



Appendix B

Summary of Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for Marine Waters of Hong Kong

Parameter	Water Quality Objective	Water Control Zone (WCZ) / Part(s) of zone / Subzone to which the WQO applies
Aesthetic Appearance	<p>There should be no objectionable odours or discolouration of the water</p> <p>Tarry residues, floating wood, articles made of glass, plastic, rubber or of any other substances should be absent</p> <p>Mineral oil should not be visible on the surface. Surfactants should not give rise to a lasting foam</p> <p>There should be no recognisable sewage-derived debris</p> <p>Floating, submerged and semi-submerged objects of a size likely to interfere with the free movement of vessels, or cause damage to vessels, should be absent</p> <p>The waters should not contain substances which settle to form objectionable deposits</p>	All WCZs (whole zone)
Dissolved Oxygen (bottom)	Not less than 2 mg/L for 90% of samples.	Marine waters of all WCZs except Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Dissolved Oxygen (Depth-averaged)	Not less than 4 mg/L for 90% of samples.	Marine waters of all WCZs except Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Dissolved Oxygen (bottom)	<p>Not less than 2mg/L</p> <p>Not less than 3mg/L</p> <p>Not less than 4mg/L</p>	<p>Harbour Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ</p> <p>Buffer Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ</p> <p>Channel Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ</p>
Dissolved Oxygen (surface to 2m above bottom)	Not less than 4mg/L	Harbour Subzone and Buffer Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Dissolved Oxygen (all depths)	Not less than 4mg/L	Channel Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Nutrients	<p>Annual mean depth-averaged total inorganic nitrogen not to exceed 0.1 mg/L</p> <p>Annual mean depth-averaged total inorganic nitrogen not to exceed 0.3 mg/L</p> <p>Annual mean depth-averaged total inorganic nitrogen not to exceed 0.4 mg/L</p>	<p>Marine waters of Southern WCZ and Port Shelter WCZ</p> <p>Marine waters of Mirs Bay WCZ, Junk Bay WCZ, North Western WCZ (Castle Peak Subzone)</p> <p>Marine waters of Eastern Buffer WCZ, Western Buffer WCZ, Victoria Harbour WCZ.</p>

Parameter	Water Quality Objective	Water Control Zone (WCZ) / Part(s) of zone / Subzone to which the WQO applies
	Annual mean depth-averaged total inorganic nitrogen not to exceed 0.5 mg/L	Marine waters of Deep Bay WCZ (Outer Subzone) and North Western WCZ (Whole zone except Castle Peak Subzone).
	Annual mean depth-averaged total inorganic nitrogen not to exceed 0.7 mg/L	Marine waters of Deep Bay WCZ (Inner Subzone)
Unionised ammonia	Annual mean not to exceed 0.021 mg/L	All WCZs (whole zone) except Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
<i>E. coli</i>	Annual geometric mean not to exceed 610 cfu/100mL	Secondary contact recreation subzones in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ, Southern WCZ, Port Shelter WCZ, Mirs Bay WCZ, Deep Bay WCZ, North Western WCZ, Western Buffer WCZ.
	Annual geometric mean not to exceed 610 cfu/100mL	Fish culture subzones in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ, Southern WCZ, Port Shelter WCZ, Junk Bay, Mirs Bay WCZ, Deep Bay WCZ, Eastern Buffer WCZ, Western Buffer WCZ.
pH	To be in the range 6.5 - 8.5, change due to waste discharge not to exceed 0.2	Marine waters of all WCZs except Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
	Change due to waste discharge not to be greater than ± 0.5	Harbour Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
	Change due to waste discharge not to be greater than ± 0.3	Buffer Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
	Change due to waste discharge not to be greater than ± 0.1	Channel Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Salinity	Change due to waste discharge not to exceed 10% of natural ambient level	All WCZs (Whole zone) except Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
	Change due to waste discharge not to be greater than $\pm 3\%$	Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Temperature	Change due to waste discharge not to exceed 2°C	All WCZs (Whole zone) except Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
	Change due to waste discharge not to exceed 1°C	Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Suspended solids	Waste discharge not to raise the natural ambient level by 30% nor cause the accumulation of suspended solids which may adversely affect aquatic communities	Marine waters of all WCZs except Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
Toxicants	Not to be present at levels producing significant toxic effect	All WCZs (Whole zone)
Chlorophyll-<i>a</i>	Not to exceed 20mg/m ³ (µg/L) calculated as running arithmetic mean of 5 daily measurements for any location and depth	Harbour Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
	Not to exceed 10mg/m ³ (µg/L) calculated as running arithmetic mean of 5 daily measurements for any location and depth	Buffer Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ
	Not to exceed 6mg/m ³ (µg/L) calculated as running arithmetic mean of 5 daily measurements for any location and depth	Channel Subzone in Tolo Harbour & Channel WCZ

**Proposed List of WQO Parameters or Indicators
that are to be Further Reviewed**

Category	Parameters and Indicators	
Nutrients-related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The narrative nutrient WQO • Total inorganic nitrogen • One nitrogen-related parameter (e.g. total nitrogen) • One phosphorus-related parameter (e.g. total phosphorus) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chlorophyll-<i>a</i> • Silica • Turbidity • Dissolved Oxygen
Physical and Chemical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetic Appearance (narrative) • Dangerous Substances (narrative) • Settleable Material (narrative) • Colour • Light penetration • pH • Salinity • Suspended Solids • Temperature • Turbidity • Dissolved Oxygen • Arsenic • Cadmium • Chromium • Copper • Lead • Mercury • Nickel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver • Zinc • Phenol • Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) • Tributyl-tin (TBT) • Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) • Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) • Dioxins • Hexachlorobenzene • Unionised Ammonia • Cyanide • Sulphide • Surfactants • Oil and Grease • Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons • Total Residual Chlorine • Chlorination by-products
Microbiological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>E. coli</i> • <i>Enterococci</i> • <i>Faecal streptococci</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> • <i>Faecal coliforms</i>

**Comparison of the Types of Water Quality Objectives/Standards
in Hong Kong and Overseas**

WQO parameters	Local practices	Overseas practices
Natural	Narrative and numerical level	Narrative and numerical level
Nutrients	Narrative, and WQO for total inorganic nitrogen with numerical level	A range of nutrient parameters, each with numerical level
Chemical	Narrative	Numerical level
Biological	None	Numerical level*
Bathing Waters	Numerical level using <i>E. coli</i>	Numerical level using <i>Enterococci</i> alone, or both <i>E.coli</i> and <i>Enterococci</i>
Mariculture		
- for proliferation of cultured products	WQO for <i>E.coli</i> with numerical level	Numerical level
- for meeting with food standards	None	Some with numerical level

* Guideline values for fresh water and estuarine environment only, and biological objectives for marine environment still under development.