ADM CAPITAL FOUNDATION

HONG KONG WILDLIFE SEIZURE ALERT

Relevant Regulations: Wildlife illegally imported, re-exported, exported and possessed may variously contravene Cap. 60, the Import & Export Ordinance, and/or Cap. 586, the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance.

#1 40KG OF DRIED SHARK FINS

Date:
5th June 2024

Species & conservation status:
Unknown (species not yet identified)

Location:
Tai Tam, Stanley,
Southern District

To/From Hong Kong:
Unknown

Details:
Hong Kong's Customs & Excise Department (C&ED) conducted an anti-smuggling operation in the Southern District of Hong Kong Island. They discovered a large batch of smuggled goods inside a private car parked next to a pier, including finding 40kg of dried shark fins alongside an array of computer components.

More info:
The last seizure ADMCF observed in the Tai Tam area involved 315kg of Red sandalwood, also seized from a private car, discovered by C&ED in May 2016.

#2 HK$10 MILLION OF SHARK FINS & BIRD'S NESTS

Date:
6th June 2024

Species & conservation status:
All shark fins indicated as listed under CITES Appendices,
but species not yet identified

Location:
Waters of Black Point,
Tuen Mun

To/From Hong Kong:
Outbound to Macao SAR

Details:
C&ED conducted an anti-smuggling operation in waters off the northern New Territories, inspecting a river trade vessel. A large batch of unmanifested goods was seized. Products included shark fins and bird's nests, discovered alongside bags, clothing, shoes and watches, with a combined market value of HK$10 million. The investigation is noted to be ongoing.

More info:
This seizure is the third of its kind in 2024 so far. Two previous river trade vessels have been found trafficking shark fins, with 1.2 tonnes seized in February and one tonne seized in March. They were valued at HK$6.4 million and HK$5 million respectively, equating to more than HK$5,000 per kilogram.
Bird's nest is a regularly seized alongside other wildlife products in Hong Kong. ADMCF has documented at least 40 seizures involving a total of 4.5 tonnes since 2015. The species that produce the nests, however, are not subject to Cap. 586 CITES controls.

#3 752KG OF DRIED SHARK FINS

Date:
11th June 2024

Species & conservation status:
Unknown (species not yet identified)

Location:
Shore of Tsam Chuk Wan,
Sai Kung

To/From Hong Kong:
Unknown

Details:
C&ED conducted an anti-smuggling operation along the shoreline in Sai Kung. A total of 752kg of dried shark fins were seized from a van. No other goods were discovered.

More info:
At least 21 other wildlife trafficking attempts have been prevented by local authorities in the Sai Kung area since 2015. The last seizure ADMCF can account for involving fins in Sai Kung comprised 31kg of dried shark fins and 143kg of dried fish maws being trafficked with used iPhones.

Our data shows, however, that Sai Kung has been a preferred exit point for Endangered Red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) smugglers - with over 10 tonnes seized from 12 trafficking attempts.

HONG KONG'S ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

According to ADMCF's review of Government data, Hong Kong authorities seized more than 2,800MT of wildlife conservatively valued at HK$1.2 billion in over 4,700 seizures over the past decade.

Learn more from our work on this trade here.

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