



BY AUTHORITY

319

SOLOMON ISLANDS GAZETTE

NO. 65

Friday 1st May

2026

EXTRA-ORDINARY GAZETTE

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is published as a Supplement to this Gazette:
[Legal Notice No. 178]

Honiara, Solomon Islands
Printed under the authority of the
Solomon Islands Government

Printed by Provincial Press

[Legal Notice No. 178]

CHOISEUL PROVINCE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE 2025**Table of provisions**

PART 1	PRELIMINARY MATTERS	164
1	Citation	164
2	Commencement.....	164
3	Definitions	164
4	Application.....	166
PART 2	OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF ORDINANCE	166
5	Objectives of the Ordinance.....	166
6	Principles of the Ordinance	166
PART 3	MAINTAINING FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES.....	167
Division 1	Determining administrative processes relating to biodiversity	167
7	Executive functions	167
8	Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee	168
9	Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee membership	168
10	Community Fisheries Management Committee	168
11	Community Fisheries Management Committee membership	169
12	Permission to fish in customary rights areas	169
13	Provincial authorised officers	170
Division 2	Promoting fisheries conservation, management and sustainable use.....	170
14	Fisheries Management Plans	170
15	Collection of data and information	171
16	Prohibition against fisheries and marine pollution and inland provincial waters	171
17	Regulating the use of poisonous traditional fishing substances	171
18	Declaring Provincial Marine Protected Area and Marine Managed Are.....	172
19	Protection of key habitats for marine life.....	172
PART 4	ENSURING SUSTAINABLE USE OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES.....	173
Division 1	Reducing fishing pressure and addressing food security issues.....	173

20	Use of fish aggregating devices in provincial waters	173
21	Aquaculture activities in provincial waters	173
22	Provincial Fisheries Centres	174
Division 2	Regulating access to fisheries and marine resources	174
23	Research approval	174
24	Fishing Permits	175
25	Regulating fishing activities in customary rights areas	176
26	Registration of fishing vessels	177
Division 3	Enforcement and penalties.....	178
27	Enforcement	178
28	Penalties.....	178
PARTS 5	MISCELLANEOUS	178
29	Repeal and savings	178
SCHEDULE 1.....	179
PART 1	TERM OF OFFICE	179
PART 2	COMMITTEE MEETINGS	180
SCHEDULE 2.....	181

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1997

(No. 7 of 1997)

CHOISEUL PROVINCE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE 2025

In exercise of the powers under section 30 of the Provincial Government Act 1997, and section 14(2) of the Fisheries Management Act 2015, the Minister makes the following;

PART 1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1 Citation

This Ordinance may be cited as the Choiseul Province Fisheries Management Ordinance 2025.

2 Commencement

This Ordinance commences on a date appointed by the Minister in the Gazette.

3 Definitions

In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires;

“*Act*” means the Fisheries Management Act 2015;

“**Civil Society**” means non-government organisations;

“**customary rights access agreement**” means an agreement entered into with a customary rights holder to carry out fishing or other fishing-related activities in a customary rights area;

“**Community Fisheries Management Committee**” means the committee established under section 10;

“**Enforcement officer**” means an officer appointed by the Executive in section 27(2);

“**Executive**” means the Choiseul Provincial Executive;

“**litter**” means to discharge, deposit or throw overboard any waste, refuse, garbage, unwanted material, noxious or prohibited substance, fuel, oil or other pollutants;

“**owner**” in relation to a fishing vessel, includes the owner of the business that uses the vessel and the master of the vessel;

“**person**” includes any public body, company or association and any body of persons corporate or unincorporate;

“**prohibited activity**” means activity:

- (a) which is prohibited under a declaration made under section 19(1) of the Act;
- (b) which is prohibited by order of the Director under section 22 of the Act;
- (c) which involves the use of prohibited substance; or
- (d) which is likely to cause destruction or damage to fisheries resources within a Marine Protected Area or a Marine Managed Area;

“**prohibited equipment**” means scuba diving instruments, driftnets and driftnet equipment, and, any gear or instrument prohibited under the Act for use in connection with fishing activities ;

“**prohibited substance**” means any chemical, poison, poisonous or noxious substance, bomb, electrical device, dynamite, or other explosive substance;

“**Province**” means Choiseul Province;

“**Provincial authorised officer**” means an authorised officer appointed by the Director or Executive in accordance with section 15(1) of the Act;

“**Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee**” means the committee established under section 8(1);

“**Provincial Minister**” means the Provincial Minister responsible for fisheries matters in Choiseul Province;

“*provincial waters*” means the waters within the area of each province as described in section 3(3) of the Provincial Government Act 1997;

“*ranger*” means a person appointed as a ranger under section 10(3)(b);

“*Regulations*” means any fisheries regulations made under the Fisheries Management Act 2015.

