

Country and Marine Parks Board
Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 6 June 2016. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

2. Draft Boundary of Compensatory Marine Park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities at an Artificial Island near Shek Kwu Chau

2.1 Representatives from Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and their consultants briefed members on the preliminary boundary and management plan of the proposed marine park as a measure for the IWMP Phase I to mitigate the permanent loss of important habitat for Finless Porpoise (FP).

2.2 Members expressed their views on the preliminary boundary of the proposed marine parks. Members generally requested for the expansion of the preliminary boundary to cover all important habitats of FP as shown by the high Porpoise Habitat Index as far as possible. Members also discussed the challenges and difficulties in future management of the proposed marine park and need to allocate sufficient manpower and resources to AFCD to discharge the law enforcement duties. EPD's consultant was asked to take the location factor of the proposed marine park, which would be surrounded by two busy marine traffic channels, into consideration and provide an estimate on the additional manpower and resource requirement.

2.3 Members agreed that EPD could proceed with the consultation exercise for the draft boundary of the proposed marine park on the understanding that EPD would consult members again after gathering views from the public and different stakeholders.

3. Education and Publicity Activities of Marine Parks

3.1 A representative from AFCD briefed members on the progress of education and publicity activities of marine parks, which aimed at arousing public awareness on marine conservation and gaining their support.

3.2 Members suggested sending relevant educational materials to the subject teachers direct. Members also suggested sparing some resources to evaluate the effectiveness of the education and publicity activities. Members also commented that government departments should collaborate with each other to promote environmental education and adopt an integrated approach in organising education and publicity activities.

3.3 At the meeting, members noted from the responses of AFCD's representatives that education materials would be sent to the subject teachers direct. Members were also given to understand that AFCD would take the implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for Hong Kong as an opportunity to review the current effort of AFCD in environmental education and publicity activities.

4. Advice sought

4.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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