

**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 21 March 2017. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

**2. Proposed Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre – Progress and Latest Development**

2.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) briefed members on the progress and latest development of the proposed construction of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre (MPVC), while the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) presented the proposed design and facilities of the MPVC.

2.2 Members noted that AFCD had conducted consultation exercises since 2014 to collect comments from the key stakeholders, including the Hoi Ha villagers, education sectors and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park users, on the proposed design and education activities of the MPVC. The latest design, which was enhanced based on the major comments/ suggestions received, was supported by the major stakeholders including Tai Po District Council. Members were also informed that the construction works of the MPVC was expected to commence in mid-2017 and to be completed by late-2018.

2.3 Members supported the proposed design of the MPVC, and appreciated that it had adopted the contemporary “open” design which created a good indoor-outdoor connection and blended in well with the natural environment. They had given some suggestions on the green building design, exhibitions and education activities. They also suggested that AFCD should look into the security issue and first aid arrangement in the next steps. Overall speaking, the proposed design of the MPVC received positive feedbacks from the members.

### **3. Any Other Business**

#### **(a) Consultancy Study on Review of Fisheries Management Measures in Marine Parks**

3.1 AFCD informed members that a consultancy study (the Study) would be conducted to review the existing fisheries management measures in marine parks and investigate possible enhancement measures. The Study would include the existing and proposed marine parks and commence in late March 2017 for a period of 9 months. There would be two rounds of public consultation gathering the views of major stakeholders.

3.2 AFCD answered members' enquiries on the current marine park fishing permit system, including the arrangement in succession and restricted transfer of permits. AFCD briefed members the concerns of fishermen that the practice of issuing permits only to fishermen from eligible homeports under the existing fishing permit system had resulted in polarisation of fishermen. Hence, the Study would aim at addressing fishermen's concerns and promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, and at the same time without compromising the conservation objectives of marine parks.

3.3 In response to members' suggestions on imposing moratorium and minimum size limit for caught fish in the fisheries management of marine parks, AFCD explained that each measure has its benefits and limitations in implementation, but they would not pre-empt any measure at this stage. The Study would review local and international practices in fisheries management in marine protected areas and make recommendations on holistic management strategy and appropriate fisheries enhancement measures in consultation with stakeholders.

#### **(b) Issues Related to Increased Visitors at the Marine Reserve**

3.4 Recent news reported that the increasing number of visitors to the Cape D' Aguilar Marine Reserve (Marine Reserve) had caused disturbance to the research projects of the Swire Institute of Marine Science (SWIMS) and potentially increased disturbance to the Marine Reserve. AFCD took the opportunity to brief members the boundary of the Marine Reserve (covering mainly the waters below high tide marks but not the terrestrial rocky shore or other land areas in Cape D'Aguilar) and the activities that are prohibited in the Marine Reserve.

3.5 AFCD informed members that they had been conducting regular patrols and law enforcement in the Marine Reserve. Notice boards and warning signs had been erected at suitable locations to remind visitors to comply with the rules and regulations in visiting the Marine Reserve. In view of the recent increase of visitors to the adjacent area of the Marine Reserve, AFCD had stepped up patrol to monitor the activities in the Marine Reserve, remind visitors of the function of the Marine Reserve and to conserve the ecological environment. AFCD would liaise closely with SWIMS to explore appropriate measures with a view to improving the current situation.

#### **4. Advice sought**

4.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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