

## **COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD**

### **Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of the major issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 22 August 2023.

#### **2. Matters Arising – Citizen Science Programme for Subtidal Habitats in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP) - Progress Report**

2.1 The AFCD reported that since July 2023, the citizen scientists had completed six ecological surveys, including four on sea slugs and one each on fish and corals. The response from participants was positive. Upon the completion of the remaining six ecological surveys in August and September 2023, the data would be analysed by the project team of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The results and recommendations would be reported in future meetings and be shared as appropriate with the public through seminars and featured stories.

#### **3. Proposed Fish Fry/Fingerling Release in The Brothers Marine Park (BMP) and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP)**

3.1 The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge - Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities recommended releasing fish fry/fingerlings at the new artificial reefs (ARs) in BMP as well as the existing ARs in SCLKCMP as enhancement measures for fisheries resources in the western Hong Kong waters. The Highways Department, the project proponent, commissioned a consultancy to conduct a detailed study on the proposal. The fisheries surveys before and after the AR deployment, details of the fish fry/fingerling release proposal, the monitoring and implementation plans were presented in the meeting. The current proposal was to start

releasing Black Seabream fingerlings and Orange-spotted Grouper fingerlings at the BMP and SCLKCMP tentatively in Q3 2024.

3.2 Members in general supported the proposal. A member suggested regular release of more fish fry/fingerlings with additional species in the future. Some members considered that long-term monitoring of the effectiveness in enhancing fisheries resources was essential. The consultant explained that the project aimed to enhance fisheries resources in the western waters and gradually spread the enhanced fisheries resources to a wider area in Hong Kong waters. The AFCD supplemented that the proposed fish fry/fingerlings release would be a pilot scheme to enhance fisheries resources in Hong Kong. It could provide useful data and experience for other projects of similar nature. The AFCD had engaged consultants to review and improve the fisheries enhancement measures within the four specified marine parks to further enhance fisheries resources. The proposed fish fry/fingerling release would also serve this purpose. The AFCD was also planning to conduct a long-term territory-wide fisheries resources survey in Hong Kong waters.

#### **4. Any Other Business - Upgrading Information Service at Cape D'Aguiar Marine Reserve (CDMR)**

4.1 The AFCD reported on the enhanced management facilities at CDMR, including putting up posters on the information board about marine ecology, geology and location of nearby popular attractions, erecting signage and banners about safety matters, as well as installing poles and rope to remind visitors of the slippery ground. AFCD also reported a downward trend about the number of visitor to CDMR since 2022 after the subsiding of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.2 By the end of 2024/early 2025, the video analytics system would be enhanced to support a user interface with artificial intelligence (AI) in gathering and prompting intelligence to aid surveillance at CDMR. In response to enquiries if the AI surveillance would be expanded to other marine parks and other measures to combat illegal fishing, the AFCD said that the AI surveillance at CDMR was a pilot project. The technology would be adopted at the South Lantau Marine Park and the proposed North Lantau Marine Park. As for enforcement measures, in addition to carrying out regular patrols and law enforcement by AFCD's enforcement teams and developing new technology in detecting illegal fishing, the AFCD collaborated with fishermen under a service contract to collect

intelligence about illegal fishing activities. The intelligence collected helped the AFCD to devise suitable operational strategies and formulate joint enforcement operations with the Marine Police in combating illegal activities where necessary.

## **5. Presentation**

5.1 This paper is prepared for Members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
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