

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.5.2012 – 31.8.2012)

**A. Country Parks & Special Areas**

**I. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

	Progress	Anticipated Completion Date
(1) Reconstruction of Rain Shelters in Country Parks (2012 – 2013 Rain Shelters Maintenance Programme)	Works commenced in April 2012.	November 2012.
(2) Reconstruction of Tsing Lung Tau, Tai Tong and Twisk Section at Tai Lam Forest Track and Grass Hill Section at Shing Mun Forest Track	Works commenced on 21 June 2012.	December 2012.

## II. RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### (1) Management Services

Refuse collected (tonnes)

Year	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Total
2011	289	233	239	246	1,007
2012	296	249	245	246	1,036

Path maintained/upgraded	720	Km
No. of trees planted	543,800	No.
No. of trees produced in the nursery	382,000	No.
No. of trees tended	253,300	No.

### (2) Provision of Facilities

Item	Total at 31.8.2012	Item	Total at 31.8.2012
Barbecue Site	179	Fitness Equipment	104
Picnic Site	168	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	40	Flushing Toilet	47
Morning Walker Garden	25	No. of Portable Toilet	116
Information Board	349	Warden Post	16
Shelters	270	Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	8
Play Equipment	43		

(3) Fire Protection

The 2011-2012 fire season completed on 1.5.2012:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		( )		( )		( )
May 12	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun., 12	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jul., 12	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Aug., 12	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

III. VISITOR STATISTICS

During the report period there was an overall decrease of 5.35% of visitor number compared with the corresponding period of last year. The monthly breakdown is as below:

Year	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Total
2011	1,110,000	926,000	1,080,000	1,030,000	4,146,000
2012	1,024,000	902,000	1,034,000	964,000	3,924,000
% change	-7.75%	-2.59%	-4.26%	-6.41%	-5.35%

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 251 prosecution cases had been handled in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. The number of prosecutions is summarized below

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Littering	1 <sup>△</sup> + 50 <sup>#</sup>
Camping in non-designated site	4
Illegal entry of bicycle	133
Illegal entry of vehicle	54
Damaging and cutting plant	7
Illegal feeding of monkey	2
Total	251

Remarks: \*No. of cases denotes the number of persons being prosecuted during the reporting period. Total fines for the period is \$115,550, which also includes the fines partly collected from cases carried forward from previous reporting periods and partly from current period. One prosecution case against damaging plant/erection of structure in Lantau South Country Park, the summons was withdrew on 31.8.2012 after the defendant had restored the affected areas in the country park to the satisfactory of the Authority. There is no other unsuccessful prosecution case in the reporting period.

# Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

△Summons.

V. ORGANIZED EVENTS

In the report period, 149 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events (mainly sporting activities) in country parks.

May 12	Jun., 12	Jul., 12	Aug., 12	Total
48	36	38	27	149

## VI. CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 79 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 46 of them, the other 33 were being processed. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

## VII. EDUCATION/VISITOR SERVICES

### (1) No. of Visits to Visitor Centres

A total of 247,426 persons visited the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. In which, 127,043 persons visited Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan and Plover Cove Country Parks Visitor Centres; 11,318 persons visited Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; 88,525 persons visited Lions Nature Education Centre and 20,540 persons visited Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

### (2) Video Shows of Country Parks

A total of 12,009 video shows on country parks and nature conservation were given, reaching an audience of 40,236. Besides, the "Songs of Nature" were played at various Visitor Centres to promote the voted Best Scenic Sites of Hong Kong.

### (3) Guided Tour

A total of 1,722 participants from 44 organizations joined the guided tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; 727 participants from 62 groups joined the guided walk at Ngong Ping Nature Centre; 338 participants from 9 groups joined the guided tours at Pineapple Dam Nature Trail which is newly established in July 2012.

### (4) Fixed Point Guided Tour

From May to August 2012, a total of 21,455 participants from 846 organizations joined the Fixed Point Guided Tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; a total of 231 participants from 24 organizations joined Tai Po Kau Forest Walks Fixed Point Guided Tour.

### (5) Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. For the period from 1 May to 31 August 2012, a total of 124 volunteers completed the basic training. At present, there are 876 volunteers. After the volunteers completed the training, they will assist the organization of various nature conservation and education activities of the country parks. From 1 May to 31 August 2012, total number of volunteer served hours are 10,812 hours.

