



## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Sustainability and biodiversity objectives are paramount in the operation of this policy.
2. Customary fishing applies, within a sustainable fisheries management framework, to persons:
  - of Aboriginal descent;
  - fishing in accordance with the traditional law and custom of the area being fished; and
  - fishing for the purpose of satisfying personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial communal needs.
3. Customary fishing encompasses the elements of barter or exchange of fish as long as it occurs within or between Aboriginal communities, is for other food or for non-edible items other than money, and if the exchange is of a limited and non-commercial nature, consistent with the traditional practice of those communities.
4. Customary fishing is not limited to “traditional” fishing gear, species or methods, but any fishing gear or methods of fishing that are destructive or threaten sustainability (whether traditional or contemporary) and the take of threatened species must be accountable within a sustainable fisheries management framework.
5. Customary fishing is to be articulated and clearly separated from other forms of fishing in fisheries legislation and policy to allow for the development of appropriate management arrangements that reflect customary fishing access rights, practices and sustainability requirements.
6. Educational information promoting and raising awareness in the broader community about customary fishing access rights, responsibilities, rules and practices must accompany changes to the management of customary fishing.
7. Pearling legislation pertaining to *Pinctada maxima* to include capacity for the Minister for Fisheries to allow for the use of that pearl oyster species for customary fishing purposes.