

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of the major issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee (MPC) meeting held on 1 April 2021.

2. Benthic Habitat Mapping of Tung Ping Chau Marine Park - Progress Report

2.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) commissioned a study on benthic habitat mapping for Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (TPCMP) (hereinafter referred to as “the Study”), which involved researchers from the City University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Education University of Hong Kong. The Study, which commenced in August 2018, aimed to conduct a comprehensive literature review on benthic habitat mapping methods, produce a benthic habitat map of geomorphic structures and biological coverage of TPCMP, develop a detailed benthic habitat mapping protocol that is suitable for Hong Kong local waters, and recommend appropriate long-term monitoring measures.

2.2 In the meeting, representatives of the study team briefed members on the study area and methodology, the preliminary results of the benthic habitat mapping, and recommendations for future habitat monitoring and mapping studies. Members noted that the Study was the first benthic habitat mapping of such scale in Hong Kong. They appreciated the study team’s efforts and considered that the Study was valuable as it provided baseline data for continuous assessment of the condition of the key habitats. Members suggested that AFCD should continue to strengthen the monitoring and enforcement efforts to protect the ecologically significant habitats.

2.3 AFCD noted members' suggestion and indicated that the Study was a baseline investigation which enhanced the knowledge about the location and distribution of the important habitats in TPCMP. The findings would be helpful in planning monitoring studies and formulating strategies to better protect these habitats. Besides, AFCD elucidated to members the law enforcement efforts and strategies to combat unauthorised activities in marine parks.

3. Diversity of Sea Slugs in Hong Kong - Review

3.1 AFCD commissioned The Swire Institute of Marine Science, The University of Hong Kong to conduct a desktop review on the diversity of sea slugs in Hong Kong from June to December 2020. In the meeting, the research team briefed members on the review findings and made recommendations with regard to further research studies, publicity and education.

3.2 During the discussion session, the project team answered members' questions concerning sea slugs and their interactions with the environment. Members suggested conducting an extensive investigation to understand the existing diversity of sea slugs in Hong Kong and implementing a citizen science programme to complement the investigation as well as to serve educational purposes.

4. Advice sought

4.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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