

政府總部經濟局的信頭

本函檔號 Our Ref: ECON 4/3231/88(99) Pt. 21

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29 May 1999

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Attn. Miss Betty MA)

Dear Miss Ma,

Bill committee on
Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Bill

Meeting on 24 May 1999

Thank you for your letter dated 20 May 1999.

On points raised by the Hong Kong & Kowloon Floating Fishermen Welfare Promotion Association on the Bill, our responses, in seriatim, are as follows -

- (1) the suggestion on deleting “ships belonging to Her Majesty”, section 10D.1(a) of the Pilotage Ordinance, Cap.84 will be dealt with in the adaptation of law exercise.
- (2) under the existing regulation, a fishing vessel, which is 24 metres or less in length and has a total engine power not exceeding 350 horse power, may be operated by a combined coxswain holding appropriate certificates. However, we have to consider very carefully any suggestion of an appropriate manning scale for the fishing vessel, in order not to jeopardize the safety of life, vessel

and marine environment.

- (3) currently there are 13 typhoon shelters in use in Hong Kong. The Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter, Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter, Shaukeiwan Typhoon Shelter, Shuen Wan Typhoon Shelter and Yim Tin Tsai Typhoon Shelter were designed and built for accommodating vessels with an overall length not more than 30 metres. Because of the size, available water area, entrances layout of firelanes and moorings and number of vessels etc. of these typhoon shelters, we could not relax the length requirement on vessel using these typhoon shelters or the safety of life, vessel and environment may be endangered. However, fishing vessels with length more than 30 metres may consider to use other typhoon shelters, i.e. Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter, Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter, New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter, Rambler Channel Typhoon Shelter, To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter, and Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter which are capable of accommodating any vessels up to 50 metres. Also by end of this year, the new Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter will come into operation, this typhoon shelter is designed for vessels up to 50 metres.

We would further consult the public and relevant parties in the preparation of the relevant subsidiary legislation of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

(Peter KWOK)
for Secretary for Economic Services