

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.6.2018 – 31.10.2018)

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 1.6.2018 – 31.10.2018. 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 31.10.2018	Item	Total no. as at 31.10.2018
Barbecue Site	163	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	102
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	116

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018	Total
174 (176)	169 (196)	151 (215)	247 (196)	292 (324)	1,033 (1,107)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2018-2019 fire season started on 22.9.2018. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Jun., 2018	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jul., 2018	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Aug., 2018	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Sep., 2018	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Oct., 2018	0	(3)	0	(2)	0	(0)
Total	0	(3)	0	(2)	0	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 262 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 43 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 15 of them, the other 24 were being processed and four 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 4,315,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018	Total
839,000 (822,000)	855,000 (926,000)	778,000 (873,000)	739,000 (845,000)	1,104,000 (1,177,000)	4,315,000 (4,643,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 4,204 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				
	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018
Lions Nature Education Centre	25,112	22,464	21,632	13,712	26,336
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	4,926	6,008	6,699	5,530	4,846
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	0*	0*	0*	5,319	14,472
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	4,251	6,598	6,617	6,275	6,571
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	2,479	3,321	3,780	2,284	3,298
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	2,133	1,935	1,703	1,858	5,495
Aberdeen Tree Centre	481	490	252	557	1,303
Volcano Discovery Centre	11,910	13,224	12,941	8,677	11,941
Total	51,292	54,040	53,624	44,212	74,262

* Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre was temporarily closed for replacement works of air-condition system.

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	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018
No. of volunteers/trainees	649	715	765	791	800
Total volunteer service hours	1,020	1,489	1,489	1,349	3,398

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	2,247
Primary Schools	4,247
Secondary Schools	897

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 & “Let’s Go Plastic Free” promotional activities	June to October 2018	56,240	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities
Excursion with Experts	30 June 2018, 28 July 2018, 25 August 2018, 20 October 2018	98	779 enrolments
Nature Fun x Family Day	28 & 29 July 2018, 4 & 5 August 2018	376	Including game booths , workshop, story telling and games

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018
First aid	8	7	4	5	9
Handicapped persons	0	0	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	1	2	2	2	3

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018
Pamphlets	1,959	3,379	2,431	3,039	4,838
Posters	17	12	56	51	54
Booklets	311	928	892	398	773

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 296 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	107
Illegal entry of vehicle	96
Illegal possession of hunting/trapping appliance	3
Damaging and cutting of plant	9
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter	2
Camping outside designated camping site	18
Littering	2 Δ + 48 $\#$
Spitting	1 Δ + 2 $\#$
Illegal feeding of monkey	7
Total	296

Remarks: * No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

$\#$ Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

Δ Summons

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.10.2018, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.10.2018	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.10.2018
Warning Sign	129	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

* Among the above facilities, nineteen of them have been damaged by Typhoon Mangkhut and are still under repair.

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)					
	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	5.43 (5.32)	6.38 (7.77)	8.12 (8.00)	6.00 (8.04)	8.79 (11.33)	34.72 (40.46)
Yan Chau Tong	3.28 (2.94)	2.40 (3.82)	2.86 (3.82)	2.36 (5.68)	4.36 (3.70)	15.26 (19.96)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	5.95 (8.26)	5.85 (9.43)	6.48 (10.19)	6.29 (11.8)	6.28 (8.63)	30.85 (48.31)
Tung Ping Chau	5.46 (8.04)	5.90 (8.13)	5.47 (7.71)	7.79 (7.64)	8.64 (7.85)	33.26 (39.37)
Cape D'Aguiar	1.53 (1.13)	1.35 (1.85)	0.99 (2.68)	1.86 (1.69)	1.34 (1.01)	7.07 (8.36)
The Brothers*	0.32 (NA)	0.32 (NA)	0.32 (NA)	0.31 (NA)	0.32 (NA)	1.59 (NA)
Total	21.97 (25.69)	22.2 (31.00)	24.24 (32.40)	24.61 (34.85)	29.73 (32.52)	122.75 (156.46)

() 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	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	2,825 (2,392)	3,716 (4,375)	3,916 (3,212)	1,915 (2,987)	3,559 (3,433)	15,931 (16,399)
Yan Chau Tong	1,092 (1,065)	1,105 (1,417)	944 (1,366)	950 (702)	1,633 (2,751)	5,724 (7,301)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	164 (124)	156 (39)	208 (271)	130 (219)	265 (148)	923 (801)
Tung Ping Chau	2,739 (1,099)	3,504 (3,083)	2,161 (2,096)	2,288 (1,974)	3,667 (1,893)	14,359 (10,145)
The Brothers	181 (109)	119 (72)	194 (128)	150 (90)	334 (87)	978 (486)
Total	7,001 (4,789)	8,600 (8,986)	7,423 (7,073)	5,433 (5,972)	9,458 (8,312)	37,915 (35,132)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 129 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018*	Total
General information	10	6	13	20	10	59
Park facilities	2	2	0	2	1	7
Education activities	7	7	6	4	3	27
Renewal for fishing permit	3	6	6	8	3	26
Ordinance and regulations	3	3	0	3	1	10
Total	25	24	25	37	18	129

All enquiries have been resolved.

* Since the monthly statistics report of October prepared by 1823 is not yet received, the phone enquiry figures from 1823 is not included in the October figure above.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 3,063 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Jun., 2018	Jul., 2018	Aug., 2018	Sep., 2018	Oct., 2018	Total
Bookmarks	18	13	6	20	30	87
Leaflets	190	910	700	120	120	2,040
Posters	8	6	0	2	0	16
Stickers	0	70	0	0	50	120
Folders	0	0	10	0	0	10
Tote bag	0	270	260	100	100	730
Doll charms	0	0	0	0	60	60
Total	216	1,269	976	242	360	3,063

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 42 educational/publicity activities involving 951 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	-	66
School Guided Tour	8	-	220
School Seminar	1	-	30
Field Study	3	-	70
Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources Public Seminar 2018	4	-	498
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity Roving Exhibition 2018	1	9	9
Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources Public Seminar 2018	4	23	23

Gei Wai Harvesting tour	1	13	13
Tung Ping Chau marine park questionnaire survey and coastal clean-up	1	7	7
Volunteer training workshop	1	5	3
Marine Parks Ambassador training workshop	1	10	10
Total	42	67	951

2.5 During the report period, our Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services and training programs: Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity Roving Exhibition 2018, Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources Public Seminar 2018, Gei Wai Harvesting tour, Tung Ping Chau marine park questionnaire survey and coastal clean-up, Volunteer training workshop and one Marine Parks Ambassador training workshop. A total of 67 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 31 October 2018, a total of 139 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 54 Ambassadors have completed 40 hours services; 30 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 21 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 October 2018, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,362 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 During the report period, a total of 208 advices and 33 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 2 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve. A total of 11 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	1	0	0
Other	1	3	3,500
Total	2	3	3,500

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 2018