

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 15 June 2018.

2. Fisheries Resource Surveys at Existing and Proposed Marine Parks, and Cape D’Aguilar Marine Reserve – Report on Progress

2.1 The fisheries resource surveys at existing and proposed marine parks and Cape D’Aguilar Marine Reserve (the Surveys) was commenced in the fourth quarter of 2016 with the aim of assessing the productivity of adult fisheries resources in these areas. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and its consultant updated members on the latest progress of the Surveys and provided a summary of the results of the surveys conducted up to May 2018.

2.2 During the discussion session, they explained to members the preliminary findings of the species richness, fish abundance and biomass in each existing/proposed marine parks and marine reserve, the considerations for the selection of control sites outside the marine parks and marine reserve, as well as the reasons for using the selected fishing methods in the Surveys. The results obtained from the Surveys so far indicated that species richness within the marine parks and marine reserve were generally higher than that of the respective control sites. Members noted that the Surveys would be completed by the fourth quarter of 2018 and the data so obtained would provide a useful basis for assessing the effectiveness of marine parks in terms of fisheries enhancement. Upon completion of the Surveys, the consultant would also provide a refined standard protocol for adult fisheries resources survey.

3. Consultancy Study on Coral Bleaching and Bioerosion in Hong Kong

3.1 AFCD commissioned an 18-month consultancy study (the Study) to look at the current status of coral bleaching, bioerosion and other deterioration/adverse conditions on coral communities with a view to drawing up appropriate management measures and long term monitoring plan. In the meeting, AFCD's consultant briefed members on the progress and the current findings of the Study.

3.2 Members were mainly concerned about the investigation of coral bleaching and bioerosion and made a few suggestions in this regard. They suggested the consultant to investigate the correlation between the marine environmental conditions and the coral bleaching and bioerosion which might help explain the occurrence of more significant coral bleaching and bioerosion in certain sites. They also suggested AFCD to disseminate the Study findings to the public, particularly those encouraging findings about the recovery capacity of the bleached coral colonies in Hong Kong, at suitable junctures. AFCD and its consultant responded positively to these suggestions.

4. Any Other Business

Hong Kong Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal Project

4.1 CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and the Hongkong Electric Company, Limited were jointly exploring the feasibility of building a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) based LNG Terminal offshore in Hong Kong waters (the 'Project'). The Project team briefed members on the background, objectives and implementation of the Project. Members were notified that the Environmental Impact Assessment report of the Project has been exhibited for public inspection and comment. They also noted that the Project Site was outside the existing marine parks and thus not governed by the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and the discussion should focus on the possible impacts of the Project on the existing and proposed marine parks in the vicinity.

4.2 During the discussion, members expressed concern over a number of potential impacts of the construction and operation of the LNG Terminal, for example, the impact of the construction works on marine mammals and benthos, the effect of the discharge of cooled water during the operation phase on marine ecology and

fisheries resources, and the possible disturbance caused by vessel movements. The Project team responded to members' concerns by giving details of the marine ecology baseline study results and the measures that would be implemented to mitigate the above impacts. Members also noted that an independent fund would be set up under the Project to support initiatives for the enhancement of the South Lantau marine environment, including initiatives that could enhance fisheries resources of southern Lantau and the sustainable development of the fishing industry.

5. Advice sought

5.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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