

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 meeting held on 13 May 2025.

2. Restocking Plan for 2025

2.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) planned to organise three fish restocking activities for public participation in 2025. The first activity would be a launching ceremony at the Tai Po Wholesale Fish Market on 6 June, the National Fish Release Day, followed by a fish restocking operation at Tung Ping Chau Marine Park and in nearby waters adjacent to Shenzhen. The other two activities would take place in September, and the AFCD would invite participants from members of the religious groups, students and the Legislative Council. Through introduction and on-site observation, participants would gain an understanding of scientific restocking. The restocking activities for this year would include various new elements. Apart from joint restocking with the Shenzhen authority and larger-scale activities, the number of species and the quantity of fish for release would also increase. The AFCD would explore conducting fish restocking exercises through different approaches and at different locations, inviting collaborations from more institutes/organisations, and expanding promotional channels.

2.2 Members commended the AFCD for the fish restocking activities organised in the previous year, and supported incorporating new elements into the activities for 2025. A Member suggested the AFCD considering different ways to help the public better understand the benefits of fish restocking for improving fisheries resources and conserving the marine environment. They also recommended strengthening education and promotion, such as expanding public participation in restocking activities, enhancing educational outreach at popular fish release sites and sharing the results and data from the past fish restocking exercises. Regarding the way forward for the development of fish restocking exercises, the AFCD would optimise the fish restocking arrangements on a continuous basis and identify

more suitable species and locations for release, while suitably increase the number of species and quantity of fish for release, and modify the restocking approaches to enhance public participation. The AFCD would also formulate restocking guidelines for reference by those who wished to organise or conduct scientific restocking, while strengthening public education to enhance public understanding of scientific restocking and help them develop proper concepts of animal release. In the long term, the AFCD hoped to conserve and enhance the local fisheries resources through continuous implementation of restocking exercises.

3. AOB – Promotional Activities for North Lantau Marine Park

3.1 The AFCD reported on a series of promotional and educational activities rolled out through different channels since the establishment of the North Lantau Marine Park on 1 November 2024. Such activities included the kick-off ceremony of Treasures of the Western Waters at the Hong Kong International Airport, publication of posts in social media, distribution of educational booklets and production of promotional videos.

4. AOB – Coral Restoration Projects and Public Participation Activities in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park

4.1 The AFCD had been supporting two active coral restoration projects. The first was the coral restoration activity organised by Archireef since May 2025, which allowed student-led deployment of coral fragments to 3D-printed reef tiles. The second was the pilot test of coral nursery with sexually propagated coral juveniles, which had been commissioned to The Chinese University of Hong Kong and commenced in the first quarter of 2025.

4.2 Members opined that both approaches had their own merits and could effectively restore corals. The AFCD pointed out in particular that the project on the student-led deployment of 3D-printed reef tiles was the first coral conservation project in a marine park where social resources were utilised, and the use of sexually propagated coral juveniles in coral restoration can help enhance the genetic diversity of corals.

5. Presentation

5.1 This paper is prepared for Members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

May 2025