### (6) School Visit Programme

A school visit programme was launched since November 2011 to convey nature conservation message to students. From May to June 2012, a total of 3,560 students from 15 primary schools and 1,739 students from 25 kindergartens joined the programmes respectively.

(7) Tree Walks Guided Tour

From May to August 2012, a total of 332 participants from about 78 organizations joined the Tree Walks Guided Tours at Quarry Bay Tree Walks and Ngong Ping Tree Walks.

(8) “Nature Appreciation – Practice” Country Park Education Activities

From May to August 2012, a total of 13 “Nature Appreciation – Practice” activities were carried out. A total of 326 kindergarten and primary students joined the activities.

(9) Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools

A new education programme – “Nature in Touch” Country Parks Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools has been launched since January 2012. In May 2012, a total of 942 secondary students from 49 schools participated in the Guided Field Study at Lions Nature Education Centre, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve and Shing Mun Country Park. The contractor guides the students to understand the concept and importance of the biodiversity, nature conservation and sustainable development in Hong Kong with the use of worksheets provided in “Hong Kong Country Parks Education Kit for Secondary Schools”.

(10) School Guided Eco-Tours Service 2012

The department organized free guided tours to schools from May to June 2012. Through the activity, students can learn about the geology, ecology and cultural heritage in the High Island, Sharp Island and Jin Island in Sai Kung. A total of 140 primary and secondary students from 11 groups participated in the Guided Tour. The programme will be resumed in October to December 2012.

(11) “Country Parks Orienteering” Programme

From March to June 2012, the department organized the “Country Parks Orienteering” programme for students to experience orienteering and to learn about the country parks. A total of 29 schools 690 students participated.

(12) Hiking and Planting Day 2012

In order to promote public awareness on nature conservation and tree preservation, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Friends of the Country Parks has jointly hold the Country Parks “Nature in Touch” Hiking and Planting Day in April and May 2012. A total of 3,308 participants planted 6,000 trees in Fu Tei, Tai Lam Country Park and Sheung Miu Tin, Plover Cove Country Park.

(13) Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre Opening Ceremony

Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre Opening Ceremony was held on 1 June 2012 with 56 guests presented. The Centre comprises three themed exhibition galleries introducing Hong Kong's precious natural resources and biodiversity, multi-function conference room, resources centre, activity room and a nature trail. The Centre aims to foster public awareness, knowledge and understanding the inherent value of Hong Kong's biodiversity assets and to marshal public support and action for nature conservation.

(14) Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre Opening Ceremony cum Book Launching Ceremony of Country Parks Tree Walks

Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre was re-opened on 14 July 2012 after renovation. The Exhibition Gallery of the Centre is composed of four themes, namely, history of Shing Mun Country Park; mining activity; war relics; and biodiversity in Shing Mun Country Park. The Centre is designed to provide a self-learning platform for students and the general public and to arouse their awareness of the importance of nature conservation. The opening ceremony was held together with the Book Launching Ceremony of "Country Parks Tree Walks", a total of 42 guests presented. Covering 96 species of trees and other interesting plants commonly found in tree walks of Hong Kong country parks, this book, Country Parks Tree Walks, is written in plain language and includes photographs and illustrations showing the features of each plant.

(15) Enquiries

Enquiries concerning Country Parks were received and handled. Details are listed below:

Nature	May 12	Jun., 12	Jul., 12	Aug., 12	Total
Information on public transport	2,666	2,475	3,473	3,253	11,867
Information on hiking routes	2,622	2,548	3,145	2,575	10,890
Location of recreation facilities	1,279	1,254	1,540	1,284	5,357
Location of utility facilities	1,238	1,245	1,540	1,166	5,189
Location of scenic places and similar information	2,576	1,565	2,002	1,618	7,761
Organized activities	871	876	1,034	730	3,511
Others *	1,897	2,481	2,501	2,306	9,185
Total	13,149	12,444	15,235	12,932	53,760

\* Mainly related to Pak Tam Chung barrier permit, coach permit, country parks publications, fishing licence, wild animals, marine parks, cycling permits, ordinances and regulations, dog vaccination.