4 Application

This Ordinance applies only to provincial waters within the boundary of Choiseul Province as defined in section 3 of the Provincial Government Act 1997.

PART 2 OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF ORDINANCE

5 Objectives of the Ordinance

The objectives of this Ordinance are:

- (a) the long-term management, conservation, development and sustainable use of fisheries and marine ecosystems for the benefit of the people of the Province; and
- (b) to maintain and protect the biodiversity of fisheries, marine resources and habitats in the Province for the long-term wellbeing and resilience of the ecosystem in the Province.

6 Principles of the Ordinance

In interpreting this Ordinance and in carrying out the functions, duties and responsibilities under this ordinance, the following principles apply:

- (a) maintaining and protecting the biodiversity of the fisheries, marine resources and habitats for the long-term wellbeing and resilience of the ecosystem in the Province by:
 - (i) determining the administrative processes relating to biodiversity protection;
 - (ii) promoting fisheries conservation, management and sustainable use;
 - (iii) protecting fisheries and marine resources and habitats that are rare, threatened or depleted;
 - (iv) reducing fishing pressure, addressing poverty and food security issues by promoting and creating conducive environment for aquaculture and development of fisheries and related activities;
 - (v) managing access for coastal fisheries and marine resources by licensing and developing management access plans; and
 - (vi) developing and ensuring effective penalties and sanctions and the

enforcement of the Ordinance.

PART 3 MAINTAINING FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

Division 1 Determining administrative processes relating to biodiversity

7 Executive functions

- (1) The Executive is responsible for enforcing this Ordinance and for developing policies relating to the conservation, management and development of fisheries resources, and ensuring sustainable use of fishery resources within Choiseul provincial waters.
- (2) In performing its functions and responsibilities under sub-section (1), the Executive may:
 - (a) with consultation of the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, enter into such necessary arrangements or agreements with the Director;
 - (b) obtain technical and scientific advice from the:
 - (i) Provincial Fisheries Officer;
 - (ii) Provincial authorised officer;
 - (iii) Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee; or
 - (iv) such other person qualified to provide such advice;
 - (c) consult communities and customary rights holders;
 - (d) appoint persons to act in vacant positions to which it has power to make appointments;
 - (e) prescribe application forms and forms of agreements required under this Ordinance and the manner of executing such agreements;
 - (f) make available to the public the rates of any fees imposed under this Ordinance.

8 Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee

- (1) The Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee is established.
- (2) The functions of the Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee are:
 - (a) to assist the Executive to develop, implement, monitor and review fisheries management policies of the Province;
 - (b) to advise and assist the Executive in relation to long term management, conservation, development and sustainable use of fisheries and marine ecosystems in provincial waters;
 - (c) to work in collaboration with the Director, communities and customary rights holders in relation to fisheries matters as they apply to the Province or to communities and Community Fisheries Management Committee likely to be affected;

- (d) to conduct or organise such resource management trainings or other kinds of trainings as it considers appropriate for customary rights holders or members of their communities or members of the Community Fisheries Management Committee; and
- (e) to carry out any other function or responsibility conferred on it under the Act, this ordinance or any other law in relation to fisheries matters in provincial waters of the Province.

9 Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee membership.

The Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee consists of the following members:

- (a) the Head of Provincial Fisheries Division in the Province who shall be the Chairperson;
- (b) a Provincial government officer appointed by the Executive who shall be the Deputy Chairperson;
- (c) 2 members appointed by the Executive from amongst persons nominated by the Civil Society; and
- (d) 2 members from Community Fisheries Management Committees nominated by the Provincial authorised officer and appointed by the Executive.

