

## **Powerful Operation of illegal sand-pumping activities in Taiwan Bank Successful Detention of Chinese sand-pump vessel in Dawn**

Kaohsiung Vessel, Penghu Vessel with PP-10051 ship and PP-10038 ship, Airborne Service Corps and Special Task Force member, has successfully conducted enforcement operation with detention of Chinese Hai Hon 5679 sand-pump vessel in Taiwan's exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

According to Taiwan Coast Guard, 20 Chinese sand-pump vessels were discovered about 45 nautical miles south-west of Penghu archipelago by coast patrol vessel around 5:18 (Hi Hon 5679 was illegally pumping at the time ). The Commanding Officer Chen SC(陳泗川) immediately

conducted the operation (including announcement, surveillance and enforcement). This operation had successfully led to the seizure of 10 crew members and 400 tons sand, the sand-pump vessel had taken back to Xingda Port(Kaohsiung) for further investigation conducted by Penghu District Inspection Office in accordance with the Law of Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf of the Republic of China(Taiwan)

Taiwan Bank, located at the south-west of Taiwan Strait, bound of living and non-living resources, which is also the main breeding area of earth fish and squid, has seriously undermined by the Chinese illegal sand pumping activities, which is an intolerable behavior in the international society. Taiwan Coast Guard has not only commonly deployed patrol vessels for expelled mission, but also detained and confiscate 2 Chinese sand-pump vessels with penalties may be commuted to fines of the crew members according to the Law of Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf of the Republic of China(Taiwan).

Taiwan Coast Guard acclaim that it has been successfully expelled 1,576 Chinese sand-pump vessels from Jan to May this year. In order to effectively counter those illegal activities, Taiwan Coast Guard has not only commonly deployed patrol vessel around Taiwan Bank 24-7, but also cooperate with other agencies including airborne Service Corps and military to strengthen the law enforcement power. Furthermore, we had called for China's attention on stopping illegal sand pumping activities to

maintain the navigation securities and the everlasting development of marine resources.