(16) Advice

Advice was given to 134,251 visitors in the Country Parks as follows:

Nature	May 12	Jun., 12	Jul., 12	Aug., 12	Total
Littering	34,097	28,670	33,520	37,796	134,083
Illegal cycling	5	6	0	0	11
Illegal entry of vehicle	9	7	0	0	16
Others	36	29	39	37	141
Total	34,147	28,712	33,559	37,833	134,251

(17) Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	May 12	Jun., 12	Jul., 12	Aug., 12	Total
First aid	7	7	173	4	191
Handicapped persons	228	215	254	256	953
Search and rescue	4	3	155	2	164
Return of lost properties	6	3	3	2	14
Others	0	0	0	1	1
Total	245	228	585	265	1,323

(18) Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	May 12	Jun., 12	Jul., 12	Aug., 12	Total
Pamphlets	7,324	6,565	6,436	5,822	26,147
Posters	131	63	81	73	348
Bookmarks	292	48	68	72	480
Transportation/Scenic Cards	47	0	29	22	98
Booklets	1,338	1,291	1,620	1,821	6,070
Others	160	124	65	59	408
Total	9,292	8,091	8,299	7,869	33,551



## B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

### 1. FACILITIES

As at 31.8.2012, the following facilities had been installed in marine parks and marine reserve:

Facilities	Constructed/replaced between 1.5.2012 – 31.8.2012	Total nos. at 31.8.2012
Signs (various warnings)	2 (replaced)	128
Park signs	1 (replaced)	21
Signs (various purposes)	-	52
Boundary marker buoy	-	14
Marker buoy	-	38
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	-	205
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	-	4
Mooring buoy for divers	22 (replaced)	32
Boundary posts	-	17
Sign posts	-	21
Information board	-	6
Litter bins	-	21
Banners	-	2
Way marks	-	10

### 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVICE

During the report period, a total of 532 advices and 121 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 22 prosecutions were taken against offenders in marine parks and marine reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution	Nos. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure Fishing	16	11	9,700
Collection of Marine Organisms	2	5	2,700
Possession of Illegal Fishing Devices	2	2	1,600
Vessel Activities in Marine Reserve	2	1	400
Total	22	19	14,400

2.2 A joint enforcement operation with Fisheries Enforcement Agency of Guangdong Province and Hong Kong Marine Police had been carried out on 10 May 2012 to combat illegal cross-boundary fishing activities at Mirs Bay. AFCD inspected and intercepted 7 mainland vessels involving 11 mainland fishermen during this operation. The vessels were found within Hong Kong waters and none was reported in the marine park areas. With the assistance of Hong Kong Marine Police, all the arrested fishermen and their fishing vessels were returned to Mainland counterparts. The joint enforcement operation is considered successful.

### 3. LITTER COLLECTION

During the report period, the amount of litter collected in marine parks and marine reserve is as follows:

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Nos. of tonnage (1.5.2012 – 31.8.2012)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	18.40
Yan Chau Tong	18.86	(19.39)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	25.50	(25.17)
Tung Ping Chau	48.14	(48.78)
Cape D'Aguilar	2.81	(8.31)
Total	113.71	(118.82)

( ) denotes figures of same period last year

### 4. FISHING PERMITS

Number of fishing permits renewed during the report period:

Marine Park	Nos. of renewal	Total nos. of valid permits (as at 31.8.2012)
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW)	0	9
Yan Chau Tong (YCT)	2	21
HHW & YCT	2	65
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	3	99
Tung Ping Chau (TPC)	6	37
TPC & HHW	0	5
TPC & YCT	0	4
TPC & HHW & YCT	8	177
Total	21	417

Starting from 1 May 2005, the validity period of renewed fishing permit is 2 years.

## 5. MONITORING

### 5.1 Water Quality Monitoring

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was commissioned to carry out water quality monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve in 2011-12. The results are generally good and in compliance with the Water Quality Objectives. A summary result of water quality statistics of 2007 – March 2012 has been uploaded onto the AFCD's homepage ([http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou\\_vis/cou\\_vis\\_mar/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_mon/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_mon\\_wat.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_mon/cou_vis_mar_mon_wat.html)).

