

**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 8 December 2014. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

**2. Installation of Coral Marker Buoys at Sharp Island, Shelter Island and South Ninepin Island**

2.1 Members were briefed by the consultant on the background, details and way forward of the proposal.

2.2 Members noted that the sites at Sharp Island, Shelter Island and South Ninepin Island supported high coverage and species diversity of coral communities with some uncommon coral species. Owing to high boating and recreational usage of those areas, a relatively high coral damage had been reported. To alleviate the coral damage problem of those areas, the AFCD proposed to install coral marker buoys at appropriate locations of each of those sites to mark off areas with high coral coverage and bring this to the attention of the marine users and boat operators, reminding them to avoid anchoring in those areas. The AFCD had already consulted the key stakeholders on the proposal, including diving communities and some local fishermen, and the representatives of those two sectors supported the proposal.

2.3 Members noted that the coral marker buoys were to be installed for coral protection outside the marine park as such buoys could serve to demarcate the extent of coral areas and notify marine users, including divers and fishermen, to avoid anchoring in these areas. In this connection, the coral marker buoys were to be installed as an advisory measure to marine users and boat operators, reminding them not to anchor in the areas concerned. The AFCD would carry out regular sea patrols to record the level of compliance of the system and ecological monitoring to assess the health condition of the corals within the marker installed areas. The experience of installing coral marker buoys at Ung Kong Wan, Sharp Island and Port Island over the past decade showed that fishermen and boat operators were aware of such

measure and operative in this regard. The measures had been proven to be effective and helped alleviating the coral damage by boat anchors significantly.

2.4 Members noted that the consultant had consulted the stakeholders and monitored water recreational and boating activities at the proposal sites. All proposed sites were very near the coastline to avoid fairways and waters utilised by high speed vessels, and the installation of such buoys would not impose any restrictions and adverse impacts on water recreational and boating activities such as diving and surface navigation with the coral marker area.

2.5 Members generally supported the proposal on installation of coral marker buoys at Sharp Island, Shelter Island and South Ninepin Island. The Chairman suggested the AFCD seek advice from the Marine Department on the feasibility and safety issues of installing coral marker buoys at the said three proposal sites, and strengthen publicity to the stakeholders by informing them of the installation of coral marker buoys at the aforesaid locations.

### **3. Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition 2014**

3.1 Members were briefed on the background, results and post-competition events of the Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition 2014 and had a look of the winning entries.

### **4. Report on Release of Red Grouper Fingerlings in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park**

4.1 Members were briefed on the background, purpose, release programme, post-release monitoring surveys, preliminary monitoring results and way forward of the release of red grouper fingerlings in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park.

### **5. Any Other Business**

5.1 A member shared two of his study reports on the ecological risks borne by the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve.

5.2 A representative of the AFCD briefed the meeting on the proposal of the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong on revising the boundary of the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park and the Department's response.

**6. Presentation**

6.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

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