



16 May 2011

Support to the Proposal of Ban Trawling and Compensation Package in Hong Kong Waters

We are pleased with the government's decision to ban trawling and to take timely actions to recover the marine resources in Hong Kong waters. We are also pleased to see a proper compensation package with career training to the affected fishermen to help them adopt alternative livelihoods in support of the trawling ban.

The urgent need to strengthen the existing regulations, management and enforcement towards the sustainable use of our fishery resources has become more critical in the recent decades due to enhanced scientific data on stock and utilization of the fishery resources by all parts of the world. The promising ban on trawling can help recover adult fishery resources for our consumption, at the same time help protect the important spawning and nursery grounds against destructive fishing methods.

We understand that for those trawlers that are operating in Hong Kong waters, there would be vast impacts to fishermen's livelihood, and also to offshore trawlers and fishery related industries. We hope to have an agreement amongst fishermen and the government on the compensation package and vessel buy-out scheme in order to gain their support to protect the severely destroyed marine environment which cannot endure further depletion anymore.

We hope the legislators and government can take this into consideration, for the future of a healthy marine environment, where our precious marine resources can be shared amongst all Hong Kong citizens and our next generations.



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