Country and Marine Parks Board
Confirmed Minutes of the 90th Meeting

Date : 10 June 2026 (Wednesday) File Ref: 130-CPA-001-001

Time : 3 p.m.

Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) Headquarters

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PRESENT

Chairman

Professor Kenneth LEUNG Mei-yee, BBS, JP

Members Attending in Person

Dr Jeffrey HUNG Oi-shing	
Professor LI Xin	
Mr LO Pui-lam	
Dr Jasmine NG So-shan	
Professor QIU Jianwen	
Mr Alex WONG Lap-kei	
Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi	Acting Director, AFCD
Ms Eugenia CHUNG Nga-chi	Principal Assistant Secretary (Nature Conservation), Environment and Ecology Bureau
Mr Mike YAU Sai-yuen	Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Members Attending via Zoom Video Conferencing

Miss Natalie CHUNG Sum-yue
Professor James FANG Kar-hei

Dr Caroline LAW Man-yee	
Mr Ian LEUNG Kin-wai	
Mr Elton NG Chun-ting	
Dr Angie NG Ying-sim	
Miss Sapphire LO Pui-yiu	Assistant Director (Specialist 2) (Lands Administration Office/Headquarters), Lands Department
Mr Edwin CHAN Wing-chow	Senior Engineer/Planning (Special Duties)2, Water Supplies Department
Mr JIANG Guifu	General Manager/Operations, Marine Department
Ms Stephanie LAI Pik-hung	Senior Town Planner/New Territories District Planning Division Headquarters 1, Planning Department
Mr John LEUNG Chung-sun	Chief Executive Officer (2)1, Home Affairs Department

Secretary

Ms Lily CHEUNG Man-lee	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD

IN ATTENDANCE

AFCD

Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa	Assistant Director (Fisheries and Marine Conservation)
Dr Esther TO Man-wai	Assistant Director (Country Parks)
Dr Janet LEE Ka-wai	Senior Marine Conservation Officer (East)
Ms Anna SITU Ying-yi	Marine Conservation Officer (Education and Monitoring) East 1

Environment and Ecology Bureau

Ms Fabia TAM Cheuk-chi	Deputy Secretary (Environment)2, Environment and Ecology Bureau

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Ms LAU Kam-fung

Mr SHUM Si-ki
Mr Henry YAU Yik-chung

(The meeting began with the closed-door session in which public attendance was not allowed.)

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

68/26 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Ms Fabia TAM Cheuk-chi, Deputy Secretary (Environment)2 and Ms Eugenia CHUNG Nga-chi, Principal Assistant Secretary (Nature Conservation), of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB), who attended the meeting for the first time.

69/26 The Chairman informed Members that Ir Dr LAU Chee-sing resigned from the Country and Marine Parks Board and the Country Parks Committee for personal reasons. He thanked Ir Dr LAU for his contributions to the Board in the past.

70/26 The Chairman informed Members that, as an established practice, an audio recording would be made during the meeting to facilitate the taking of minutes. It would be destroyed after the confirmation of the minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Closed-door Session

(End of the discussion under the closed-door session. The meeting was opened for public attendance.)

II. Confirmation of Minutes of the 89th Meeting held on 6 March 2026

71/26 The minutes of the 89th meeting held on 6 March 2026 were confirmed without amendments.

III. Proposal to Designate the Sharp Island Marine Park (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/6/2026)

72/26 The Chairman reminded Members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matter to be discussed under this agenda item. Dr Jasmine NG So-shan declared that Environmental Resources Management - Hong Kong Limited, where she worked for and served as the project director, had been commissioned by the AFCD to provide technical support. The Chairman ruled that, since tendering had not been involved in the project yet, Dr Jasmine NG So-shan had no conflict of interest and could continue to participate in the discussion.

73/26 Since the subject was discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 14 May 2026, the Chairman invited Professor QIU Jianwen, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee, to report on the key points of the discussion.

74/26 Dr Janet LEE Ka-wai of the AFCD gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposal to designate the Sharp Island Marine Park.

75/26 The Chairman informed Members that certain members were absent with apologies. They had noted the proposal to designate the Sharp Island Marine Park before the meeting and had expressed their support for the designation of Sharp Island Marine Park in writing.

76/26 A Member supported the designation of Sharp Island Marine Park. He opined that the AFCD must conduct preparatory work during the interim period before completing the statutory procedures for the designation, especially making arrangements for carrying capacity management and public education during Golden Week and long holidays. He also suggested that the AFCD collaborate with schools to train student ambassadors to assist in carrying out educational activities. In addition, he emphasised that long-term monitoring after the completion of the designation procedures was crucial for helping the public understand the effectiveness of the marine park in enhancing ecological conservation.

77/26 A Member stated that designating the Sharp Island Marine Park would be an important step in Hong Kong's marine conservation. He opined that the delineation of the proposed boundary was based on a solid scientific foundation, incorporating habitat maps and Reef Check data, and fully demonstrated the involvement of community citizen scientists in using technology for marine conservation. He also pointed out that Sharp Island was easily

accessible and adjacent to three fish culture zones, and offered other commercial activities such as kayak rentals. He opined that the proposed boundary was reasonable, which could effectively protect the two main areas with the highest coral coverage while taking into account the rights of other stakeholders on Sharp Island and in the adjacent waters to enjoy the natural environment.

