

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.11.2016 – 28.2.2017)

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 1.11.2016 – 28.2.2017. 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 28.2.2017 | Item | Total no. as at 28.2.2017 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbecue Site | 170 | Shelter | 292 |
| Picnic Site | 160 | Refreshment Kiosk | 8 |
| Camp Site | 41 | Public Toilet | 109 |
| Morning Walker Garden | 20 | Portable Toilet | 114 |

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

| Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 | Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| 342 (388) | 400 (378) | 360 (301) | 289 (293) | 1,391 (1,360) |

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2016-2017 fire season started on 10.9.2016. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

| Month | No. of fires inside or threatening country park | | Area affected (Ha) | | No. of trees affected | |
|------------|---|-----|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | () | | () | | () |
| Nov., 2016 | 0 | (2) | 0 | (2.2) | 0 | (80) |
| Dec., 2016 | 3 | (0) | 1.02 | (0) | 50 | (0) |
| Jan., 2017 | 4 | (2) | 188.00 | (16) | 230 | (0) |
| Feb., 2017 | 5 | (2) | 37.02 | (109) | 420 | (10,530) |
| Total | 12 | (6) | 226.04 | (127.2) | 700 | (10,610) |

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 304 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 53 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 20 of them, the other 30 were being processed and three 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 5,206,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

| Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1,313,000 (1,491,000) | 1,548,000 (1,220,000) | 1,303,000 (1,106,000) | 1,042,000 (1,074,000) | 5,206,000 (4,891,000) |

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 9,315 persons joined the guided tours organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. Besides, 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 | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 |
| Lions Nature Education Centre | 61,584 | 53,720 | 25,536 | 24,774 |
| Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre | 8,449 | 8,220 | 5,565 | 3,745 |
| Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre | 8,825 | 14,143 | 10,823 | 9,458 |
| Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre | 6,860 | 9,022 | 7,491 | 6,019 |
| Ngong Ping Nature Centre | 2,297 | 3,098 | 2,032 | 1,524 |
| Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre | 5,143 | 6,672 | 7,163 | 6,692 |
| Aberdeen Tree Centre | 991 | 1,276 | 1,294 | 1,014 |
| Volcano Discovery Centre | 10,622 | 12,318 | 10,232 | 12,995 |
| Total | 104,771 | 108,469 | 70,136 | 66,221 |

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 | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| No. of volunteers/ trainees | 818 | 818 | 665 | 665 |
| Total volunteer service hours | 2,821 | 4,684 | 2,171 | 2,627 |

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2016-17 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 | 3,829 |
| Primary Schools | 2,555 |
| Secondary Schools | 896 |

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" Publicity Programme | November 2016 to February 2017 | 67,598 | Including exhibitions, game booth, lectures and other promotion activities |
| "Salute to Nature" Country Parks Roving Exhibitions | 1-4 December 2016 13-16 January 2017 10-13 February 2017 17-20 February 2017 | 28,168 | Including exhibitions, workshop and game booth |
| "Red Leaves Festival" at Tai Lam Country Park | 4 December 2016 to 8 January 2017 (Sundays & Public Holidays) | 15,496 | Including guided tour, photo exhibition, workshop and game booths |
| Green Walk cum Family Fun Day | 18 December 2016 | 980 | Including storytelling, orienteering, green games, workshop and game booths |

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

| Nature | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| First aid | 13 | 13 | 10 | 9 |
| Handicapped persons | 5 | 6 | 0 | 5 |
| Return of lost properties | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 |

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

| Nature | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Pamphlets | 4,042 | 4,436 | 3,270 | 2,620 |
| Posters | 36 | 38 | 128 | 79 |
| Booklets | 426 | 444 | 458 | 488 |

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 376 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 | 143 |
| Illegal entry of vehicle | 122 |
| Illegal use of fire | 15 |
| Damaging and cutting of plant | 6 |
| Illegal digging of soil | 1 |
| Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter | 3 |
| Illegal carrying on business activity (filming) | 1 |
| Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane | 1 |
| Camping outside designated camping site | 44 |
| Littering | 14 [#] |
| Spitting | 1 [#] |
| Illegal feeding of monkey | 25 |
| Total | 376 |

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

[#] Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

The Brothers Marine Park was designated on 30 December 2016 and became the fifth marine park in Hong Kong. It is situated in the northern Lantau waters and covers a total sea area of about 970 hectares. The new marine park serves to better protect the Chinese White Dolphins, their habitats and enhance the marine and fisheries resources in the region.

