



***Aquatic Resource Management Act 2016* repeal**

Frequently Asked Questions

After consulting with and listening to peak sector bodies representing the fishing and aquaculture sectors, the Cook Government has announced its intention to set aside the *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* (ARMA) and will not proceed with its implementation.

Why has this decision been made?

Since ARMA was drafted over a decade ago new challenges have emerged in aquatic resource management including climate change, marine planning and changing economic and social dynamics.

Meeting these challenges requires a flexible management approach to achieve the best outcomes for the Western Australian community - which is not possible under ARMA.

The decision to continue operating under existing legislation including the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA) and its subsidiary legislation provides stability and certainty for fisheries stakeholders.

I'm a fisher – what does this mean for me and my fishing activities?

There will be no changes or impacts on day-to-day fishing activities as a result of this decision, given ARMA had not been fully implemented.

Under what legislation will WA fisheries be managed?

The FRMA and the *Pearling Act 1990* (Pearling Act) remain in place and will continue to regulate fishing, aquaculture, pearling, and other aquatic resources in Western Australia.

To ensure we are best placed to meet future challenges the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will further engage with stakeholders to consider potential amendments to add value to the existing fisheries management frameworks and legislation. This process will include consideration of appropriate management arrangements for the pearling industry into the future.

Will the managed aquatic resource framework be brought across into the FRMA or *Pearling Act 1990*?

No. The inherent rigidity of the managed aquatic resource framework means that it is not suitable for current and future challenges. Providing increased security of access for fishers via other means within existing legislation and management frameworks will be further considered.

I'm the holder of a fish processing licence – what does this mean for me?

You will continue to require a fish processing licence issued under the FRMA.

When will ARMA be repealed?

A Bill to repeal ARMA will be prepared in 2024 for subsequent consideration by Parliament.

Where can I get further information or advice?

Questions regarding ARMA can be directed to DPIRD by emailing pia.dobson@dpird.wa.gov.au.

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