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本局檔號 Our Ref.

來函檔號 Your Ref.

21 November 2017

Ms Shirley Chan  
Clerk to Panel on Economic Development  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Chan,

**Subcommittee on Legislative Amendments to  
Improve Vessel Traffic Services and Regulate Marine Safety**

**Follow-up to meeting on 7 November 2017**

I refer to your letter of 9 November 2017 of the captioned, requesting supplementary information on the prohibited fishing areas in Hong Kong waters, as well as on the practice in neighbouring ports on the delineation of boundaries of very high frequency (VHF) sectors. The requisite information is set out below.

***Prohibited fishing areas***

Owing to heavy marine traffic and to enhance marine safety, fishing activities are prohibited in all principle fairways (including the direct approaches to the Lei Yue Mun Pass and the direct approaches to the Sulphur Channel). These areas, including the proposed prohibited fishing area at the junction of Ha Pang Fairway, Ma Wan Fairway and Kap Shui Mun, are shaded in purple in the map set out at **Annex**.

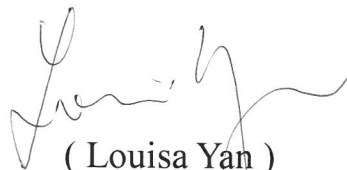
Fishing activities cannot be conducted in certain Hong Kong International Airport Approach Areas (HKIAAA)<sup>1</sup> (i.e. HKIAAA No. 1, 2, 3 and 4) on safety ground. These Areas are waters surrounding the Hong Kong International Airport shaded in brown in the aforesaid map. Entry of vessels into these Areas is prohibited in order to ensure aviation safety, especially during take-off and landing of aircraft.

In addition, fishing activities are prohibited in all typhoon shelters in Hong Kong to facilitate the manoeuvring and berthing of vessels. These areas are shaded in green in the map.

***Delineation of boundaries of VHF sectors***

According to the guidelines issued by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), port authorities are required to provide a legal basis for the operation of vessel traffic services (VTS). IMO's guidelines have not stipulated the means to delineate and declare the VHF sectors. In other words, port authorities have the discretion to decide on the way to delineate the VHF sectors and inform stakeholders and users. Port authorities in Japan, Singapore and Canada have delineated and declared the VHF sectors through their respective legal instruments. With regard to the suggestion by a Member to delineate and declare the VHF sectors by administrative measures such that there would be greater flexibility in making technical amendments in the future, we will take note of the suggestion and give due consideration in future legislative exercise.

Yours sincerely,



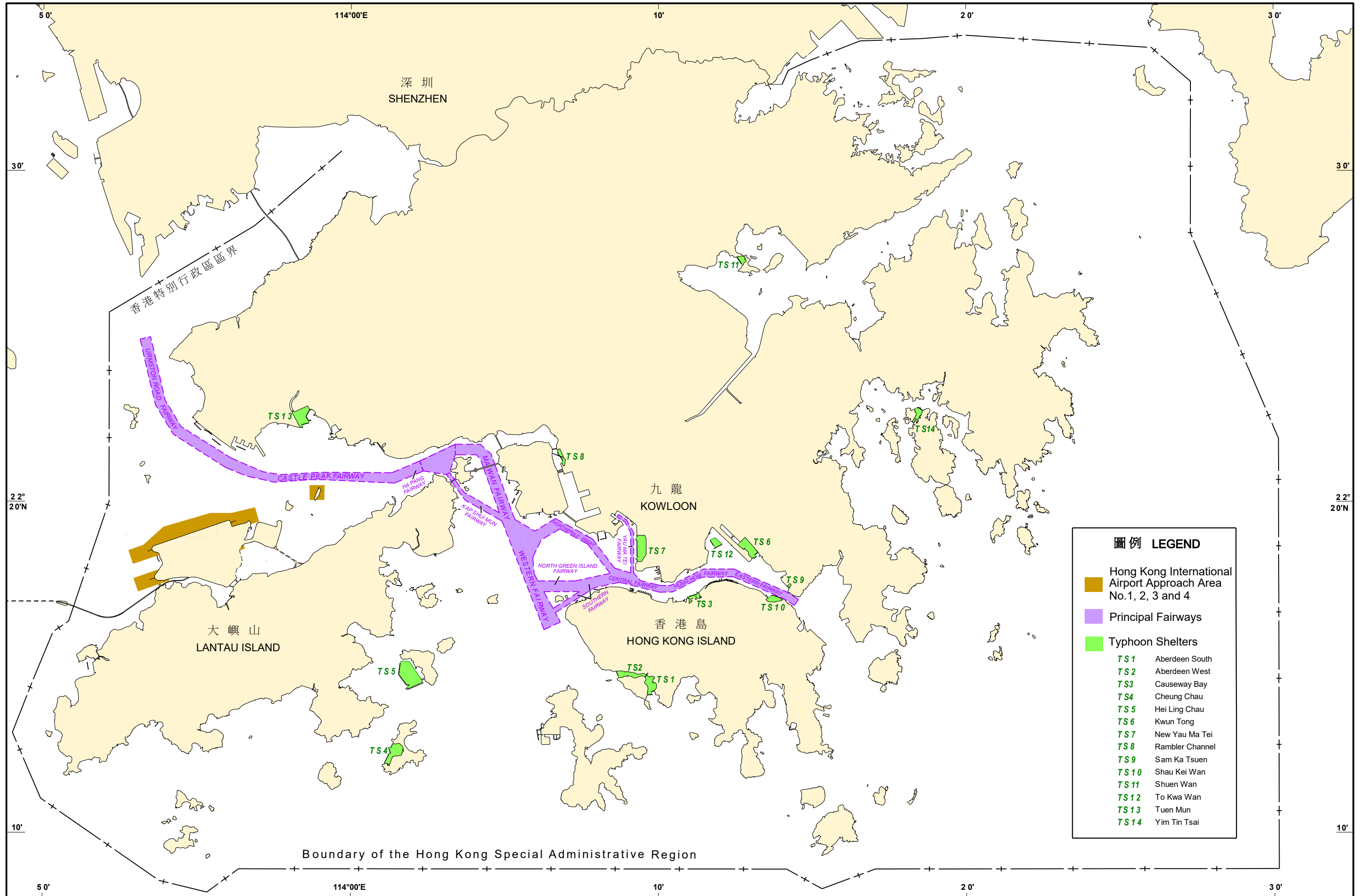
( Louisa Yan )

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

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<sup>1</sup> There are eight HKIAAAs. Vessels are not allowed to enter HKIAAA No. 1, 2, 3 and 4. For the other HKIAAAs, vessels with heights exceeding 15 meters are not allowed to enter HKIAAA No. 5 and 6, while vessels with heights exceeding 30 meters are not allowed to enter HKIAAA No. 7 and 8.

# Waters where fishing activities are prohibited



**圖例 LEGEND**

- Hong Kong International Airport Approach Area No.1, 2, 3 and 4
- Principal Fairways
- Typhoon Shelters
  - TS 1 Aberdeen South
  - TS 2 Aberdeen West
  - TS 3 Causeway Bay
  - TS 4 Cheung Chau
  - TS 5 Hei Ling Chau
  - TS 6 Kwun Tong
  - TS 7 New Yau Ma Tei
  - TS 8 Rambler Channel
  - TS 9 Sam Ka Tsuen
  - TS 10 Shau Kei Wan
  - TS 11 Shuen Wan
  - TS 12 To Kwa Wan
  - TS 13 Tuen Mun
  - TS 14 Yim Tin Tsai

不宜作航行用途  
NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION