

Codes for visiting coral areas

For all visitors:

- Do not collect, disturb or hurt any marine organisms including corals;
- Do not touch any corals and other marine life. Some organisms can be potentially dangerous;
- Do not step on corals while walking along the coast during low tide;
- Do not feed marine animals;
- Do not litter or pollute the environment;
- Respect our marine environment, learn about the characteristics of corals, and join and support marine conservation activities;
- Never anchor your vessel in coral areas;
- Sail slowly and exercise special care in coral areas, and avoid sailing in shallow coral areas.



For snorkellers and divers:

- Make sure all diving equipment is securely attached;
- Check the seabed environment before entering the water to avoid stepping on corals;
- Beginners should practise diving and snorkelling techniques away from coral areas, and should dive over sand until they have mastered buoyancy control;
- Proactively seek for improvement in buoyancy control skills;
- Do not conduct any scuba diving training in coral areas;
- Conduct snorkelling instead of scuba diving when visiting shallow coral areas;
- Check if you are weighted correctly before diving, and practise buoyancy control away from coral areas;
- Do not rest or stand on corals;
- Constantly check with your companion, and alert each other to any unintentional impact caused on marine biota;
- Avoid touching anything with your fins and stirring up sediment;
- Avoid hovering over or leaning on corals when taking underwater photographs;
- Do not swim into narrow crevices, small depressions and very shallow water where coral formations are found;
- Allow enough turn-around space when diving in crevices or other semi-open areas;
- Do not spearfish;
- While bathing on the boat or near the beach, avoid using shampoo or soap to reduce pollution of seawater; take a short shower and do not waste water.



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如欲得到更多有關護理珊瑚的資料，請瀏覽漁護署網站。

http://www.afcd.gov.hk/tc_chi/conservation/con_mar/con_mar_cor/con_mar_cor.html

For more information on coral conservation, please visit AFCD's website:

http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_mar/con_mar_cor/con_mar_cor.html

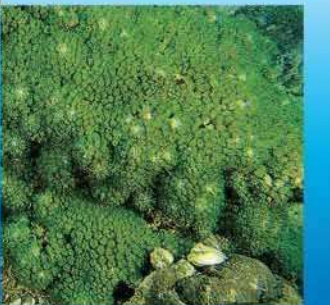
June 2013

保護香港的珊瑚區

PROTECT THE CORAL AREAS IN HONG KONG

在珊瑚區進行水肺潛水和 徒手潛水的守則

Visiting Coral Areas Codes
for SCUBA Divers and Snorkelers



漁農自然護理署
Agriculture, Fisheries
and Conservation Department



Hong Kong Underwater Association

香港的珊瑚

香港位於印度太平洋熱帶地區的北面邊緣，沒有巨大的珊瑚礁結構。全港的可造珊瑚共有84個品種，來自12科和28屬，一般依附於岩石和石床上生長，所形成的珊瑚群落沿岸散布。由於有天然屏障保護，而且不受珠江淡水影響，香港東面水域孕育了豐富的珊瑚群落。

與珊瑚礁一樣，大型珊瑚群落的初級生產力極高，為各種海洋生物提供食物及棲身之處。依靠珊瑚群落生存的海洋動物為數眾多，在本港岩石生境和珊瑚群落附近錄得的魚類品種，計有三百多種。珊瑚區亦是多種甚具商業價值的漁業資源，例如魚、蝦、蟹、貝類等的重要產卵及育苗場地。

珊瑚生長緩慢，易受傷害，對海洋環境的轉變相當敏感。各種滋擾如船隻停泊和水上康樂活動等，都有可能令珊瑚受損。為此，各界必須齊心協力，共同保護珊瑚這個重要的海洋物種。



