

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 25 11 2025.

2. Cleanliness Management and Public Engagement in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

2.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had been committed to the cleanliness management of marine parks and marine reserve. In addition to arranging various types of cleaning contracts and monitoring the contractors' performance of cleaning services, the AFCD also organised and co-organised voluntary coastal clean-ups, and participated in the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management to support volunteer groups in coastal clean-ups. To raise public awareness of marine refuse, the AFCD explained the impacts of marine refuse and promoted the concept of waste reduction at source to visitors through exhibition panels, eco-artworks, interactive games and posters. Furthermore, the Marine Ambassador Scheme provided diversified training for tertiary students to encourage public participation and support for marine conservation and marine park management.

2.2 Regarding Members' enquiry about the arrangements on waste separation, the AFCD replied that cleaning contractors would provide limited waste separation and statistics on refuse collected to help analyse refuse trends. As marine refuse might have floated at sea for long and eroded by wind and waves, it was generally not suitable for recycling. Regarding collaboration with community-led shoreline clean-up activities, the Government primarily co-ordinated them through the Clean Shorelines platform under the Environmental

Protection Department. If refuse was found outside marine parks, relevant departments would be notified for follow-up action.

3. Any Other Business - Visitor Issues at Sharp Island

3.1 The AFCD reported that Sharp Island faced pressure from a surging number of visitors during the National Day Golden Week of the Mainland. Sharp Island was not within the boundaries of any marine park or marine reserve. The AFCD would strengthen its publicity and education efforts and appeal to visitors to avoid disturbing marine life or causing an impact on the marine ecosystem when engaging in water activities and ecological viewing, in order to promote responsible nature appreciation. In the light of the potential crowd pressure that might be brought during the long Mainland holidays, the AFCD was considering monitoring the number of visitors visiting Sharp Island in collaboration with kaito operators, as well as through cross-departmental co-ordination. Meanwhile, the AFCD would leverage social platforms such as Xiaohongshu to introduce the diversified ecological resources in Hong Kong in a bid to divert tourists to other destinations. The AFCD was producing publicity materials to educate the public to follow coral-friendly routes and snorkelling practices and encourage them to use buoyancy aids when snorkelling to avoid causing damage to corals, thereby reducing impact on the marine ecosystem. The AFCD expressed the hope of achieving a balance between nature conservation and tourism development while promoting eco-tourism. Members responded positively to the work of the AFCD.

4. Presentation

4.1 This paper is prepared for Members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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