

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1349/11-12

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/BC/1/11

Bills Committee on Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Bill 2011

**Minutes of the second meeting
held on Friday, 20 January 2012, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Members absent : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan

Public Officers attending : Item I

Ms Kitty CHOI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1
Food and Health Bureau

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2
Food and Health Bureau

Dr SO Ping-man
Assistant Director (Fisheries)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Mickey LAI Kin-ming
Senior Fisheries Officer (Management)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr SUEN Wai-chung
Senior Assistant Law Draftsman (Professional Development)
Department of Justice

Ms Carmen CHAN Ka-man
Government Counsel
Department of Justice

Mr CHAN Hon-bun
Senior Marine Officer/Licensing and Port Formalities
Marine Department

Mr Richard MORGAN
Regional Commander Marine (Acting)
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr FUNG Wai-kin, Terry
Senior Superintendent (Operations) Marine
Hong Kong Police Force

Attendance by : Item I
invitation

Hong Kong Fishing Vessel Owners Association Ltd

Mr CHUNG Kin-hong
Chairman

大埔漁民近岸作業協會

Mr KEUNG Pak-ho
Vice-chairman

WWF-Hong Kong

Dr Andy CORNISH
Director, Conservation

Hong Kong Trawler Association

Mr LEUNG To-kan
Chairman

Tai O Fishermen (Coastal Fishery) Association

Mr WONG Yung-kan
Chairman

Hong Kong Fishery Alliance

Mr KEUNG Siu-fai
General Services

香港漁民魚商會

Mr CHANG Yau-kit
Chairman

港九水上漁民福利促進會

Mr NG Kam-hung
Director

Dr LAU Chee-shing, Member of Tai Po District Council

香港仔近岸漁業協會

Mr LAI Kim-chor

The Castle Peak Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society
Unlimited

Mr PO Siu-yau
Committee Member

Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium

Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung
Chairman

HK & KLN Fishermen Association Ltd

Mr FUNG Shu-fat
Director

The Castle Peak Mechanized Trawler Fishermen's Credit
Co-operative Society Unlimited

Mr LEUNG Kai-yau
Chairman

新界漁民聯誼會

Mr LEUNG Kwong-yung
Chairman

The NT Tap Mun Marine Fish Culture Association

Mr LAI Chuen-tai
Chairman

Sam Mo Shek Wan (Hoi Ha) Fishermen Association

Mr HO Yuk-sang
Chairman

Living Seas Hong Kong

Mr David O'DWYER
Chairman

The Tuen Mun Mechanized Fishing Boat Fishermen's
Credit Co-operative Society Unlimited

Mr CHOW Shui-kan
Member

Hong Kong Fishermen's Association

Mr LAM kan-so
Chairman

International Fisheries Alliance

Mr YEUNG Yun-kwong
Chairman

港九漁民促進會

Mr HO Fuk-sing
Chairman

香港仔漁民總社

Mr CHUNG Zou
Deputy Chairman

香港釣網養殖漁民聯會

Mr PANG Wah-kan

Clerk in Attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in Attendance : Miss Evelyn LEE
Assistant Legal Adviser 10

Ms Candice LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Meeting with deputations and the Administration

[The Bill, Legislative Council Brief, LC Paper Nos. LS5/11-12, CB(2)628/11-12(02) to (03), CB(2)828/11-12(01) to (10) and CB(2)885/11-12(01) to (02)]

The Bills Committee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

Action

2. The Bills Committee received views from 24 deputations on the legislative proposal. The major views are summarized in the Annex. Members also noted that five written submissions were received from organizations/individuals not attending the meeting.

3. The Bills Committee requested the Administration to provide a consolidated response to issues of concern raised by deputations at the meeting. These included -

- (a) details regarding the designation and management of fisheries protection areas;
- (b) arrangement for the registration of existing trawler vessels;
- (c) whether P4 sampans would be allowed to be converted to fishing sampans of higher engine power after the commencement of the Amendment Bill; and
- (d) enforcement action taken against illegal fishing activities in Hong Kong waters, together with the relevant statistics.

II. Any other business

Date of future meetings

4. The Bills Committee agreed that the next two meetings would be scheduled as below -

- (a) Friday, 10 February 2012, at 10:45 am; and
- (b) Friday, 24 February 2012 at 8:30 am.

5. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:00 pm.

**Proceedings of the second meeting of the
Bills Committee on Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Bill 2011
on Friday, 20 January 2012, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Dates of the next meetings</i>			
000318 - 000651	Chairman Mr Fred LI Mr WONG Yung-kan Mr Vincent FANG Dr Joseph LEE	Meeting schedule in February 2012.	
<i>Agenda item I – Meeting with deputations and the Administration</i>			
000652 - 001101	Chairman Hong Kong Fishing Vessel Owners Association Ltd	Opening remarks. Mr CHUNG Kin-hong's query about the justifications for restricting certain fishing activities in Hong Kong waters.	
001102 - 001541	Chairman 大埔漁民近岸作業協會	Mr KEUNG Pak-ho's views - (a) the depletion of local fisheries resources in the last decade was caused by Mainland fishing vessels; (b) the proposal to limit new entrants could not solve the above problem; and (c) the trawl ban would affect adversely the livelihood of local fishermen. The Administration should draw up detailed plans for fisheries conservation.	
001542 - 001926	Chairman WWF-Hong Kong	Dr CORNISH highlighted WWF's submission [LC Paper No. CB(2)828/11-12(02)] as follows - (a) the impending trawl ban would be a major measure to allow the recovery of fish stocks to a healthy level in the long run; (b) limiting the number of local fishing vessels and prohibiting Mainland vessels from engaging in fishing activities in Hong Kong waters were critical improvement measures in the management of local fisheries; (c) designation of Fisheries Protection Areas ("FPAs") was critical measures to protect nursery grounds; (d) FPAs should not be opened for recreational	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>fishing as this would be as detrimental as commercial fishing to the fisheries resources. The Administration should plug the loophole of recreational fishing; and</p> <p>(e) large-scale reclamation would seriously damage the fisheries resources.</p>	
001927 - 002405	Chairman Hong Kong Trawler Association	<p>Mr LEUNG To-kan's views -</p> <p>(a) strongly opposed to excluding trawlers from the registration system for local fishing vessels; and</p> <p>(b) ex-gratia allowance for trawler owners in relation to the trawl ban should be increased.</p>	
002406 - 002659	Chairman Tai O Fishermen (Coastal Fishery) Association	<p>Mr WONG Yung-kan presented the views of the Association as detailed in its submission [LC Paper No. CB(2)828/11-12(03)] -</p> <p>(a) the proposal to introduce a registration system was acceptable, but he had reservation about the proposal to limit the entry of new fishing vessels;</p> <p>(b) while the Administration would designate FPAs to conserve the marine environment, he was worried that the construction for the third airport runway and the related reclamation projects would destroy fisheries resources; and</p> <p>(c) the Administration should take measures to improve nursery grounds (e.g. deploying artificial reefs and releasing fish fry), designate new fish culture zones, as well as help local fishermen develop recreational fishing and marine ecotourism activities.</p>	
002700 - 003114	Chairman Hong Kong Fishery Alliance	<p>Mr KEUNG Siu-fai's views -</p> <p>(a) the enactment of the Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Bill 2011 ("the Bill") should be deferred until the impact of the trawl ban, which would take effect in December 2012, was assessed;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should provide the implementation details of the various proposed fisheries management measures;</p> <p>(c) the Administration should conduct more consultation on the Bill; and</p> <p>(d) the Administration should undertake to</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		safeguard the interests of local fishing communities when carrying out reclamation.	
003115 - 003531	Chairman 香港漁民漁商會	Mr CHANG Yau-kit's views - (a) ex-gratia allowance should also be provided to owners of fish collectors after the trawl ban took effect from 31 December 2012, having regard to the impact of the ban on their livelihood; (b) the livelihood of fishermen and their families were adversely affected by reclamation; and (c) previous attempts made by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") to deploy artificial reefs and release fish fry were ineffective and thus wasting public resources.	
003532 - 003655	Chairman 港九水上漁民福利促進會	Mr NG Kam-hung's views - (a) opposed to the introduction of the Bill; (b) the Administration should first implement the trawl ban in December 2012, and then introduce the Bill at a later stage; and (c) reclamation and construction works adjacent to the coastline would affect the fisheries resources and the livelihood of fishermen.	
