

# Compensation process for the Greater Kimberley Marine Park and South Coast Marine Park

V1 - Current at May 2025

This factsheet has been developed to provide information on the compensation processes for commercial fishers impacted by the Greater Kimberley Marine Park (GKMP) and South Coast Marine Park (SCMP).

## When will the Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme (VFAS) start?

To manage broader impacts of the marine parks, the WA Government has supported the establishment of a VFAS under the *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987* (FAS Act) to enable fishers to voluntarily exit fisheries impacted by the GKMP and SCMP.

The Minister for Fisheries (Minister) has appointed a Committee of Management to provide advice concerning the establishment of a VFAS. It is expected that a VFAS will be established and open to offers in the second half of 2025.

The VFAS will occur before the statutory compensation process under the *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997*.

## When will *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997* (FRICMA) process start?

The *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997* (FRICMA) provides eligible fishers with compensation for loss of market value of their fishing licences, arising from the creation of a marine park.

The FRICMA process will commence after the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) implement the final zoning schemes. DBCA have indicated they expect the zoning schemes will be implemented by the end of 2025. The VFAS also needs to have concluded before the compensation amounts are determined, as it is possible that the voluntary buy-out may offset any loss in market value arising from the marine park. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) expects the FRICMA compensation processes to commence in 2026.

## How will compensation amounts be determined?

Under the VFAS, the price paid by government for the surrender of licences / entitlement is determined by agreement between the parties.

Under the FRICMA, the compensation payment is determined by the loss in market value of the licences after the implementation of the marine park.

In 2024, the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) released a report *Review of approached for determining commercial fisheries compensation*. The report looked at previous compensation processes in Western Australia and recommended principles for valuing licences, and how compensation processes could be improved.

A Compensation Working Group, chaired by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) CEO has been established to consider the recommendations from the FRDC report, including improvements to processes and recommend methodologies to value authorisations in fisheries impacted by the GKMP and SCMP. WAFIC will also talk to industry in developing the recommendations. The working group will provide advice to the Minister, prior to the VFAS opening.

## **How will I know how much I should offer to surrender my licences / entitlement for in a VFAS?**

When a VFAS is established, DPIRD will write to all eligible authorisation holders and provide guidance on how a value for authorisations/entitlement will be determined, including recommended formulas.

## **What is the next step?**

WAFIC will meet with industry to discuss the findings from the FRDC report and consider recommendations regarding valuation methodologies for licences impacted by the GKMP and SCMP.

## **I work in a remote area – how will WAFIC / DPIRD communicate with me?**

DPIRD will write to all authorisation holders impacted by the marine parks when schemes are open or applications can be made. WAFIC and DPIRD are also considering other forms of communication, such as recorded webinars or podcasts which can be accessed when it suits you, given the challenges of engaging with fishers across the State. If you have any suggestions for how best to communicate with you, please let WAFIC know.

### **Important Disclaimer**

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