



綠色力量
GREEN
POWER

立法會 CB(2) 1332/04-05(13)號文件
LC Paper No. CB(2) 1332/04-05(13)

BY FAX(2 pages only)

Attn.: Ms. Anna Cheung
Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
(Fax: 2509 0775)

13 April 2005

Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Proposed Amendments to the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Chapter 171)
Special meeting on 26 April 2005

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter regarding the captioned on 7 April 2005.

We are regretted to inform you that we are not be able to attend the above-captioned special meeting. However we would like to submit our written submission as follows for the Panel's consideration.

To speed up the recovery and maintenance of fish stocks in Hong Kong which have been rapidly declining due to overfishing in local waters in the past few decades, Green Power supports the proposed measures to protect and sustain local fish stocks, including the establishment of a fishing licence system, the designation of fisheries protection areas (FPAs) and the implementation of a territory-wide "closed season". Our detailed comments are summarized below:

1. Fishing licence system

Green Power supports the proposed licence system for all existing owners of vessels fishing in local waters except areas such as principal fairways, marine parks/reserve and the proposed FPA, etc. However, in order to regulate more effectively the fishing activities in Hong Kong waters, we recommend that a cap on the maximum number of fishing licences to be issued each year or in total has to be set. This can help prevent over exploitation of the diminishing fishing resources in Hong Kong. The number of fishing licences can be reviewed when Hong Kong fisheries resources are proved to recover substantially.

Moreover, we suggest that a monitoring system needs to be established so that the Government would know whether the fisheries resources and marine environment in Hong Kong is depleted and destroyed



綠色力量
GREEN
POWER

in an unsustainable manner. Such a system should be commented by relevant parties including fishing industry, the environmental NGOs and the public before implementation.

2. Fisheries Protection Areas (FPAs)

Green Power fully supports the establishment of FPAs to protect the fish nursery and spawning grounds in Hong Kong. We call upon Government to designate more FPAs than just only Tolo Harbour and Port Shelter so as to provide adequate protection of Hong Kong's fisheries resources. We suggest that *bona fide* fishermen have to apply to AFCD first before they can operate within the FPAs. In this way, the total number of vessels and thus the total fish catching effort can be under close monitoring within FPAs. We also support the complete ban of trawling activities which are destructive to marine habitats within FPAs or if possible we suggest the ban should be extended to cover all Hong Kong waters. We welcome the designation of "no-take" zones within FPAs in which all fishing activities will be prohibited.

3. Annual territory-wide "closed season" for fishing

Green Power notes that the "closed season" proposal will only be implemented if the fisheries resources deteriorate further after implementation of the fishing licence system and the FPAs and when the Government considers it necessary. In this regard, the Government needs to clarify that under what circumstances the Government take action to implement the "closed season" for fishing in Hong Kong.

4. Other issues

Uncontrolled fishery operation of non Hong Kong fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters imposes a great threat to Hong Kong's fishery resources and marine environment. Green Power is told that such destructive fishery operation even occurs in Hong Kong's protected waters such as marine parks and harvests not only fish but also shellfish and corals. Some even practices dynamite fishing. We urge the Government to take action to stop these destructive fishery operation through upgrading the existing enforcement and amendment of relevant ordinances.

Thank you for your kind attention.

On and For Behalf of Green Power,

Dr. C. S. Man

Chief Executive Officer

Green Power