Lack of trained staff at Head Office has precluded the working-up and assemblage of the meticulous reports submitted by Captain Watson, but it is hoped that at some future date this valuable information will be compiled and published in a form which will be of interest and value to all concerned.

Toheroas

The state of the main toheroa beaches, Ninety-mile, North Kaipara, Muriwai, and Waitarere, is much the same as detailed in the last annual report. The stocks on the Ninety-mile Beach are still a matter of concern to this Department. The North Kaipara, Muriwai, and Waitarere Beaches are in good order.

Mussels

The catch of mussels in the Thames-Coromandel-Auckland area fell from 15,390 sacks in 1944 to 13,156 sacks in 1945. The decline is accounted for in the main to the closure of certain grounds at Coromandel which were showing the effect of too intensive exploitation.

Paua

The one fisherman licensed specifically for this fishery took 30,209 pauas in the year 1945 and the flesh or "steaks" of 23,580 of them was sold as food. This was a very useful effort, the reward of continued hard work, enthusiasm, and close study of the habits of the paua by the man concerned.

Whitebait

The table given below summarizes the information obtained from the principal whitebait-fishing centres for the 1945 season.

Whitebait Fishery, 1945 Season

Inspector's Centre.	Rivers fished.	Method of Fishing.	Fishing began.	Best Month.	Number of Fishermen (Approximately).		Total Quantity caught (Approximately).
					Whole Time.	Part Time.	
							Cwt.
Auckland ..	Waikato	Hand-nets	July ..	Sept. ..	200	250	2,238
Auckland ..	Kaituna	Set-nets ..	July ..	Aug.-Sept.	20	30	31
Auckland ..	Rangitaiki, Tarawera ..	Hand-nets	July ..	Sept. ..	22	..	33
New Plymouth	Waitara, Awakino, Mokau, Waiongona, Mimi, Waiwakaiho, Urenui, Henui	Hand and set nets	July ..	Sept. ..	..	150	63
Wanganui ..	Turakina, Kai Iwi, Wangachu, Wanganui	Hand-nets	July ..	Sept. ..	..	15	6
Napier ..	Tukituku, Ngaruroro	Hand and set nets	July ..	Aug. ..	..	..	100
Blenheim ..	Wairau, Omaka, Opawa, Taumarina	Hand-nets	Aug. ..	Sept. ..	4	..	59
Christchurch	Waimakariri, Ashley, Saltwater, Rakaia, Opihi, Rangitata, Avon, Hurunui, Waiau, Orari, Waipara, Halswell, Styx	Hand and set nets	Aug. ..	Oct. ..	62	230	384
Dunedin ..	Molyneux, Taieri, Puerua, Owaka, Waikawa, Shag, Waikouaiti, Kakanui, Pleasant, Wainakarua, Tokomairiro, Waitaki	Hand-nets	Sept...	Oct. ..	10	20	185
Dunedin ..	Mataura, Oreti, Titiroa, Waihopai, Waimatuku, Otakau, Aparema, Waiau	Hand and set nets	Aug. ..	Oct. ..	30	40	175
Wataroa ..	Big Wanganui, Paringa, Jacobs, Mahitahi, Waitoto, Haast, Little Wanganui, Karangarua, Wataroa, Waitangi, Maori, Moeraki	Set-nets ..	Sept...	Oct. ..	100	25	2,432
Hokitika ..	Hokitika, Mahinapua Creek, tidal creeks at Three-mile, Arahura, Awatuna, Fishermen's Creek	Hand and set nets	Sept...	Nov. ..	49	231	1,203
Greymouth ..	Teremakau, Grey	Hand-nets	Aug. ..	Oct. Nov.	2	200	268
Westport ..	Buller, Orawaiti, Nile, Totara, Little Wanganui, Mokihinui, Karamea	Hand-nets	Aug. ..	Oct. ..	50	100	1,196
Takaka ..	Takaka	Hand-nets	July ..	Aug. ..	2	3	57
Motueka ..	Motueka, Moutere	Hand and set nets	Aug. ..	Oct.-Nov.	16	20	268
							8,698