

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.1.2014 – 30.4.2014)

**A. Country Parks & Special Areas**

**I. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

	Progress	Anticipated Completion Date
(1) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant House and Associated Sewage works at Lions Nature Education Centre, Sai Kung (other than electrical and mechanical works)	Works commenced on 15 July 2013.	May 2014.
(2) Reconstruction of Tai Tong and Twisk Sections of Tai Lam Forest Track	Works commenced on 6 January 2014.	June 2014.

II. RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

(1) Management Services

Refuse collected (tonnes)

Jan., 14	Feb., 14	Mar., 14	Apr., 14	Total
352	295	298	332	1,277

Path maintained/upgraded	50	Km
No. of trees planted	137,000	No.
No. of trees produced in the nursery	245,000	No.
No. of trees tended	409,200	No.

(2) Provision of Facilities

Item	Total at 30.4.2014	Item	Total at 30.4.2014
Barbecue Site	177	Fitness Equipment	104
Picnic Site	169	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Flushing Toilet	49
Morning Walker Garden	24	No. of Portable Toilet	118
Information Board	356	Warden Post	16
Shelters	289	Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	9
Play Equipment	42		

(3) Fire Protection

The 2013-2014 fire season completed on 1.5.2014:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Jan., 14	9	(4)	6.63	(13.06)	0	(0)
Feb., 14	3	(3)	146.06	(10.04)	0	(797)
Mar., 14	4	(1)	38.00	(4.00)	24,200	(300)
Apr., 14	2	(0)	1.52	(0)	25	(0)
Total	18	(8)	192.21	(27.10)	24,225	(1,097)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

III. VISITOR STATISTICS

The monthly breakdown is as below:

Jan., 14	Feb., 14	Mar., 14	Apr., 14	Total
982,000	917,000	846,000	877,000	3,622,000

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 335 prosecution cases had been handled in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. The number of prosecutions is summarized below

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	125
Illegal entry of vehicle	60
Illegal possession of arms (Air Gun)	1
Illegal use of fire	1
Damaging and cutting of plant	5
Illegal constructing/excavating of grave	10
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	1
Camping in non-designated camping site	40
Littering	53 <sup>#</sup>
Illegal hunting of protected wild animal	1
Illegal feeding of monkey	38
Total	335

Remarks: \* No. of cases denotes the number of persons being prosecuted during the reporting period. Total fines for the period is \$200,070, which also includes the fines partly collected from cases carried forward from previous reporting periods and partly from current period. There is no unsuccessful prosecution case in the reporting period.

# Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

V. ORGANIZED EVENTS

In the report period, 232 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events in country parks.

Jan., 14	Feb., 14	Mar., 14	Apr., 14	Total
74	36	78	44	232

## VI. CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 41 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 19 of them, the other 19 were being processed and three were cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

## VII. EDUCATION/VISITOR SERVICES

### (1) Visitor Centres

A total of 241,607 persons visited the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. In which, 105,403 persons visited Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan and Plover Cove Country Parks Visitor Centres; 20,428 persons visited Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; 100,928 persons visited Lions Nature Education Centre and 14,848 persons visited Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

### (2) Guided Tour

A total of 2,075 participants from 44 groups and schools joined the guided tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; 265 participants from 15 groups and schools joined the guided tours at Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre, 600 participants from 20 groups and schools joined the guided tour at Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; 709 participants from 22 groups and schools joined the guided tours at Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre; 687 participants joined the guided tours at Pineapple Dam Nature Trail; and 419 participants joined the guided walk at Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

### (3) Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. At present, there are 654 volunteers and trainees participate in various nature conservation and education activities of the country parks. From 1 January to 30 April 2014, total volunteer service-hour is 11,662 hours.

### (4) School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2013-14 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. From January to April 2014, a total of 6,353 students from 84 kindergartens and 1,523 students from 11 primary schools participated.

### (5) Great Outdoors Hong Kong

The hiking event is co-organised by the department and Hong Kong Tourism Board. A total of 525 people joined the hike and launching ceremony at the Peak on 10 November 2013, 580 people joined the hike at Lung Mun Country Trail on 29 December 2013 while another 817 people joined the hike at Plover Cove on 23 February 2014.