### 5.2 Fishing Survey

5.2.1 Fishing survey at Cape D' Aguilar Marine Reserve continued. The objective is to investigate the long-term enhancement effect of the marine reserve on fisheries resources. The recent result showed that the Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish remain stable inside the marine reserve and is higher than surrounding waters.

5.2.2 Quarterly fishing surveys at Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks have been carried out to monitor the fish stocks in the three marine parks. The Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish inside the marine park are general better than outside the marine parks area.

### 5.3 Dolphin Sightings

Off-effort dolphin sighting were conducted during the course of patrol of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. It was evident that Chinese White Dolphins utilize the marine parks and the waters around as usual.

## 6. EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 During the report period, there was a decrease in visitors' number in Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Parks. The decrease may be the result of more frequent adverse weather (number and duration of typhoon) when compared with the same period in the last year. While an increase was recorded for Tung Ping Chau Marine Park, which may be attributed to the shift in interest to geological scenic spots due to the announcement of Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, which surpassed the weather effect. The number of visitors in marine parks during the report period are as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors (1.5.2012– 31.8.2012)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	25,462
Yan Chau Tong	12,614	(18,544)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	3,871	(5,858)
Tung Ping Chau	29,324	(27,784)
Total	71,271	(84,113)

( ) denotes figures of same period last year

6.2 During the period from 1.5.2012 – 31.8.2012, a total of 349 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facilities	81
Education activities	164
Renewal for fishing permit	96
Ordinance and Regulation	3
Refuse and Hygiene Condition	5
Total	349

6.3 During the report period, a total of 7,008 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Leaflets	2,736
Bookmarks	1,952
DVD	7
Field Guide	66
Information Card	120
Posters	2,000
Others	127
Total	7,008

6.4 During the report period, a total of 79 educational activities involving 2,990 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. of participant
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	19	614
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Commercial Tours	7	174
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	19	161
School Guided Tour	16	454
School Seminar	8	1,040
Field Study	3	66
Coastal Cleanup	1	19
Marine Parks Visitor Code Promotion	1	120
Public Seminar on Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources 2012	5	342
Total	79	2,990

6.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Code Promotion, Hong Kong Reef Check 2012 Opening Ceremony, Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition 2012 – Underwater Photography Workshop, and Yan Chau Tong Marine Park Coastal Cleanup. A total of 36 ambassadors joined the above activities.

Marine Parks Visitor Code Promotion was held on 19 August 2012 at Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park. The activity aimed to promote the Marine Parks Visitor Code and educate the visitor how could they help to conserve the ocean. A total of 10 Marine Parks Ambassador joined the activity to assist the Division to distribute the visitor code card and answer the enquiries about Marine Parks. Through the activity, the ambassadors explained the background and works of Marine Parks in Hong Kong to 120 visitors.

6.6 Marine Parks Division organize a series of Public Seminar on Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resource every year. Different marine ecologists are invited to share the wonderful marine world in Hong Kong with the citizens. Five seminars were organized in July and August 2012 at Hong Kong Cultural Centre with 342 participants.

6.7 Marine Parks Division has launched “Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong” for all secondary schools starting from October 2010. During the report period, 19 tours were held with 614 participants. To advance the sustainability of the Marine Based Guided Tours for long-term livelihood of the fishermen, the Division has coordinated the development of commercial tours for open public since October 2011. During the report period, 7 commercial tours were held with 174 participants.

6.8 Up to 31 August 2012, a total of 81 Marine Parks Ambassadors had completed 20 hours services; 33 Ambassador had completed 40 hours services; 20 Ambassadors had completed 70 hours services; 13 Ambassadors had completed 100 hours services, 6 Ambassadors had completed 150 hours services and 1 Ambassador 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 August 2012, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 6,024 hours.

**C. Performance Pledges**

**Performance Results – April to June 2012**

Item	Service/Application	Target turn around time	No. of Applications	No. of Applications Meeting Targets	% of Applications Meeting Targets
	<b><u>Conservation</u></b>				
1	Plant Collection Permit	3 working days	1	1	100%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	131	131	100%
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b><u>Country and Marine Parks</u></b>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	254	254	100%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	77	77	100%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	66	66	100%
6	Permit to hold Sports Competition in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
7	Permit to hold Public Event in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100%</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>100%</b>

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
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