



# Aquatic Resources Management Act (ARMA) Update

Issue 02

24 February 2023

These ARMA updates will be provided on an as needs basis as we progress towards full implementation of ARMA on 1 November 2023. They will serve to update key stakeholders on progress, activities and events related to ARMA implementation. We will also share some interesting information and facts about ARMA.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is happy for you to use material from these updates in communications with your members/stakeholders.

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## Draft Pearl oyster ARMS open for statutory consultation

The CEO of DPIRD has given notice in accordance with section 17 of the *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* of the proposal for an Aquatic Resource Management Strategy (ARMS) for the *Pinctada maxima* Managed Aquatic Resource. The notice, published in the Government Gazette of 24 February 2023, is available here: [www.legislation.wa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.wa.gov.au)

Publication of the notice commences the statutory two-month consultation period on the proposed ARMS for the *Pinctada maxima* (pearl oyster) Managed Aquatic Resource and DPIRD is seeking your input.

A copy of the draft ARMS for the *Pinctada maxima* Managed Aquatic Resource is available at Department of Fisheries website (public comment section); [www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au).

Submissions must be made in writing by **4 pm, 23 April 2023** to [arma@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:arma@dpird.wa.gov.au) or via post to DPIRD, c/- Manager, Strategic Projects and Coordination, Locked Bag 4, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983.

If you would like further information about the draft ARMS or to discuss if/how you may be affected, please email [arma@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:arma@dpird.wa.gov.au)

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## Upcoming events and engagement

**24 February - 23 April 2023** Statutory consultation on the pearl oyster ARMS.

<b>14 March 2023</b>	Pearling ARMA Working Group meeting.
<b>March 2023</b>	Potential workshop on fishing commercial entitlement under an Aquatic Resource Use Plan.
<b>March 2023 – April 2023</b>	Consultation on <i>Aquatic Resources Management (General) Regulations</i> through ARMA Stakeholder Reference Group.

## How to find a copy of ARMA

Because of the protocols for publishing legislation, it is currently not possible to view a consolidated, up-to-date version of ARMA online. Versions of ARMA can be found [here](#). The version [current from 27 February 2018](#) provides a consolidated copy of ARMA, but does not include the amendments made in 2021, which are particularly relevant to understanding the Managed Aquatic Resource framework in Part 3. The [current version](#) includes only sections of ARMA that have come into force, but is useful as it includes most amendments made in 2021.

## Did you know....

An Aquatic Resource Management Strategy (ARMS) for the *Pinctada maxima* pearl oyster resource includes the following:

1. the main objective to be achieved by managing the pearl oyster resource,
2. the minimum quantity of the pearl oyster resource that is considered necessary to be maintained for the resource to be ecologically sustainable,
3. the activities that should be regulated,
4. the method to be used in calculating the total allowable catch,
5. the proportion of the total allowable catch that is to be available for commercial fishing, and
6. the proportion of the total allowable catch that is to be available for recreational fishing.

The Aquatic Resource Management Strategy also incorporates the Harvest Strategy for the pearl oyster resource and provides a priority allocation of the *Pinctada maxima* Managed Aquatic Resource for public benefit and customary use.

### Important disclaimer

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