

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

Consultation Results

Consultation period: March¹ – May 2014

(a) Engagement Forums

Date	Stakeholder
1 April 2014	Retailers / Importers / Wholesalers
2 April 2014	Importers / Wholesalers
9 April 2014	Environmental groups
29 May 2014	Trade Consultation Forum (organised by the Centre for Food Safety)

Number of participants: 127

(b) Advisory bodies

Date	Advisory Board
20 March 2014	Fish Marketing Advisory Board
24 March 2014	Capture Subcommittee of Advisory Committee of Agriculture and Fisheries

(c) Written Submission

1 submission received

¹ The item was discussed at the Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel of the Legislative Council on 11 March 2014. Records of the meeting is available at the LegCo website: <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/fseh/general/fseh1314.htm>

Summary of the views collected:

- The seafood trade did not have a strong view on the proposed application of the Convention to Hong Kong and the proposed control scheme for the trading of toothfish. Some of the importers were supportive of the proposal as it would help protect the marine resources and deter some to import toothfish obtained from illegal sources.
- Importers indicated that toothfish was only one of the many fisheries products in their business and there were other comparable products available in the market. The proposed control scheme would not have a direct impact on their business.
- Majority of the importers were aware of the catch documents and the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish. Their initial view was that the proposed control scheme would not cause too much burden on their operation. Some, however, have raised some questions about the operational details of the proposed control scheme.
- The seafood trade requested that the application and inspection procedures under the proposed control scheme should be simple and user-friendly.
- Some retailers were concerned about their possible liability under the proposed control scheme, and opined that the scheme should not target the retail level.
- Environmental groups indicated their support to the proposed application of the Convention to Hong Kong and the proposed control scheme for the trading of toothfish. They requested the government to deploy adequate resources for enforcing the control scheme in the future.
- They requested the government to fully implement the measures under the CDS, and conduct regular and *ad hoc* enforcement actions to combat the illegal trade. Some were also of the view that appropriate actions should be taken at the market (retail) level.
- Some environmental groups requested for improvements on the compilation of the trade statistics on toothfish upon the implementation of the proposed control scheme.
- Some environmental groups suggested that the government should take a more active role in other international fisheries conventions or measures implemented by other regional fisheries management organisations to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- All stakeholders considered it necessary for the government to organise education and publicity programme for the trade as well as the public in general.
- All stakeholders agreed that the government should maintain a close contact and continue the communication with them regarding the development of the proposal.