

Country and Marine Parks Board

Preparation of Draft Map of the Proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to seek Members' views on the draft map of the proposed marine park at Southwest Lantau in accordance with Section 7(4) of the Marine Parks Ordinance (the Ordinance).

2. Background

2.1 The Government announced in 2000 a plan to designate the waters of Southwest Lantau as marine park for the protection of Chinese white dolphins (CWD) and for the long-term conservation of the marine environment there.

2.2 To take forward the proposal, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted extensive consultation exercises from 2000 to 2002 and again in 2009. In the exercises, fishermen organisations and Rural Committees expressed strong reservations about the management measures proposed for Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP), worrying that the designation of the new marine park would further reduce the fishing grounds in Hong Kong waters, and therefore did not support the proposal.

2.3 In response to the public concern about protection of CWD, the Government re-affirmed in early September 2014 its commitment to the designation of SWLMP. The Government aims to proceed with the designation expeditiously in order to enhance the CWD conservation programme implemented by AFCD.

2.4 During the period between 2014 and 2016, AFCD carried out a detailed study on the design and management of SWLMP, as well as another round of public consultation on the proposal. Findings of the detailed study and views gathered in the public consultation have been taken into consideration in designing the boundary and management plan of the proposed marine park.

3. Latest Development

3.1 The Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) was briefed on the proposal to designate SWLMP in its meetings in October 2014, June 2015 and March 2016, and

members showed general support to the proposal. The Marine Parks Committee (MPC) of CMPB was also briefed on the proposal on 19 February 2016, and the MPC in principle supported the proposal.

3.2 In August 2016, the Chief Executive in Council has directed, in accordance with section 7(1) of the Ordinance, the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) to prepare a draft map showing the proposed SWLMP.

4. Naming of the Proposed Marine Park

4.1 For the purpose of preparing the draft map, it is proposed to name the proposed marine park as “Southwest Lantau Marine Park” (大嶼山西南海岸公園).

5. The Draft Map

5.1 The draft map of the proposed SWLMP, together with the explanatory statement which shall be part of the map and the supplementary information, have been prepared for members’ comment (**Annex 1**). The proposed SWLMP comprises a total sea area of about 650 hectares.

5.2 The boundary of the proposed SWLMP as shown in the draft map is the same as that presented in the CMPB meeting on 22 March 2016 (Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2016).

5.3 Subject to members’ comments, the draft map of the proposed SWLMP along with the explanatory statement and the supplementary information will be made available for public inspection in accordance with Section 8 of the Ordinance.

6. Management

6.1 The proposed management plan of SWLMP is similar to the management plans for the existing marine parks in Hong Kong. The maximum speed limit of vessels within SWLMP is 10 knots, as stipulated in the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A). In parallel, AFCD is conducting a review of fisheries management measures in marine parks with a view to identifying suitable enhancement measures. Subject to the recommendations of the review, such enhancement measures will be included in the management plan of SWLMP as appropriate. With the designation of SWLMP and the implementation of the management plan, this will help protect CWD and other marine life within the area.

It will also bring long-term improvements to the local marine environment.

