

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 17 July 2015. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarized below.

2. Survey of Juvenile Fish Resources in the Three Marine Parks at north-eastern Hong Kong

2.1 Members were briefed by the research fellow of the University of Hong Kong on the background, methods, findings and conclusion of the survey of juvenile fish resources in the three Marine Parks at north-eastern Hong Kong, namely Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP), Yan Chau Tong Marine Park (YCTMP) and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (TPCMP). Members noted that the three Marine Parks played a significant role as a fish nursery. The survey findings indicated that the sargassum beds in TPCMP, and the mangrove and seagrass bed in YCTMP were significant areas for nourishing juvenile fish resources.

2.2 Members expressed concern about the number (381 137) and total weight (1 462 kg) of juvenile fish collected in the survey. Members were informed that the sampling methods employed in the survey were the least destructive method to juvenile fish assemblages among others. Only a portion of the juvenile fish collected in the survey was weighed, and the fish sample collected would be immediately released back to the sea afterwards. As the juvenile fish collected in the study only accounted for a negligible portion in the sea, the overall quantity of juvenile fish in the sea would not be affected.

2.3 A member pointed out that the importance of this survey lay in providing statistics to prove that the Marine Parks played a significant role as a fish nursery. As shown in the survey, the Marine Parks were able to support as many as 25% of total fish species recorded in Hong Kong. Taking into account the short history of the Marine Parks, reaching this level of species diversity was indeed a success.

2.4 The Chairman suggested conducting the survey of juvenile fish resources regularly to observe the temporal variation of species compositions of juvenile fish in different habitats within the Marine Parks, and to provide statistics to support the measures taken by the Department. After discussion, members also suggested the Department present the results and explain the importance of this survey to fishermen and the general public.

3. Marine Conservation Education for Primary and Secondary Schools

3.1 Members were briefed by the representative of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) on the marine conservation education programme organized by the Department in collaboration with the HKIEd for primary and secondary schools. The programme included a train-the-trainer project, knowledge transfer activities for local primary and secondary schools, development of education kits, Web Apps, and so on.

3.2 Members were generally very supportive of the education programme. After discussion, members suggested that the Department and the HKIEd could, apart from continuing to train students of the HKIEd, consider utilising the education kits of the existing “train-the-trainer” project to organize workshops for primary and secondary school teachers.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 Members noted the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period of 1 January 2015 to 30 April 2015.

5. Advice sought

5.1 This paper is prepared for members’ information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
October 2015