

POLICY STATEMENT NO 51

ACCESS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING

THROUGH CALM LANDS

NOVEMBER 1993

1. BACKGROUND

A significant proportion of the State's coastline is included in the State's system of conservation reserves. This means that access by commercial fishers to fishing areas can be affected by the priorities for management of those areas as conservation reserves.

It is accepted that access through such areas is important to the fishing industry, however the CALM Act and Departmental Policies give priority in management firstly to the protection of the conservation values of a reserve and secondly to the use and appreciation by visitors. Access for commercial fishing therefore has to conform to those priorities.

It is recognised that some commercial fishing activity, including squatting, preceded the CALM Act and that such activity will be dealt with in area specific management plans as will future demands for access to reserves.

The intention of this policy is to put in place guidelines for access by commercial fishers through CALM lands where area specific management plans do not exist. In general, existing right of access will be maintained unless problems related to environmental degradation or conflict with visitor access and use occur.

Access for the purpose of this policy refers to all activities relating to enabling commercial fishers to carry out fishing operations and therefore deals with accommodation issues as well as those relating to access to catching and for transport of produce.

2. OBJECTIVE

To ensure that access through CALM managed lands for the purpose of undertaking commercial fishing is managed to ensure consistency with conservation values and maintenance of amenity to visitors.

3. POLICY

3.1 Historic right of access will remain unless removed by way of management plan or it can be demonstrated that such access causes environmental degradation or conflict with access and use by reserve visitors.

3.2 Additional or new shacks and similar accommodation such as immobilises caravans will not be allowed. Existing fixed accommodation and associated infrastructure will be dealt with according to Government Policy for the Administration of Coastal Squatters Shacks.

- 3.3 Where after consultation with the fishing industry there is a specific provision for access for commercial fishing only, those fishers benefiting from that provision will meet the expense of that provision in cost or kind. If a track is not used for more than five years closing and rehabilitating it will be considered after consultation with the fishing industry.
- 3.4 Commercial fishers will use facilities provided for the public where they exist and conditions of use applying to the public, such as camping fees and length of stay, will apply.
- 3.5 The establishment and use of camping areas not designated for recreational camping will only be permitted, depending on impact assessment and available funding, if:
- (i) it is allowed for in a management plan
 - and
 - (ii) there is poor road access which makes travel to and from a site excessive on a daily basis
 - and
 - (iii) there are no designated camping sites within reasonable proximity
 - and
 - (iv) the Fisheries Department and WAFIC substantiates that it is necessary for the fishers to stay overnight on site.

A camping fee will be charged

- 3.6 All CALM regulations must be abided by.

4. STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Access to national parks and nature reserves will continue to be according to a permit system by which conditions applying to access are set by the appropriate Regional/District Manager. Non-compliance with those conditions will be adjustable cause for removal of permission. For nature reserves, regulations 44(2) and 46 apply; for national parks, regulations 5, 9 and 36 apply.
- 4.2 Vehicles used for transport of produce or in commercial fishing operations will be required to be road registered under the Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act and require the approval of the Regional Manager.
- 4.3 To minimise conflicts at camping sites, where practical sites for commercial fishing operators will be separated from other visitors.
- 4.4 Standards will be set by the appropriate Regional or District Manager applying to the neatness, tidiness and safety of commercial fishing activities occurring on CALM managed lands.

- 4.5 CALM, in consultation with the Fisheries Department, The Western Australia Fishing Industry Council and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority will develop a Code of Practice incorporating the above standards.
- 4.6 While not abrogating the rights and duties of either CALM staff or the Minister responsible for CALM, any conflicts relating to the application of the Code of Practice, non-compliance with conditions or any other appropriate issues will be referred to a body involving the above organisations.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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