

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.3.2017 – 30.6.2017)

Purpose

This paper aims to provide members a general overview on management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority during the period between 1.3.2017 – 30.6.2017. It provides various figures and information for facilitating members to understand and offer advice to the Authority regarding the management of country and marine parks.

A. Country Parks & Special Areas

1. Country Parks Management

1.1 Management Services

Routine maintenance of all recreational facilities within county parks and special areas was carried out regularly for public enjoyment. Major country parks facilities provided and amount of refuse collected are shown below for reference.

Major facilities provided for public enjoyment

Item	Total no. as at 30.6.2017	Item	Total no. as at 30.6.2017
Barbecue Site	169	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	159	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	109
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	116

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017	Total
282 (293)	334 (247)	276 (298)	176 (224)	1,068 (1,062)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2016-2017 fire season ended on 1.5.2017. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Mar., 2017	3	(1)	3	(7)	350	(0)
Apr., 2017	8	(1)	66.8	(5)	620	(0)
May 2017	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun., 2017	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	11	(2)	69.8	(12)	970	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 257 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold events in country parks. Most of these events were related to sport competition, location filming and raising funds for charity.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 31 development proposals were received. There was no objection to nine of them, the other 21 were being processed and one was cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electricity supply and slope works.

2. **Visitor Services/Education**

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,132,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017	Total
1,036,000 (1,233,000)	1,233,000 (935,000)	1,041,000 (957,000)	822,000 (835,000)	4,132,000 (3,960,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 8,734 persons joined the guided tours organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. Besides, the monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarised below:-

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017
Lions Nature Education Centre	30,600	33,120	25,248	20,136
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	2,965	4,310	4,225	3,410
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	6,069	11,773	8,444	4,273
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	4,544	6,989	5,381	5,161
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	1,395	1,725	1,535	2,072
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	4,741	9,329	5,168	1,640
Aberdeen Tree Centre	597	1,823	1,232	291
Volcano Discovery Centre	10,636	19,296	16,710	9,612
Total	61,547	88,365	67,943	46,595

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:-

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017
No. of volunteers/trainees	665	665	665	665
Total volunteer service hours	2,072	2,931	1,624	1,445

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2016-17 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarised below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	5,426
Primary Schools	4,299
Secondary Schools	1,018

2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:-

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants	Remarks
“Take Your Litter Home” Publicity Programme	March to June 2017	41,991	Including exhibitions, game booth, lectures and other promotion activities
“Salute to Nature” Country Parks Roving Exhibitions	3-6 March 2017 17-20 March 2017	5,880	Including exhibitions, workshop and game booth
Country Park 40 th Anniversary Celebration Programme Kick-off Ceremony	9 April 2017	730	Including selfie activity
Hiking and Planting Day	9 & 23 April 2017	3,820	Including game booth
Excursion with Experts	6,12,20,27 May 2017 10,11,17,24 June 2017	157	
“Country Park 40 th Anniversary” Roving Exhibitions	23-26 June 2017	10,220	Including exhibitions, workshop and game booth
Nature’s Secret Talk	25 June 2017	136	

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017
First aid	29	11	11	8
Handicapped persons	10	12	18	18
Return of lost properties	1	2	1	4

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017
Pamphlets	3,048	3,998	3,899	2,898
Posters	234	93	161	136
Booklets	482	702	562	480

3. **Law Enforcement**

A total of 345 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. A breakdown of offences is summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	114
Illegal entry of vehicle	112
Illegal bringing cattle, sheep, goats into country park	1
Illegal use of fire	4
Damaging and cutting of plant	14
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	1
Illegal erecting a tent/temporary shelter	1
Camping outside designated camping site	44
Polluting water course/stream	1
Littering	15 #
Illegal feeding of monkey	35
Total	345

Remarks: * No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

The Brothers Marine Park was designated on 30 December 2016 and became the fifth marine park in Hong Kong. It is situated in the northern Lantau waters and covers a total sea area of about 970 hectares. The new marine park serves to better protect the Chinese White Dolphins, their habitats and enhance the marine and fisheries resources in the region.

