

Country and Marine Parks Board
Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 19 February 2016. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

2. Preliminary Boundaries and Management Plans of the Proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park and Soko Islands Marine Park

2.1 Representatives from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) informed members that having consulted different stakeholders, the preliminary boundary of the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP) and Soko Islands Marine Park had been revised. Members were briefed on the details of the revised boundaries of the two proposed marine parks.

2.2 The representatives from AFCD explained that the revisions of the preliminary boundaries of SWLMP were to address the requests made by the local villagers and to ensure the safety of marine traffic of the area concerned. The revised boundary would also cover the important habitat of dolphins at Kau Ling Chung. The representatives of AFCD also indicated that having considered the marine transport needs of the local villagers and the fact that the inshore area near Peaked Hill was not an important habitat of dolphins, it was proposed to reserve a water channel between the eastern boundary of SWLMP and the coastline to address the request of the villagers.

2.3 Members expressed their views on the revised boundaries of the proposed marine parks and future management and enforcement to be carried out by the Authority. The representatives from AFCD responded to members' concerns. After discussion, the Committee showed general support to the revisions of the preliminary boundaries of the two proposed marine parks.

3. Results of Hong Kong Reef Check 2015

3.1 A representative from AFCD briefed members on the findings of the Hong Kong Reef Check 2015. Members enquired about the reasons for the decline in coral coverage in some sites and requested AFCD to take appropriate follow-up actions.

3.2 In response to members' enquiries, the representative from AFCD indicated that except individual sites where signs of bio-erosion were observed, the sites with slight variation of coral coverage might be due to the deviation of survey results in different years. According to the relevant data collected in previous years by the department, the coral coverage in these sites was rather stable. As for those sites with signs of bio-erosion, AFCD was working with local academic institutes to conduct research with a view to identifying the causes and proposing the solutions.

3.3 After discussion, the Committee expressed support for the department to organise this large scale nature conservation activity annually.

4. Any Other Business

- (a) Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park
- (i) Visitor Centre

4.1 Representatives from the Architecture Services Department (ArchSD) gave an introduction on the designs of the proposed visitor centre at the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park at the meeting. Members put forward comments and enquiries on the possible use of renewable energy in the facility and ways of ensuring smooth visitor flow after the completion of the visitor centre. The representatives from ArchSD and AFCD responded to members' enquires and views at the meeting.

- (ii) Bio-erosion Issue

4.2 A representative from AFCD briefed members on the bio-erosion recently detected at the waters near Moon Island within the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park. Members were advised that AFCD would keep on working with local academic institutes and coral experts to study the bio-erosion problem and identify measures to help mitigate the issue.

(b) Report on Work Progress of Designation of the Proposed Brothers
Marine Park

4.3 Members were informed that the draft map of the proposed Brothers Marine Park had been made available for public inspection from 12 February to 11 April 2016 and the corresponding statutory procedures were expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

5. Advice sought

5.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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