
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 4098

17 November 2023

**PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT BILL FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby publish the Draft Aquaculture Development Bill for public comment.

The Department is the lead department responsible for the development and management of the aquaculture sector. The Aquaculture Development Bill will provide for a dedicated legal framework for management and sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in an integrated manner. The Bill will provide a legislative framework that covers both marine and freshwater aquaculture sectors. The Bill aims to promote the development of the sector to ensure meaningful contribution to the country's priorities such as food and nutrition security, economic growth and job creation while addressing the historical imbalances in accessing aquaculture opportunities. The new legislation will streamline the current fragmented regulatory framework, authorisations regime, and provide an enabling environment that contributes to management of the sector in a coordinated manner.

As part of its textual development, the Department undertook an extensive consultation process with the industry's stakeholders and its governmental partners. After sharing the draft Bill during this process, and obtaining inputs from the stakeholders, the Department incorporated those inputs and presented the draft Bill to Cabinet for approval. Cabinet approved the draft Bill for publication for public comment on 13 September 2023.

The primary purposes of the draft Bill are to:

- promote responsible aquaculture development and the responsible development and management of an aquaculture sector;
- promote coordination of aquaculture research and development activities;
- ensure efficient and effective regulation of the aquaculture sector;
- promote transformation of the aquaculture sector;
- promote investment into the aquaculture sector;
- promote aquaculture as a farming activity; and
- make provision for appropriate support services.

Broadly, the Bill seeks to create a more enabling business environment for the industry in order to stimulate sector growth and development, boost investor confidence, and ultimately job creation. The Bill contains various mechanisms that will enable government to facilitate growth in the sector and regulatory efficiency, such as the creation of the Intergovernmental

Authorisations Committee and provincial structures to assist the sector's business and facilitate growth.

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for the Bill has been approved by the Presidency and attached to the Bill in the schedule to this notice. The assessment is also available for download from the Department's website at www.dffe.gov.za.

The public is invited to submit written representations on the draft Bill within 60 (sixty) calendar days from the date of the publication of this notice in the *Gazette* or from the date of the corresponding newspaper advert, whichever is the later date. Written representations received after this time may not be considered. All representations and comments must be submitted as follows:

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