

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1059/18-19(02)

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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the special meeting on 2 April 2019**

**Administration's proposal to tighten the management of
licensed fish rafts and to review the licence conditions**

Marine fish culture is protected and regulated by the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353), which requires all marine fish culture activities in Hong Kong to operate under licence in designated fish culture zones ("FCZs"). According to the information provided by the Administration to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") in February 2019, as at end-December 2018, there were 931 licensed fish farms operating in 26 designated FCZs. In 2018, about 850 tonnes of live marine fish valued at \$71 million were produced. It is estimated that about 1 900 people are engaged in the mariculture sector.

2. In the context of discussing the sustainable development of the fisheries sector at the Panel meeting on 12 February 2019, the Administration has advised that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will step up its management and inspection of all 26 FCZs to ensure that existing licensed areas are fully utilized for mariculture purpose. For licence renewal, the production of each fish raft must reach a minimum level so as to free up the farming space from inactive fish rafts. The Administration has also proposed issuing new marine fish culture licences ("MFCLs") for six existing FCZs with surplus carrying capacity to better utilize their production capacity. Successful applicants of new MFCL should comply with a set of licence conditions to ensure that the fish farms will be actively used for sustainable mariculture.

3. At the above Panel meeting, concern was raised about the Administration's sudden proposal to tighten the management of licensed fish rafts and to review the licence conditions of existing MFCLs. Some members were dissatisfied with the lack of details in the Administration's

paper. According to the observation of some members, many existing MFCL holders were opposed to the proposed mariculture standards which suggested that (a) raft area should be the same as licence area; (b) cage area should not be less than 70% of the licence area; and (c) fish farm should achieve a minimum stocking density of 10kg/m². In members' views, the proposed standards were too stringent. The Administration should continue to engage the trade to forge a consensus and to appeal for fish farmers' appreciation of the need to tighten the mariculture standards. Two motions (see **Appendix**) were passed at the meeting, urging the Administration to carefully review the matter and to thoroughly consult the trade before setting any new mariculture standards.

4. At the suggestion of some members, the Panel will receive deputations' views on the Administration's proposal to tighten the management of licensed fish rafts and to review the licence conditions at the special meeting on 2 April 2019.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 March 2019

立法會 CB(2)797/18-19(02)號文件
LC Paper No. CB(2)797/18-19(02)

食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

在 2019 年 2 月 12 日的會議上就議程項目 V
"海魚養殖的發展"通過的議案

Motions passed under agenda item V "Development of mariculture"
at the meeting on 12 February 2019

議案(一)

(議案中文措辭)

本事務委員會促請政府支援本港養魚業發展，應優先：落實行業天災保障機制、拓展銷售渠道、完善紅潮預警機制、改善養殖水質、優化及簡便資助發展計劃、為業界建立品牌加強競爭力、積極支援業界提升養殖技術及產值。在綜合以上各項推行情況的因素，再對養殖標準的可行性作出審慎研究、繼續諮詢及尋找共識，以協助行業進一步改善經營環境，善用養殖空間。

動議人：何俊賢議員, BBS 及葛珮帆議員, BBS, JP

Motion 1

(English translation of the motion)

This Panel calls on the Government to support the development of the mariculture industry, and priorities should be given to: implementing a natural disasters protection mechanism for the industry, expanding the sales channels, improving the red tides alert system, improving the quality of water used for fish culture, refining and simplifying various subsidy programmes for the development of the industry, increasing the competitiveness of the industry through brand-building, and proactively supporting the industry in upgrading mariculture technologies and increasing production value. Having consolidated experiences from implementing the above initiatives, the Government could carefully explore the feasibility of setting mariculture standards by conducting further consultation to help forge a consensus, thereby assisting the industry to further improve its operating environment and optimize the use of mariculture zones.

Moved by : Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS and
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP

議案(二)

下列議案由朱凱迪議員動議，並經陳凱欣議員修訂及毛孟靜議員進一步修訂：

(議案中文措辭)

由於大量海魚養殖戶有不同意見，本事務委員會要求政府正視養魚戶的實際營運情況，先撤回收緊牌照中"養殖標準"的建議，必須與業界討論，並預留充足時間充分諮詢及聽取業界意見，才制定新標準；另外，政府應強化各項支援海魚養殖業的措施。

Motion 2

The following motion was moved by Hon CHU Hoi-dick, as amended by Hon CHAN Hoi-yan and further amended by Hon Claudia MO:

(English translation of the motion)

Given the dissenting views among a large number of mariculturists, this Panel requests the Government to take note of the actual operating environment of fish farmers, withdraw its proposal to tighten the "mariculture standards" for licensing first, and hold discussions with the trade; and to allow sufficient time to thoroughly consult and receive views from the trade before setting any new standards. In addition, the Government should strengthen various support measures for the mariculture industry.