



**SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

Kadoorie Biological Sciences Building, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2299 0600 (Enquiry) Fax: (852) 2559 9114
Email: biosch@hku.hk (852) 2858 3477
Website: <http://www.hku.hk/biosch>

香港大學
生物科學學院
香港薄扶林道
嘉道理生物科學大樓

May 15th, 2011

panel_fseh@legco.gov.hk

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Comments on the LC Paper No. CB(2)1634/10-11(01)
Ex-gratia Allowance for Trawler Owners,**

I am generally supportive of the captioned LC Paper as a fair and necessary package, with the following comments/caveats and professional observations.

1. In respect of larger trawlers that operate outside of HK waters (items 11 and 12), these will also benefit from the trawl ban because closure of the trawling area will greatly assist in recovery of habitat and related productivity of inshore areas (as long as no additional pressures are added-see below). Such benefits will ultimately spill over into adjacent, some of them outside of Hong Kong, waters, to the benefit of trawlers fishing outside HK waters.
2. Regarding items in OTHER ASSISTANCE #23 – any additional fishing activity should be licensed and controlled and this must include recreational activity which can be heavy and can significantly affect productivity if not controlled adequately. I do not see any mention of licensing or control of fishing levels in the recreational sector. Given that there is clearly, and rightfully, concern not to allow further growth in fishing effort in Hong Kong waters, additional recreational fishing represents additional fishing pressure on resources and needs to be controlled to within sustainable limits. While recreational fishing may not affect benthic communities in the destructive manner of trawling, it can significantly reduce marine resources and could threaten particularly vulnerable marine species (a conservation concern).

As an additional and related observation, I see no mention anywhere of measures to protect threatened fish species. This is a conservation issue that should fall under the remit of AFCD. We have threatened fishes here in Hong Kong and no legislation at all to protect them – this is certainly something that needs to be considered. It is relevant under The Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap 171).

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne Sadovy, Professor
Marine Biology, Fisheries and Mariculture

yjsadovy@hku.hk