



The next generation Future aquatic resource management

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ARMA legislation passes parliament

A major milestone has been reached with the Aquatic Resources Management Bill completing its passage through Parliament in November 2016.

The Department is working with stakeholders towards achieving a 1 January 2018 implementation date.

The passage of the ARMA provides a once in a generation opportunity to critically re-assess the efficiency and effectiveness of aquatic resource management frameworks, but it is important to understand that the transition to management arrangements facilitated under the ARMA will be an evolutionary one. For most commercial and recreational fishers, there will be no immediate significant change when the ARMA commences.

Pearl oyster management under ARMA



The new Act will require the making of an Aquatic Resource Management Strategy (ARMS) for the management of the wild stock pearl oyster resource, and will provide that hatchery production of pearl oysters and pearl cultivation will be managed under the aquaculture provisions of the legislation. This is because the *Pearling Act 1990* and the *Pearling (General) Regulations 1991* will not be transitioned to the ARMA framework. The Department is currently consulting with the Pearling industry to prepare for the opportunity to develop an Aquatic Resource Management Strategy (ARMS) and Aquatic Resource Use Plan (ARUP).



ARMA web page

The Department has established a web page to act as a hub for information on the ARMA. As we progress through the implementation process all papers and communications products such as fact sheets or newsletters will be available at www.fish.wa.gov.au/New-Legislation

Definition of the day

An 'Aquatic Resource' (S4(1)) is:

- a population of one or more identifiable groups of aquatic organisms; or
- one or more identifiable groups of aquatic organisms in a bioregion, area, habitat or ecosystem.

Industry forums

We thank the representatives who have taken part in our first two industry forums in October and February. These forums have provided a valuable opportunity for Department and industry representatives to share information and ideas on important ARMA concepts and policy matters. We look forward to the next forum in May.

The Department will continue to hold a series of forums with representatives of industry bodies and Recfishwest throughout 2017.



Additional Information

For additional information visit www.fish.wa.gov.au or email us at arma@fish.wa.gov.au