003656 - 004107	Chairman Dr LAU Chee-shing, Member of Tai Po District Council	Dr LAU Chee-shing's highlighted the salient points of his submission [LC Paper No. CB(2)828/11-12(04)] - (a) agreed to regulate fishing through the fishing vessel registration system but opposed to the proposal to limit the new entry of local fishing vessels and did not agree to setting up FPAs; (b) did not oppose the proposal to restrict fishing with use or aid of non-fishing vessels and prohibit fishing with the use or aid of non-local fishing vessels; (c) did not oppose to the proposed fisheries management measures in FPAs; and (d) the Administration should provide ex-gratia allowance to affected fishermen.	
004107- 004117	Chairman 香港仔近岸漁業協會	Mr LAI Kim-chor had no comments on the Bill.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
004117 - 004318	Chairman The Castle Peak Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society Unlimited	Mr PO Siu-yau's views - (a) supported the Bill in principle, but expressed concern about the implementation details of the proposed fisheries management measures; and (b) expressed reservation about the proposed arrangements for trawler vessels. Instead, the Administration should further consult the fisheries industry before taking forward the registration system for local fishing vessels.	
004319 - 004739	Chairman Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium	Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung's concerns - (a) the Administration should consider licensing all fishing vessels; (b) flexibility should be provided for the registration of engine power of P4 sampans; and (c) the Administration should address various issues of concern raised by the fisheries industry before the enactment of the Bill. These included the impact of reclamation projects outside Victoria Harbour on the fisheries resources, the sizes and species of fish that allowed for capture by local fishermen in FPAs.	
004740 - 004907	Chairman HK & KLN Fishermen Association Ltd	Mr FUNG Shu-fat presented the views as detailed in the submission tabled at the meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)885/11-12(01)] - (a) the Association supported the Bill in principle, but the Administration should not set a deadline for registration of trawler vessels; (b) the registration system should apply across the board to all types of local fishing vessels; and (c) the Administration should fully consult the fisheries industry on the details of the Bill.	
004908 - 004916	Chairman The Castle Peak Mechanized Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society Unlimited	Mr LEUNG Kai-yau had no comment on the Bill.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
004917 - 005130	Chairman 新界漁民聯誼會	Mr LEUNG Kwong-yung's concerns - (a) both P4 sampans and C7 vessels possessed the same type of operating licences issued by the Marine Department ("MD"), and it would be unfair to P4 sampan owners if they were not allowed to upgrade the engine power of their vessels to C7 vessels after the introduction of fishing vessel registration system; and (b) owners of some existing 2 000 local P4 sampans had indicated their plan to upgrade the engine power to C7 vessels, and the Administration should reserve the anticipated increase in engine power in determining the ceiling of engine power of local fishing vessels.	
005131 - 005138	Chairman The NT Tap Mun Marine Fish Culture Association	Mr LAI Chuen-tai had no comment on the Bill.	
005139 - 005244	Chairman Sam Mo Shek Wan (Hoi Ha) Fishermen Association	Mr HO Yuk-sang's views - (a) opposed to banning fishing in FPAs; and (b) the Administration should clearly define the boundaries of FPAs and make known the details of fisheries management measures to be implemented in FPAs.	
005247 - 005657	Chairman Living Seas Hong Kong	Mr David O'DWYER's highlighted the salient points of the organisation's submission [LC Paper No. CB(2)828/11-12(05)] - (a) supported the Bill and the trawl ban to restore the fisheries resources; (b) welcomed the proposals to introduce a registration system for local fishing vessels and set up FPAs; (c) the level of maximum fishing effort in Hong Kong waters had yet to be assessed to facilitate sustainable development of fisheries resources; (d) the Administration should promote recreational fishing and assist the fisheries industry to develop recreational fishing and marine ecotourism activities; and (e) concerned that the effectiveness of the Bill to restore fisheries resources would be offset by ongoing reclamation projects.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
005634 - 005652	Chairman The Tuen Mun Mechanized Fishing Boat Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society Unlimited	Mr CHOW Shui-kan made no further views to the written submission tabled at the meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)885/11-12(02)].	
