

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.4.2019 – 30.6.2019)

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 1.4.2019 – 30.6.2019. 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 30.6.2019	Item	Total no. as at 30.6.2019
Barbecue Site	163	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	100
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	121

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019	Total
217 (291)	200 (210)	178 (174)	595 (675)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2018-2019 fire season ended on 30.4.2019. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
April, 2019	2	(14)	0.7	(103.3)	0	(6,935)
May, 2019	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
June, 2019	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	2	(14)	0.7	(103.3)	0	(6,935)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, permission were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold 164 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 18 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 3 of them, the other 15 were being processed. 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 2,545,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019	Total
918,000 (1,138,000)	849,000 (1,020,000)	778,000 (839,000)	2,545,000 (2,997,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 3,989 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		
	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019
Lions Nature Education Centre	23,928	21,440	20,704
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	4,318	3,890	3,634
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	11,470	9,882	11,446
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	6,168	7,134	6,609
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,526	2,404	3,865
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	4,391	3,288	2,576
Aberdeen Tree Centre	860	635	448
Volcano Discovery Centre	11,125	9,139	10,195
Total	65,786	57,812	59,477

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	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019
No. of volunteers/trainees	659	659	659
Total volunteer service hours	2,747	2,012.5	1,334.5

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2018-19 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	5,755
Primary Schools	5,072
Secondary Schools	680

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" & "Let's Go Plastic Free" promotional activities	April to June 2019	5,679	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities
Countryside Adventure	April to June 2019	939	
"Enjoy the Countryside · Hong Kong Country Parks" Roving Exhibitions	4 to 7 April 2019	3,171	
Hiking and Planting Day	14 April 2019	2,691	
"Orienteering: into the Country Parks" Experience Day	21 April 2019	809	
Excursion with Experts	27 April, 18 & 25 May, 1 & 22 June 2019	86	
Heritage Fiesta 2019	9, 16, 23 & 29 June 2019	105	

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019
First aid	4	4	7
Handicapped persons	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	1	0	0

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019
Pamphlets	2,922	3,238	3,060
Posters	28	14	14
Booklets	810	522	398

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 125 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 summarized below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	50
Illegal entry of vehicle	49
Illegal possession of hunting/trapping appliance	2
Damaging and cutting of plant	5
Illegal digging of soil	1
Littering	12 #
Illegal feeding of monkey	6
Total	125

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

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.6.2019, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.6.2019	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.6.2019
Warning Sign	93	Litter Bin	8
Park Sign	12	Banner	0
Notice Sign (various purposes)	30	Boundary Light Buoy	19
Boundary Post	15	Mechanized Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	132
Marker Post (various purposes)	9	Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	4
Way Mark (various purposes)	14	Mooring Buoy	24
Information Board	6	Buoy (various purpose)	52

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)			
	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	5.92 (7.84)	6.40 (6.68)	5.86 (5.43)	18.18 (19.95)
Yan Chau Tong	2.32 (3.28)	3.82 (3.52)	4.10 (3.28)	10.24 (10.08)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	5.78 (4.76)	6.52 (7.16)	5.96 (5.95)	18.26 (17.87)
Tung Ping Chau	6.08 (6.21)	6.17 (5.85)	6.39 (5.46)	18.64 (17.52)
Cape D'Aguilar	1.65 (0.91)	1.63 (1.05)	1.32 (1.53)	4.60 (3.49)
The Brothers	0.50 (0.31)	0.31 (0.46)	0.31 (0.32)	1.12 (1.09)
Total	22.25 (23.31)	24.85 (24.72)	23.94 (21.97)	71.04 (70.00)

() 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	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	2,489 (2,955)	2,367 (2,937)	3,032 (2,825)	7,888 (8,717)
Yan Chau Tong	2,712 (3,012)	2,223 (2,511)	1,056 (1,092)	5,991 (6,615)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	225 (370)	109 (387)	342 (164)	676 (921)
Tung Ping Chau	4,133 (4,261)	3,226 (3,317)	2,877 (2,739)	10,236 (10,317)
The Brothers	103 (192)	63 (304)	98 (181)	264 (677)
Total	9,662 (10,790)	7,988 (9,456)	7,405 (7,001)	25,055 (27,247)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 34 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019	Total
General information	3	5	6	14
Park facilities	0	0	1	1
Education activities	2	6	5	13
Renewal for fishing permit	0	1	2	3
Ordinance and regulations	1	1	1	3
Total	6	13	15	34

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 537 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	April, 2019	May, 2019	June, 2019	Total
Bookmarks	10	7	0	17
Leaflets	0	200	100	300
Tote bags	10	10	10	30
Stickers	20	20	60	100
Folders	20	20	20	60
String bags	0	0	30	30
Total	60	257	220	537

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 20 educational/publicity activities involving 855 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	3	-	17
School Guided Tour	6	-	141
School Seminar	4	-	577
Field Study	3	-	81
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Tung Ping Chau marine park coastal clean-up	1	7	7
Sustainable Shui Hau - Citizen Scientist Ecological Surveys	1	21	21
Plastic-free Fun Fair*	1	6	6
Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity Roving Exhibition [#]	1	5	5
Total	20	39	855

* Participated in running a booth at the “World Environment Day x World Ocean Day Plastic-free Fun Fair” organized by the Environmental Protection Department at Tai Kwun.

Participated in running a booth at the Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity Roving Exhibition organized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

2.5 During the report period, our Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services and training programs: Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau coastal clean-up, Hoi Ha Wan Glass-bottomed Boat Trip. A total of 39 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 30 June 2019, a total of 144 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 58 Ambassadors have completed 40 hours services; 31 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 23 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 15 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 7 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 2019, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,845 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 During the report period, a total of 515 advices and 3 verbal warnings and 3 written warnings were given and 1 prosecution was taken in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve. A total of 10 Joint Anti-illegal Fishing Operations with Marine Police (Marpol) were conducted in Marine Parks.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution*	No. of completed hearing**	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	0	4	5,200
Other	1	0	0
Total	1	4	5,200

* The number denotes the cases initiated prosecution proceedings during the reporting period

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

3.2 To strengthen the communication and cooperation in combating illegal fishing activities among AFCD, Marpol and the relevant fisheries authorities in the Mainland, a Joint Enforcement Operation at sea was conducted in mid-April 2019. In this operation, AFCD inspected 17 fishing vessels and found a pair of trawlers fishing in the waters west of Tung Ping Chau. One of them was intercepted by AFCD and Marpol. And the other trawler escaped but was later caught by the Mainland authority. Eventually, both pair trawlers were prosecuted and punished.

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.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
July 2019