

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to inform Members of the major issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee (MPC) meeting held on 5 November 2024.

2. Introduction of Management Measures in the New North Lantau Marine Park

2.1 The North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) was established on 1 November 2024. In the new marine park, in addition to implementing management measures similar to those of existing marine parks in Hong Kong, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) also implemented a series of measures related to marine ecology and fisheries enhancement, including strengthening sea enforcement, education and publicity, long-term ecological and water quality monitoring and encouraging scientific research. Together with other enhancement measures adopted by the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK), the AFCD hoped that the new marine park could better conserve the habitats of Chinese White Dolphin and the marine environment.

2.2 Some Members suggested strengthening publicity and education for fishermen, as well as collaboration with the Mainland. The AFCD and AAHK had been promoting and explaining information about the new marine park to stakeholders through various channels. Regarding the conservation of Chinese White Dolphins, the AFCD regularly exchanged information and its work progress with the Mainland at the meeting of the Hong Kong–Guangdong Marine Resources and Conservation Special Panel and maintained liaison with the management authority of Pearl River Estuary Chinese White Dolphin National Nature Reserve. Both sides were preparing for the establishment of the Guangdong–Hong Kong Chinese White Dolphin protection cooperation platform with the aim to strengthen exchanges and collaboration between the two places on management monitoring, ecological survey and research as well as natural science education and promotion.

3. Symposium on Coral Conservation in Hong Kong 2024

3.1 In September 2024, the AFCD organised the Symposium on Coral Conservation in Hong Kong. Experts from Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas were invited to share their

views and experiences in coral conservation in different places and exchange views with the participants about coral conservation and related education work.

3.2 Members suggested the AFCD to explore further collaboration with the Greater Bay Area and adjacent regions in scientific research and education with a view to restoring corals and enhancing the marine environment. Depending on the availability of resources, the AFCD would suitably expand the scope of coral conservation. The AFCD would also explore the feasible ways of strengthening collaboration with different regions and parties, as well as striving to organise a regional symposium or international conference on coral conservation again.

4. Presentation

4.1 This paper is prepared for Members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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