



Aquatic Resources Management Act (ARMA) Update

Issue 03

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Issues under discussion - draft Regulations

A targeted consultation process with peak sector bodies is currently underway with respect to two sets of Regulations that will be implemented under ARMA. Regulations are the legal instrument that implements many operational fisheries management processes and requirements. These include recreational fishing rules (e.g. bag and possession limits) and licensing matters such as the grant and renewal of Fishing Boat Licences. The two sets of the Regulations are the ***Aquatic Resources Management Regulations 2023*** and the ***Aquatic Resources Management (Abrolhos Islands) Regulations 2023***. The latter relate specifically to the Abrolhos Islands Aquatic Habitat Protection Area and land reserve.

The Regulations being developed under ARMA will replace the existing Regulations under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*. They largely transition these existing Regulations, with some differences that reflect new functions under ARMA and the move to managing all of our fisheries (including pearling) under a single Act. The main differences therefore relate to:

1. Inclusion of revised and streamlined regulations for commercial pearling;
2. Rules related to the recreational take of pearl oysters;
3. Aquatic biosecurity regulations;
4. Licensing changes associated with the move from Fish Processors Licences to Fish Receivers Licences and the removal of Pearl Divers Licences; and
5. Minor changes to begin implementing the outcomes of the Abrolhos Islands planning process.

The targeted consultation process(es) will end on **31 May** (for the ***Aquatic Resources Management Regulations 2023***) and **8 June** (for the ***Aquatic Resources Management (Abrolhos Islands) Regulations 2023***). If you have any questions about the development of new Regulations, or would like to obtain a copy of the consultation drafts, please email arma@dpiird.wa.gov.au. If you would like to provide feedback on the Regulations, please direct this to your relevant peak sector body.

In addition to the development of the Regulations, the public comment period on the draft pearl oyster Aquatic Resource Management Strategy (ARMS) ended on 23 April and DPIRD is now preparing a report to the Minister on the development of the ARMS as required by the Act.

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....

Under ARMA there is the requirement for the holder of an aquaculture licence to also hold an aquaculture lease. If the aquaculture licence is cancelled or not renewed, the corresponding lease is also terminated.

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