



**Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong (OPCFHK)**  
**Views on Proposal of Banning of Commercial Fishing in Marine Parks**

Considering the severely depleted marine resources in marine parks, we would like to express our view to support the proposal of banning of commercial fishing in marine parks.

The establishment of marine parks aims to protect and conserve the marine environment for conservation, education and recreation; however, fishery resources there have drastically declined in recent decades as noticed by both fishermen and scientists. There is an urgent need to further strengthen our management and regulation towards the sustainable use of our fishery resources. Evidence from the marine parks in New Zealand and Philippines indicated the parks' critical role in protecting the marine habitat and helping the recovery of the exhausted fishery resources.

The banning of commercial fishing in marine parks will help recover fishery resources in order to provide adequate food source for other marine life such as the flagship Chinese white dolphin in Hong Kong, and to maintain the delicate ecosystem's health and stability.

The improved fishery resources within marine parks can also generate higher economical value for industries of fishing and ecotourism, which could be a win-win solution for both environment and fishermen.

Meanwhile, we understand the concerns on the possible impacts on fishermen's livelihood caused by this proposal, so we encourage:

- 1) The Government should enhance legislation that allows enforcement of the ban so that illegal fishing can be prosecuted.
- 2) The Government should work with stakeholders, especially fisherman for the development of jobs for the displaced fishermen as enforcers of the new regulations.



- 3) The study report on Sustainable Fishery Study conducted by the Government should be released as soon as possible to allow all stakeholders to obtain an overview of the fisheries condition, so as to develop possible solutions.
- 4) The Government should create a regulatory body that oversees the fisheries and sustainable use of the marine resources.

We hope the Government can take these into serious consideration, for the future of a healthy marine environment, where our precious marine resources can be shared among all Hong Kong citizens.

Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong is willing to support the government and stakeholders to develop and implement working plans.

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