Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions: VFAS Progression and Counteroffers

Current as at October 2026

You are receiving this FAQ document following the application you submitted to the Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme for the South Coast. As per the correspondence from the Minister for Fisheries, Abalone applicants received a counteroffer letter on the 16 October 2026. Should you have further questions, please contact vfas@dpird.wa.gov.au.

VFAS Progression and Offers

1. Why have I been advised that I will not receive an offer at this time?

The VFAS is being implemented progressively, in recognition of the VFAS affecting ten fisheries across the South Coast. The VFAS Committee of Management has completed its assessment of applications and provided advice to the Minister for Fisheries. Counteroffers will be sent to each fishery individually, in a staged and methodical manner as the Scheme continues to be implemented.

2. Will my application remain active?

Yes. Your application will remain active under the VFAS, you do not need to submit a new application. You will be contacted again with a counteroffer, as we progress each fishery through the VFAS.

3. Has the VFAS been extended?

Yes. The VFAS has been extended to 18 December 2027 to allow additional time for the Scheme to be implemented and for applications to be considered as fisheries are progressively progressed.

4. In what order will fisheries be progressed?

Fisheries will be progressed in a staged and methodical manner, considering the extent to which individual fisheries are affected by marine park zoning arrangements, as well as the funding requirements associated with providing counteroffers.

5. How much funding is available for the VFAS?

The Western Australian Government committed an initial $6 million to the implementation of the VFAS for South Coast and statewide fisheries. Fisheries are being considered progressively, with the funding requirements for each fisheries counter offers considered as part of the process. An additional $2.5 million budget allocation has been made for the Kimberley VFAS.

6. How will I know if a counteroffer is made?

As fisheries are progressed under the VFAS, the Minister for Fisheries will write to eligible authorisation holders with a counteroffer for the surrender of their authorisation and/or entitlement, and WAFIC will be kept informed. Correspondence will continue to be sent via email to the nominated email address provided in the application.

7. Is a counteroffer final?

Yes. The counteroffer represents the amount approved by the Minister for Fisheries following consideration of advice from the VFAS Committee of Management. If you do not wish to accept the counteroffer, you are under no obligation to proceed. The VFAS is a voluntary process and there is no right of legal appeal against a counteroffer or decision made under the Scheme.

Accepting a Counteroffer

8. How do I accept a counteroffer?

If you wish to accept a counteroffer, you must complete and return the Surrender Form included with the Minister for Fisheries letter. You will also subsequently need to complete the invoicing and payment documentation requested by DPIRD.

9. What happens if I accept a counteroffer?

If you accept a counteroffer, you will be required to provide the relevant surrender and payment documentation. Once all documentation has been received and verified, payment will be processed and the relevant authorisation and/or entitlement will be cancelled. Payment will generally be made within 30 days of the completed paperwork being received.

10. What if I do not wish to accept the counteroffer?

If you do not wish to accept the counteroffer, you are not required to take any action. Your authorisation and/or entitlement will remain in force, and no payment will be made under the VFAS. Following the deadline to accept the counteroffer, the counteroffer will be withdrawn.

11. Will Goods and Services Tax (GST) be paid on a VFAS offer?

Offer amounts are exclusive of GST. Where applicable, GST will be paid in addition to the agreed amount upon receipt of the appropriate tax invoice. Applicants should seek independent taxation advice regarding their individual circumstances.

12. What are the tax implications of accepting an offer?

It is recommended that independent legal and financial advice, including advice on any taxation implications should be obtained before accepting any offer made under the VFAS.

13. Will I receive confirmation that my authorisation and/or entitlement has been cancelled?

Yes. Once the surrender process has been finalised and the relevant authorisation and/or entitlement has been cancelled, DPIRD will provide written confirmation.

14. Do I need to continue to renew my licence while waiting for an offer?

Yes. Authorisation holders should continue to comply with all licensing requirements, including payment of licence and access fees, until any surrender of authorisations and/or entitlement has been finalised.

Implications for Remaining Fishers

15. How will licence access fees be affected if licences and/or entitlement are surrendered under the VFAS?

Access fees will continue to be determined through the normal fee-setting process. Where licences and/or entitlement are surrendered under the VFAS, fees payable by remaining authorisation holders will be established on a pro rata basis to reflect the reduced size and structure of the fishery.

16. What happens to the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) after a licence and/or entitlement is surrendered?

The treatment of surrendered entitlement and any resulting adjustments to the TACC will depend on the management arrangements that apply to the relevant fishery. Any changes to catch allocations, effort levels, or management arrangements will be determined through the normal fisheries management and consultation processes.

17. Who do I contact for more information?

Please email vfas@dpird.wa.gov.au if you have any further queries.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) 2026.