005653 - 005831	Chairman Hong Kong Fishermen's Association	Mr LAM Kan-so's views - (a) agreed to the registration system but considered that it should be applicable to all types of local fishing vessels, including fishing and recreational vessels; (b) non-local fishermen and non-local fishing vessels carried out fishing activities in Hong Kong waters should be regulated as well; (c) more details of FPAs such as the locations and management measures should be provided; and (d) large scale reclamation would undermine the effectiveness of the proposed measures.	
005832 - 010040	Chairman International Fisheries Alliance	Mr YEUNG Yun-kwong's concern about implementation of fisheries management measures in FPAs.	
010042 - 010051	Chairman 港九漁民促進會	Mr HO Fook-shing had no comments on the Bill.	
010052 - 010159	Chairman 香港仔漁民總社	Mr CHUNG Zou's views - (a) the Administration should expedite the disbursement of ex-gratia allowance to trawler owners; and (b) the descendants of vessel owners should be allowed to apply for relevant certificates of competency to operate fishing vessels.	
010200 - 010453	Chairman 香港釣網養殖漁民聯會	Mr PANG Wah-kan's views - (a) supported limiting new entrants into the fishing industry; (b) registration of fishing vessels was feasible but as fishermen in Cheung Chau mainly carried out inshore fishing activities, it would be unfair to these fishermen if fishing with non-fishing vessels was not regulated; and (c) the public project and reclamation at the south of Cheung Chau would further	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		aggravate the livelihood of local fishermen.	
010454 - 012528	Chairman Administration	<p>The Administration's response to issues raised by the deputations -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the total engine power was 220 000 kW in 2010 which had exceeded the optimal fishing effort of 140 000 kW as assessed by the experts in 2006; (b) the maximum sustainable yield was about 20 000 tonnes of fish catches but the production in 2006 was 26 000 tonnes; (c) the Administration was aware of the concerns about the operation of Mainland fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters. One of the objectives of the Bill was to prohibit the fishing activities of these non-local fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters; (d) under the registration system, all owners of local fishing vessels could apply for registering their vessels. The registration, which was transferable, would remain valid throughout the life-time of the vessels. Local fishermen could continue with their operations after the Bill came into force; (e) trawlers would not be registered as such as trawling would be banned in Hong Kong waters with effect from 31 December 2012. That said, the proposed new section 21 of the Bill provided for an enabling provision to allow a trawler owner issued with a certificate of eligibility for registration, an option of registering a non-trawler by modifying his/her existing trawler or by acquiring a new vessel beyond the 12-month transitional period after the commencement of the Bill. The registration period for trawler owners would be determined after consultation with the trade; (f) the Bill stipulated that owners of local fishing vessels including P4 sampans had to make applications for registration within 12 months from the commencement of the Bill, except for trawlers.; (g) owners of existing P4 sampans who had a genuine need to upgrade their vessels could convert their vessels before the commencement of the Bill. However, as the Bill sought to cap the total engine power of registered fishing vessels, it would depart 	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>from the policy intent if a certain level of engine power was reserved for future upgrading of P4 sampans;</p> <p>(h) the Administration would exercise due care in designating FPAs. The proposed FPAs in mind were areas which were known as important spawning and nursery grounds to the fisheries industry and parties concerned. Complementary fisheries management measures such as implementation of closed season would be introduced to enhance the effectiveness of FPAs;</p> <p>(i) permitted fishing activities with the use or aid of vessels other than non-local fishing vessels were specified in Schedule 2 to the Bill;</p> <p>(j) AFCD would monitor the situation of fisheries resources after the implementation of the management measures. Regulation of recreational fishing could be considered when more information on the fisheries resources situation became available;</p> <p>(k) the Development Bureau ("DEVB") was conducting public consultation on 25 potential sites that might be considered for reclamation, and the views of the fisheries industry would be fully considered;</p> <p>(l) Marine Police maintained close cooperation with AFCD and MD, and undertook enforcement actions either independently or during joint operations to combat illegal fishing activities as well as maintained law and order of Hong Kong waters; and</p> <p>(m) MD was responsible for the certification and licensing of local vessels from the vessel safety and seaworthiness angle. Fishing vessels were licensed as Class III vessels under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548), and the operating licence issued to a local vessel was subject to annual renewal.</p>	