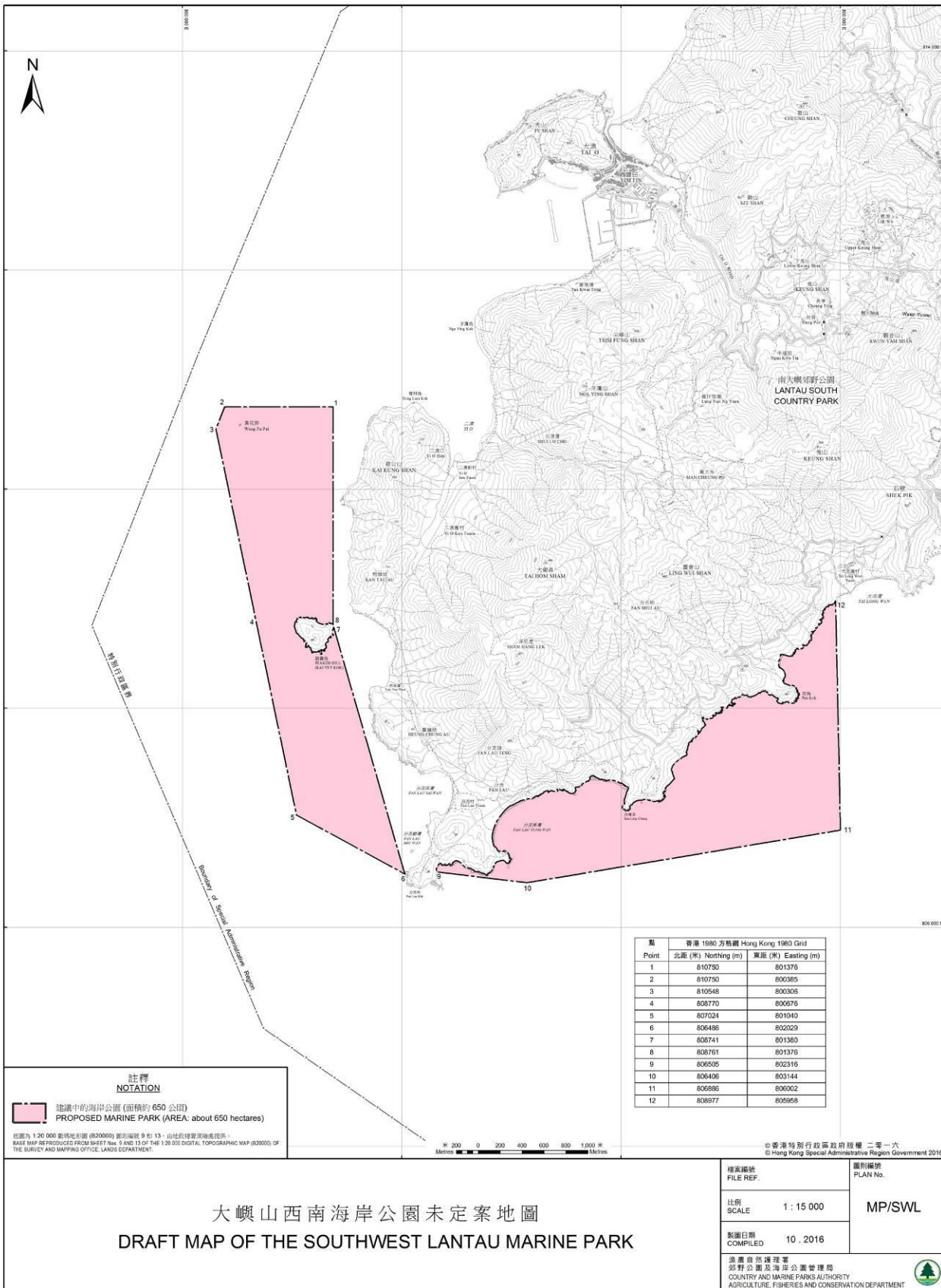
7. Way Forward

7.1 During the public inspection of draft map in accordance with Section 8 of the Ordinance, if the Authority receives any written statement of objection to the draft map, the Authority may submit his representations concerning such objection to CMPB for conducting a hearing of the objection. Afterwards, the Authority would submit the draft map together with the objections and representations and the amendments made with a view to meeting such objections, if any, to the Chief Executive in Council for approval with an aim to completing the statutory procedures for designating SWLMP by 2018.

8. Advice sought

8.1 Members are invited to comment on the draft map of the proposed SWLMP and take note of the way forward for the designation of SWLMP.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
April 2017



**Draft Map of the Southwest Lantau Marine Park
Explanatory Statement**

Authority

1. This statement forms part of the draft map of the Southwest Lantau Marine Park (“the Marine Park”) prepared by the Country and Marine Parks Authority (“the Authority”) in accordance with Section 7 of the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476).

Location and Boundary

2. The Marine Park is located in the southwestern waters of Lantau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and covers two sea areas of about 650 hectares.

3. The Marine Park includes coastal area below the high water mark. The seaward boundary of the Marine Park is shown in the draft map. The landward boundary will be demarcated with reference to the high water mark along the coastline of Peaked Hill and the Southwest Lantau.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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**Draft Map of the Southwest Lantau Marine Park
Supplementary Information**

Ecological Value

1. The waters around the Southwest Lantau are important habitats for the Chinese White Dolphin.

Environmental Monitoring, Education and Publicity

2. Ecological and water quality monitoring will be carried out to monitor the marine resources within the Marine Park. Education and publicity programme will be provided for the public. On-site advisory notices, signs and interpretation materials will also be placed at appropriate locations.

Recreation

3. Apart from conservation and education, recreation is also one of the major functions of designating a marine park. However, recreational activities that are detrimental to the ecology of the area and the health of the Chinese White Dolphins, such as water skiing, water scooting and jet skiing, will be prohibited in the Marine Park.

Management and Enforcement

4. The Authority will implement suitable management and control measures at the Marine Park. Staff of the Authority will patrol the Marine Park and take law enforcement action whenever necessary.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
April 2017