

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Preliminary Boundaries of the Proposed Sharp Island Marine Park

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to update Members on the preparatory work and the latest development for the proposed Sharp Island Marine Park (SIMP) and Government's plan on invoking the statutory procedures under the Marine Parks Ordinance, Cap. 476 (the Ordinance) for the designation of the proposed marine park.

2. Background

2.1 Sharp Island has high marine ecological value with extensive coral communities on its western and eastern parts of the island, some of the coral areas with coverage exceeds 50%, and in some locations over 70%. There are extensive *Pavona* coral beds, which are home to many reef fish, as well as a large population of *Acropora* colonies, which are scarcely found locally. The surge of visitors to Sharp Island in recent years poses pressure on the coral ecosystems in the area. To strengthen protection, it is proposed to designate Sharp Island as a marine park. To this end, members were consulted on the proposal in the meeting on 10 June 2026, and the proposal received support from members.

2.2 Clear demarcation is essential for effective management of marine parks. Marine parks in Hong Kong are marked by boundary light buoys on the sea side and boundary posts on the land side so marine users can easily identify these areas. An initial boundary of the proposed SIMP, shown in **Figure 1(a)**, was tabled at the CMPB meeting on 10 June 2026 (Working paper: WP/CMPB/6/2026). Two boundary light buoys were proposed for the eastern boundary point on the sea side, while one buoy was proposed for the western boundary point.

3. Revised Preliminary Boundary

3.1 Subsequently, we have received comments from Marine Department (MD) during the series of stakeholder consultations. Because underwater cables are near the western boundary, it is therefore advised to move the buoy farther away to avoid

interference or safety risks. Instead of placing two buoys to the east, one buoy is proposed to minimise impact on other marine users while ensuring key coral communities remain covered. The revised boundaries of the proposed SIMP are shown in **Figure 1(b)**. The proposed SIMP area after revision is about 65 hectares, including the tombolo, the unnamed beach, and the adjacent sea area, which is about the same as the previously proposed area.

4. Way Forward

4.1 The Country and Marine Parks Authority shall seek the direction of the Chief Executive in Council to prepare a draft map of SIMP in accordance with Section 7(1) of the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap.476) (the Ordinance) and, in consultation with CMPB (tentatively in December), make the draft map available for public inspection in accordance with Section 8 of the Ordinance by Q1 2027, with a view to tying in with the completion of the statutory procedures for the designation by mid-2027.

5. Interim Measures

5.1 Pending the establishment of the SIMP, the AFCD will, during peak periods such as mainland public holidays, deploy additional staff to step up patrols along the coastline and at popular snorkelling spots, and immediately deter behaviour that damages the ecosystem, such as trampling on coral, feeding or collecting marine life, and entering or exiting the water at sensitive locations; it will also carry out joint patrols with relevant government departments to maintain order on Sharp Island and remind visitors not to litter; drones will be used to monitor visitor activities at regular intervals. Furthermore, the AFCD will also arrange snorkelling and kayaking guides on-site to remind snorkellers and kayakers to follow ‘coral-friendly routes’ and avoid accidentally stepping on coral, at the same time, they will guide visitors to less crowded areas based on on-site conditions, enhancing their experience while minimising impact on the coral. The AFCD will also collaborate with non-governmental organisations to set up educational booths on Sharp Island, through mini games, these booths will enhance visitors’ understanding of coral and the local ecosystem, whilst promoting marine conservation messages; ocean etiquette will also be publicised via social media platforms in Chinese mainland.

6. Presentation

6.1 Members are invited to note the content set out in this paper.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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Figure 1

(a) Preliminary Boundary of the Proposed Sharp Island Marine Park discussed at the CMPB meeting on 10 June 2026



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