



**長春社** since 1968

The Conservancy Association

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## **The Conservancy Association's Position on the Proposed Amendments to the Fisheries Protection Ordinance**

It is an undisputed fact that fish stock in Hong Kong is diminishing. As a community devoted to seafood eating, Hong Kong should begin formulating measures, both in government policy and in public education, about responsible consumption and sustainable harvesting of fishing stocks.

The Conservancy Association has the following opinions:

1. We support AFCD's proposal to establish Fisheries Protection Areas (FPA) in Tolo Harbour and Port Shelter. But it must not stop there. AFCD should devise a long-term plan to expand FPA to other important fish breeding grounds. According to AFCD, artificial reefs do enhance the replenishment of fishery resources to a certain extent; we urge them to provide detail information such as the increase in fish stock, not just the types of fishes recorded.
2. Annual territory-wide "closed season" for fishing, if implement correctly, is able to allow fish stock to regenerate. "Closed season" in Hong Kong should be tied in with that of the Mainland in the South China Sea.
3. We also support the establishment of fishing license system as a measure to control over fishing.

We want to point out that many countries and places have agreed that fish stock is a vital resource, thus fisheries should be conducted in a responsible manner. As fishery resources are overexploited, both the quantity and quality of fish stock will suffer. Fisheries management is therefore not only beneficial to the community as a whole, but also to the fishing community in the long run.