012529 - 013320	Chairman Mr WONG Yung-kan Administration	<p>Concerns raised by Mr WONG Yung-kan -</p> <p>(a) why trawler vessels would not be registered under the registration system;</p> <p>(b) whether the Administration had estimated the total engine power of trawlers and the impact on the total engine power of all vessels</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>fishing in Hong Kong waters if trawlers stopped operating in Hong Kong waters in future; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would allow owners of P4 sampans to upgrade the engine power of the vessels after the Bill came into effect.</p> <p>The Administration advised that -</p> <p>(a) the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap.171) sought to regulate fishing practices and activities in Hong Kong waters. It would be inconsistent with the Ordinance if trawlers which were banned from trawling in Hong Kong waters on the one hand and were allowed to be registered under the Bill on the other. Having consulted the fisheries industry, it was provided under new section 21 of the Bill that trawler owners would be provided with longer time to make a decision on whether they would switch to non-trawling operation in Hong Kong waters and therefore existing owners would be issued with a certificate of eligibility for registration of converted or newly purchased non-trawlers; and</p> <p>(b) the total engine power of all existing local fishing vessels would need to take into account the engine power of existing trawlers which would be allowed to revert to operate in Hong Kong waters using non-trawling fishing methods in future.</p>	
013321 - 014159	Mr Fred LI Chairman Administration	<p>Concerns raised by Mr Fred LI -</p> <p>(a) the basis for determining the total engine power of 140 000 kW in Hong Kong waters;</p> <p>(b) the effectiveness of FPAs to help restore fisheries resources; and</p> <p>(c) estimated number of non-local fishing vessels operating in Hong Kong waters and why such vessels still came to operate in Hong Kong waters despite the depleted fisheries resources.</p> <p>The Administration advised that -</p> <p>(a) the maximum sustainable yield and optimal fishing effort were assessed in a study conducted by the Mainland experts in 2006;</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(b) it would be more practical to assess the number of trawlers that would switch to non-trawling fishing methods in Hong Kong waters after the trawl ban took effect in December 2012, and hence its contributions to the total engine power of vessels registered;</p> <p>(c) given the fisheries resources in the adjacent Mainland waters were in much worse condition than in Hong Kong waters, and the fact that there was no restriction on fishing activities by non-local fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters at present, some Mainland fishermen chose to operate in Hong Kong waters despite their entry into Hong Kong was illegal;</p> <p>(d) currently there were no specific regulations against fishing activities by non-local fishing vessels, and the Marine Police would continue to combat the illegal entry of the mainland vessels; and</p> <p>(e) fish fry of species which tended to seek shelter in the artificial reefs would be selected for restocking in FPAs. With the implementation of closed season, spawning fish and fry released in FPAs would be protected from fishing while they were juvenile.</p>	
014200 - 015014	Mr Albert CHAN Chairman Administration	<p>Mr Albert CHAN's concern about -</p> <p>(a) the effectiveness of the Marine Police against illegal fishing activities by Mainland fishing vessels;</p> <p>(b) the need for seeking independent advice on the Administration's fisheries management measures; and</p> <p>(c) the Administration should provide -</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) details of ex-gratia allowance to the affected fishermen, if any; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) written responses to concerns raised by the deputations.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the Bills Committee had invited public views on the Bill, and some academics had put forward their written submissions to the Bills Committee.</p> <p>The Administration advised that -</p>	Admin

