

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.9.2015 – 31.12.2015)

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 1.9.2015 – 31.12.2015. It provides various figures and information for facilitating members to understand 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 no. as at 31.12.2015	Item	Total no. as at 31.12.2015
Barbecue Site	171	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	161	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	102
Morning Walker Garden	24	Portable Toilet	118

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15	Total
300	344	388	378	1,410

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2015-2016 fire season commenced on 26.9.2015. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Sep., 15	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Oct., 15	3	(4)	8.1	(12)	580	(990)
Nov., 15	2	(0)	2.2	(0)	80	(0)
Dec., 15	0	(3)	0	(4.7)	0	(20)
Total	5	(7)	10.3	(16.7)	660	(1,010)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 288 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold 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 44 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 10 of them, the other 32 were being processed and two were cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electricity supply and slope works.

2. Visitor Services/Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,940,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Month	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15
No. of Visitors	967,000	1,262,000	1,491,000	1,220,000

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 12,139 persons joined the guided tours organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarised below:-

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15
Lions Nature Education Centre	29,032	31,104	61,320	53,056
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,847	6,985	9,388	6,745
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	2,705	4,780	3,515	3,351
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	1,284	1,821	2,222	1,290
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	2,723	2,621	2,497	2,449
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	2,806	5,608	4,896	4,755
Aberdeen Tree Centre	890	1,107	1,263	784
Volcano Discovery Centre	9,942	11,683	11,286	10,723

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 summarised below:-

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15
No. of volunteers/ trainees	862	862	862	862
Total volunteer service hours	3,516	2,680	3,626	4,535

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2015-16 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarised below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	2,751
Primary Schools	380
Secondary Schools	1,644

2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:-

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants	Remarks
“Take Your Litter Home” Kick-off Ceremony cum Waste Reduction Day	20 September 2015	1,677	Ceremony, Game Stalls, Guided Tours
“Take Your Litter Home” Photo Exhibitions & Public Lectures	September to December 2015	9,205 (Exhibitions) 85 (Public Lectures)	—
“Red Leaves Festival” At Tai Lam Country Park	6 to 27 December 2015 (Sundays & Public Holidays)	5,435	Guided Tour, Workshop, Game Stalls
The Beauty of Lantau Country Parks – Photo Competition, Best Scenic Site Selection and Exhibition	1 June 2015 to 31 December 2015	2,298	—

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15
First aid	8	9	21	12
Handicapped persons	0	0	0	1
Return of lost properties	5	5	8	3

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15
Pamphlets	4,065	5,264	5,249	4,356
Posters	128	113	111	122
Booklets	784	786	1,188	1,026

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 339 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 summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	146
Illegal entry of vehicle	75
Illegal possessing of cooking stove	1
Illegal use of fire	4
Damaging and cutting of plant	4
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal displaying banner/sign	1
Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter	5
Illegal constructing/excavating of grave	3
Camping outside designated camping site	23
Littering	1 [△] + 44 [#]
Illegal feeding of monkey	30
Others	1
Total	339

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

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

△ Summons.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.12.2015, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2015	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2015
Sign (various warnings)	134	Mooring buoy for divers	24
Park sign	20	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	55	Sign post	10
Boundary marker buoy	14	Information board	12
Marker buoy	50	Litter bin	16
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	133	Banner	-
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	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	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)				
	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	6.24	7.28	5.66	4.64	23.82
Yan Chau Tong	4.98	5.04	3.68	4.52	18.22
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	9.91	9.66	8.97	8.28	36.82
Tung Ping Chau	7.95	8.02	8.30	8.36	32.63
Cape D'Aguilar	1.46	0.50	1.47	1.38	4.81
Total	30.54	30.50	28.08	27.18	116.30

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

During the report period, the number of visitors is as follows:

Marine Park	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	4,913	3,694	3,498	2,427	14,532
Yan Chau Tong	1,185	1,810	2,145	1,609	6,749
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	407	114	287	130	938
Tung Ping Chau	3,897	2,683	4,508	2,302	13,390
Total	10,402	8,301	10,438	6,468	35,609

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 79 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15	Total
Park facilities	2	9	2	2	15
Education activities	11	6	4	3	24
Renewal for fishing permit	13	6	9	11	39
Ordinance and regulations	1	-	-	-	1
Total	27	21	15	16	79

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 1,340 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Sep., 15	Oct., 15	Nov., 15	Dec., 15	Total
Leaflets	-	6	6	60	72
Bookmarks	11	14	203	-	228
Others	-	400	600	40	1,040
Total	11	420	809	100	1,340

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 20 educational/publicity activities involving 235 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	11	-	28
School Guided Tour	3	-	90
School Seminar	2	-	60
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Code Promotion	1	7	7
Lamma Fisherfolks Village Visit	1	11	11
North-east Geopark Visit	1	29	29
Hong Kong Reef Check 2015 Closing Ceremony	1	10	10
Total	20	57	235

2.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park visitor code promotion, Lamma fisherfolks village visit, North-east geopark visit and Hong Kong Reef Check 2015 closing ceremony. A total of 57 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 31 December 2015, a total of 116 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 45 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 24 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 16 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 11 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and four 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 2015, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 8,652 hours.

3. **Law Enforcement and Advice**

During the report period, a total of 7,935 advices and two verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 17 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution	No. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	16	3	3,500
Other	1	-	-
Total	17	3	3,500

During the report period, the prosecution cases are not necessarily the same as the completed hearing cases.

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
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