



**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK AND  
MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
For Immediate Release**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**REGULATION OF AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN ZAMBIA**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the Ministry of Water Development Sanitation and Environmental Protection under which the Water Resources Management Authority ("WARMA") falls wishes to clarify the matter relating to the Regulation of the Aquaculture Industry in Zambia following concerns attributed to a minute issued by Director – Fisheries in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

We wish the public to note that in terms of Part IX of the Water Resources Management Act, No. 21 of 2011, WARMA regulates the **commercial use** of water through the issuance of permits. In line with this, the Fees and Charges-Statutory Instrument No. 18 of 2018 was issued and stipulates the types of water use that require permitting such as Aquaculture, Hydropower, Agriculture, Mining, Dewatering and Municipal amongst others.

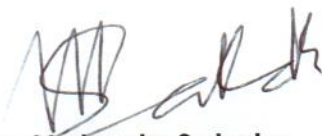
The permits are issued to ensure sustainable utilization of the water resource and equitable use by all water users. This allows for the monitoring of both the quantity and quality of the water resource being used in these operations. In light of the increase in commercial aquaculture activities, WARMA reached out to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to help inform all commercial aquaculture farmers of the requirement to obtain a permit in line with the above cited Statutory Instrument. This was necessitated by the increase in the aquaculture industry at commercial level following massive support from the Government. It should be noted that this requirement to obtain a permit **DOES NOT** extend to small scale or subsistence aquaculture operations. These permits have been issued to commercial farmers since 2018 when the law came into effect.

The instruction was merely to bring the attention of commercial fish farmers, the need to obtain a permit. From enactment of the law, no subsistence or emergent fish farmers have been required to obtain a permit and this will be the position going forward.

We therefore wish to emphasize that the regulation does not extend to **domestic or non-commercial use (small scale and subsistence)** which includes **subsistence fishing and farming**. Therefore, any person involved in subsistence fishing or aquaculture for subsistence purposes **IS NOT** required to obtain a permit from WARMA.

The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection urges all members of the public to contact any of the WARMA Catchment offices or the Headquarters on +260 211 – 251 934 should they require any further clarification. Further information can also be obtained on the WARMA website [www.warma.org.zm](http://www.warma.org.zm).

Issued by:



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