

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 25 March 2014. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised as follows.

2. The Proposed Marine Park at The Brothers

2.1 Members were briefed by the representatives from the Highways Department and its consultant on the background information and the detailed study of the proposed Brothers Marine Park (BMP) for protection and enhancement of Chinese White Dolphin (CWD) habitats within the area. The dolphin expert from the consultant then elaborated the distribution of the CWD at the north-eastern waters of Lantau Island and the dolphin habitat index adopted in the study.

2.2 Members noted that the objectives of the study included the enhancement and reinforcement of the CWD habitat near the waters of The Brothers, and design of the proposed location and size of BMP, etc. The study included design of the marine park boundary, ecological enhancement measures and the marine park management plan, etc.

2.3 Members in general supported the proposed designation of the marine park, while some members were concerned about the impacts on the sustainable development of the Hong Kong fisheries brought about by the proposal. A member also noted that a number of on-going and planned developments were near the waters of The Brothers and worried that this would have significant impacts on its ecological environment and breeding of the CWD's favourite fish, resulting in a gradual departure of CWD from the waters. Members were informed that AFCD would issue marine park fishing permits to eligible fishermen so that they could continue fishing in BMP. By doing so, a balance between conservation and the impact on fishermen could be maintained. In addition, when conducting an environmental

impact assessment for the proposed development works in the neighbouring area, the party concerned should study the compatibility between such works and BMP to ensure that the proposed works would not undermine the ecological environment of the marine park. According to an observation over 10 years at Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, it was found that with effective management, Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park remained an important habitat for CWD, even though its surrounding environment had been changed. In addition, upon the designation of the proposed marine park, there would be no more development works in the waters. This would provide appropriate protection for CWD, thus increasing their chances of returning to the waters.

2.4 A member suggested that the cumulative environmental impacts on the proposed marine park arising from the Airport Three-Runway System reclamation and the proposed diversion of the existing undersea aviation fuel pipelines running between the Sha Chau Aviation Fuel Receiving Facility and the Airport should also be taken into consideration at the macro level.

2.5 Members noted that the Highways Department would consult the Committee again on the revised boundary of the proposed marine park and its management plan.

3. Release of Red Grouper Fingerlings in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park

3.1 Members were briefed on the background and proposal of the release of red grouper fingerlings in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park (YCTMP). Members were informed that with limited fishing activities and the protected status of YCTMP, the released fingerlings should have suitable habitats and a better degree of protection from threats e.g. fishing or habitat destruction. In view of the above, artificial reefs of YCTMP is a suitable site for restocking of Red Grouper.

3.2 Members noted that AFCD would monitor the status of YCTMP and the released fingerlings with a view to monitor and conduct assessments on the restocking programme. AFCD would make reference to the experience of the proposal before considering larger-scale restocking programmes in Hong Kong waters in the future.

4. Progress Report on Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

4.1 A representative of AFCD presented the work of the Country and Marine Parks Authority in marine parks and marine reserve during the period from 1 October

2013 to 30 January 2014. Members noted the content of the paper.

5. Presentation

5.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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