(Question Serial No. 0676)

Head: (100) Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Agnes WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:
Regarding the implementation of new measures and amendment of legislation by the Marine Department (MD), please advise on:

(a) the current staffing establishment and division of work of the Local Vessels Safety Section; and

(b) the policies, in addition to the organisation of regional talks and distribution of information leaflets or guidelines, to improve the situation as reflected by fishermen that they are unable to learn about MD’s latest changes in policies online or through receiving letters, and whether MD updates the fishermen’s correspondence information on a regular basis.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

(a) A new Quality Management Section, headed by a Senior Surveyor and with a total establishment of five staff members, has been set up since June 2019 to handle issues relating to the implementation of new policies/measures, as well as legislative amendments relating to local vessels. With the establishment of this new section, the Local Vessels Safety Section, with an establishment of 26 staff members, now focuses on plan approval, survey and certification of local vessels as well as enforcement of legislation relating to local vessels.

(b) Before the introduction of new policies or legislative amendments which affect local vessels including fishing vessels, MD will consult the trade through a number of channels. Discussion papers deliberated at meetings of the Local Vessels Advisory Committee and related Sub-committees, as well as the minutes of these meetings are uploaded onto MD’s website for public information. Briefing sessions for fishermen associations will also be arranged to ensure that fishermen fully understand the new policies or amended legislation. In addition, MD proactively participates in seminars organised by major fishery associations in
different districts. Information leaflets and guidelines on policies and measures introduced will be distributed at these seminars to facilitate the understanding of the fishermen. As regards correspondence information of fishermen, MD will update the record when the fishermen renew the annual operating licences of their vessels. MD will also update the record upon receipt of a notification of address change from the fishermen.

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