

Country and Marine Parks Board
Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper informs members of issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 1 November 2012. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

2. Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition 2012

2.1 Members were briefed on the details of the Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition 2012. Members were informed that the competition aimed at promoting the natural beauty of marine life in Hong Kong waters and enhance the public awareness to conserve the marine environment.

2.2 Members noted that the competition comprised two photo categories “Marco & Close up Group” and “Standard & Wide Angle Group” as well as a video category. All entries must feature marine ecology, habitats or marine life in Hong Kong waters and they must be taken during the period from 1 October 2011 to 17 September 2012. The competition was well-received with a total of 270 entries submitted. A champion, a first runner-up, a second runner-up and 10 outstanding awards were selected for each category. All winners were awarded either a trophy or a certificate. The list of winners and their winning entries could be viewed at AFCD’s website.

3. Survey of Juvenile Fish Resources at the Three Marine Parks at Northeast Hong Kong

3.1 Members were briefed by the researchers on the survey. Members were informed that the study aimed at updating the juvenile fish resources in the three marine parks in Northeastern Hong Kong (Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park), and evaluate their nursery role, as well as the potential of fish stock replenishment. Such information would provide useful basis for devising effective management plans for conserving important juvenile fish resources in the marine parks.

3.2 Members noted that juvenile fish habitats included mangrove wetlands (in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park), macroalgal beds (Sargassum beds) (in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park), seagrass beds (in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park) and coral communities (in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park).

4. The Management and Enforcement Work in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve of Hong Kong

4.1 Members were briefed on the management and enforcement work in marine parks and marine reserve. Members were informed that five major tools were used for management of marine parks and marine reserve in Hong Kong: (1) zoning system, (2) permit system, (3) habitat monitoring, (4) education and publicity; and (5) provision of facilities.

4.2 Members noted that AFCD would patrol all marine parks and marine reserve on a daily basis and at irregular hours to deter illegal fishing activities and other unauthorised activities in order to protect the marine environment and marine life from threat and disturbance. In collaboration with the Enforcement Unit of the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Oceans and Fisheries, AFCD had since 2002 started to take joint enforcement actions against illegal cross-border fishing activities. From 2005 onwards, the Hong Kong Marine Police also joined in to conduct tripartite enforcement actions. The joint law enforcement operations aimed at conserving the ecological resources and maintaining law and order in waters bordering Hong Kong and Guangdong, and strengthening enforcement experience of the both sides in combating offences such as fishing without a valid permit, destructive fishing practices and smuggling.

4.3 A member suggested that a buffer zone should be designated in conjunction with the high water mark in planning new marine parks in the future. The buffer zone should be imposed on the coastal boundary.

4.4 A member proposed to educate and promote to local communities and schools near marine parks the ways to enhance conservation in marine parks including adjusting their lifestyle.

5. Progress Report on Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

5.1 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 June to 30 September 2012. Members noted the content of the paper.

6. Presentation

6.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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