**FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1930**

**Legislative Council, 5 November 1930, page 1891**

Second reading

**The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. S. R. Wat­ford)—**This Bill is introduced for the purpose of making a number of amendments to the Fisheries Act, 1917, the most important being contained in clause 3. Complaints have been made to the Government of the methods of fishing carried out by certain fishermen in Spencer’s Gulf. These men have been carrying on netting on the sea bottom, and it is contended that such a practice results in the weeds and sea bottom being continually mutilated, thus gradually taking away the natural protection for and destroying the breeding grounds of the black whiting and other fish. In addition the practice also leads to the destruction of the smaller fish, and, if continued, would, it is submitted, result in a considerable depletion of the supply of fish in the waters in question. There is no power in the Act at present to forbid this practice, and consequently clause 3 is framed with a view to giving the Governor the necessary power to prohibit, by proclamation, netting carried on in any specified waters at a greater depth than six feet. Clause 2 provides a definition of the River Murray, which at present is lacking in the principal Act. Section 13 of the principal Act deals with the granting of licences to fishermen. Clause 4 provides that, in general, no licence will be granted to a person who is not a British subject. The Minister, however, is given power to grant a licence to an alien who has applied for a certificate of naturalisation or who has not resided in Australia for a sufficient period to entitle him to make such an application. Section 47 of the principal Act, among other things, provides that any person may take undersized fish with a rod and line, hand line, or hand crab net. Complaints regarding the taking of undersized fish in shallow waters by anglers have been made by professional fishermen, who have proved that a lot of damage is being done to the industry in this manner. Clause 5, therefore, removes this exemption, but as under clause 3 power is given to the Governor to provide that all or any of the provisions of the Act shall not apply to fishing from any wharf or jetty, it is proposed that a proclamation will be made permitting the taking of undersized fish in such localities. Clause 6 is an evidentiary provision and provides that any fish taken shall be deemed to have been taken in South Australia. I move the second reading.

The Hon. W. G. DUNCAN secured the adjournment of the debate until November 6.