10 Community Fisheries Management Committee

- (1) The Community Fisheries Management Committee is established.
- (2) The functions of the Community Fisheries Management Committee are:
 - (a) to develop Community Fisheries Management Plans for its customary rights areas in consultation with the Director and the Executive, and to implement, and ensure compliance by members of their communities with such Plans;
 - (b) to educate communities within its customary rights areas in relation to the requirements of the Act and this Ordinance, including the purpose for, and the requirements of the Community Fisheries Management Plans;
 - (c) to monitor and ensure compliance, by persons who hold a licence or permit to carry out any fishing activity within its customary rights areas with the terms and conditions
 - (d) to report to the Provincial authorised officer, authorised officers, rangers or the police any breaches of the following by any person including licence holders carrying out fishing activities within customary rights areas, the:
 - (i) Act;

- (ii) Ordinance; or
 - (iii) Community Fisheries Management Plans;
- (e) to collect on behalf of the Executive, fees and charges in relation to licences or permits that are payable to the Executive under the Act, the Ordinance upon its request; and
- (f) to raise funds and seek assistance from the Executive and development partners to support the implementation of Community Fisheries Management Plans within its customary rights areas.
- (3) In addition to the functions outlined in subsection (2), the Community Fisheries Management Committee may do the following:
- (a) register itself as a corporate body;
 - (b) appoint for such period as it considers sufficient number of rangers as it considers necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of its Community Fisheries Management Plans;
 - (c) determine the remuneration of such rangers;
 - (d) may terminate the appointment of such rangers at any time.

11 Community Fisheries Management Committee membership

- (1) The Community Fisheries Management Committee consists of the following:
- (a) 5 members residing in that customary rights area;
 - (b) a chairperson to be elected from the members by absolute majority by secret ballot at the first meeting of the committee after the commencement of this Ordinance; and
 - (c) a deputy chairperson to be elected from the members by secret ballot at the first meeting of the committee after the commencement of this Ordinance.
- (3) The Provincial Minister shall declare by notice the members of the Provincial Fisheries Advisory Committee.
- (4) The Provincial Minister shall publish the names of the members of the Community Fisheries Management Committee in the Gazette.

12 Permission to fish in customary rights areas

- (1) In addition to the requirements of the Act relating to fishing activities, including commercial fishing activities, commercial sport fishing activities and research activities other than a government research, in a customary rights area, a person who holds a permit or licence to engage in such activities in a customary rights area must obtain the prior approval of the customary rights holders of that area before engaging in such activities in the customary rights area.

- (2) In granting approval under subsection (1), the customary rights holders may charge such fee as may be fixed by the Community Fisheries Management Committee or by a customary rights holder in customary rights areas

13 Provincial authorised officers

- (1) A Provincial authorised officer appointed under section 15 of the Act has the following functions:
- (a) to advise the Executive in relation to the performance of its functions and responsibilities under this Ordinance;
 - (b) to provide technical support to the Executive, including fisheries and marine resource matters relating to licences issued under the Ordinance regulating business licences for the Province;
 - (d) to keep and maintain registers of research, commercial licenses and fishing vessels engaged in fishing activities in provincial waters;
 - (e) to carry out other functions relating to fisheries matters within provincial waters as are conferred upon him by the Act, this Ordinance and any other law.

Division 2 Promoting fisheries conservation, management and sustainable use

14 Fisheries Management Plans

- (1) The Director in consultation with the Executive shall prepare:
- (a) a Provincial Fisheries Management Plan for the Province; and
 - (b) a Community Fisheries Management Plan for such community in the Province.
- (2) Schedule 2 sets out the development, preparation and implementation of Community Fisheries Management Plans.
- (3) In developing and preparing of a Community Fisheries Management Plan, the Director shall consult the Executive and the Community Fisheries Management Committee established under section 10.
- (3) A Provincial Fisheries Management Plan and a Community Fisheries Management Plan may prescribe prohibitions and impose duties on persons and bodies to ensure compliance with the Plan within the Province or within customary rights areas, as the case may be, and failure to comply with such prohibitions or to carry out such duties is an offence under this ordinance.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

- (4) The Provincial Assembly shall adopt the Provincial Fisheries Management Plan and Community Fisheries Management Plan and publish in the Gazette.

