

Appendix 7b.17

Detailed Description of Spot Check Dive Results at Cheung Sha

1. Introduction

1.1 In order to facilitate the above work, laying of two pairs of 132kV submarine cables (5.7 km) beneath seabed from Shek Kwu Chau to CLP Power Grid at Tai Long Wan was proposed. The scope of this dive survey is to covering the intertidal area of the proposed portals and coastal area of the proposed alignment.

2. Methodology

Spot-check Reconnaissance Dives

2.1 Spot-check dives covered part of the natural coastlines of Cheung Sha and the proposed coastal area of the proposed alignment. Three spot check sites were selected (**Figure 7b.4**)

2.2 For each dive, the following information was recorded:

- locations (GPS);
- visibility;
- sizes of coral colonies;
- estimate of % hard coral and soft coral cover;
- colonies health condition;
- coral colonies translocation feasibility;
- conservation status of coral species in Hong Kong waters.

2.3 In this way, areas with corals were located and suitable locations to carry out the REA surveys were determined.

3. Result

Spot-check Reconnaissance Dives

3.1 The spot-check dives were carried out on 5 September 2009 and the weather conditions were summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Weather Condition for the Spot-Check Dives on 5 September 2009

Date	Condition	Average Underwater Visibility
5 September 2009	- Wind Force: south to southeast 4 to 5 - Sunny intervals	Less than 0.5 m

3.2 A total of 3 spot-check dives were carried out during the 1-day surveys (**Figure 7b.4**). The GPS location, maximum depth, bottom substrate and bottom visibility each surveyed sites were summarized in **Table 2**.

Table 2 GPS Location, Route Distance, Maximum Depth Bottom Substrate and Bottom Visibility of Spot-Check Dive Sites SP1 to SP3

Site	Location (GPS) (Starting Point)	Max. Depth (m)	Bottom Substrate	Visibility (m)
SP1	E 113°57'41.0"	5	Bedrock/Boulder	<0.5
	N 22°13'59.5"			
SP2	E 113°57'43.9"	11	Boulder/Muddy	<0.5
	N 22°13'58.3"			
SP3	E 113°57'45.0"	11	Boulder/Muddy	<0.5
	N 22°13'58.4"			

Site SP1

3.3 These site is mainly composed of natural bedrocks and boulders. Substrates beyond the maximum depth are all muddy and sandy substrate. The average visibility along the survey route was less than 0.5 m. Common rock oyster *Saccostrea cucullata* and common green mussel *Perna viridis* were found on the surfaces of the big boulders. Both species are commonly found in Hong Kong water. Turf algae *Corallina* spp, bryozoan, sea anemone *Spheractis cheungae*, sea urchins: *Anthocardis crassispina* and *Salmacis sphaeroides* were also found at these sites. No hard coral was found in these 2 sites. All animals found in the above sites were common species (**Table 1**) and no rare species or species of conservation value were recorded during the survey.

Site SP2 and Site SP3

3.4 Site SP2 and Site SP3 are two sites that located offshore from Site 1. These 2 sites are mainly composed of sandy and muddy substrates with scattered boulders at the shallow part. The maximum depth along the survey route is about 11 m and the average visibility was less than 0.5 m. Common green mussel *Perna viridis*, bryozoan, sea urchins: *Anthocardis crassispina* and *Salmacis sphaeroides* were also found at the shallow part of these sites. No animal was found at the muddy substrate. All animals found in the above sites were common species and no rare species or species of conservation value were recorded during the survey. No hard corals or gorgonian were found in these sites.

Table 1. Dominant Animals at Spot-Check Sites

Site	Dominated Animals
SP1	<i>Saccostrea cucullata</i> , <i>Perna viridis</i> , bryozoan, <i>Spheractis cheungae</i> , <i>Anthocardis crassispina</i> , <i>Salmacis sphaeroides</i>
SP2	<i>Perna viridis</i> , <i>Anthocardis crassispina</i> , <i>Salmacis sphaeroides</i>
SP3	<i>Perna viridis</i> , <i>Anthocardis crassispina</i> , <i>Salmacis sphaeroides</i>