

Radio Television Hong Kong (Police Report) : Fishing or catching fishes in reservoirs (29 May 2019) - English transcript

Host (Kevin) : Hello Jeffery, to my understanding, any person fishing in reservoirs without fishing licence will constitute an offence and also affect the ecology of reservoirs.

Mr LAI Siu Ming, Jeffery (Senior Engineer/ Prosecution/Geographic Information System Section, Water Supplies Department) : Yes, Kevin. The Water Supplies Department stocks fish fry into reservoirs regularly to maintain a favourable ecological balance, control algal proliferation and ensure water quality in reservoirs. If a person would like to fish in the reservoirs, he should apply for a fishing licence from the Water Supplies Department and comply with the prescribed conditions of the licence. Otherwise, he will contravene Waterworks Regulations and be liable to a fine at level 3, i.e. maximum of \$10,000.

Host (Kevin) : How does a person apply to fish in reservoirs?

Mr LAI Siu Ming, Jeffery (Senior Engineer/ Prosecution/Geographic Information System Section, Water Supplies Department) : There are 17 reservoirs and nine irrigation reservoirs in Hong Kong. They are open to the public for fishing at the non-spawning season which is from 1 September of each year to 31 March of next year. A person who would like to fish in reservoirs, they can apply for a fishing licence at Wan Chai or Tai Kok Tsui Customer Enquiry Centres in person, or submit applications by post. The licence will be valid for 3 years and the fee is HK\$33. Applicants must be over 13 years old.

Host (Kevin) : I know that licensed anglers should comply with the prescribed conditions.

Mr LAI Siu Ming, Jeffery (Senior Engineer/ Prosecution/Geographic Information System Section, Water Supplies Department) : Right, people with fishing licences are required to comply with the Waterworks Regulations and the prescribed conditions of the fishing licence, for example:

The licence is for the use of one rod and line only, the use of lead fishing sinkers is prohibited.

Licensed anglers are prohibited to use of nets or other appliances apart from rod and line. The use of explosive or toxic substances to catch or destroy fish is also prohibited. Moreover, the use of boats, dinghies, rafts etc. for fishing is prohibited.

In addition, in order to maintain an ecological balance in reservoirs, there are some restrictions on the fish caught. For example, very small fish shall be immediately returned alive to the reservoirs. Furthermore, not more than two

numbers of each fish species shall be retained by any one angler in one day.

Host (Kevin) :

Finally, what else do anglers need to pay attention to?

Mr LAI Siu Ming, Jeffery
(Senior Engineer/
Prosecution/Geographic
Information System
Section, Water Supplies
Department) :

Anglers shall not drop litter or pollute the reservoirs. Otherwise, they will contravene Waterworks Ordinance. Fishing licence must be produced on demand by a police officer or officers of the Water Supplies Department. In addition, fishing licence is not transferable, therefore please do not use other person's licences.

Apart from the above mentioned conditions, fishing licence application form also states other conditions. Relevant information can be found in the Water Supplies Department's website. Public should pay attention to the relevant conditions when applying fishing licence in order not to commit an offence.

Finally, I appeal if there is any suspected illegal fishing or fish catching in reservoirs, please report the case to the Water Supplies Department Customer Enquiry Hotline at 2824 5000.

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