

[Hong Kong Customs seizes over 1 tonne of suspected scheduled dried shark fins \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (January 7) seized over 1 tonne of suspected scheduled dried shark fins of endangered species with an estimated market value of about \$750,000 at Hong Kong International Airport.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected an air consignment arriving in Hong Kong from the Philippines and found the batch of suspected scheduled shark fins inside.

The case was handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up investigation.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



[Tsang Kok Stream outfall modification works proposed](#)

The Government has proposed to carry out modification works within an area of approximately 5.2 hectares of foreshore and seabed at the Tsang Kok

Stream outfall. The extent of the area of foreshore and seabed affected is described in a [notice](#) gazetted today (January 8).

The proposed works will provide approximately 3.01 hectares of land for accommodating new access to the facilities near the outfall. It also serves to enhance the road connectivity between Tuen Mun and Yuen Long in the long term. The proposed works are tentatively scheduled to commence in 2023 for completion in about two years.

The notice and its related plan are posted near the site. The plan is also available for inspection at:

- * Survey and Mapping Office of the Lands Department (23/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong) (where copies can be purchased on order);
- * Tuen Mun Home Affairs Enquiry Centre of the Tuen Mun District Office (2/F, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories);
- * Yuen Long Home Affairs Enquiry Centre of the Yuen Long District Office (Ground Floor, Yuen Long District Office Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories); and
- * Lands Department's website (www.landso.gov.hk) under Government Notices.

Any person who considers that he or she has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands, 20/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong, within two months from the above-mentioned date, i.e. on or before March 8. The notice of such objection shall describe the interest, right or easement of the objector and the manner in which he or she will be allegedly affected.

Student monthly tickets for five major outlying island ferry routes to be launched on March 1

The Transport Department announced today (January 8) that approval has been given to the five major outlying island ferry routes, namely Central – Cheung Chau, Central – Mui Wo, Central – Peng Chau, Central – Yung Shue Wan and Central – Sok Kwu Wan, to launch student monthly tickets with effect from March 1.

The fares of the student monthly tickets of the five licensed ferry services, which are about 30 per cent off those of the adult monthly tickets,

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The student monthly tickets are applicable to students aged between 12 and 25 who are currently enrolled in full-time day courses offered by recognised education institutions in Hong Kong. Eligible students are required to submit their student identity to the relevant ferry operators in advance for the purchase of student monthly tickets. The ferry operators will distribute the application forms and announce the application details within this month.

Holders of the student monthly tickets are entitled to take a daily round trip of ordinary class on ordinary sailings of the Central – Cheung Chau or Central – Mui Wo routes, ordinary sailings of the Central – Peng Chau route or any sailings of the Central – Yung Shue Wan or Central – Sok Kwu Wan routes within the valid period of the relevant tickets. Moreover, students can choose to take deluxe class of ordinary sailings or fast ferry sailings of the relevant routes after paying top-up fares.

Ferry operators were originally scheduled to provide the student monthly tickets from the commencement date of the new licence period on April 1. With a view to alleviating the burden of public transport expenses on students, ferry operators have advanced the launch of the fare concession by one month.

Rates and Government rent due January 29

Demand notes for rates and/or Government rent for the quarter from January to March 2021 have been issued, and payment should be made by January 29, 2021.

The demand notes have reflected the rates concession for this quarter, subject to a ceiling of \$1,500 and \$5,000 for each rateable domestic and non-domestic tenement respectively. Any unused portion of the concession in this quarter will not be used to offset the outstanding rates in any other quarter. The concession does not apply to payment of Government rent.

Payment can be made:

- (1) by using autopay or electronic means (such as PPS, bank automated teller machines (ATMs), the Faster Payment System (FPS) or the Internet);
- (2) by uploading an e-Cheque/e-Cashier's Order via the Pay e-Cheque portal www.payecheque.gov.hk;
- (3) by sending a crossed cheque to the Treasury, PO Box 28000, Gloucester Road Post Office, Hong Kong (please note that mail with underpaid postage will be rejected); or
- (4) in person at any of the post offices or designated convenience stores. For the addresses and opening hours of post offices, please call Hongkong Post's hotline (2921 2222), or visit www.hongkongpost.hk.

If demand notes have not been received, members of the public may call 2152 0111, fax 2152 0113, or visit the Rating and Valuation Department, 15/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon.

Members of the public can also visit the department's website at www.rvd.gov.hk to obtain replacement demand notes or enquire about the amount payable. For instant payment, payers may obtain a payment QR code or an FPS payment code from the Account Enquiries service at the website. Payers may present the payment QR code by using mobile devices (e.g. mobile phone or tablet) at any post office, 7-Eleven, Circle K or VanGo in Hong Kong, or use any mobile banking app or e-wallet that supports Government FPS bill payments to scan the FPS payment code for payment.

A surcharge of 5 per cent will be imposed for a late payment and a further surcharge of 10 per cent will be levied on the amount (including the 5 per cent surcharge) that remains unpaid six months after the payment deadline.

To support environmental protection, payers are advised to utilise our free eRVD Bill service to receive e-bills and make payments. They are also encouraged to settle bills by autopay or other means of e-payment (e.g. PPS, ATM, the Internet or e-Cheque/e-Cashier's Order) in order to save queuing time. Application forms for autopay are obtainable from the Rating and Valuation Department, District Offices and major banks in Hong Kong, or by telephoning 2152 0111. Payers may also download the form from the department's website.

[EMSD announces latest sampling results for legionella at fresh water cooling towers](#)

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (January 8) announced that the department tested 92 water samples collected from cooling towers in 61 buildings in its routine inspections in December 2020. None of them were detected to have a total legionella count at or above the upper threshold, which is 1 000 colony-forming units per millilitre. The latest statistics are set out in Annex 1.

The EMSD also announced the locations of buildings which were served with nuisance notices during the preceding three-month period as the total legionella count was found in the fresh water cooling towers to be equal to or above the upper threshold. Details can be found in Annex 2. The EMSD publishes the latest statistics of the above information on a half-monthly basis on its website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/other_regulatory_services/cooling_towers/water_sampling/index.html).

The EMSD reminds the owners of fresh water cooling towers that they have the responsibility to design, operate and maintain cooling towers properly. They should arrange regular inspections, timely maintenance and periodic testing of the water quality in their cooling towers in accordance with the Code of Practice for Fresh Water Cooling Towers issued by the department to prevent the proliferation of legionella.