



March 14, 2011

Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Meeting on 15 March 2011

Ocean Recovery Alliance and Project Kaisei Submission

The proposed ban on trawling by the Chief Executive, Donald Tsang, is the most significant environmental measure ever proposed for Hong Kong since the establishment of our country parks.

This is not to be taken lightly, nor should it be compromised. It is also the most exciting opportunity that leaders of this generation can embrace, for the future of our city.

Hong Kong's waters are highly overfished, and any continuance of trawling, which allows for unencumbered destruction of the marine environment, will guarantee that there will be nothing left within 10 years, as nothing has a chance to grow back as long as it is allowed. It is exactly analogous to allowing bulldozing in our country parks on a daily basis.

We highly and enthusiastically support the Hong Kong Government's efforts to stop trawling in Hong Kong waters as soon as possible. This will allow for one of our most valuable local assets to regenerate, bringing many types of new economic benefits along with it. Today, it is not fair that a small group of individuals are allowed to ruin the assets of a population of close to 8 million people. We believe there will be many opportunities for sustained fishing activities if this ban is well enforced and other programs are put in place to regulate fishing in the years to

come, via specific technologies, equipment and licenses. The result will be more fish, cleaner waters, more tourism, more aquatic activities, and a well needed lifeline for the endangered Chinese White Dolphins.

Trawling is widely acknowledged as the most destructive legal fishing method used globally, and has turned much of the Hong Kong seabed into a wasteland. This positive change in policy will be a model that the world's governments and ocean management bodies can strive to emulate.

We are happy to help in your efforts, not only from an environmental standpoint, but also speaking on the behalf of the ocean water sports community, of which we are actively engaged in via the organization of competitions for ocean swimming and paddling.

Thank you for your excellent work with this proposal, and we hope that all of Hong Kong can celebrate this victory for our waters. There will be no losers by stopping trawling.

Sincerely,



Douglas Woodring
Founder

Ocean Recovery Alliance
Project Kaisei