



BY FAX AND EMAIL

Honourable Chairman and Members
Panel on Food safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council

9 March 2011

Dear Hon. Tommy CHEUNG and Members,

A Ban on Trawling Activities in Hong Kong Waters

“Legislative Proposals to Take Forward the Trawl Ban and Other Fisheries Management Measures” has been issued by Food and Health Bureau in March 2010. Green Power would like to express our points of view as a local charitable green group regarding the aforementioned proposals.

(1) We support the proposed trawl ban in Hong Kong waters because:

- (a) The sea floor habitats in Hong Kong waters have been severely disturbed and trawl fishing is one of the major causes.
- (b) Trawling is detrimental to the seafloor that extensive area of seabed substratum is turned over and almost all benthic organisms are harvested, but most of them may not be the target commercial species.
- (c) Also, the sea floor habitats need a long recovery time for the benthic organisms to re-colonize.
- (d) In view of the large trawler fleet of Hong Kong and long recovery time for the disturbed sea floors by trawling, the area of Hong Kong waters is too small to sustain commercial trawling activities.

(2) Green Power considers it is vital to restore and preserve the natural sea floors in Hong Kong to

- (a) restore and maintain marine biodiversity,
- (b) provide long-term resources for local fishery (of other forms) and hence food supply from local waters,
- (c) develop other more compatible uses of local marine environment such as mariculture, ecotourism and etc.

名譽贊助人：行政長官夫人 曾鈺英女士
專業顧問：陳智思太平紳士 何傑博士
李樂詩博士 劉靜玲教授
黃英琦女士 王敏幹太平紳士
Prof. Somwung Pitayanuwat

Honorary Patron : Mrs. Selina Tsang, Wife of the Chief Executive
Professional Advisors : Mr. Bernard Chan, J.P. Dr. Tao Ho, J.P.
Dr. Rebecca Lee Prof. Liu Jing Ling
Prof. Somwung Pitayanuwat Ms. Ada Wong
Mr. John Wong, J.P.



(3) However, we urge the Administration to formulate and implement a holistic marine conservation plan, together with the implementation of the proposed trawl ban.

- (a) Protect marine and fishery sensitive areas (such as fish nursery and spawning grounds) from any incompatible developments, especially reclamation.
- (b) Restore the disturbed sea floor through researches and proper measures such as artificial reefs, establishment of marine parks and etc.
- (c) Tighten the control on marine and river pollution in order to improve marine water quality of fishing grounds.
- (d) Assist the local fishery industry to switch to more long term compatible and environment-friendly practices such as mariculture, ecotourism and etc.
- (e) Reinforce the marine patrol to stop any illegal and destructive fishery activities practised by local or transboundary fishermen.

Although the proposed trawl ban will affect the business and livelihood of local fishery industry in the short term, we believe that the local fishery industry is not able to sustain if the industry does not shift to other environmentally less destructive fishing practices.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. We sincerely hope that the honourable Legco members can uphold their obligation to protect our marine environment for the benefit of nature conservation, long-term fishery development and sustainability of Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,



CHENG Luk-ki, Ph.D.
Division Head, Scientific Research and Conservation
Green Power