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Legislative Council Panel  
Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Hong Kong

[www.southpacificprojects.org](http://www.southpacificprojects.org)

To whom it may concern

We are a UK-based marine conservation organisation working in Fiji in partnership with Government and local communities to protect marine biodiversity in Fiji. Our method is to empower local communities to establish community-managed marine protected areas to create a more sustainable fishery. We would therefore like to voice our support for the total trawling ban in Hong Kong waters as announced in your Chief Executive's latest policy address.

We hope that your government will see the urgency in implementing the ban, and in addition, establish marine protected areas for the long-term sustainability of commercial fisheries. This may help guarantee a profitable future for the commercial fishing industry, as well as ensure protection and conservation of marine ecosystems. Proper management and governance of marine protected areas can also help generate alternative livelihoods via eco-tourism. These alternative revenue streams that focus on public enjoyment of the ocean can contribute to the transition and rehabilitation of fishermen, who may otherwise be adversely affected by a full ban on trawling.

Hong Kong's commitment in environmental conservation can then develop in tandem with its remarkable economic achievements. Trawling bans have long been a staple feature in legislative discussions in many developed and developing countries, but have been lacking in Hong Kong environmental legislation. Prompt implementation of a trawling ban, supported by the establishment of well managed marine protected areas, will leave a positive legacy for Hong Kong as a world leader in environmental conservation.

Yours faithfully



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