

## **NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Supplementary information on 174GK – Veterinary Laboratory at Tai Lung**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

At the PWSC meeting on 29 March 2000, Members considered PWSC(1999-2000)106 on **174GK** – Veterinary Laboratory at Tai Lung, which would include facilities for fish disease investigation. The Administration was asked to provide statistics on fish kills caused by red tides and by diseases.

#### **THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE**

2. Fish farmers are not required to report fish kills and the causes to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). Statistics on fish kills are usually reported to the Department by the fish farmers when seeking technical or financial assistance.

3. According to feedback from fish farmers, disease outbreak is the major cause of fish kills in mariculture zones. AFCD has strengthened aquaculture research and fish health management service with a view to minimising losses due to fish diseases. The provision of facilities at the new veterinary laboratory at Tai Lung will enhance AFCD's activities in this regard.

4. While some red tides may cause fish kills (not all red tides kill fish), their outbreaks are seasonal, usually localised and of small scale. In 1999, for instance, there was no report of red tides causing fish death. The massive red tide outbreak in March and April 1998, which resulted in serious fish loss, was exceptional and unprecedented.