1.1 Facilities

As at 28.2.2017, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

| Facilities | Total no. as at 28.2.2017 | Facilities | Total no. as at 28.2.2017 |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sign (various warnings) | 142 | Mooring buoy for divers | 25 |
| Park sign | 21 | Boundary post | 17 |
| Sign (various purposes) | 50 | Sign post | 10 |
| Boundary marker buoy | 19 | Information board | 13 |
| Marker buoy | 52 | Litter bin | 16 |
| Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone | 133 | Banner | 0 |
| 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) | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 | Total |
| Hoi Ha Wan | 7.78 (5.66) | 8.06 (4.64) | 8.63 (6.20) | 7.02 (5.99) | 31.49 (22.49) |
| Yan Chau Tong | 3.86 (3.68) | 5.06 (4.52) | 3.62 (5.30) | 3.58 (4.20) | 16.12 (17.70) |
| Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau | 11.62 (8.97) | 9.13 (8.28) | 9.41 (9.20) | 9.11 (8.88) | 39.27 (35.33) |
| Tung Ping Chau | 8.70 (8.30) | 7.80 (8.36) | 8.07 (8.19) | 7.73 (8.03) | 32.30 (32.88) |
| Cape D'Aguilar | 1.58 (1.47) | 1.38 (1.38) | 1.22 (1.52) | 0.81 (1.64) | 4.99 (6.01) |
| Total | 33.54 (28.08) | 31.43 (27.18) | 30.95 (30.41) | 28.25 (28.74) | 124.17 (114.41) |

() denotes figures of same month last year.

Note: There has been an increment in the frequency of litter collection by our contractors within Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, i.e. increasing from 3 times per week to 4 times per week in the reporting period.

Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

| Marine Park | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 | Total |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Hoi Ha Wan | 2,855 (3,498) | 2,362 (2,427) | 1,831 (2,267) | 2,643 (2,081) | 9,691 (10,273) |
| Yan Chau Tong | 2,158 (2,145) | 1,950 (1,609) | 1,663 (1,489) | 1,575 (1,842) | 7,346 (7,085) |
| Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau | 203 (287) | 218 (130) | 158 (100) | 241 (185) | 820 (702) |
| Tung Ping Chau | 1,450 (4,508) | 2,939 (2,302) | 2,733 (1,673) | 2,172 (1,325) | 9,294 (9,808) |
| The Brothers* | -- | -- | 313 | 634 | 947 |
| Total | 6,666 (10,438) | 7,469 (6,468) | 6,698 (5,529) | 7,265 (5,433) | 28,098 (27,868) |

() denotes figures of same month last year. *Statistic of The Brothers started from January 2017.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 132 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

| Nature | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 | Total |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| General information | 0 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| Park facilities | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Education activities | 8 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 33 |
| Renewal for fishing permit | 10 | 5 | 12 | 41 | 68 |
| Ordinance and regulations | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 24 | 19 | 36 | 53 | 132 |

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 581 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

| Items | Nov., 2016 | Dec., 2016 | Jan., 2017 | Feb., 2017 | Total |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Bookmarks | 150 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 198 |
| Posters | 10 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 38 |
| Leaflets | 100 | 100 | 35 | 110 | 345 |
| Total | 260 | 130 | 55 | 136 | 581 |

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 23 educational/publicity activities involving 342 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 | 9 | | 41 |
| School Guided Tour | 4 | | 120 |
| School Seminar | 4 | | 126 |
| Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme | | | |
| Yan Chau Tong Marine Park questionnaire survey | 1 | 9 | 9 |
| Reef Check closing ceremony 2016 | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| West Brother Visit | 1 | 16 | 16 |
| Tung Ping Chau coastal cleanup | 1 | 11 | 11 |
| Marine Parks Ambassador Training Workshop | 1 | 9 | 9 |
| Marine Life Drawing Competition prize presentation ceremony 2016 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Total | 23 | 55 | 342 |

2.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Yan Chau Tong Marine Park questionnaire survey, Reef Check closing ceremony 2016, West Brother Visit, Tung Ping Chau coastal cleanup, Marine Life Drawing Competition prize presentation ceremony 2016. And one training workshop was organised within the report period. A total of 55 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 28 February 2017, a total of 130 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 47 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 28 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 16 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 12 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and five 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 February 2017, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 9,382 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

During the report period, a total of 3,161 advices and 19 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 16 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

| Nature of offence | No. of prosecution | No. of completed hearing | Fines (HK\$) |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Pleasure fishing | 5 | 1 | 1,500 |
| Other | 11 | 2 | 3,200 |
| Total | 16 | 3 | 4,700 |

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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