水肺潛水人士和徒手潛水人士如何保護珊瑚？

水肺潛水及徒手潛水，是體驗和探索美麗而獨特的海底世界最常用的方法。雖然潛水人士一般不會故意破壞珊瑚群落，但無心之失卻時有發生。作為一個負責任的珊瑚區訪客或潛水人士，你有義務協助保護珊瑚和其他珍貴的海洋資源，確保其他人有同等機會欣賞這些美景。珊瑚區各訪客在觀賞繽紛多彩的海洋世界時，務須遵循以下的保護海洋守則，讓香港的珊瑚群落得到妥善的保護。

Corals in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is located at the northern edge of the tropical Indo-Pacific region. Neither giant calcium carbonate framework nor true reef structures can be found in Hong Kong waters. The reef-building corals in Hong Kong, which consist of 84 species under 28 genera and 12 families, are usually attached to boulders and bedrocks, forming scattered fringing coral communities along the coast. The richest coral communities prevail in the eastern waters which are sheltered and free from the influence of freshwater from the Pearl River.

Similar to coral reefs, large coral communities have high primary productivity and support a great diversity of marine life by providing them with habitats and food. The coral-associated marine animals in Hong Kong are diverse. Over 300 fish species have been recorded around local rocky habitats and coral communities. Coral areas are also important spawning and nursery grounds of many commercially significant fisheries resources, such as fish, shrimps, crabs and shellfish.

Corals are delicate and slow-growing marine animals. They are sensitive to changes in the marine environment and vulnerable to all kinds of physical disturbance such as boat anchoring and recreational activities. Your support and effort in conserving this important member of our marine ecology are of vital importance.



What SCUBA divers and snorkellers should do to conserve corals?

Scuba diving and snorkelling are the most popular ways to experience and explore the unique and beautiful underwater world. While deliberate damage to coral communities is rare, accidental damage by divers can occur. As a responsible visitor or diver to coral areas, you have the responsibility to help conserve the corals and associated marine resources so that other people can also enjoy such precious environment. When you are appreciating the beauty of the coral areas, please adhere to the following codes to ensure the sustainability of corals in Hong Kong.

暢遊珊瑚區守則

所有訪客：

- 切勿收集、騷擾或傷害任何海洋生物，包括珊瑚；
- 切勿觸摸珊瑚或其他海洋生物，某些生物可能具危險性；
- 退潮期間沿岸邊步行時，切勿踐踏珊瑚；
- 切勿餵飼海洋動物；
- 切勿亂拋垃圾或污染環境；
- 尊重海洋環境，認識珊瑚特性，參與和支持海洋護理活動；
- 切勿在珊瑚區內下錨；
- 在珊瑚區內須格外小心，船隻應低速航行，避免駛往淺水珊瑚區。



徒手潛水人士和水肺潛水人士：

- 確保已繫固潛水裝備；
- 入水前檢查海床環境，以免誤踏珊瑚；
- 初學者應在遠離珊瑚區之處練習水肺和徒手潛水技巧，如浮力控制技巧尚未純熟，應在沙土海床潛水；
- 積極改善浮力控制技巧；
- 切勿在珊瑚區內進行水肺潛水訓練；
- 在淺水珊瑚區活動時，請以徒手潛水代替水肺潛水；
- 潛水前，應檢查負重是否正確，練習浮力控制時應遠離珊瑚區；
- 切勿在珊瑚上站立或休息；
- 經常與潛伴互相檢查，並提醒對方注意有否無意間對海洋生物造成傷害；
- 避免用蛙鞋觸碰任何東西和攪動沉積物；
- 拍攝水底照片時，避免在珊瑚附近徘徊或倚着珊瑚；
- 切勿游進有珊瑚形成的狹窄縫隙、細小凹陷處及淺水處；
- 潛入縫隙或其他半開放水域時，預留足夠的轉動空間；
- 切勿用魚叉或刺槍捕魚；
- 在船隻或海灘附近沐浴時避免使用洗髮水或肥皂，以減少海水污染；縮短淋浴時間，節約用水。