

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.8.2013 – 31.12.2013)

**A. Country Parks & Special Areas**

**I. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

	Progress	Anticipated Completion Date
(1) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant House and Associated Sewage works at Lions Nature Education Centre, Sai Kung	Works commenced on 15 July 2013.	January 2014.

II. RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

(1) Management Services

Refuse collected (tonnes)

Year	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2012	246	246	441	357	360	1,650
2013	229	318	402	403	411	1,763

Path maintained/upgraded	552	Km
No. of trees planted	290,100	No.
No. of trees produced in the nursery	290,100	No.
No. of trees tended	318,000	No.

(2) Provision of Facilities

Item	Total at 31.12.2013	Item	Total at 31.12.2013
Barbecue Site	178	Fitness Equipment	104
Picnic Site	169	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Flushing Toilet	49
Morning Walker Garden	25	No. of Portable Toilet	118
Information Board	355	Warden Post	16
Shelters	289	Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	9
Play Equipment	42		

(3) Fire Protection

The 2013-2014 fire season commenced on 14.9.2013:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		( )		( )		( )
Aug., 13	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Sep., 13	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Oct., 13	7	(6)	293.50	(37.50)	80	(3,200)
Nov., 13	1	(2)	45.00	(11.50)	0	(2,440)
Dec., 13	7	(2)	15.75	(3.25)	4,230	(0)
Total	15	(10)	354.25	(52.25)	4,310	(5,640)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

III. VISITOR STATISTICS

During the report period there was an overall decrease of 13.69% of visitor number compared with the corresponding period of last year. The monthly breakdown is as below:

Year	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2012	964,000	977,000	1,169,000	1,146,000	1,339,000	5,595,000
2013	747,000	814,000	1,065,000	1,132,000	1,071,000	4,829,000
% change	-22.51%	-16.68%	-8.90%	-1.22%	-20.01%	-13.69%

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 372 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	90 <sup>#</sup>
Camping in non-designated site	34
Illegal entry of bicycle	139
Illegal entry of vehicle	74
Damaging and cutting of plant	8
Spitting	1 <sup>#</sup>
Illegal possession of fire-ballon (Hung Ming Lanterns)	13
Fouling by dog faeces	1 <sup>#</sup>
Illegal use of fire	4
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal constructing of building or shelter	2
Illegal feeding of monkey	2
Illegal hawking	1
Total	372

Remarks: \*No. of cases denotes the number of persons being prosecuted during the reporting period. Total fines for the period is \$243,900, which also includes the fines partly collected from cases carried forward from previous reporting periods and partly from current period. There is no unsuccessful prosecution case in the reporting period.

<sup>#</sup> Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

V. ORGANIZED EVENTS

In the report period, 272 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events (mainly sporting activities) in country parks.

Aug., 13	Sep., 13	Oct., 13	Nov., 13	Dec., 13	Total
26	36	68	79	63	272

## VI. CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 47 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 34 of them, the other 13 were being processed. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

## VII. EDUCATION/VISITOR SERVICES

### (1) Visitor Centres

A total of 375,237 persons visited the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. In which, 161,117 persons visited Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan and Plover Cove Country Parks Visitor Centres; 21,571 persons visited Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; 170,496 persons visited Lions Nature Education Centre and 22,053 persons visited Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

### (2) Guided Tour

A total of 1,026 participants from 30 groups and schools joined the guided tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; 360 participants from 12 groups and schools joined the guided tours at Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre, 840 participants from 27 groups and schools joined the guided tour at Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; 364 participants joined the guided tours at Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre; 1,020 participants joined the guided tours at Pineapple Dam Nature Trail; and 511 participants joined the guided walk at Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

### (3) Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. At present, there are 835 volunteers and trainees participate in various nature conservation and education activities of the country parks. From 1 August to 31 December 2013, total volunteer service-hour is 23,808 hours.

### (4) School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2013-14 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. From November to December 2013, a total of 3,363 students from 37 kindergartens participated.

### (5) Great Outdoors Hong Kong

The hiking event is co-organised by the department and Hong Kong Tourism Board. A total of 525 people joined the hike and launching ceremony at the Peak on 10 November 2013 while another 580 people joined the hike at Lung Mun Country Trail on 29 December 2013.

### (6) "Country Parks Orienteering" Programme

From October 2013 to May 2014, the department organises the "Country Parks Orienteering" programme. The students will use compass, map and GPS to find all of the orienteering points within a fixed period of time and require to answer each orienteering point's question. A total of 145 students from six schools participated from October to December 2013.

(7) Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day 2013

On 17 November 2013, the department participated in the Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day 2013 organised by Civil Aid Service. A game booth was set at Sau Mau Ping Shopping Centre with a total of 2,670 participants.

(8) Enquiries

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

Nature	Aug.,	Sep.,	Oct.,	Nov.,	Dec.,	Total
Information on public transport	2,887	2,899	3,593	3,291	3,394	16,064
Information on hiking routes	2,302	1,779	3,250	2,606	2,619	12,556
Location of recreation facilities	941	893	1,143	1,095	1,200	5,272
Location of utility facilities	1,098	1,144	1,455	1,447	1,434	6,578
Location of scenic places and similar information	925	894	1,066	1,052	1,096	5,033
Organized activities	516	509	651	634	739	3,049
Others *	1,649	1,484	2,270	2,146	2,317	9,866
Total	10,318	9,602	13,428	12,271	12,799	58,418

\* 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.

(9) Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Aug.,	Sep.,	Oct.,	Nov.,	Dec.,	Total
First aid	4	2	10	6	6	28
Handicapped persons	17	8	18	15	23	81
Search and rescue	0	0	0	0	1	1
Return of lost properties	5	2	4	0	3	14
Others	1	2	0	0	1	4
Total	27	14	32	21	34	128

(10) Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Aug.,	Sep.,	Oct.,	Nov.,	Dec.,	Total
Pamphlets	4,944	4,765	6,192	5,309	9,394	30,604
Posters	61	139	190	126	125	641
Bookmarks	17	15	23	43	88	186
Booklets	979	1,018	1,494	1,234	2,151	6,876
Others	44	0	98	0	2	144
Total	6,045	5,937	7,997	6,712	11,760	38,451

## B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

### 1. FACILITIES

As at 31.12.2013, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Constructed/replaced between 1.8.2013 – 31.12.2013	Total nos. at 31.12.2013
Sign (various warnings)	12 (replaced)	130
Park sign	-	21
Sign (various purposes)	-	52
Boundary marker buoy	-	14
Marker buoy	4 (replaced)	36
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	4 (replaced)	205
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	-	4
Mooring buoy for divers	5 (replaced)	28
Boundary post	-	17
Sign post	-	21
Information board	2 (replaced)	8
Litter bin	12 (replaced)	15
Banner	-	2
Way mark	-	10

### 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVICE

2.1 During the report period, a total of 1,940 advices and 36 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 10 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution	Nos. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	8	2	1,600
Fishermen fishing without permit	2	-	-
Total	10	2	1,600



2.2 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Marine Police (Marpol) and China Fishery Law Enforcement (Kwangtung Province) carried out a 24-hour Joint Enforcement Operation from 10 – 11 October 2013. Both Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and Marine Police deployed 10 and 21 patrol vessels respectively in Hong Kong waters. Meanwhile, China Fishery Law Enforcement (Kwangtung Province) deployed 15 patrol vessels for carrying out the patrolling in the operation. In the operation, both Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and Marpol inspected 67 fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters. One registered local vessel was found breaching the conditions on the license and 4 other fishing vessels fishing illegally in Hong Kong waters was returned to China Fishery Law Enforcement (Kwangtung Province). No illegal fishing was reported within the marine parks and marine reserve areas.

### 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 (1.8.2013 – 31.12.2013)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	29.18
Yan Chau Tong	21.38	(22.68)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	35.15	(31.33)
Tung Ping Chau	59.82	(60.10)
Cape D'Aguiar	4.97	(3.75)
Total	150.50	(140.52)

( ) 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 31.12.2013)
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW)	1	10
Yan Chau Tong (YCT)	8	22
HHW & YCT	22	64
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	46	80
Tung Ping Chau (TPC)	15	49
TPC & HHW	2	5
TPC & YCT	0	4
TPC & HHW & YCT	61	175
Total	155	409

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

## 5. MONITORING

### 5.1 Water Quality Monitoring

Enviro Labs Limited has been commissioned to carry out water quality monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve in 2013-14. The results are generally good and in compliance with the Water Quality Objectives. A summary result of water quality statistics of 2011 – Decemember 2013 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 continues. The objective is to investigate the long-term enhancement effect of the marine reserve on fisheries resources. The recent result shows that the Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) and the diversity of fish remain stable inside the marine reserve and are relatively higher than the 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 fisheries stocks in the 3 marine parks. The Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) 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 has been conducted during the course of patrol of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. There is evident that Chinese White Dolphins utilize the marine parks and the waters around as usual.

## 6. EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 The number of visitors in Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park increases while those in the rest of Marine Parks have dropped comparing with the same period of last year. The number of visitors during the report period is as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors (1.8.2013 – 31.12.2013)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	24,334
Yan Chau Tong	13,489	(15,386)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	2,861	(1,947)
Tung Ping Chau	31,077	(37,762)
Total	71,761	(79,595)

( ) denotes figures of same period last year

6.2 During the period from 1.8.2013 – 31.12.2013, a total of 330 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facility	106
Education activity	115
Renewal for fishing permit	103
Ordinance and Regulation	6
Total	330

All enquiries have been resolved.

6.3 During the report period, a total of 113 educational/publicity activities involving 2,904 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. servicing Ambassador	Total nos. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	24	-	192
School Guided Tour	9	-	253
School Seminar	2	-	45
Public Seminar on Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources 2013	3	-	92
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	57	-	1,735
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Commercial Tours	14	-	511
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Coastal Cleanup	1	14	14
Reef Check Closing Ceremony	1	9	9
Basic Training Course	1	-	30
Visitor Code Promotion	1	23	23
Total	113	46	2,904

6.4 During the report period, a total of 779 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Leaflets	182
Bookmarks	595
DVD	2
Total	779

6.5 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, 57 tours were held with 1,735 participants.

6.6 To enhance the public awareness on the marine conservation work in Hong Kong, the Marine Parks Division organizes a series of Public Seminar on Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources in every summer. During the report period, 3 public seminars were held with 92 participants.

6.7 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Tung Ping Chau Marine Park Coastal Cleanup Activity, Reef Check Closing Ceremony and visitor code promotion. A total of 46 ambassadors joined the above activities.

6.8 Up to 31 December 2013, a total of 97 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 35 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 21 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 13 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 9 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 3 Ambassadors 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 December 2013, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 7,311 hours.

**C. Performance Pledges**

**I. Performance Results – July to September 2013**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Service/Application</b>	<b>Target turn around time</b>	<b>No. of Applications</b>	<b>No. of Applications Meeting Targets</b>	<b>% of Applications Meeting Targets</b>
	<b><u>Conservation</u></b>				
1	Plant Collection Permit	3 working days	4	4	100%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	141	141	100%
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b><u>Country and Marine Parks</u></b>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	390	390	100%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	67	67	100%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	88	88	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>545</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>100%</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>100%</b>

II. Performance Results - October to December 2013

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	4	4	100%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	349	349	100%
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b><u>Country and Marine Parks</u></b>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	422	422	100%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	73	73	100%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	82	82	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>577</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>100%</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>100%</b>

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
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