

## REDUCTION IN RED TAPE WILL BOOST AQUACULTURE IN WA

The Aquaculture Council of WA (ACWA) applauds the State Government's decision to make the Department of Fisheries the one-stop regulator for the aquaculture industry. The cuts to red tape will save the industry considerable expense.

"Previously our members had to obtain licences from both the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Environment and Conservation for every project; the dual system was complicated and time-consuming, the new system provides an efficient and transparent way to do business with government," said ACWA Chairman Max Ball.

The new system is based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the two government departments and on three Codes of Practice, which cover the production of land and marine based finfish and prawns.

The Codes set down strict guidelines for every aspect of production to minimise environmental impacts, and like any other industry, breaches will be referred to the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Marine Produce Australia, General Manager Operations, Guy Westbrook said streamlining the way we do business with government was vital for the future growth of aquaculture in this state.

"Everyone knows that aquaculture has an increasingly important role to play in supplying seafood to our community, but to achieve this we have to foster the development of profitable and sustainable producers. Making it easier to do business with government will encourage investment and attract new players to the industry," said Mr Westbrook.

Ends

This media release relates to the Media Statement issued today by the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for the Environment on the deregulation of Aquaculture from the Environmental Protection Act

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To view the three Codes of Practice go to:

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/AquaCodeOfPractiseFinfishLand/index.php?0305>

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/AquaCodeOfPractiseFinfishMarine/index.php?0305>

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/AquaCodeOfPractisePrawn/index.php?0305>