



# Compulsory Fisheries Adjustment Scheme

## V1 - Current as at April 2026

The *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987* (FAS Act) enables the establishment, financing and administration of fisheries adjustment schemes. They can be compulsory or voluntary in nature. It provides a process through which commercial fishers surrender authorisations (licences / permits) and/or entitlement and in turn receive a payment of compensation from Government.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What fisheries and areas are in scope for the Compulsory Fisheries Adjustment Scheme (CFAS)?

- (a) all licences in Zone 1 and Zone 3 in the Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery;
- (b) all permits in the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery; and
- (c) all entitlement to fish in the South-West and Mid-West Areas of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery.

### 2. Why are these fisheries being closed?

The Minister considered alternatives, including a voluntary scheme, but determined that a compulsory scheme is required to enable the full closure of affected fishing areas. An affected person can also apply to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) to seek a review of the compensation amounts, unlike in a voluntary scheme.

### 3. Are Kalbarri units of entitlement within the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery being cancelled?

No. Authorisations in the Kalbarri area of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery will transition to a new quota management plan in 2028. If an Interim Managed Fishery Permit holds Kalbarri units then it will not be cancelled as part of this scheme.

### 4. How are commercial fishers being advised of the establishment and scope of the scheme?

A notice establishing the CFAS was published in the Government Gazette on 10 April 2026. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has written to all affected persons, advising

- the CFAS has been established; and
- that the person may apply to the Minister for compensation; and

- the manner and form in which, and the period within which, a person may make an application.

If you think you are eligible, but yet to receive correspondence from the DPIRD, please email [cfas@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:cfas@dpiird.wa.gov.au).

## **5. How do I apply, and when do applications close?**

Applications open on the 10 April 2026 and close on 22 May 2026.

To support efficient processing affected persons are invited to submit their application via an online form administered through the Smarty Grants platform. Affected persons will be provided with a direct link to the application form.

Should you prefer to apply using a hard copy of the application form this can be provided upon request as an alternative.

## **6. What happens if I do not apply by the closing date?**

If an application is not lodged by the closing date of 22 May 2026, the Minister will determine the amount of compensation payable to you and notify you in writing. This determination may be appealed to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT).

## **7. If I hold a licence or permit in a fishery for which a CFAS is established, is the cancellation compulsory?**

Yes, the CFAS is compulsory and the cancellation must occur.

Only those permits in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery which have Kalbarri units of entitlement will not be cancelled.

## **8. What is the process to submit an application for compensation?**

The first step to the process is completion of the CFAS application form. This includes providing documentation and evidence regarding the amount of compensation you are seeking.

Upon receiving your application, a Delegate of the Minister will negotiate with you to determine the compensation amount.

Once an agreement is reached, a deed of settlement will be prepared (for execution by both you and the Minister). The compensation amount will then be paid and the relevant authorisation cancelled.

If you and the Delegate do not reach agreement within 60 days of you applying for compensation, then, in accordance with section 14J of the FAS Act, either you or the Minister may apply to the SAT to determine the amount payable.

## **9. How will the compensation amount be determined?**

It is proposed to assess the market value component of compensation based on evidence of revenue from the sale and purchase of units of entitlement and/or authorisations. Where such evidence is limited or absent, it is proposed to assess the market value based on the Gross Value of Production in the relevant fishery and an appropriate multiplier.

Compensation for loss beyond the market value of the units of entitlement or cancelled authorisations, will be considered where an affected person can demonstrate a tangible and quantifiable loss, supported by appropriate evidence.

Please refer to the fishery specific valuation guidance document for more information.

**10. Is there an independent committee providing advice to the Minister for Fisheries or Department during this process?**

No. There is no independent advisory committee established in respect of a CFAS.

**11. Can I appeal the compensation amount if I am unsatisfied?**

If you and the Delegate do not reach agreement within 60 days of you applying for compensation, then, either you or the Minister may apply to the SAT to determine the amount payable.

**12. At what point in the process is my licence / permit cancelled, and should I renew it?**

Authorisations and entitlement will be cancelled at the end of the process, when agreement is reached or the State Administrative Tribunal makes a determination. Until that point authorisation holders should continue to renew their licences in the normal manner.

**13. Who do I contact for more information?**

Please email [cfas@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:cfas@dpird.wa.gov.au) if you have any further queries.

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