

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected illegally imported Chinese soft-shelled turtles and red-eared sliders (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (May 5) seized 216 suspected illegally imported Chinese soft-shelled turtles and 75 red-eared sliders with an estimated market value of about \$30,000 at Lok Ma Chau Control Point.

Customs officers intercepted an incoming private car at Lok Ma Chau Control Point yesterday evening and seized the batch of smuggled Chinese soft-shelled turtles and red-eared sliders from the vehicle compartment. The 54-year-old male driver was arrested.

The batch of suspected illegally imported Chinese soft-shelled turtles and red-eared sliders were handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up. Investigation is ongoing.

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.

Under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation, any person found guilty of importing food animals without a valid certificate is liable to a maximum fine of \$100,000.

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



