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C O P Y

BATAVIA FISHING CO.,
204 SECOND STREET,
WONTHELLA W.A. 6530

F I N A L R E P O R T

ON FEASABILITY STUDY OF DEEP WATER FISHERY BETWEEN 28th AND 30th PARALLELS ON WEST AUSTRALIAN COAST. CARRIED OUT BY BATAVIA FISHING CO. PTY. LTD. IN FISHING VESSEL SABEA II

Operations commenced July 8th 1979, the area marked out in blocks from 28th Parallel South, starting in Block (A).

Area A & B could provide an abundance of Schnapper from 100 to 160 fathoms. Either long lining or trap fishing could support several boats, depending on market prices. However as one moves south of area A. & B., the Continental Shelf tends to taper away on smoother terrain, thus providing less habitat for bottom species. Consequently, because of high cost of rope to fish these depths, and the inadequate productive bottom it would not be a commercial proposition.

From Area C and most waters adjacent to Abrolhos Islands to West of Dongara very little ground was located only small areas producing odd Schnapper, Cod and School Shark, all of which was being used to bait the long lines.

One successful item from the project was the Droque long line utilising tidal factor whilst vessel was at anchor (as illustrated in previous reports). As we could not complete the whole survey in the allocated time we at our own expense did preliminary work west of Beagle Islands the following year over a period of 2 weeks. The bottom in this area over 160 fathoms being very undulating, gave a lot better results in both Cod Schnapper and School Shark and it appears productive ground commences in this area and continues South, this requires further investigation.

As for crabs they exist only in isolated areas and are very inconsistent, usually one trap in 20 producing.

I wish to thank the F.I.R.P.A. for making funds available to further the knowledge of our Fishing Resources.

Yours faithfully,

H.R. FINLAY

