

Country and Marine Parks Board
Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper informs members of issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 4 July 2013. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

2. Biological Monitoring in Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park in 2012-2013

2.1 Members were briefed by the research team of the Chinese University of Hong Kong on the key findings of the Biological Monitoring in Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SLMP) in 2012-2013 and their recommendations. Members were informed that the study was divided into four parts: dolphin surveys, fishing surveys, coastal ecological surveys and data analysis.

2.2 Members noted that the survey findings indicated that the ecological and fisheries resources in SLMP were in general stable condition. Recommendations by the research team included: (1) a programme for long term biological monitoring of SLMP should be continued and sustained; (2) other land based monitoring stations outside SLMP should be established and integration with other monitoring data should be pursued to ensure effective evaluation of the protection of Chinese White Dolphins; and (3) the ecosystem approach to the management of SLMP and the conservation of Chinese White Dolphins should be adopted.

2.3 A member suggested that specific sites outside SLMP should also be chosen as reference sites in future studies for comparison of results on fish catch quantities. The member was informed that AFCD would consider his suggestion.

3. Results of Seaweed Survey Conducted by AFCD's Diving Team

3.1 Members were briefed on the preliminary findings of a seaweed survey conducted by AFCD's Diving Team. Members were informed that five major

sampling sites including Clear Water Bay, Big Wave Bay, Shek O, Stanley and Shek Pai Wan (Lamma Island), and three reference sites which were Sharp Island, Lo Fu Ngam and Ting Kok had been surveyed from 2011 to 2013, particularly in winter when the seaweed was most abundant.

3.2 Members noted that 53 species had been recorded in all the sampling sites. Among the eight sampling sites, the highest encounter rate of seaweed species was at Shek Pai Wan, followed by Big Wave Bay, Stanley, Clear Water Bay and Lo Fu Ngam. *Sargassum hemiphyllum*, *Colpomenia sinuosa*, *Corallina pilulifera* and *Lobophora variegata* were found to be the most common species.

3.3 Members were informed that AFCD would continue to collect seaweed samples from different sites and determine the major seaweed community in Hong Kong waters and the need for further comprehensive survey or monitoring study of the local seaweed community.

4. Progress Report on Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

4.1 A representative of AFCD presented the work of the Country and Marine Parks Authority in marine parks and marine reserve during the period from 1 February to 31 May 2013. Members noted the content of the paper.

5. Presentation

5.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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