

New Legislation for Implementing the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong

Consultation Results

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department organised engagement forums with key stakeholders and solicited views from a relevant advisory body on the implementation of Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (“CCAMLR”) from January to March 2018. The general public were also invited to submit their views.

(a) Engagement Forum

| Date | Stakeholders |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 22 January & 22 February 2018 | Trading companies/Importers/Wholesalers/ Retailers of seafood |
| | Relevant trader associations |
| 22 January 2018 | Environmental groups |
| 2 February 2018 | Trade Consultation Forum (organised by the Centre for Food Safety) |

Number of participants: 57

(b) Advisory Body

| Date | Advisory Board |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 27 March 2018 | Fish Marketing Advisory Board |

(c) Written Submission

3 submissions received

Summary of the views collected:

- There was a general support on the implementation of CCAMLR in Hong Kong. The consultees noted that domestic legislation is necessary to provide legal basis for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the CCAMLR and its Conservation Measures in Hong Kong and general enforcement powers for the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation and his authorized officers.
- All stakeholders requested the Government to deploy adequate resources for efficient law enforcement. They also considered it necessary for the Government to organise education and publicity programme for the trade as well as the general public, with a view to raising their awareness and understanding of CCAMLR, Antarctic marine resources and the proposed regulatory control on toothfish trade.
- It is noted that a new licencing regime would be introduced for implementation of the Toothfish Catch Documentation Scheme to regulate the trading (including import, export and re-export) of toothfish. An import, export or re-export of toothfish would be prohibited unless it was accompanied by an import / export / re-export licence issued by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation. Importers and exporters suggested that the licence application and other related procedures should be simple and user-friendly, and clear application guidelines should be provided.
- Some importers and trader representatives indicated that not many traders involved in toothfish trading, and there were similar replacement products in the market, thus the proposed toothfish trade control would not cause significant burden on their operation. They considered that the proposed licence application fee of a few hundred dollars is acceptable.
- Some trading companies requested the Government to maintain closer communications with counterparts in other places to facilitate the recognition of the relevant licences issued under the proposed legislation.

- Some retailers and trading companies opted that the control scheme on toothfish trade should not target on retailers.
- Environmental groups expressed that the proposal is a positive step towards international cooperation in enhancing the conservation of global marine resources and addressing the issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. They requested the Government to speed up the legislative process and implement the legislation and its regulations as early as possible.
- An environmental group suggested that designated places for CCAMLR-associated cargoes should be assigned to streamline inspection efforts. It also suggested the Government to introduce possession licence system in the proposed regulation, making reference to the control regime for the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).
- Another environmental group stated that the Government should keep an eye on the consumption of other Antarctic marine resources such as krill in addition to toothfish, and organize related publicity and education activities.