15 Collection of data and information

- (1) The Executive, through the Provincial Fisheries Division, may by notice in writing require any person within such time and at such place as it may specify in the notice:
 - (a) such fisheries data or information;
 - (b) including any return, record or document from fishing activities; or
 - (c) electronic device containing such data or information, from:
 - (i) the holder of a permit or license issued under this ordinance to supply to it; or
 - (ii) to such person or body as the Executive may specify in the notice.
- (2) Any person who conducts fishing activities or any related fishing activities or research shall provide fisheries data or any report findings carried out during the fishing activities or research to the Executive.
- (3) A person who fails to comply:
 - (a) with subsection (1) and (2); or
 - (b) who supplies data or information which he knows to be false or inaccurate, is guilty of an offence.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

- (4) The Executive may use any data or information supplied under subsection (1) and (2) for the purposes of:
 - (a) developing Fisheries Management Plans for the Province; or
 - (b) for a community or for such other purposes the Executive deems appropriate.

16 Prohibition against fisheries and marine pollution and inland provincial waters

A person commits an offence if he or she while carrying out fishing activities within inland and provincial waters:

- (a) engages in a prohibited activity as stipulated in the Fisheries (*Prohibited Activities*) Regulations 2018; or
- (b) uses prohibited substance as stipulated in the Act; or
- (c) uses prohibited equipment as stipulated in the Act

17 Regulating the use of poisonous traditional fishing substances

- (1) The Executive may, by Order, ban the use of such destructive traditional fishing methods of harvesting or gathering fishery or marine resources in provincial or inland waters which it considers as harmful to fishery or marine resources.

- (2) A person who, uses any destructive traditional fishing method of harvesting or gathering fishery or marine resources which is banned by the Executive is guilty of an offence.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

18 Declaring Provincial Marine Protected Area and Marine Managed Area

- (1) The Executive may by Order, declare to be a provincial marine protected area or provincial marine managed area:

- (a) any part of the provincial waters;
- (b) any area, or part of any area, covered under a Provincial Fisheries Management Plan or a Community Fisheries Management Plan; or
- (c) any special fishing area or area of special, cultural, customary or traditional significance to the customary rights holders in that area.

- (2) An Order made under subsection (1) must:

- (a) show clearly by demarcation the area declared to be a provincial marine protected area; and
- (b) published in the Gazette.

- (3) Where a declaration is made under subsection (1) the Community Fisheries Management Committee shall apply to the Executive; and the Executive shall notify the Director of the declaration.

- (4) An Order to declare a marine protected area or marine management within the provincial waters under subsection (2) shall describe in writing, supported by a google map if necessary, and any other necessary document of the proposed area and the boundary of the area proposed to be so declared.

- (5) A person who carries out fishing activities in any area declared under subsection (1) and (2) as a marine protected area or marine managed area is guilty of an offence.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

19 Protection of key habitats for marine life

- (1) The Executive may, by order, designate any reefs, mangroves, sea grass or coral area within the provincial waters to be a key habitat area for such period as it considers necessary for the protection and conservation of fishery and marine life in that area.

- (2) A person who within 50 meters of, any reefs, mangroves, sea grass or coral area designated by the Executive to be a key habitat area commits an offence is he or she:

- (a) engages in fishing activities;

- (b) moors or anchors any vessel or boat or other fishing;
- (c) litters any such designated area, or any area within 50 meters of such designated area, with any deleterious, harmful, noxious or other substance or debris that is harmful to fish and marine resources; or
- (d) constructs or erects any log pond or other logging structures that are likely to adversely affect fishery and marine life within the key habitat area.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

PART 4 ENSURING SUSTAINABLE USE OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

Division 1 Reducing fishing pressure and addressing food security issues

20 Use of fish aggregating devices in provincial waters

- (1) This section shall only apply to fish aggregating devices that are deployed or maintained within the provincial waters in the Province.
- (2) For the purpose of easing pressure on fish stocks in any part of provincial waters, the Director may deploy or maintain such fish aggregating devices as it considers necessary in such part of the provincial waters.
- (3) Subject to subsection (1), a person, with the permission of the Director, may deploy or maintain fish aggregating device in any part of provincial waters where there is a fisheries management plan, provided that such device will not be deployed in waters forming part of a customary rights area unless:
 - (a) an access agreement has been entered into with the customary rights holders of the area; and
 - (b) prior approval has been obtained from:
 - (i) the customary rights holders; and
 - (ii) the Community Fisheries Management Committee established in the area.
- (4) Any person who removes, tampers with, damages or destroys such fish aggregating device commits an offence.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

