                  | £'000.   | 479     | 479     | 487     | 595       | 647       |
| <u>Trochus Shell -</u>       |          |         |         |         |           |           |
| Weight                       | '000 lb. | 2,883   | 2,634   | 2,238   | 3,057     | 2,784     |
| Gross Value                  | £'000.   | 228     | 234     | 146     | 260       | 350       |

(a) Shell taken by Queensland luggers operating in Northern Territory waters is included in Queensland. (b) Season ended previous January. (c) Season ended previous December. (d) In addition, 2,110,000 lb. and 2,105,000 lb. were taken by Japanese pearlery in Northern Territory waters in 1953-54 and 1954-55 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, 1954-55

| Particulars                  | Unit  | Queensland | Western<br>Australia | Northern<br>Territory | Australia<br>(a) |
|------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Boats Engaged                | No.   | 88         | 30                   | 9                     | 127              |
| Value of Boats and Equipment | £'000 | 367        | 147                  | 50                    | 564              |
| Persons Engaged              | No.   | 1,114      | 314                  | 78                    | 1,506            |

(a) Excludes Japanese pearlery operating in Australian waters.

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

| Particulars                  | Unit  | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55 |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Boats Engaged                | No.   | 154     | 132     | 114     | 124     | 127     |
| Value of Boats and Equipment | £'000 | 558     | 523     | 441     | 502     | 564     |
| Persons Engaged              | No.   | 1,621   | 1,516   | 1,152   | 1,386   | 1,506   |

(a) Excludes Japanese pearlery 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. Table 18 below summarizes the statistics supplied by the Commonwealth Fisheries Office in respect of the five seasons from 1950 to 1955.

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 1955 season, the full quota of 1,840 whales was taken and yielded 95,258 barrels of oil valued at £1,667,000, other by-products being valued at £286,000. Most of the oil was exported to Europe.

The oil yields per whale for recent years have been at higher levels than those recorded initially, mainly because of improvements in extraction processes. The record yield of 51.8 barrels per whale achieved in 1955 could be attributed partly to the greater average length of whales taken in that year.

TABLE 18 - WHALING STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA

| Particulars                                      | Unit      | 1951      | 1952    | 1953      | 1954      | 1955      |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Stations Operating                               | No.       | 2         | 4       | 4         | 5         | 5         |
| Chasers Engaged                                  | "         | 4         | 9       | 9         | 9         | 10        |
| Value of Chasers and Other<br>Catching Equipment | £'000     | 340       | (a) 530 | (a) 520   | (a) 562   | (a) 540   |
| Persons Employed - At Sea                        | No.       | 48        | 110     | 110       | 114       | 124       |
| Quota of Whales (b)                              | "         | 1,250     | 1,850   | 2,000     | 2,040     | 1,840     |
| Whales Taken                                     | "         | 1,224     | 1,787   | (c) 2,001 | (d) 2,039 | (e) 1,840 |
| Whales Lost                                      | "         | 4         | 7       | -         | -         | -         |
| Whales Processed -                               |           |           |         |           |           |           |
| Males .. ..                                      | "         | 907       | 1,114   | 1,235     | 1,203     | 1,075     |
| Females .. ..                                    | "         | 310       | 666     | 761       | 825       | 764       |
| Total .. ..                                      | "         | (f) 1,220 | 1,780   | (f) 2,001 | (f) 2,039 | (f) 1,840 |
| Average Length of Whales<br>Processed            | Ft.       | 40.3      | 40.1    | 40.0      | 39.8      | 40.8      |
| Value of Shore-based<br>Buildings, Plant, etc.   | £'000     | 880       | 1,375   | 1,250     | 1,259     | 1,580     |
| Persons Employed - Ashore                        | No.       | 230       | 390     | 390       | 420       | 433       |
| Whale Oil Produced -                             |           |           |         |           |           |           |
| Quantity .. ..                                   | Barrel(g) | 56,051    | 91,360  | 102,354   | 100,068   | 95,258    |
| Value .. ..                                      | £'000     | 1,401     | 1,370   | 1,535     | 1,668     | 1,667     |
| Value of By-products (Meal,<br>Solubles, Baleen) | "         | 200       | 300     | 268       | 293       | 286       |
| Average Production of Oil<br>per Whale           | Barrel(g) | 45.9      | 51.3    | 51.2      | 49.1      | 51.8      |

(a) Includes 1 oil tanker.

(b) 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.

(c) Includes 1 fin whale.

(d) Includes 1 blue whale.

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

(f) Sex unknown of 3 whales in 1951, 5 in 1953, 11 in 1954, and 1 in 1955.

(g) 6 barrels = 1 ton.

Source : Commonwealth Fisheries Office.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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