78/26 A Member supported the designation of Sharp Island Marine Park and agreed that the proposed boundary had struck a balance in many aspects. He suggested that industry stakeholders, such as eco-tour guides and mountaineering instructors, be invited to participate and co-operate in the formulation of the management plan. He believed that their professional knowledge and practical experience would help improve the effectiveness of management measures and make the overall implementation smoother and more impactful.

79/26 A Member supported the designation of Sharp Island Marine Park and the proposed boundary. Regarding management measures, she enquired whether a cap would be set on the number of visitors, and whether kaito ferry operators would be co-ordinated to suspend kaito ferry services to Sharp Island when the number of visitors approached the carrying capacity limit, so as to regulate visitor flow.

80/26 Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa of the AFCD said that during the Labour Day Golden Week, the AFCD collaborated with a non-profit-making group to provide educational and promotional activities at the pier to promote marine conservation messages; deployed snorkelling and kayak guides to patrol the nearshore waters of the coral areas to advise visitors who might pose a threat to the corals; and at the same time, co-operated with voluntary groups from Shenzhen to conduct educational campaigns for Mainland tourists. He concurred that the greater the educational manpower and the wider the reach of educational efforts, the better the results. Dr CHU pointed out that kaito ferries did not exclusively serve the proposed Sharp Island Marine Park, as visitors, upon landing on the island, could also head to other scenic spots such as Kiu Tsui Beach and Kiu Tsui Country Park. Therefore, the AFCD adopted an "on-site management" approach to advise visitors and manage visitor flow on-site, with on-site patrol staff diverting visitors to other scenic spots if a particular location became overcrowded. The AFCD would consider publishing real-time updates on visitor flow for the proposed Sharp Island Marine Park at Sai Kung Pier to facilitate visitors in planning their itineraries in advance before taking a ride to the island. He mentioned there were around 3 000 visitors hopping onto the island on 1 May 2026, which was the day with the highest number of visitors to the island. It was not overcrowded and the order was generally good on that day.

81/26 Ms Fabia TAM Cheuk-chi of the Environment and Ecology Bureau highlighted that the convenient transport to Sharp Island was one of the features worth preserving. The Government would adopt a progressive approach to studying the feasibility of introducing a reservation system for visitor flow management, having fully considered the level of public acceptance and the uniqueness of the area, and having engaged in communications with stakeholders. The work priority at this stage was to designate Sharp Island as a marine park, and the various management measures would be adjusted in a timely manner depending on their actual effectiveness, experience accumulated and the level of public acceptance. During the Labour Day Golden Week, the AFCD collaborated with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Hong Kong to set up public education booths at the beach and coastal areas to promote marine conservation messages and guidelines for appreciating nature to visitors. It had been proven that, with adequate manpower and supporting facilities, both the on-site visitors' behaviour and overall experience could be maintained at a good level.

82/26 A Member supported the designation of the Sharp Island Marine Park and considered that the proposed boundary, which was delineated on the basis of scientific data, was practical and feasible. She enquired about the facilities the AFCD planned to provide on the island to support the daily operation of the marine park. She also expressed concern over whether there were unlicensed operators of water activities currently on Sharp Island, and the impact of the designation of the marine park on them. Citing comments on Xiaohongshu, she pointed out that the waiting time for kaito ferry services between Sai Kung Pier and Sharp Island was excessively long on holidays, and suggested that the AFCD should co-ordinate with the kaito ferry operators to enhance the ferry schedules. Anticipating a continuous increase in visitor numbers, she further suggested implementing an online reservation system to effectively manage visitor flow and enhance the overall visitor experience.

83/26 A Member supported the designation of the Sharp Island Marine Park. She noted that Sharp Island, with its convenient geographical location, attracted many locals and visitors to visit the place for a wide variety of activities such as dog-walking, shoreline trekking, in addition to water activities. She therefore suggested that the target audience for promotional and educational efforts should cover a wider range of visitors, and that the sites for promotional campaigns should be extended to Hap Mun Bay, nearby beaches and campsites, and even the neighbourhood in the Sai Kung district, so that locals and visitors could fully understand the relevant rules and regulations of the marine park.

84/26 A Member supported the proposed boundary. He pointed out that there were a wide variety of activities on Sharp Island and many stakeholders were involved. Therefore,

the delineation of the boundary must take into account both recreational uses and conservation management and strike a balance between them. He considered that, following the designation of Sharp Island as a marine park, the area for visitor activities might extend to areas beyond the northern boundary of the marine park, and he urged the AFCD to formulate coping strategies in a forward-looking manner. For promotional work, he suggested taking advantage of the events related to the 30th anniversary of Marine Parks to gradually promote and introduce the various measures and arrangements to be implemented for Sharp Island. In addition, he enquired whether the monitoring, patrolling and enforcement duties arising from the designation of the marine park would subsequently impose pressure on the manpower resources of the AFCD.