21 Aquaculture activities in provincial waters

- (1) A person shall not engage in or carry out any aquaculture activity in provincial waters unless:
 - (a) the construction of the aquaculture activity does not interfere with existing water mains or lines or sources for subsistence living; or

- (b) fish farmed does not affect fisheries and marine resources within provincial waters; or
 - (c) prohibited substance is not used in connection with the aquaculture activities.
- (2) A person commits an offence if he contravenes subsection (1)
- Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

22 Provincial Fisheries Centres

- (1) Provincial Fisheries Centres within Provincial boundaries
- (a) A person who intends to build a provincial fisheries centre must apply to the Executive in the prescribed form.
 - (b) A person who builds a provincial fisheries centre without a licence commits an offence.
- Maximum Penalty: 50,000 units or 2 years imprisonment or both.
- (2) Provincial Fisheries Centres built within Customary land
- (a) A person who intends to build a provincial fisheries centre on customary land must have approval from the customary land owners as evidenced by:
 - (i) a consent agreement with the customary land owners; and
 - (ii) customary rights access agreement.
- (3) Fish or fish product inspected and declared to be unfit for human consumption by the fisheries provincial officer or other trained persons shall not be sold or stored at fisheries centres.
- (4) A customary rights access agreement under subsection (2)(a)(ii) shall include matters as may be directed by the Executive, including provisions:
- (a) clearly setting out the commitments and the roles and responsibilities of the persons managing the centre; and
 - (b) clearly defining the benefits due to the customary rights holders from establishing the centre.

Division 2 Regulating access to fisheries and marine resources

23 Research approval

- (1) A person who intends to carry out research within provincial waters must apply to the Provincial Secretary for a research approval.
- (2) The application must be in the prescribed form and lodged with the Provincial authorised officer who shall assess the application and submit his assessment

and recommendation together with the application to the Executive.

- (3) The application must be accompanied by such fee as fixed by the Executive.
- (4) Where the applicant intends to carry out the research in a customary rights area, the application must be:
 - (a) in the prescribed form;
 - (b) additional information or documents required by the customary rights area owners and the Executive;
 - (c) accompanied with a research permit under the Research Act (Cap.152); and
 - (d) approval of the customary rights area in accordance with section 28.
- (5) A research or commercial fishing license or an approval granted by the holders of the customary rights area, may be issued subject to such terms and conditions as the Executive. or as the customary rights holders, may impose.
- (6) A person who breaches the terms and conditions in subsection (5) is guilty of an offence.

Maximum Penalty: 50 ,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

- (7) Subject to subsection (5), where the Executive is satisfied that the holder of a research permit or commercial fishing license has breached a term of the license, the Executive may suspend or cancel the license.
- (8) A license must not be suspended or cancelled unless the holder has been given an opportunity to show or respond as to why the licence should not be suspended or cancelled .
- (9) A person who holds a permit to under take research in provincial waters or in a customary rights are a must , if so requested by the Provincial Secretary, provide a copy of any report of the research under taken.

24 Fishing Permits

- (1) A person who wishes to carry out any fishing activities in provincial waters, other than commercial fishing, artisanal fishing, customary fishing and subsistence fishing, must apply to the Provincial Secretary for a permit in such form as may be approved by the Executive .
- (2) The application must be lodged with the Head of Provincial Fisheries Division in the Province whom must assess the application and submit the assessment and recommendation, together with the application, to the Provincial Secretary.
- (3) The application must be accompanied by such fee as shall be fixed by the

Executive.

- (4) Where the application will involve fishing in customary rights area, the application must be accompanied by evidence that will satisfy the Executive that approval has been obtained from , and the approved fee has been paid to, the owners of the customary rights areas.

25 Regulating fishing activities in customary rights areas

- (1) Subject to subsection (6), no person shall carry out any fishing activity in a customary rights area including:

- (a) commercial fishing activities;
- (b) commercial sport fishing activities; and
- (c) research activities, unless:
 - (i) the person is the holder of a permit or license to carry out such fishing activities; and
 - (ii) the person has entered into a consent agreement and a customary rights access agreement with the customary rights holder of the area.

