

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Preparation of Draft Map of the Proposed North Lantau Marine Park

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to seek Members' views on the draft map of the proposed North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) in accordance with Section 7(4) of the Marine Parks Ordinance (the Ordinance).

2. Background

2.1 The proposed NLMP will serve as a mitigation measure for the habitat loss arising from the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System (3RS Project), as stipulated in the related Environmental Impact Assessment Report. It will connect with the existing Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park and The Brothers Marine Park to form a large marine park matrix in North Lantau waters for the better conservation of the habitat of Chinese White Dolphin and the marine environment.

2.2 The proposal to designate the proposed NLMP was discussed in detail at the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) meeting on 23 October 2020 (Working Paper WP/CMPB/9/2020). Members of the Board had showed general support to the proposal to designate the marine park.

3. The Draft Map

3.1 In November 2022, the Chief Executive in Council directed, in accordance with section 7(1) of the Ordinance, the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) to prepare a draft map showing the proposed NLMP to commence the statutory designation procedures.

3.2 The draft map of the proposed NLMP, together with the explanatory statement and the supplementary information which shall form part of the map, have been prepared at the **Annex** for Members' comments. The boundary as shown in the draft map is the same as that presented on the CMPB meeting in October 2020.

4. Management

4.1 Management measures for the proposed NLMP are similar to those of the existing marine parks. Activities such as boating (within the 10 knots vessel speed restriction as stipulated in the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation, Cap. 476A) and dolphin-watching will be allowed. Commercial fishing by local fishing vessels registered under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance, Cap. 171, will be allowed to continue in the proposed NLMP through the marine park fishing permit system.

4.2 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will also implement other suitable management and regulatory measures at the proposed NLMP, including law enforcement to combat illegal fishing activities, maintenance of marine park facilities, collection of marine refuse, provision of visitor services and conservation education, etc..

5. Way Forward

5.1 Subject to Members' comments, the Authority shall make arrangement for public inspection of the draft map in accordance with Section 8 of the Ordinance. If the Authority receives any written statement of objection to the draft map during the inspection period, he may submit his representations concerning such objections to CMPB for conducting a hearing of the objection. The Authority would then submit the draft map together with the objections and representations and, where applicable, the amendments made with a view to meeting such objections to the Chief Executive in Council for approval. If everything goes smoothly, we aim at completing the statutory procedures for designating the proposed NLMP in 2024.

6. Advice Sought

6.1 Members are invited to comment on the draft map and take note of the way forward.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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