APPENDIX 5A APPROVED METHOD STATEMENT ON FISHERIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MIRS BAY FCZ

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

Contract Ref.: AFCD/FIS/02/2019 Consultancy Services for Environmental Impact Assessment Study for Designation of New Fish Culture Zones

Method Statement on Fisheries Impact Assessment for Mirs Bay Fish Culture Zone

8 October 2020

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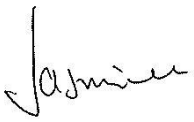

Dr Jasmine Ng
Partner

ERM-Hong Kong, Limited
2507, 25/F One Harbourfront
18 Tak Fung Street
Hunghom
Kowloon
Hong Kong

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

To pave the way for facilitating the sustainable development of the local mariculture sector, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) proposed to lift the moratorium by designating new fish culture zones (FCZs) to create room for the mariculture sector to grow further, including allowing capture fishermen to switch to this sustainable mode of operation, and attracting new entrants. In 2014, the AFCD commissioned a consultancy study (1) to explore suitable sites as new FCZs and Mirs Bay FCZ is one of the four Shortlisted Sites.

The designation of a FCZ of more than 5 hectares in size is classified as a designated project under Item M.1, Part I of Schedule 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (Cap. 499), and a statutory EIA is required before designation. In accordance with the EIAOa Project Profile for application for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Brief has been prepared and submitted to Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 15 October 2019. The EIA Study Brief (ESB-326/2019) (hereafter referred to as "the Study Brief") was issued by EPD on 27 November 2019.

AFCD has commissioned ERM to undertake the "*Consultancy Services for Environmental Impact Assessment Study for Designation of New Fish Culture Zones*" ("the Study"). In accordance with *Clause 3.5.4* of the Study Brief, an fisheries impact assessment shall be conducted to evaluate and assess potential impacts on fisheries for the construction and operation of Mirs Bay FCZ ("the Project").

1.2 Objectives and Scope of This Method Statement

Baseline information within the Assessment Area for the fisheries impact assessment for the proposed FCZ at Mirs Bay, i.e. the Mirs Bay Water Control Zone (WCZ) and the Tolo Harbour and Channel WCZ (***Figure A1.1***), in accordance with Clause *3.4.5.2* of the EIA Study Brief (ESB-326/2019)is available from the following key sources:

- AFCD Port Survey 2016/17;
- Consultancy Services for Identification of New Fish Culture Zones in Hong Kong – Feasibility Study (AFCD/FIS/01/14);
- Provision of Services on Desktop Review for Potential New Fish Culture Zones (AFCD/SQ/243/18/C);
- EIA Report for The Proposed Submarine Gas Pipeline From Cheng Tou Jiao Liquefied Natural Gas Receiving Terminal (EIA-089/2003);
- EIA Report for Hong Kong Offshore Wind Farm in Southeastern Waters (EIA-167/2009);
- ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd (1998). Fisheries Resources and Fishing Operations in Hong Kong Waters. Final Report. Prepared for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.
- Hong Kong Artificial Reef Project. Access via <https://www.artificial-reef.net/English/main.htm>; and
- Available Published Scientific Literature

(1) ERM (2018) Consultancy Ref. AFCD/FIS/01/14 Consultancy Services for Identification of New Fish Culture Zones in Hong Kong – Feasibility Study

