

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.3.2018 – 31.5.2018)

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 1.3.2018 – 31.5.2018. 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 31.5.2018	Item	Total no. as at 31.5.2018
Barbecue Site	165	Shelter	293
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	103
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	116

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018	Total
245 (282)	291 (334)	210 (276)	746 (892)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2017-2018 fire season ended on 1.5.2018. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Mar., 2018	2	(3)	14.2	(3)	180	(350)
Apr., 2018	14	(8)	103.3	(66.8)	6,935	(620)
May 2018	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	16	(11)	117.5	(69.8)	7,115	(970)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 220 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 25 development proposals were received. There was no objection to six of them, the other 17 were being processed and two were 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 3,265,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018	Total
1,107,000 (1,036,000)	1,138,000 (1,233,000)	1,020,000 (1,041,000)	3,265,000 (3,310,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 4,364 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., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018
Lions Nature Education Centre	33,752	34,232	26,456
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,879	4,428	4,843
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	7,911	7,870	5,720
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	7,760	6,022	4,934
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,147	3,092	2,722
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	5,405	6,010	3,771
Aberdeen Tree Centre	1,220	1,184	934
Volcano Discovery Centre	11,292	13,547	14,429
Total	74,366	76,385	63,809

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., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018
No. of volunteers/trainees	649	649	649
Total volunteer service hours	3,119	2,572	1,975

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2017-18 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	6,587
Primary Schools	1,424
Secondary Schools	693

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 May 2018	38,510	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities
Hiking & Planting Day	18 March 2018, 8 & 22 April 2018	7,489	Including game booths
Nature Fun x Family Day	30 & 31 March 2018, 28 & 29 April 2018	2,480	Including game booths, workshop, story telling and games

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018
First aid	27	14	7
Handicapped persons	2	5	0
Return of lost properties	2	4	5

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018
Pamphlets	3,039	2,548	1,546
Posters	119	51	13
Booklets	738	2,204	2,273

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 268 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	93
Illegal entry of vehicle	86
Damaging and cutting of plant	5
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal hawking/trading	2
Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter	3
Illegal constructing/excavating of grave	1
Camping outside designated camping site	10
Littering	60 [#]
Spitting	1 [#]
Illegal feeding of monkey	6
Total	268

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 31.5.2018, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.5.2018	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.5.2018
Warning Sign	127	Litter Bin	15
Park Sign	17	Banner	0
Notice Sign (various purposes)	46	Boundary Light Buoy	19
Boundary Post	16	Mechanized Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	132
Marker Post (various purposes)	10	Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	4
Way Mark (various purposes)	18	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)			
	Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	6.07 (6.71)	7.84 (5.93)	6.68 (7.50)	20.59 (20.14)
Yan Chau Tong	2.90 (3.90)	3.28 (2.28)	3.52 (2.80)	9.70 (8.98)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	5.87 (13.41)	4.76 (7.71)	7.16 (8.30)	17.79 (29.42)
Tung Ping Chau	7.35 (8.13)	6.21 (8.55)	5.85 (8.60)	19.41 (25.28)
Cape D'Aguilar	0.69 (1.79)	0.91 (1.51)	1.05 (1.27)	2.65 (4.57)
The Brothers*	0.30 (--)	0.31 (--)	0.46 (--)	1.07 (--)
Total	23.18 (33.94)	23.31 (25.98)	24.72 (28.47)	71.21 (88.39)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* Recording of cleaning service for The Brothers Marine Park was started at December 2017

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	3,294 (2,916)	2,955 (3,966)	2,937 (4,381)	9,186 (11,263)
Yan Chau Tong	2,962 (2,115)	3,012 (2,826)	2,511 (1,814)	8,485 (6,755)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	232 (385)	370 (233)	387 (238)	989 (856)
Tung Ping Chau	3,365 (3,877)	4,261 (6,217)	3,317 (4,610)	10,943 (14,704)
The Brothers	10 (133)	192 (277)	304 (348)	506 (758)
Total	9,863 (9,426)	10,790 (13,519)	9,456 (11,391)	30,109 (34,336)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 79 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018	Total
General information	10	4	12	26
Park facilities	1	0	1	2
Education activities	10	5	8	23
Renewal for fishing permit	12	5	5	22
Ordinance and regulations	2	1	3	6
Total	35	15	29	79

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 1,618 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Mar., 2018	Apr., 2018	May 2018	Total
Bookmarks	28	33	46	107
Leaflets	350	334	447	1,131
Stickers	80	60	80	220
Folders	50	30	80	160
Total	508	457	653	1,618

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 32 educational/publicity activities involving 917 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	14	-	116
School Guided Tour	6	-	145
School Seminar	6	-	512
Field Study	4	-	101
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau coastal clean-up	1	23	23
Hoi Ha Wan Glass-bottomed Boat Trip	1	20	20
Total	32	43	917

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 43 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 31 May 2018, a total of 136 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 54 Ambassadors have completed 40 hours services; 29 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 20 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 May 2018, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,127 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 During the report period, a total of 272 advices and 24 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 5 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve. A total of 9 Joint Anti-illegal Fishing Operations with Marine Police were conducted in Marine Parks.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution	No. of completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	2	1	1,000
Other	3	0	0
Total	5	1	1,000

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 26 – 27 April 2018 was conducted. AFCD and Marpol deployed 8 patrol vessels in Hong Kong northeastern waters, whilst Guangdong Fisheries Administration General Brigade Shenzhen sub-office deployed 13 patrol vessels for carrying out patrolling in the Mainland Waters during the operation. In this operation, AFCD inspected 14 fishing vessels involving 43 fishermen and 2 mainland fishing vessels involving 4 mainland fishermen in Hong Kong waters. Four mainland fishermen using 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 for follow up action.

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 2018