

Anti-epidemic Fund starts to disburse subsidies to fishermen

A spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) said today (March 13) that the Government provides subsidies to owners of fishing vessels or fish collector vessels with Mainland deckhands under the Anti-epidemic Fund to assist the fisheries industry to tackle the financial difficulties arising from the COVID-19 epidemic. The disbursement of subsidies to the vessel owners of the first batch of successful applications has started.

The starting date for application for the subsidy was March 5, and the deadline for applications is April 17. Thirty-five applications have been approved involving subsidies of \$6,680,000. The department will process the remaining applications as soon as possible in order to provide assistance to eligible owners of fishing vessels or fish collector vessels.

Owners of fishing vessels or fish collector vessels who have not yet submitted application can download the application form from the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/what_fis/what_fis.html). Applicants should submit the completed application forms together with copies of the required documents by mail to the Fisheries Enforcement and Special Projects Division of the AFCD at 8/F of Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon; or place them in the drop-in boxes at the lift lobby of Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, and Aberdeen, Castle Peak, and Shau Kei Wan Wholesale Fish Markets under the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO). Vessel owners who are not in Hong Kong can authorise an agent to handle their applications.

For more details, please contact the department at 2150 7100 or 2150 7108, or view the department's website (www.afcd.gov.hk).

Regarding the subsidies to live marine fish wholesale traders in the Wholesale Fish Markets under the FMO, the department has stepped up its efforts to process the related applications. Subsidies will be disbursed to the successful applicants as soon as possible.