- (2) A person who contravenes subsection (2), commits an offence.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment or both.

- (3) A consent agreement must include such matters as may be directed by the Executive.

- (4) No consent agreement shall be entered into unless the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the applicant has consulted the holders of the customary rights area and obtained their consent; and
- (b) a consent agreement form duly executed between the applicant and the customary rights holders where form shall be prima facie evidence that consent of the customary rights holders has been obtained.

- (5) No access agreement shall be entered into unless the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the application and a copy of the consent agreement executed under subsection (1)(c)(ii) have been forwarded to the Heads of Provincial Fisheries Division in the Province;
- (b) the application has been forwarded to the Executive by the Head of Provincial Fisheries Division in the Province with comments and recommendations in connection with:
 - (i) the record and history of the applicant;

- (ii) the relevant principles of the Act;
 - (iii) the likely impact of the proposal set out in the application on the fishery and marine resources in the area;
 - (iv) the impact of the proposal on the ecology of the area and on communities within the vicinity of the customary rights area;
 - (v) such evidence as might verify the consent of the holders of the customary rights area to enter into the consent agreement.
- (c) Upon receipt of the Provincial authorised officer's comments and recommendations, the Executive may approve or reject the application.
 - (d) In approving the application, the Executive may impose such conditions as it considers appropriate.
 - (e) An access agreement form duly executed within fourteen (14) days between the applicant and the customary rights holders and shall be prima facie evidence of approval from the customary rights holders .
- (6) The Executive may exempt from the requirements of this section any:
 - (a) person or body; or
 - (b) group of persons or bodies.

26 Registration of fishing vessels

- (1) the Provincial Fisheries Division must keep and maintain a record of all fishing vessels for commercial fishing used for, or in connection with fishing in provincial waters.
- (2) The register must include:
 - (a) details of the vessel;
 - (b) the names, addresses and particulars of:
 - (i) the owners, or agent's owner, of the vessel;
 - (ii) the master of the vessel; and
 - (iii) where the vessel is on hire, the name of the person or business hiring the vessel or the agent of such person or business;
 - (c) the type and number of the permit or license issued to the owner or hirer of the vessel;
 - (d) such other information as the Executive considers relevant.
- (3) The owner of a fishing vessel being used or proposed to be used for carrying out fishing in provincial waters must register the vessel with the Executive prior to the vessel being used.
- (4) The following persons commits an offence where a fishing vessel which is not registered with the Executive is used for or in connection with fishing in provincial waters:

- (a) the owner of the vessel or his agent; or
- (b) the master of the vessel; or
- (c) the owner and directors of the business hiring or using the vessel.

Maximum Penalty: 50,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years or both.

Division 3 Enforcement and penalties

27 Enforcement

- (1) In enforcing the requirements of this ordinance, the Executive:
 - (a) shall be assisted by the Provincial authorised officer, authorised officers and enforcement officers appointed by the Executive; and
 - (b) may be assisted by any police officer requested by the Provincial Fisheries Division for this purpose,
- (2) For the purposes of enforcement in the community, the authorised officers shall:
 - (a) enforce the requirements of Community Fisheries Management Plans; and
 - (b) report breaches of:
 - (i) the Act and his ordinance;
 - (ii) Community Fisheries Management Plans ; and
 - (iii) the terms and conditions of a permit of license issued under this ordinance.
- (3) Rangers appointed under section 10(3)(b) shall assist authorised officers appointed under subsection (2) in the enforcement of the requirements of Community Fisheries Management Plans .

28 Penalties

In addition to imposing the penalties for offences as specified in this ordinance, the court may order that :

- (a) the instrument, equipment, machine or vessel used in connection with the commission of the offence; and
- (b) in the case of a vessel:
 - (i) any machines or equipment found on board vessel; and
 - (ii) any fish or fish product found on board that vessel, be forfeited to the Province.