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.6.2017, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.6.2017	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.6.2017
Sign (various warnings)	142	Mooring buoy	25
Park sign	21	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	61	Sign post	10
Boundary marker buoy	19	Information board	1
Marker buoy	52	Litter bin	16
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	133	Banner	0
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	Way mark	20

1.2 Litter

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

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)				
	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	6.71 (5.68)	5.93 (5.73)	7.50 (4.98)	5.32 (6.24)	25.46 (22.63)
Yan Chau Tong	3.90 (3.82)	2.28 (4.52)	2.80 (5.62)	2.94 (4.06)	11.92 (18.02)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	13.41 (8.63)	7.71 (8.67)	8.30 (9.02)	8.26 (9.02)	37.68 (35.34)
Tung Ping Chau	8.13 (8.44)	8.55 (8.21)	8.60 (9.05)	8.04 (9.28)	33.32 (34.98)
Cape D'Aguilar	1.79 (1.62)	1.51 (1.62)	1.27 (1.63)	1.13 (1.71)	5.70 (6.58)
Total	33.94 (28.19)	25.98 (28.75)	28.47 (30.30)	25.69 (30.31)	114.08 (117.55)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

During the report period, the number of visitors is as follows:

Marine Park	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	2,916 (2,706)	3,966 (1,774)	4,381 (4,575)	2,392 (3,195)	13,655 (12,250)
Yan Chau Tong	2,115 (2,706)	2,826 (1,718)	1,814 (2,094)	1,065 (1,574)	7,820 (8,092)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	385 (111)	233 (59)	238 (118)	124 (84)	980 (372)
Tung Ping Chau	3,877 (2,644)	6,217 (2,707)	4,610 (4,308)	1,099 (1,884)	15,803 (11,543)
The Brothers*	133	277	348	109	867
Total	9,426 (8,167)	13,519 (6,258)	11,391 (11,095)	4,789 (6,737)	39,125 (32,257)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* Recording of visitor number for The Brothers Marine Park was commenced in January 2017.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 145 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017	Total
General information	23	15	14	8	60
Park facilities	1	2	1	1	5
Education activities	19	12	10	12	53
Renewal for fishing permit	8	4	3	4	19
Ordinance and regulations	0	4	1	3	8
Total	51	37	29	28	145

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 1,153 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Mar., 2017	Apr., 2017	May 2017	Jun., 2017	Total
Bookmarks	11	53	39	30	133
Key chain	40	0	40	0	80
String tote bag	0	100	0	350	450
Paper folder	0	20	20	50	90
Leaflets	200	50	100	50	400
Total	251	223	199	480	1,153

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 37 educational/publicity activities involving 894 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	20	-	133
School Guided Tour	5	-	136
School Seminar	5	-	531
Field Study	4	-	67
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park Coastal Clean-up	1	16	16
Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity Roving Exhibition	2	11	11
Total	37	27	894

2.5 During the report period, our Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Yan Chau Tong Marine Park Coastal Clean-up and Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity Roving Exhibition. A total of 27 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 30 June 2017, a total of 130 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 48 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 28 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 17 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 12 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 6 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 June 2017, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 9,538 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 During the report period, a total of 2,386 advices and 35 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and two prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution	No. of completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	1	3	6,000
Other	1	0	0
Total	2	3	6,000

During the report period, the prosecution cases are not necessarily the same as the completed hearing cases.

3.2 To strengthen the exchange of intelligence and communication on combating the illegal fishing activities among AFCD, Hong Kong Marine Police (Marpol) and Guangdong Fisheries Administration General Brigade Shenzhen sub-office, a 24-hour Joint Enforcement Operation from 19 – 20 April 2017 was conducted. AFCD and Marpol, each deployed four patrol vessels in Hong Kong northeastern waters, whilst Guangdong Fisheries Administration General Brigade Shenzhen sub-office deployed 11 patrol vessels for carrying out patrolling in the operation. In this operation, AFCD inspected 26 fishing vessels involving 58 fishermen and two mainland fishing vessels involving two mainland fishermen in Hong Kong waters. Two mainland mechanized sampans that were found fishing illegally in Hong Kong waters were transferred to Marpol and then were returned to Guangdong Fisheries Administration General Brigade Shenzhen sub-office. AFCD also received a suspected illegal fishing vessel referred from Guangdong Fisheries Administration General Brigade Shenzhen sub-office via Marpol. Verbal warning was given to the mainland fishermen on board. They were explained with the Fisheries Protection Ordinance. Summary of regulations and maps of marine parks were also given to the mainland fishermen for reminding them to comply with the relevant regulations.

C. Advice Sought

Members are invited to comment on the management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority in country and marine parks.