

## [AFCD laid charges against three Mainlanders suspected of using long lines for fishing \(with photo\)](#)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (January 3) laid charges against three male Mainlanders suspected of engaging in fishing using long lines in waters off Fan Lau Sai Wan.

A Mainland vessel suspected of engaging in illegal fishing using long lines in the said waters yesterday (January 2) was intercepted by AFCD officers at around 4.30pm the same day for investigation. Some fishing gears were then seized on board.

After investigation, charges were laid against the three men who were suspected to have violated the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171). They will appear at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (January 4).

Only vessels registered under the Ordinance can be used for fishing in Hong Kong waters. Regardless of the type of fishing gear used, a non-local fishing vessel is not allowed to carry out fishing activities in Hong Kong waters. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$100,000 and six months' imprisonment upon conviction.

The AFCD spokesman stressed, "The Government is committed to combatting illegal fishing activities in Hong Kong waters. The AFCD will continue to step up patrols and take stringent enforcement action."

