



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Alice LEUNG)

28 August 2015

Dear Ms Leung,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
List of Follow-up Actions**

Implementation of the trawl ban

At the Panel meeting held on 9 June 2015, the Government was requested to provide the following supplementary information for Members' reference:

- (a) since the implementation of the trawl ban, the respective number of fishermen who -
- (i) were engaged in fishing operations in distant waters outside Hong Kong;
 - (ii) took up aquaculture and recreational fisheries in Hong Kong; and
 - (iii) were staying put (i.e. neither engaged in fishing operations in distant waters outside Hong Kong nor switched to aquaculture and recreational fisheries); and
- (b) whether there were support services provided to assist those fishermen affected by the trawl ban who fall outside the above three modes of fishing operations.

Our response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Operators of the some 269 inshore trawlers¹ which used to be engaged in trawling within Hong Kong waters were the group of fishermen most affected by the trawl ban. Since the implementation of the trawl ban, depending on their own choice and individual circumstances, some of them have turned to the Mainland waters to continue their operation while others have switched to alternative modes of operation. Their current mode of operation is as follows²:

Modes of operation	Number
(i) trawling operations outside Hong Kong waters	127
(ii) aquaculture and recreational fisheries in Hong Kong	4
(iii) operations in Hong Kong waters using other fishing methods	32
(iv) others (who are still in the course of exploring other options or have retired from the industry)	106

The Government has been providing various technical support services, training and credit facilities to assist those affected by the trawl ban to switch to other sustainable modes of fishing operations. Details of the support services have been set out in the paper submitted to the Panel at the meeting on 9 June. Among other things, after the meeting held in June 2015, two more applications made under the \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund have been approved, bringing

¹ This estimated figure is based on the records of the interdepartmental working group (IWG) set up to administer the one-off assistance scheme for fishermen affected by the trawl ban.

² These estimated figures are based on records from various schemes administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the IWG handling the one-off assistance scheme for fishermen affected by the trawl ban.

the number of approved projects to four. These projects are related to aquaculture and recreational fisheries, involving grants of up to \$14 million.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Desmond Wong', written in a cursive style.

(Desmond WONG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation

(Attn: Mr Edward WONG

2814 0018)
