



## Smuggling of Marine Turtle Eggs

An Indonesian vessel carrying 8 crew members had attempted to smuggle 6,555 pieces of marine turtle eggs (weighing more than 400 kg) into Singapore early this morning through the Jurong Fishing Port. The illegal eggs were seized when the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) conducted a surprise check on the boat. The contraband, which comprised of a mixture of the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) is estimated to be worth about \$5,000 and has been handed over to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) for further investigation. The captain, an Indonesian, Mr Sager, 48, is being questioned.

2. The marine Green turtle and the Hawksbill turtle are protected under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which Singapore is a Party. The listing in Appendix I prohibits any international trade in marine turtles and their parts / products. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) implements and enforces CITES, to ensure that trade does not threaten wildlife species with extinction. The 2 turtle species are listed as scheduled species in the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act. Under the Act, any person who imports or exports a scheduled species without a permit from AVA is liable to be prosecuted and fined up to \$5,000 (\$10,000 for repeated offences) and/or jailed up to 1 year. The specimens would also be forfeited to AVA.

3. AVA is investigating the case and wish to remind the public not to import or consume marine turtle eggs. Anyone who is in possession of illegal marine turtle eggs would also be liable to be prosecuted and fined by AVA. If you have any information of anyone selling marine turtle eggs, please inform AVA immediately at tel: 62270670.



*Mr Gerald Neo, AVA's Senior Wildlife Enforcement Officer examining the turtle eggs*

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