

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.7.2017 – 30.9.2017)

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 1.7.2017 – 30.9.2017. 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 30.9.2017	Item	Total no. as at 30.9.2017
Barbecue Site	169	Shelter	291
Picnic Site	158	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	102
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	116

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017	Total
196 (222)	215 (234)	196 (268)	607 (724)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2017-2018 fire season started on 30.9.2017. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Jul., 2017	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Aug., 2017	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Sep., 2017	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 139 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 35 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 12 of them, the other 22 were being processed and one was 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 2,644,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017	Total
926,000 (966,000)	873,000 (867,000)	845,000 (933,000)	2,644,000 (2,766,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 4,830 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		
	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017
Lions Nature Education Centre	23,880	26,008	27,992
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	6,200	5,140	4,290
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	5,495	5,808	4,100
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	7,702	6,184	6,885
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,790	4,808	2,762
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	2,201	1,456	1,658
Aberdeen Tree Centre	616	287	411
Volcano Discovery Centre	15,246	14,857	9,330
Total	65,130	64,548	57,428

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	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017
No. of volunteers/trainees	745	745	765
Total volunteer service hours	1,278	816	1,266

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	0 (suspended from Jul to Sep)
Primary Schools	1,259 (suspended from Aug to Sep)
Secondary Schools	285

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	July to September	23,357	Including exhibitions, game booth and other promotion activities
Excursion with Experts	22, 29 July 5, 12, 19 August 9, 16, 19, 23 September	195	
“Country Park 40 th Anniversary” Roving Exhibitions and other promotional exhibitions	31 July to 11 August 16 to 31 August 4 to 15 September 18 to 29 September	18,425	Including exhibitions, workshop and game booth
Nature’s Secret Talk	20 August & 24 September	408	

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017
First aid	17	9	9
Handicapped persons	9	10	8
Return of lost properties	7	2	2

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017
Pamphlets	4,473	3,505	3,016
Posters	130	124	92
Booklets	446	510	322

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 134 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 summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	45
Illegal entry of vehicle	53
Damaging and cutting of plant	4
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter	2
Illegal constructing/excavating of grave	1
Illegal carrying on business activity (filming)	2
Camping outside designated camping site	15
Littering	3 #
Illegal feeding of monkey	8
Total	134

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

The Brothers Marine Park was designated on 30 December 2016 and became the fifth marine park in Hong Kong. It is situated in the northern Lantau waters and covers a total sea area of about 970 hectares. The new marine park serves to better protect the Chinese White Dolphins, their habitats and enhance the marine and fisheries resources in the region.

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.9.2017, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.9.2017	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.9.2017
Sign (various warnings)	144	Mooring buoy	21
Park sign	21	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	48	Sign post	10
Boundary marker buoy	19	Information board	3
Marker buoy	52	Litter bin	15
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	132	Banner	0
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	Way mark	20

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)			
	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	7.77 (8.98)	8.00 (10.34)	8.04 (8.40)	23.81 (27.72)
Yan Chau Tong	3.82 (6.08)	3.82 (4.80)	5.68 (5.30)	13.32 (16.18)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	9.43 (11.18)	10.19 (13.09)	11.80 (13.04)	31.42 (37.31)
Tung Ping Chau	8.13 (8.71)	7.71 (9.07)	7.64 (8.32)	23.48 (26.10)
Cape D'Aguilar	1.85 (2.61)	2.68 (1.83)	1.69 (1.81)	6.22 (6.25)
Total	31.00 (37.56)	32.40 (39.13)	34.85 (36.87)	98.25 (113.56)

() 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	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	4,375 (5,717)	3,212 (3,608)	2,987 (3,740)	10,574 (13,065)
Yan Chau Tong	1,417 (1,477)	1,366 (1,371)	702 (1,907)	3,485 (4,755)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	39 (352)	271 (210)	219 (248)	529 (810)
Tung Ping Chau	3,083 (4,064)	2,096 (2,784)	1,974 (3,044)	7,153 (9,892)
The Brothers*	72	128	90	290
Total	8,986** (11,610)	7,073 (7,973)	5,972** (8,939)	22,031 (28,522)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* Recording of visitor number for The Brothers Marine Park was commenced in January 2017.

** Drop in visitor number in July 2017 and September 2017 was due to unstable weather including thunderstorm and typhoon.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 85 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017	Total
General information	13	11	6	30
Park facilities	1	0	2	3
Education activities	7	11	8	26
Renewal for fishing permit	5	8	3	16
Ordinance and regulations	3	2	5	10
Total	29	32	24	85

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 2,840 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Jul., 2017	Aug., 2017	Sep., 2017	Total
Bookmarks	116	332	41	489
Key chain	80	150	0	230
Sticker	731	180	80	991
Leaflets	350	720	60	1,130
Total	1,277	1,382	181	2,840

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 28 educational/publicity activities involving 539 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	17	-	89
School Guided Tour	2	-	45
Marine Parks and marine ecological resources public seminar 2017	4	-	378
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Marine Parks and marine ecological resources public seminar 2017	4	21	21
Marine Parks ambassador scheme training workshop	1	6	6
Total	28	27	539

2.5 During the report period, our Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Marine Parks and marine ecological resources public seminar 2017, and one Marine Parks ambassador scheme training workshop was organized within the reporting period. A total of 27 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 30 September 2017, a total of 130 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 48 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 28 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 17 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 September 2017, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 9,601 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

During the report period, a total of 2,770 advices and 43 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and three prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution	No. of completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	2	0	0
Other	1	1	7,000
Total	3	1	7,000

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

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
November 2017