

FISHERIES RESOURCES (JURISDICTION AND CONSERVATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1. Short title and commencement.....2
2. Insertion of new section 8A into Ch. 244.....2



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A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FISHERIES RESOURCES (JURISDICTION AND CONSERVATION) ACT

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation)(Amendment) Act, 2020.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on the 1st day of July, 2020.

2. Insertion of new section 8A into Ch. 244.

The Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act is amended by the insertion immediately after section 8 of the following new section —

“ **8A. Electronic submission of applications.**

- (1) The Minister may enter into an agreement with a vendor to administer the electronic —
 - (a) submission and processing of applications; and
 - (b) issuance of permits and licences,
under Part XIII of the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Regulations¹.
- (2) An application submitted in accordance with subsection (1) shall be deemed to be an application made to the Minister.
- (3) A vendor authorized under subsection (1) shall —

¹*Sub. Leg. Vol. IV, Ch. 244-3.*

- (a) grant the Minister access to every application made in accordance with subsection (1) to facilitate the Minister's approval of the application;
- (b) only issue a permit or licence where the Minister has approved the application;
- (c) be entitled to charge, collect and retain a processing fee, as agreed in consultation with the Minister, in respect of every application made and permit or licence issued under the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Regulations; and
- (d) charge, collect and transfer to the Minister, in respect of every application made and permit or licence issued under the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Regulations, the fee payable in accordance with the *Third Schedule* of those Regulations.”.

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill seeks to amend the principal Act to insert a new section 8A which empowers the Minister to enter into an agreement with a vendor to administer the submission and processing of applications made under the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Regulations and the subsequent electronic issuance of a permit or licence.

The proposed new section 8A also seeks to provide for the charging of a processing fee by the vendor and the forwarding of the application fees, paid by an applicant, to the Minister.