PART 5 MISCELLANEOUS

29 Repeal and savings

- (1) *The Choiseul Province Fisheries and Marine Environment Ordinance 2011* (Legal Notice No. 171 of 2011) is repealed .
 - (2) The repeal of the Repealed Ordinance does not:
 - (a) affect the previous operation of the Repealed Ordinance or any thing duly done or suffered under it ;
 - (b) affect any right , privilege, obligation or liability acquired , accrued or incurred under the Repealed Ordinance;
 - (c) affect any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence against the Repealed Ordinance; or
 - (d) affect any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment, and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and the penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if the Repealed Ordinance had continued in force.
 - (3) The repeal of the Repealed Ordinance does not affect :
 - (a) all forms and fees prescribed under the Repealed Ordinance and in force on the date of gazetting of this ordinance shall continue in force until new forms and fees are prescribed under this ordinance; and
 - (b) all appointments made under The Repealed Ordinance shall continue in force until new appointments are made under this ordinance.
- (4) Where no forms or fees were prescribed under the repealed Ordinance, the Executive may, for the purposes of this ordinance, approve the use of any form and the amount of fees payable in the interim until such forms and fees have been prescribed under this ordinance.

SCHEDULE 1

(Section 10)

PART 1 TERM OF OFFICE

- (1) A Committee member holds office for such period of not more than 4 years as may be specified in the member's instrument of appointment and is eligible for re-appointment once only.
- (2) A Committee member may resign at any time by giving notice to the chairperson of the committee and, in the case of the chairperson, to the Provincial Secretary who shall inform the Executive and the committee accordingly.
- (3) The resignation takes effect upon receipt of the notice by the chairperson or the Provincial Secretary.

- (4) The Executive may terminate the appointment of a Committee member:
- (a) upon expiry of his term of office under paragraph (1); or
 - (b) if he resigns under paragraph (2); or
 - (c) if he absents himself from 3 consecutive meetings of the committee without good cause; or
 - (d) if his appointment is terminated under paragraph (4);
 - (e) if he is convicted of an offence the punishment for which includes imprisonment.

PART 2 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (1) The Committee may meet for the dispatch of business, adjourn, and regulate its meetings, as it thinks fit.
- (2) Subject to the next following sections, the committee shall determine its own procedure at committee meetings.
- (3) Questions arising at any committee meeting shall be decided by a majority vote of the members of the committee attending at that meeting. Provided that the chairman shall have a deliberate and casting vote.
- (4) The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Committee. Provided that at any meeting of the committee where the chairperson is not present, the Vice chairperson or, in his absence, any committee member elected at that meeting, shall chair the meeting.
- (5) All meetings of the committee shall be called by either the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice chairperson, in consultation with the Secretary.
- (6) The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the committee shall be one half of the members present plus one.
- (7) The Secretary, or in his absence, any person appointed by the committee, shall record the minutes of meetings of the Committee.
- (8) Decisions made at Committee meetings are final and shall not be questioned in any legal proceedings whatsoever.
- (9) The chairperson and committee members shall be paid a sitting allowance approved by the Executive.
- (10) All reasonable expenses personally incurred by members of the Committee in relation to travel and accommodation when attending Committee meetings shall be refunded by the Executive upon receipt of proper evidence of such expenditure.

SCHEDULE 2

(Section 14 (2))

The following rules apply in developing a Community Fisheries Management Plan:

- (1) The Community Fisheries Management Committee will determine boundaries of the customary fishing area for the Plan.
- (2) Such boundary shall not extend beyond the customary rights area of the customary right holders within the provincial waters or beyond the outer edge of the reef or fringing reef within the provincial waters.
- (3) Community Fisheries Management Committee will also determine the following:
 - (a) rules governing the implementation of the Plan; and
 - (b) custom or traditional penalties that may also be imposed for breaching the Plan, such penalties to be specified in the Plan.
- (4) The Community Fisheries Management Committee will determine the roles and responsibilities to be played by members of their communities, the customary owners of fisheries resources and fishing rights within the area covered by the Plan.
- (5) A written consent of the customary rights holders or the Community Fisheries Management Committee will be attached to the Plan to indicate that the customary rights holders support the Plan and will ensure that the Plan is observed within their customary rights area.

Passed by the Choiseul Provincial Assembly on twelfth-day of November 2025.

Clerk of Choiseul Provincial Assembly

Assented to by the Minister on twentieth-day of April 2026.

HON. ROLLEN SELESO
MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Honiara, Solomon Islands
Printed under the authority of the
Solomon Islands Government

Printed by Provincial Press