

Features of The National Fisheries Authority

- A model of excellence in capture fishery and aquaculture management and development.
- Provides for improved monitoring and surveillance of the Fisheries Sector.
- Establishment of a National Fisheries Advisory Council and Board of the Authority
- Establishment of Appeals Tribunal and Enforcement Measures
- New web-based licensing and registration system to be developed for capture fisheries and aquaculture and related services.
- Granting of High Seas Licence
- Redefinition of the word Fish
- Registration and Licensing of Aquaculture Farmers and Farms



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The National Fisheries Authority (NFA)



***Development and Conservation
of Fisheries***

The National Fisheries Authority

The Fisheries Act has been long in coming to the Houses of Parliament, spanning approximately over seventeen years between both administrations. This process has involved a multiplicity of consultations with government and non-government stakeholders.

The Fisheries Act, 2018 repeals the Fishing Industry Act, 1976 and sets out its objects which are primarily to provide for and promote the effective management and sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in keeping with regional and international customs and best practices.

The National Fisheries Authority was established on June 1, 2019 with the passing of the new Fisheries Act, 2018. It replaces the Fisheries Division with a fit-for-purpose organization adequately staffed and resourced.

The Functions of the Authority include:

- The conservation and development of fisheries
- The collection, compilation, analysis and interpretation of statistics on fisheries, aquaculture and related activities
- The assessment of the aquaculture and fisheries sector
- Where applicable, determine the total allowable catch for a fishery or species of fish
- The imposition of measures to prevent, deter and eliminate, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

The Authority shall be responsible for the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture. This includes:

- The preparation and periodic review of fishery management plans and aquaculture management plans.

- The monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement of any activity relating to fisheries, aquaculture and any related activity
- The granting, suspension, cancellation and revocation of licences, authorization, permits and the allocation of fishing rights and quotas
- The zoning, designation, regulation and development of areas reserved for fishing and aquaculture
- Providing public education in matters relating to fisheries and aquaculture.

The Board

The Authority will be governed by a Board who shall:

- Be responsible for providing general control and guidance over the exercise of the functions of the Authority
- Undertake any other functions as may be conferred on it by this Act or any other enactment
- The Board shall be comprised of

The Chief Executive Officer

- Is the head of the staff of the Authority
- Is responsible for carrying out the functions and managing the affairs of the Authority
- Advises the Board on any matters relating to the Authority

The Chief Executive Officer may at any time, resign his office by instrument in writing addressed to the Board and the resignation shall take effect from the date on which the Board receives the instrument or the date specified in the instrument, whichever is earlier.

The Chief Executive Officer shall be removed from office if he:

- Becomes incapable of satisfactorily discharging the functions of his office
- Is bankrupt within the meaning of the Insolvency Act
- Is convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude
- Fails without reasonable excuse, to carry out any of the functions conferred or imposed on him under this Act or any requirements specified in this contract of employment
- Is proven to have brought disrepute to the Authority through misconduct

Appointment of National Fisheries Advisory Council

The Minister shall appoint a body to be called the National Fisheries Advisory Council. The members shall be chosen as the Minister considers necessary. They shall be appointed by the Minister by instrument in writing and should be persons who have expertise in fisheries, aquaculture and other related fields.

Functions of National Fisheries Advisory Council

The Function of the Advisory Council shall be to advise the Minister on:

- Policies in relation to all matters relating to fisheries, aquaculture and any related activity
- The need for any amendment to This Act or its Regulations
- Fishery management plans, aquaculture management plans and on the review of those plans
- Any other matter to which consultation of the Council is required under this Act or which may be referred to the Council by the Minister.