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City University  
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立法會 CB(2) 1332/04-05(02)號文件  
LC Paper No. CB(2) 1332/04-05(02)

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Date: 19 April 2005

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To: Hon Fred Li Wah-ming, JP  
Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on  
Food safety and Environmental Hygiene  
From: Prof. David Randall, Head  
Department of Biology and Chemistry

Fax No: 2509 0775

Message:

Dear Mr. Li,

Legislative Council  
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Special meeting on 26 April 2005

The Hong Kong Fishery has been decimated and urgent action is required. An AFCD-commissioned consultant's report issued in 1998 concluded that Hong Kong's fish stocks were in a "critical state", and that "urgent action is required to rescue fish stocks from their present overexploited state". That was seven years ago and matters are now much worse.

The reasons for the demise of the Hong Kong Fishery are undoubtedly many and this includes over fishing, bottom dredging, and pollution. The relative importance of these has not been ascertained with any degree of confidence, not by AFCD or any other group. The fishery was in decline before extensive dredging in the 1990s, indicating over fishing as a major cause. The effects of pollution are likely to be less obvious, but may be significant.

Corrective action must be taken.

Inshore bottom trawling is destructive and has been banned in many other places, why does it persist here?

**Bottom trawling should be banned in Hong Kong waters.**

The establishment of no fishing zones throughout the world has resulted in a recovery of the fishery. The Hong Kong fishery is in a critical state.

**The eastern waters of Hong Kong should be declared a no fish zone.**

The recovery of the fishery should be monitored and then selective fishing reinstated, with the intention of developing a sustainable fishery. This will be to the long term benefit of all Hong Kong people, including the fishermen.

Best wishes

Prof. David Randall, FRS(Can)