

SFA TO WORK WITH FRESH FOOD WHOLESALE INDUSTRY ON STUDY OF FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Jurong Fishery Port to be renovated and fishery ports to be consolidated by 2023

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) will be embarking on a consultancy study of future infrastructure needs to support fresh food wholesale and distribution in Singapore. The study will be done in consultation with industry stakeholders, and will commence in Q3 2020.

2. The study, covering both the seafood, as well as the vegetable and fruits industries, will help SFA better understand different sectors related to fresh food (distribution, wholesale and retail). It will examine how technological advancements and wholesale trends (e.g. automation, upstream processing, online platforms, sensors, data analytics, integrated logistics, etc) and evolving consumer and business preferences might impact future business models. It will also examine the infrastructure needed to facilitate such trends and improve operational efficiency, as well as benchmark the industry's processes against international best practices.

3. The study is expected to be completed in 2022. Findings from the study will be taken into consideration in the Government's review of the fresh food wholesale industry in Singapore.

Renovation of Jurong Fishery Port

4. While the fresh food wholesale study is ongoing, SFA will be embarking on renovation and repair works at Jurong Fishery Port (JFP) to refresh and improve the infrastructure. Works include the resurfacing of market lots and corridors, painting works, re-wiring, and re-roofing. The rejuvenated fishery port will enable more efficient business operations. Tenants can look forward to new installations and improvements such as electrical power for individual market lots, better drainage and lighting systems, and provision of WiFi in the market.

5. Renovation works at JFP are slated to commence in the first half of 2022 and complete in mid-2023. Renovations will be carried out in the day so that tenants can continue normal operations at night. While renovations are ongoing, JFP tenants will be required to move temporarily to market lots that will be built adjacent to the current market building. SFA will work closely with the tenants to minimise any disruption during this period.

Consolidation of Fishery Ports

6. SFA has also conducted a review and will be consolidating Senoko Fishery Port (SFP) into the current JFP by 2023. All SFP merchants who wish to continue their trade will be offered a market lot at the renovated JFP. Additional lots will be built at JFP to cater to these merchants.

7. SFP began operations in 1997. SFA's review found that the level of activity and customer patronage at SFP has decreased over the years. In addition, the volume of seafood handled at SFP has dropped by 62 percent (from 15,190 tonnes in 2000 to 5,749 tonnes in 2018). The declining activity at SFP coupled with the renovation of JFP presents an opportunity for the consolidation of the fishery ports. This consolidation of the fishery ports will centralise wholesale seafood in Singapore and allow buyers to purchase seafood wholesale conveniently at a single location. The move will also offer opportunities for merchants to expand their customer base and increase the vibrancy of trade at JFP.

8. "SFA looks forward to partnering the industry to chart the future of fresh food wholesale in Singapore. The study will help us leverage new opportunities to plan and grow the fresh food wholesale industry. In addition, bringing both our fishery ports under one roof will help the industry remain sustainable and vibrant. We will continue to work closely with the industry to ensure a smooth transition for the fishery ports," said Mr Melvin Chow, Senior Director of SFA's Food Infrastructure Development & Management Division.



MEDIA RELEASE

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