

WSD launches pilot scheme for year-round opening of reservoirs to anglers

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) announced today (March 29) that a pilot scheme on relaxation of the fishing period in reservoirs will be launched on April 1, allowing anglers holding valid fishing licences to fish in the Plover Cove Reservoir and the Tai Tam Group of Reservoirs (i.e. the Tai Tam Upper Reservoir, the Tai Tam Byewash Reservoir, the Tai Tam Intermediate Reservoir and the Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir) throughout 2021.

To prevent overfishing from affecting the environment and water quality of the reservoirs, anglers holding valid fishing licences issued by the WSD were only allowed to fish in reservoirs during the fishing period from September 1 of each year to March 31 of the following year. In view of the ever-growing public interest in fishing activities and that local reservoirs are one of the most popular fishing spots, the WSD is planning to relax the restriction on the fishing period under the premise of not affecting the reliability and safety of the water supply, so as to allow anglers holding fishing licences to enjoy the fun of fishing throughout the year.

Through the pilot scheme, the WSD will assess the impact of relaxing the fishing period on the reservoir environment and the species and quantities of fish therein. Upon completion of the scheme, the WSD will conduct a review to determine a long-term implementation plan.

Anglers wishing to fish in local reservoirs must apply for a licence from the WSD. Applicants aged 13 or above can apply for the licence, which is valid for three years, at a fee of \$33. Please refer to the [WSD website](#) for the application procedures.

Anglers should observe the terms and conditions of the fishing licence to safeguard the precious water resources from being polluted. The WSD reminds anglers and other visitors to keep the gathering grounds, catchwaters and reservoir areas clean, not to litter or throw rubbish or objects into the reservoirs, and to avoid activities such as water play, swimming, washing or ritual release of animals, including fish, in gathering grounds, catchwaters and reservoirs to safeguard water safety and public health. Polluting the reservoirs is an offence. Upon conviction, the offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and two years' imprisonment.

The WSD will closely monitor the water quality by conducting regular examinations of water samples taken at impounding reservoirs to ensure good water quality.