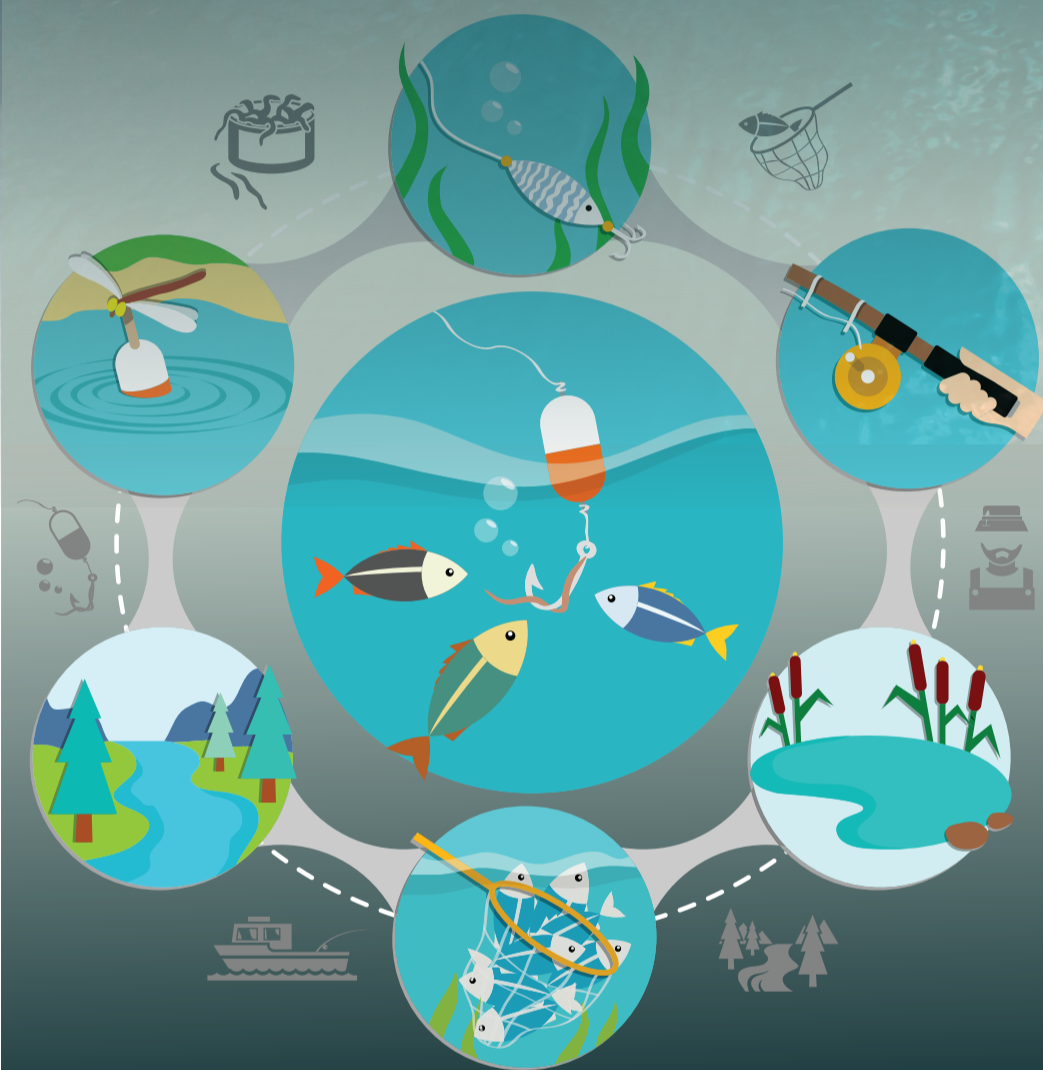


NATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICY INFOGRAPHIC



Introduction

- Zambia is endowed with an abundant array of water bodies that support a thriving fisheries and aquaculture sector. The fisheries sector in Zambia consists of two subsectors, namely, capture fisheries and aquaculture.
- The sector plays a significant role in the country's economy, food security and employment generation, making it an essential component of Zambia's national development agenda.
- FAO (2022) estimated that fisheries and aquaculture contribute about 2% to Zambia's GDP and that fish represents about 30% of the national dietary animal protein.
- Zambia's National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NFAP) was launched on the 7th of June 2023.
- The overall objective of the policy is to transform the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector in order to enhance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development.

Vision of the Policy

"An efficient, competitive, sustainable and export-led fisheries subsector"



Rationale for the Policy

- Fisheries and aquaculture programmes have previously been implemented within the framework of the National Agricultural Policy and the Second National Agricultural Policy. However, the two policies did not effectively address the issues related to the coordination and regulation of the fisheries and aquaculture subsectors.
- The subsector is also faced with emerging issues such as fish disease outbreaks, unsustainable fishing practices, impacts of environmental degradation and climate change.
- Together, these factors have necessitated the development of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy.

Guiding principles

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy will be guided by the following principles:

- **Equity and Equality:** to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture development programmes reach the poor and vulnerable households.



- **Inclusiveness:** to ensure that citizens participate in fisheries and aquaculture development programmes.



- **Indigenous resources:** to ensure the conservation and utilization of indigenous aquatic species.



- **Morality and Ethics:** to ensure the provision of fisheries and aquaculture development programmes are conducted transparently and objectively.



- **Multi-sectoral approach:** to ensure that all sectors of society participate in the implementation, review, monitoring and evaluation of the policy.



Policy objectives

The main objective of the Policy is to transform the fisheries and aquaculture subsector in order to enhance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development. The Policy has 7 specific objectives with outlined policy measures:

- **Objective 1:** To promote sustainable fish production and productivity.
- **Objective 2:** To strengthen fisheries and aquaculture extension service delivery.
- **Objective 3:** To strengthen Research and Development (R&D) in capture fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Objective 4:** To enhance market access linkages for fish and fish products.
- **Objective 5:** To improve and maintain aquatic animal health.
- **Objective 6:** To prevent and mitigate environmental degradation.
- **Objective 7:** To mainstream crosscutting issues in fisheries and aquaculture.



Research & Analysis and Communications Departments
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info@pmrczambia.net | www.pmrczambia.com

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What will it take to successfully implement the policy?



- **Stakeholder Engagement and Participation:** There will be need to foster active engagement and participation of stakeholders including fishers, fish farmers, processors, local communities, academia and civil society organizations.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management:** The implementation of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NFAP) will require the establishment of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress, measure impact and identify areas for improvement.

- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** There will be need to foster collaboration and partnerships with regional and international organizations, development partners, and neighboring countries.

- **Enforcement:** Strengthening enforcement mechanisms and promoting compliance through monitoring, surveillance and penalties for non-compliance will be essential for effective implementation of the NFAP.

- **Awareness and Communication:** Effective communication strategies are essential to create awareness among stakeholders, the general public and policymakers about the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices.

- **Continued Integration with National Development Plans:** Ensuring alignment and integration of the NFAP with broader national development plans, strategies and priorities is crucial

Conclusion

- Fisheries and aquaculture hold immense importance for Zambia. The NFAP is a comprehensive Policy that is well designed to achieve its purpose of transforming the fisheries and aquaculture subsector.
- This policy will provide a framework for sustainable management, conservation, and utilization of aquatic resources, while promoting economic growth, food security and rural livelihoods
- It will further ensure responsible fishing practices, support the development of infrastructure, facilitate research and development and promote capacity building within the sector.
- By embracing this Policy, Zambia can maximize the potential of its fisheries and aquaculture sectors, leading to a more prosperous and sustainable future for the nation.



Look out for PMRCs full analysis of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy