

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.9.2014 – 31.12.2014)

**Purpose**

This paper aims to provide Members a general overview on management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority during the period between 1.9.2014 – 31.12.2014. It provides various figures and information for facilitating Members to discuss and offer advice to the Authority regarding the management of country and marine parks.

**A. Country Parks & Special Areas**

**1. Country Parks Management**

**1.1 Management Services**

Routine maintenance of all recreational facilities within county parks and special areas was carried out regularly for public enjoyment. Major country parks facilities provided and amount of refuse collected are shown below for reference.

**Major facilities provided for public enjoyment**

Item	Total at 31.12.2014	Item	Total at 31.12.2014
Barbecue Site	177	Shelters	291
Picnic Site	167	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Flushing Toilet	49
Morning Walker Garden	21	No. of Portable Toilet	118

**Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)**

Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14	Total
307	377	388	385	1,457

## 1.2 Fire Protection

The 2014-2015 fire season commenced on 6.9.2014. Detailed figures are summarized below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Sep., 14	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Oct., 14	4	(7)	12	(293.50)	990	(80)
Nov., 14	0	(1)	0	(45)	0	(0)
Dec., 14	3	(7)	4.7	(15.75)	20	(4,230)
Total	7	(15)	16.7	(354.25)	1,010	(4,310)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

## 1.3 Organized Event

In the report period, 306 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events in country parks. Most of these events were related to sport competition, location filming and raising funds for charity.

## 1.4 Control of Development

A total of 37 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 19 of them, the other 17 were being processed and one was cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

## 2. Visitor Services/Education

### 2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,510,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Month	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14
No. of Visitors	790,000	993,000	1,549,000	1,178,000

## 2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 7,063 persons joined the guided tours organized by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarized below:-

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14
Lions Nature Education Centre	19,008	30,232	48,584	49,376
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	7,358	8,142	9,802	8,518
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	1,913	2,467	3,437	4,018
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	899	2,850	1,791	1,860
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,628	4,503	3,718	3,668
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	1,995	4,492	4,524	4,380
Aberdeen Tree Centre	566	955	987	725
Volcano Discovery Centre	10,020	13,939	10,250	6,718

## 2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarized below:-

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14
No. of volunteers/ trainees	900	900	900	900
Total volunteer service hours	1,610.5	3,398.5	4,892	4,393

## 2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2014-15 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarized below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,036
Primary Schools	2,391
Secondary Schools	319

## 2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organized in the reporting period are summarized below:-

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants	Remarks
Country Parks Education Programme Roving Exhibitions	25-28 September 2014 2-5 October 2014 6-9 November 2014	33,400	—
Country Parks Waste Reduction Day	26 October 2014	870	—
“Seasons • Excursions” Country Parks Photography Competition and Public Voting	15 April - 31 December 2014	182 Entrants 5,106 Votes	—

## 2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14
First aid	23	25	26	15
Handicapped persons	46	52	42	25
Search and rescue	0	0	1	1
Return of lost properties	0	1	2	0

## 2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14
Pamphlets	4,419	5,442	5,495	5,325
Posters	105	68	70	66
Booklets	1,137	1,431	1,396	1,291

### 3. Law Enforcement

A total of 341 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. A breakdown of offences is summarized below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	129
Illegal entry of vehicle	92
Illegal possession of fire-ballon (Hung Ming Lanterns)	4
Illegal use of fire	5
Damaging and cutting of plant	3
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal displaying banner/sign	1
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	2
Camping outside designated camping site	32
Littering	48 <sup>#</sup>
Illegal feeding of monkey	22
Total	341

Remarks: \* No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

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

## B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

### 1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

#### 1.1 Facilities

As at 31.12.2014, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total nos. at 31.12.2014	Facilities	Total nos. at 31.12.2014
Sign (various warnings)	137	Mooring buoy for divers	31
Park sign	20	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	44	Sign post	10
Boundary marker buoy	14	Information board	12
Marker buoy	50	Litter bin	16
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	116	Banner	0
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	3	Way mark	20

#### 1.2 Litter

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				
	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	5.50	5.54	4.69	6.33	22.06
Yan Chau Tong	4.06	4.72	4.64	3.90	17.32
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	6.99	6.97	6.33	6.97	27.26
Tung Ping Chau	5.25	3.92	3.87	3.69	16.73
Cape D'Aguilar	0.72	0.72	0.75	0.80	2.99
Total	22.52	21.87	20.28	21.69	86.36

## 2. Visitor Services / Education

### 2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, the number of visitors is as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors				
	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	4,207	5,763	4,255	3,641	17,866
Yan Chau Tong	1,237	2,194	2,612	1,982	8,025
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	127	163	654	312	1,256
Tung Ping Chau	2,124	2,894	6,061	3,013	14,092
Total	7,695	11,014	13,582	8,948	41,239

### 2.2 Enquiries

During the period from 1.9.2014 – 31.12.2014, a total of 112 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.				
	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14	Total
Park facilities	8	8	6	4	26
Education activities	7	6	11	17	41
Renewal for fishing permit	18	11	12	4	45
Total	33	25	29	25	112

All enquiries have been resolved.

### 2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 925 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.				
	Sep., 14	Oct., 14	Nov., 14	Dec., 14	Total
Leaflets	100	50	50	50	250
Bookmarks	22	0	194	130	346
Others	0	51	184	94	329
Total	122	101	428	274	925

## 2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 59 educational/publicity activities involving 1,561 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. servicing Ambassador	Total nos. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	11	-	68
School Guided Tour	6	-	160
School Field Study	2	-	49
School Seminar	5	-	328
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	26	-	745
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Commercial Tours	8	-	206
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Hong Kong Reef Check 2014 closing ceremony	1	5	5
Total	59	5	1,561

2.5 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, 26 tours were held with 745 participants.

2.6 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Hong Kong Reef Check 2014 closing ceremony. A total of five ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.7 Up to 31 December 2014, a total of 108 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 39 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 22 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 13 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, nine Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and three 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 2014, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 7,875.5 hours.



### 3. Law Enforcement and Advice

During the report period, a total of 2,431 advices and 73 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 15 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	8	3,100
Vessel activity	0	1	300
Other	7	3	2,400
Total	15	12	5,800

### C. Advice Sought

Members are invited to comment on the management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority in country and marine parks.

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
January 2015