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(a) it would provide statistics on enforcement against illegal fishing activities, and responses to issues raised by deputations after the meeting; and</p> <p>(b) the Bill and proposed fisheries management measures would not involve issues relating to ex-gratia allowance.</p>	
015015 - 015132	Chairman Dr Joseph LEE	Dr Joseph LEE invited supplementary views from attending deputations.	
015133 - 015520	Chairman Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium	<p>Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung's views -</p> <p>(a) trawlers would unlikely revert to operate in Hong Kong waters, and hence the projection of total engine power had been overestimated;</p> <p>(b) a licensing system should be introduced in lieu of a registration system; and</p> <p>(c) the engine power of P4 sampans should be allowed to be upgraded after the commencement of the Bill.</p>	
015521 - 015740	Chairman 大埔漁民近岸作業協會	<p>Mr KEUNG Pok-ho expressed concern about -</p> <p>(a) the effectiveness of releasing fish fry in FPAs to help restore fisheries resources; and</p> <p>(b) the enforcement action against illegal fishing activities by Mainland vessels in Hong Kong waters.</p>	
015741 - 015912	Hong Kong Trawler Association Chairman	Mr LEUNG To-kan expressed concern about the arrangement for the registration of existing trawlers under the Bill.	
015924 - 020009	香港釣網養殖漁民聯會 Chairman	Mr PANG Wah-kan expressed concern about the impact of recreational fishing on fisheries resources.	
020010 - 020400	Dr Joseph LEE Chairman Administration	<p>Dr Joseph LEE considered that the Administration should further discuss with the fisheries industry the issues of concern raised by the deputations.</p> <p>The Administration advised that -</p> <p>(a) it maintained close communication with the fisheries industry;</p> <p>(b) as trawl ban would take effect from 31 December 2012, it was not the</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>Administration's policy intention to register trawler vessels under the registration system. Instead, to allow more time for those trawler owners who chose to pursue fishing operation using non-trawling fishing methods in Hong Kong waters, existing trawler owners would be issued with a certificate of eligibility for registration;</p> <p>(c) Marine Police and AFCD had been combating illegal fishing activities in Hong Kong waters;</p> <p>(d) it was not the policy intent of the Bill to regulate recreational fishing. Moreover, the catches of recreational fishing by means of hook and line was far smaller than that of commercial fishing using fishing vessels.</p>	
020401 - 021240	Chairman Mr WONG Yung-kan Administration	<p>Mr WONG Yung-kan's views -</p> <p>(a) recreational fishing along the promenade should be regulated by issuing fishing permits;</p> <p>(b) the Marine Police should step up enforcement actions against illegal fishing activities by Mainland vessels; and</p> <p>(c) more time should be allowed for owners of P4 sampans to decide whether to upgrade the engine power of their vessels.</p> <p>The Administration advised that -</p> <p>(a) as the first step, commercial fishing would be regulated after the commencement of the Bill;</p> <p>(b) the enforcement agencies would be equipped with specific provisions in the Bill to combat illegal fishing activities upon enactment of the Bill; and</p> <p>(c) the conversion of P4 sampans to fishing sampans of higher engine power was possible and the requirement was stipulated in Cap. 548, and owners of existing P4 vessel who have a genuine need to upgrade their vessels were welcome to convert their vessels before the enactment of the Bill.</p>	
021241 - 021955	Mr Fred LI Chairman Administration	Mr Fred LI sought clarification about the difference between FPAs and prohibited fishing areas.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>The Administration advised that -</p> <p>(a) the Bill proposed to empower the Secretary for Food and Health to designate FPAs. The locations and the fisheries management measures to be imposed in FPAs such as "no-take" zones and closed seasons, would be worked out by the relevant authorities after consultation with the trade. The orders and rules for the management and control of fishing in FPAs would be subject to negative vetting of the Legislative Council;</p> <p>(b) the proposed FPAs in mind at this stage were the Tolo Channel and Long Harbour, and the Port Shelter which were known to be important spawning and nursery grounds in Hong Kong. Instead of prohibiting fishing in FPAs across the board, closed seasons during certain periods of a year or in "no-take" zones would be implemented.</p> <p>The Chairman's view that the Administration should provide more information on the proposed designation and management of FPAs for members' consideration.</p>	
021956 - 022847	Chairman Mr WONG Yung-kan Administration	<p>Mr WONG Yung-kan stressed that -</p> <p>(a) the Administration should be mindful of the impact of reclamation outside Victoria Harbour on FPAs; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should formulate a policy for sustainable development of the fisheries industry. For instance, it should consider regulating fishing activities by issuing fishing permits.</p> <p>The Administration advised that -</p> <p>(a) DEVB was inviting public views on the proposal to enhance land supply through reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, and it would convey concerns of the deputations to DEVB;</p> <p>(b) the Bill sought to, among others, develop a registration system for local fishing vessels to limit new entrants into the fishing industry so as to maintain the fishing effort at an appropriate level, and allow the restoration of fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters; and</p> <p>(c) all local fishing vessels would be accepted</p>	Admin

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		for registration, and trawlers would be issued with a certificate of eligibility for registration to allow more time for trawler owners to revert to operate in Hong Kong waters in the future.	
<i>Agenda item II – Any other business</i>			
022848 - 023000	Chairman WONG Yung-kan	Date of next meeting.	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 March 2012