### (6) “Country Parks Orienteering” Programme

From October 2013 to May 2014, the department organises the “Country Parks Orienteering” programme. The students will use compass, map and GPS to find all of the orienteering points within a fixed period of time and require to answer each orienteering point’s question. A total of 177 students from six schools participated from January to April 2014.

(7) “Nature in Touch” 2013-14 Country Parks Education Programme

The education programme has been commenced since April 2013 and was closed in March 2014. A closing cum prize presentation ceremony was held on 1 March 2014 and invited 330 prizewinners and guests. From November 2013 to March 2014, there were 28,250 people participated in the roving exhibition. A total of 298,775 people participated in “Nature in Touch” 2013-14 Country Parks Education Programme.

(8) Hiking and Planting Day 2014

In order to promote public awareness on nature conservation and tree preservation, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Friends of the Country Parks will jointly hold the Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day on three Sundays in April and May 2014. A total of 730 participants planted 2,000 seedlings in Cheung Pai Tun, Plover Cove Country Park on 13 April 2014; a total of 1,830 participants planted 2,000 seedlings in Tai Leng Tung, Clear Water Bay Country Park on 27 April 2014.

(9) Enquiries

Enquiries concerning Country Parks were received and handled. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jan., 14	Feb., 14	Mar., 14	Apr., 14	Total
Information on public transport	3,562	3,629	3,016	3,511	13,718
Information on hiking routes	3,034	3,410	3,104	2,778	12,326
Location of recreation facilities	1,185	1,194	1,291	1,226	4,896
Location of utility facilities	1,376	1,414	1,300	1,163	5,253
Location of scenic places and similar information	1,159	1,148	1,151	895	4,353
Organized activities	600	615	557	579	2,351
Others *	2,481	2,785	2,063	2,034	9,363
Total	13,397	14,195	12,482	12,186	52,260

\* Mainly related to Pak Tam Chung barrier permit, coach permit, country parks publications, fishing licence, wild animals, marine parks, cycling permits, ordinances and regulations, dog vaccination.

(10) Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jan., 14	Feb., 14	Mar., 14	Apr., 14	Total
First aid	6	6	6	21	39
Handicapped persons	16	19	23	34	92
Search and rescue	1	0	1	3	5
Return of lost properties	0	0	3	3	6
Others	2	0	0	2	4
Total	25	25	33	63	146

(11) Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 14	Feb., 14	Mar., 14	Apr., 14	Total
Pamphlets	8,275	8,398	4,687	5,329	26,689
Posters	138	136	106	91	471
Bookmarks	233	450	54	102	839
Booklets	2,073	2,281	1,177	1,402	6,933
Others	66	47	2	19	134
Total	10,785	11,312	6,026	6,943	35,066

## B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

### 1. FACILITIES

As at 30.4.2014, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Constructed/replaced between 1.1.2014 – 30.4.2014	Total nos. at 30.4.2014
Sign (various warnings)	2 (replaced)	131
Park sign	-	21
Sign (various purposes)	-	52
Boundary marker buoy	-	14
Marker buoy	1 (replaced)	36
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	-	205
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	-	4
Mooring buoy for divers	-	28
Boundary post	-	17
Sign post	-	21
Information board	-	8
Litter bin	-	15
Banner	-	2
Way mark	-	10

### 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVICE

2.1 During the report period, a total of 2,454 advices and 38 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 13 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution	Nos. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	12	12	6,400
Vessel activity	1	1	-
Total	13	13	6,400



### 3. LITTER COLLECTION

During the report period, the amount of litter collected in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve is as follows:

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Nos. of tonnage (1.1.2014 – 30.4.2014)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	21.64
Yan Chau Tong	14.98	(17.73)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	28.13	(25.89)
Tung Ping Chau	28.63	(46.33)
Cape D'Aguilar	2.96	(2.74)
Total	96.34	(114.76)

( ) denotes figures of same period last year

### 4. FISHING PERMITS

Number of fishing permits renewed during the report period:

Marine Park	Nos. of renewal	Total nos. of valid permits (as at 30.4.2014)
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW)	0	10
Yan Chau Tong (YCT)	0	20
HHW & YCT	2	63
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	0	76
Tung Ping Chau (TPC)	2	41
TPC & HHW	1	5
TPC & YCT	0	4
TPC & HHW & YCT	0	171
Total	5	390

Starting from 1 May 2005, the validity period of renewed fishing permit is 2 years.

