

Circular From UK**Date: 30 April 2021**

China: Summer Fishing Ban Adjustment

We have received the following update from our local correspondent in China, advising on the changes to summer fishing bans, as well as the possibility of increased aqua farming activities along the Chinese coast before the start and ending of the fishing ban.

Huatai Marine have provided the following update:

In accordance with Notice of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas on adjusting the system of summer fishing ban of the People's Republic of China (Circular [2021] No. 1 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas) ("The Notice"), from May 1st 2021, the fishing ban at coastal areas of China shall come into force for about 3 to 4 months.

Our experiences suggest that the density of fishing boats at sea will be higher at the time of beginning and end of the fishing ban. To avoid involving in unnecessary incident, the vessels are suggested to maintain a proper lookout, and keep close contact with the VTS center and the pilot station during this special time.

On the other hand, as the fishery administration of coastal provinces may implement stricter measures on fishing ban according to its local reality, we suggest Club/Members could further check with our local offices for more information when necessary.

The original contents of the Notice are free-translated as below for Club/Members' reference.

Sea Area of Fishing Ban

- The Bohai Sea
- The Yellow Sea
- The East China Sea
- The South China Sea (including Beibu Gulf) to the north latitude 12 degrees

Types of Fishing Ban

Except for using fishing tackle, all types of fishing including auxiliary fishing vessels that serving fishing vessels are prohibited.

Period of Fishing Ban

- The Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea area to the north latitude 35°: From 12:00 p.m. of 1 May 2021 to 12:00 p.m. of 1 September 2021.
- The Yellow Sea and the East China Sea area between north latitude 35° and 26°30': From 12:00 p.m. of 1 May 2021 to 12:00 p.m. of 16 September 2021. The fishing ban for trawlers using spar drag for shrimp, pots cast, gill nets, and lighting enclosure (cladding) net: From 12:00 p.m. of 1 May 2021 to 12:00 p.m. of 1 August 2021.
- The East China Sea and the South China Sea area between north latitude 26°30' and 12°: From 12:00 p.m. of 1 May 2021 to 12:00 p.m. of 16 August 2021.
- From 12:00 p.m. of 1 May 2021, it is prohibited for small trawlers to conduct any fishing operation for at least three months. The ending time of fishing ban shall be determined by the fishery administration department of coastal provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities which should be reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas for registration.
- The specific fishing license can be implemented when dealing with some special economic varieties. The varieties operation time, operation type and operation sea area shall be reported to the fishery administration department of coastal provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for approval before implementation.
- In principle, auxiliary fishing vessels are requested to comply with the longest fishing banning where they are located. If it is necessary to provide supporting services for some fishing vessels with less damage to resources before the end of fishing ban, the proposal shall be drafted by the fishery administration department of coastal provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and reported to the Ministry of agriculture and rural areas for approval before implementation.
- Vessels with fishing tackle shall strictly follow the reporting rules of entering or leaving the port. It is strictly forbidden to violate the rules on fishing license regarding the types of operation, places, time limit, and number of fishing gear. The catch should be collected at a fixed location under the authority's checking and supervision.
- In principle, fishing vessel shall return to its registered port during the period of fishing ban. If the fishing vessels are unable to return to its registered port for some special reasons, they should make an application to fishery authorities where the port is located. The vessel will be arranged to park in the designated dock with the local vessels in the provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities. If the fishing port capacity is limited within the province, it shall be arranged through communication between the provincial fishery department and the relevant provincial fishery department.
- According to Regulations on the administration of fishing license, fishing vessels are forbidden to cross the boundary of sea area for fishing operation.

- The fishery administration department of coastal provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities may implement stricter measures for resource protection in accordance with local conditions and on the basis of state regulations.

Effective Date

The regulations shall come into force on 22 February 2021 and Notice of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas on adjusting the system of summer fishing ban (Circular [2018] No. 1 of the Ministry of Agriculture) shall be abolished accordingly.

Get in touch with your usual [Club contact](#) for more information.

Source of Information: The UK P&I Club