



The Marine Biological Association of Hong Kong 香港海洋生物學協會

c/o The Swire Institute of Marine
Science
The University of Hong Kong
Cape d'Aguilar, Shek O
Hong Kong

**Submission to Legislative Council
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on
Proposed Amendments of the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap 171)**

The Marine Biological Association of Hong Kong supports the proposed amendments with the aim to protecting our fisheries resources. We would like to submit the following comments.

1. If possible, there should be some forms of control on the fishing efforts, e.g., license with fishing quota.
2. The Government should also consider controlling the fishing efforts from recreational fishery. For example, we may adopt a similar licensing system and restriction of fish catch, implemented in any freshwater reservoirs of Hong Kong. Concurrently, public awareness on conservation of marine resources should be emphasized and enhanced through school education and public media.
3. Ideally, the entire body of eastern waters of Hong Kong should be designated as fisheries protection areas (i.e., trawling is not permitted). This will certainly make easy for control and enforcement.
4. The "No-take Zones" should not only cover waters where artificial reefs are deployed, but also should include inshore natural coral habitats. There are evidences that inshore natural coral habitats are important nursery and spawning grounds for larval and juvenile fish and other important invertebrate species. Furthermore, all existing marine parks should be designated as "No-take Zones".
5. Existing annual territory-wide "Closed Season" for fishing in mainland China is between June and July. However, most of the Chinese coastal waters are situated in higher latitudes than Hong Kong, with lower water temperatures and more temperate fish species. In contrast, Hong Kong is located at the tropical/sub-tropical region; many of our local fish species are warm water species with an earlier spawning season compared to their counterparts. In general, the spawning season of many fish species in Hong Kong waters is between April and June. Therefore, we would like to stress that the time period for the closed season should be adjusted based on the biology of the fishes with a view to obtaining better results.