

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected smuggled bird's nests and scheduled fish maw worth about \$5.2 million (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs on February 20 detected a suspected smuggling case involving an outgoing cross-boundary private car at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Port and seized about 24 kilograms of suspected smuggled bird's nests and about 43kg of suspected scheduled fish maw, with a total estimated market value of about \$5.2 million.

Based on risk assessment, Customs on that day intercepted an outbound electric private car at the HZMB Hong Kong Port. Upon inspection, the batch of suspected smuggled food ingredients was found concealed beneath the front trunk and inside a false compartment between the vehicular frame and battery pack with an altered structure.

After an investigation, Customs arrested a 53-year-old male driver suspected to be connected with the case. He has been released on bail pending further investigation. Customs also detained the structurally altered private car.

Customs will continue to combat cross-boundary smuggling activities with firm enforcement action based on risk assessment and intelligence analysis.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years upon conviction.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person importing, exporting or possessing specimens of endangered species not in accordance with the Ordinance commits an offence and will be liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years upon conviction with the specimens forfeited.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).