### 5. MONITORING

#### 5.1 Water Quality Monitoring

Enviro Labs Limited has been commissioned to carry out water quality monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve in 2013-14. The results are generally good and in compliance with the Water Quality Objectives. A summary result of water quality statistics of 2011 – March 2014 has been uploaded onto the AFCD's homepage ([http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou\\_vis/cou\\_vis\\_mar/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_mon/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_mon\\_wat.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_mon/cou_vis_mar_mon_wat.html)).

## 5.2 Fishing Survey

5.2.1 Fishing survey at Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve continues. The objective is to investigate the long-term enhancement effect of the marine reserve on fisheries resources. The recent result shows that the Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) and the diversity of fish remain stable inside the marine reserve and are relatively higher than the surrounding waters.

5.2.2 Quarterly fishing surveys at Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks have been carried out to monitor the fisheries stocks in the 3 marine parks. The Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) and the diversity of fish inside the marine park are general better than outside the marine parks area.

## 5.3 Dolphin Sightings

Off-effort dolphin sighting has been conducted during the course of patrol of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. There is evident that Chinese White Dolphins utilize the marine parks and the waters around as usual.

## 6. EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 The number of visitors in all Marine Parks has dropped comparing with the same period in last year. The number of visitors during the report period is as follows:

Marine Park	<u>Nos. of Visitors</u> (1.1.2014 – 30.4.2014)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	14,694
Yan Chau Tong	6,639	(11,868)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1,335	(1,923)
Tung Ping Chau	15,781	(19,820)
Total	38,449	(54,052)

( ) denotes figures of same period last year

6.2 During the period from 1.1.2014 – 30.4.2014, a total of 158 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facilities	38
Education activities	75
Renewal for fishing permit	44
Ordinance and Regulation	1
Total	158

All enquiries have been resolved.

6.3 During the report period, a total of 66 educational/publicity activities involving 1,515 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. servicing Ambassador	Total nos. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	24	-	163
School Guided Tour	18	-	320
School Seminar	4	-	320
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	10	-	291
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Commercial Tours	10	-	385
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Visit the Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	-	24	24
Hoi Ha Wan visitors questionnaire survey	-	12	12
Total	66	36	1,515

6.4 During the report period, a total of 1,230 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Leaflets	40
Bookmarks	410
Field Guides	30
DVD	4
Others	746
Total	1,230

6.5 Marine Parks Division has launched “Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong” for all secondary schools starting from October 2010. During the report period, 20 tours were held with 676 participants.

6.6 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Hoi Ha Wan visitors questionnaire survey. A total of 12 ambassadors joined the above activities.

6.7 Up to 30 April 2014, a total of 98 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 35 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 21 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 13 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 9 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 3 Ambassadors completed 200 hours service. They were awarded with the “Jellyfish Service Badge”, “Nautilus Service Badge”, “Fiddler Crab Service Badge”, “Starfish Service Badge”, “Humphead Wrasse Service Badge” and “Chinese White Dolphin Service Badge” respectively. Until the end of April 2014, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 7,383 hours.

**C. Performance Pledges**

**Performance Results – January to March 2014**

Item	Service/Application	Target turn around time	No. of Applications	No. of Applications Meeting Targets	% of Applications Meeting Targets
	<b><u>Conservation</u></b>				
1	Plant Collection Permit	3 working days	1	1	100%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	391	391	100%
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b><u>Country and Marine Parks</u></b>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	397	397	100%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	102	102	100%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	37	37	100%
6	Permit to hold Sports Competition in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
7	Permit to hold Public Event in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>100%</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>100%</b>

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
 June 2014