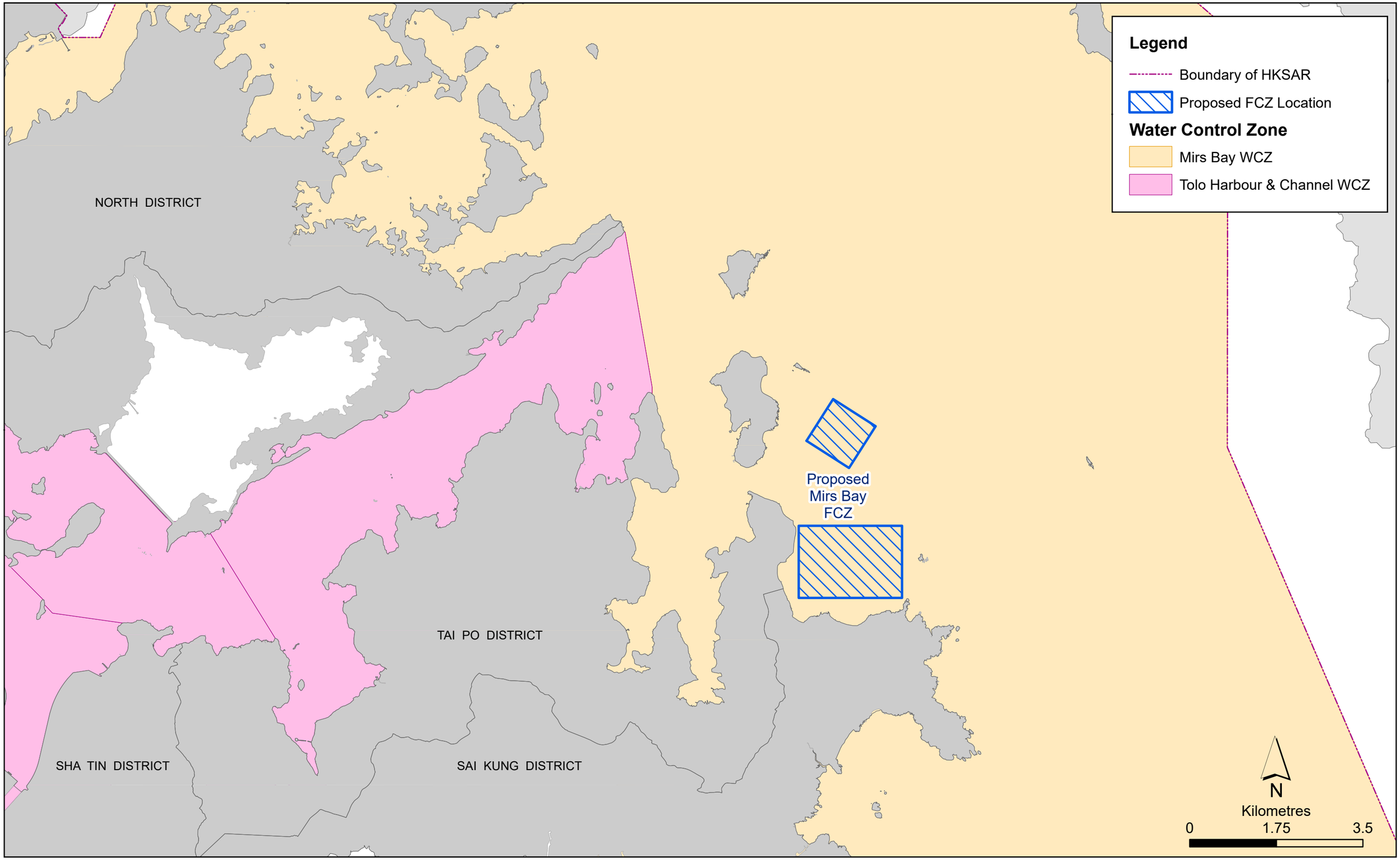

Figure A1.1

Assessment Area for the Proposed Mirs Bay FCZ

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Date: 21/7/2020

The desktop information from the above relevant previous studies has been reviewed and it is considered sufficient to evaluate the importance of potentially impacted fisheries resources and fishing operations within the Assessment Area. In addition, the fisheries interview surveys conducted by the AFCD and reported in the AFCD Port Survey 2016/17 are sufficiently comprehensive to provide an up-to-date and representative baseline for fisheries impact assessment. The approach to use AFCD Port Survey data as baseline data, supplemented by other desktop information, in EIA studies is an acceptable practice [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7]. Therefore, no information gap is identified and fisheries field survey is considered not required for the EIA study of this Project.

The potential impacts due to the construction and operation of the Project will be assessed (with reference to the EIAO-TM Annex 17 guidelines) and the impacts evaluated (with reference to the criteria in EIAO-TM Annex 9). Reference will also be made to the approved EIA reports on the EIA Register. The fisheries impact assessment shall pay particular attention to the loss or disturbance of fishing ground, water quality deterioration at sensitive receivers such as existing and planned FCZs in the vicinity, artificial reefs in Long Harbour and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, spawning and nursery area of commercial fisheries resources.

(2) ERM (2003). The Proposed Submarine Gas Pipeline From Cheng Tou Jiao Liquefied Natural Gas Receiving Terminal, Shenzhen to Tai Po Gas Production Plant, Hong Kong. EIA Study (EIA-089/2003). Prepared for The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited.

(3) Mott Connell Ltd. (2005). Drainage Improvement in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung – Tsuen Wan Drainage Tunnel. EIA Study (EIA-108/2005). Prepared for The Drainage Services Department.

(4) Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd. (2008). Hang Hau Tsuen Channel at Lau Fau Shan. EIA Study (EIA-163/2008). Prepared for the Civil Engineering and Development Department.

(5) ARUP (2009). Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities – Investigation. EIA Study (EIA-173/2009). Prepared for The Highways Department.

(6) ERM (2010). Development of a 100MW Offshore Wind Farm in Hong Kong. EIA Study (AEIAR-152/2010). Prepared for Hong Kong Electric.

(7) Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd. (2016) Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2 – South Lantau Sewerage Works. EIA Study (AEIAR-210/2017). Prepared for Drainage Services Department.