85/26 A Member expressed support for the designation of the Sharp Island Marine Park. Noting that no buffer zone would be set up beyond the proposed boundary, she enquired whether pollutants released into the water (including those generated by vessels and visitors) would potentially affect the surrounding environment. Besides, she also expressed concern about whether clear buoys would be installed to distinctly mark the boundary of the marine park for easy identification by locals and visitors.

86/26 Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa said that, as the onshore open space on Sharp Island was limited, no large-scale construction would be carried out. The works to be carried out mainly involved the setting up of a small-scale education station near the pier to promote ocean-friendly etiquette to locals and visitors. After the designation of the marine park, the restricted commercial activities permitted in the area would mainly include rental services and hawking, while general recreational water activities organised by private parties would not be affected. Regarding transportation to Sharp Island, the public could choose to take privately operated kaito ferries to and from the island according to the schedules of the respective routes. As for the online reservation system, further study would be required, and the priority at this stage was to designate Sharp Island as a marine park. Promotional and educational work in collaboration with the kaito ferry operators would begin at Sai Kung Pier to promote relevant regulations of the marine park to passengers taking kaito ferry routes to Sharp Island. Also, the AFCD would continuously monitor changes in visitor flow and activities outside the boundary of the marine park. Concluding the experience from the Labour Day Golden Week, he said that educational work was crucial, and visitors had reflected that it was a good experience to learn while enjoying their trip. Furthermore, the proposed boundary already reserved buffer zones that maintained an adequate distance between the boundary and the coral areas to ensure that the coral communities would be properly protected.

87/26 A Member supported the proposed boundary. He pointed out that Sharp Island was a key base for diving training and the diving sector generally supported relevant environmental conservation measures. He suggested that designated mooring sites be established, thereby limiting the number of vessels at the same time.

88/26 The Chairman suggested that the AFCD liaise with the Marine Department on the installation of buoys at appropriate locations.

89/26 A Member expressed support for the proposed boundary. She suggested that artificial intelligence (AI) cameras be deployed for inspection and management, and that stringent enforcement actions be taken during the initial stage to enhance the deterrent effect. Meanwhile, she pointed out that non-compliant acts detected on social media should also be brought within the scope of law enforcement to ensure comprehensive and effective monitoring.

90/26 A Member pointed out that Sharp Island had sustained more significant damage compared to other diving sites. He cited his research findings from over a decade ago, which indicated that anthropogenic damage to coral communities was not severe, and that vessel anchoring was the primary cause of damage. Given that the dominant coral species at Sharp Island were not particularly sensitive or vulnerable, he considered that the AFCD's existing conservation measures and the proposed boundary could provide adequate protection for the corals. He stated that the inclusion of the tombolo in the marine park could not only protect the corals, but also help safeguard the marine life in the intertidal zone. As for the inclusion of the smaller waters in the east and the larger ones in the west of Sharp Island in the marine park, the plan was developed in the light of the general activity areas of visitors, and that the proposed boundary had already encompassed the two major coral communities with the highest coral coverage.

91/26 Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa stated that the AFCD planned to demarcate vessel mooring areas and was considering the installation of buoys in these areas to allow mooring of some small vessels so as to protect corals from anchor damage. The AFCD would continue to explore the use of technology to facilitate management; it was currently utilising drones to monitor the number and distribution of visitors, and would further develop AI technology to enhance management effectiveness in the future. Furthermore, the AFCD would continue to educate the public and visitors on ocean-friendly etiquette through social media, and promote messages on environmental protection.

92/26 The Chairman concluded that Members unanimously supported the proposal to designate the Sharp Island Marine Park and the proposed boundary, considering the relevant proposal to be scientific and pragmatic, and that the needs of various users had been fully considered and balanced. He emphasised that the four core objectives of marine parks were nature conservation, education, scientific studies and recreation, among which a balance must be struck; and that coral communities with ecological value must be protected in a scientific and pragmatic manner.

93/26 Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi of the AFCD thanked Members for their support and valuable suggestions. He pointed out that the next step would be to consult various stakeholders for their views, and upon reaching a consensus, the draft map of the proposed Sharp Island Marine Park would be revised, followed by the commencement of the statutory procedures for the designation. The AFCD would press ahead at full steam with the relevant designation procedures, with a view to designating the Sharp Island Marine Park as early as possible.

94/26 The Chairman requested the AFCD to report the progress of work to Members in due course, and reiterated that the top priority at this stage was to designate Sharp Island as a marine park, following which various management measures would be progressively optimised in light of the actual circumstances.

IV. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/7/2026)

95/26 Mr LO Pui-lam, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee (CPC), briefed Members on the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 26 March 2026. Members noted the report.

V. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/8/2026)

96/26 Professor QIU Jianwen, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC), briefed Members on the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 14 May 2026. Members noted the report.

VI. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/9/2026)

97/26 Dr Esther TO Man-wai presented the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 January to 30 April 2026. Members noted the report.

VII. Any Other Business

98/26 There was no other business to discuss.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

99/26 The Chairman informed Members that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 24 September 2026 (Thursday) at 3 p.m.

100/26 The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

– End –