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**for information**

## **Progress on Marine Parks and Marine Reserves**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the progress of the development of marine parks and marine reserves in Hong Kong.

### **Background**

2. In 1989, the Country Parks Board established a special working group - the Marine Parks and Reserves Working Group (the Working Group) to study the feasibility of establishing marine parks and marine reserves in Hong Kong. The Working Group produced a report in 1990, recommending the establishment of marine parks and marine reserves in Hong Kong and the introduction of a new legislation for this purpose.
3. The then Environmental Pollution Advisory Committee was consulted on the proposal of establishing marine parks and marine reserves on 16.12.1991. The Committee welcomed the proposal.
4. In September 1993, the Executive Council endorsed in principle the Administration's recommendations of establishing marine parks and marine reserves in Hong Kong and the introduction of a new legislation to provide a legal framework for their designation, development and management.

### **The Marine Parks Ordinance (Chapter 476)**

5. The Marine Parks Ordinance (Chapter 476) (the Ordinance) was enacted in June 1995. It stipulates that the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries is the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) and he is advised by the Country and Marine Parks Board (the Board).
6. The Ordinance also empowers the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands to make regulations for the proper management and control of marine parks and marine reserves. The Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (the Regulation) was enacted in July 1996. Activities which may cause serious damage to the marine environment or are considered to be incompatible with marine parks and marine reserves, are prohibited under the Regulation.

## **Designation of Marine Parks and Marine Reserve**

7. Following the enactment of the Ordinance, Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve were designated on 5 July 1996. Brief descriptions of these marine parks and marine reserve are at Appendices I - III. The designation of this first batch of marine parks and marine reserve is a very important step in marine conservation. It represents the Administration's dedication in conserving the marine environment.

8. The draft map of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SLMP) was gazetted on 12.4.1996 for public inspection. It is anticipated that the SLMP would be designated in late 1996.

## **Management and Control**

9. In marine parks a multiple-use approach is adopted to allow those activities which are compatible with the objectives of marine parks and non-destructive of the marine environment, to continue. For example, activities such as diving, swimming, canoeing, sailing, underwater photography are permitted, but they will be closely monitored. Other activities are either controlled through a permit system or prohibited. In marine reserves, the control is however, more stringent than that in marine parks. Most activities will be prohibited while educational activities will be allowed and scientific studies controlled with a permit system. A summary of the controlled and prohibited activities is at Appendix IV. In both marine parks and marine reserves, no development is allowed to proceed without the approval of the Authority.

10. Patrol of the marine parks and marine reserve is undertaken by marine parks wardens and enforcement actions will be taken as and when necessary. Arrangement has also been made with the marine police force for its assistance with law enforcement actions in these sea areas. Furthermore, activities within marine parks and marine reserve will be monitored and suitable controls would be exercised as and when the need arises.

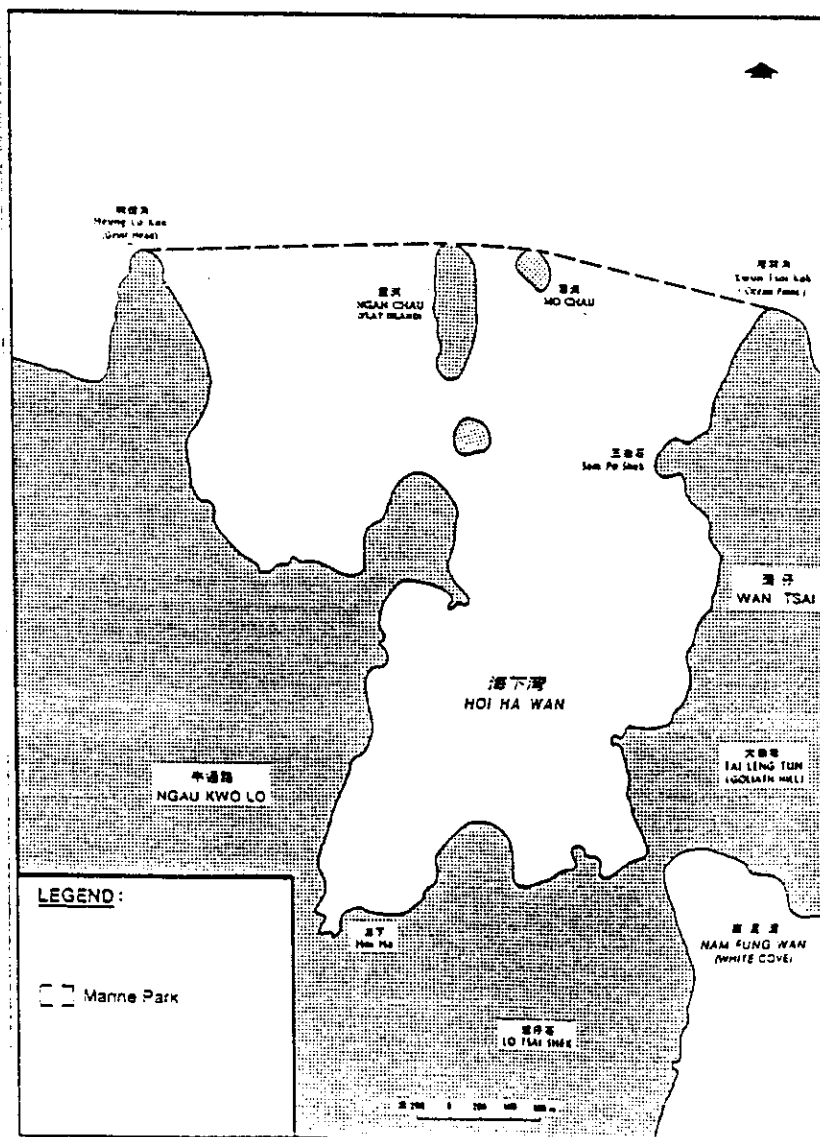
## **Potential Sites for Future Designation**

11. Subject to provision of resources, studies on potential sites for designation as marine parks and marine reserves will be conducted in 1997/98. They include south Lamma; south west Lantau; Port Shelter; and Ping Chau. A map showing the existing marine parks, marine reserve and potential sites is attached at Appendix V.

### Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park

Hoi Ha Wan is a sheltered bay situated at the north of the Sai Kung Peninsula. The marine park covers a sea area of about 260 hectares. The seaward boundary is demarcated by a line linking the northern tips of Heung Lo Kok, Ngan Chau, Mo Chau and Kwun Tsoi Kok. The landward boundary follows the high water mark of the coastline.

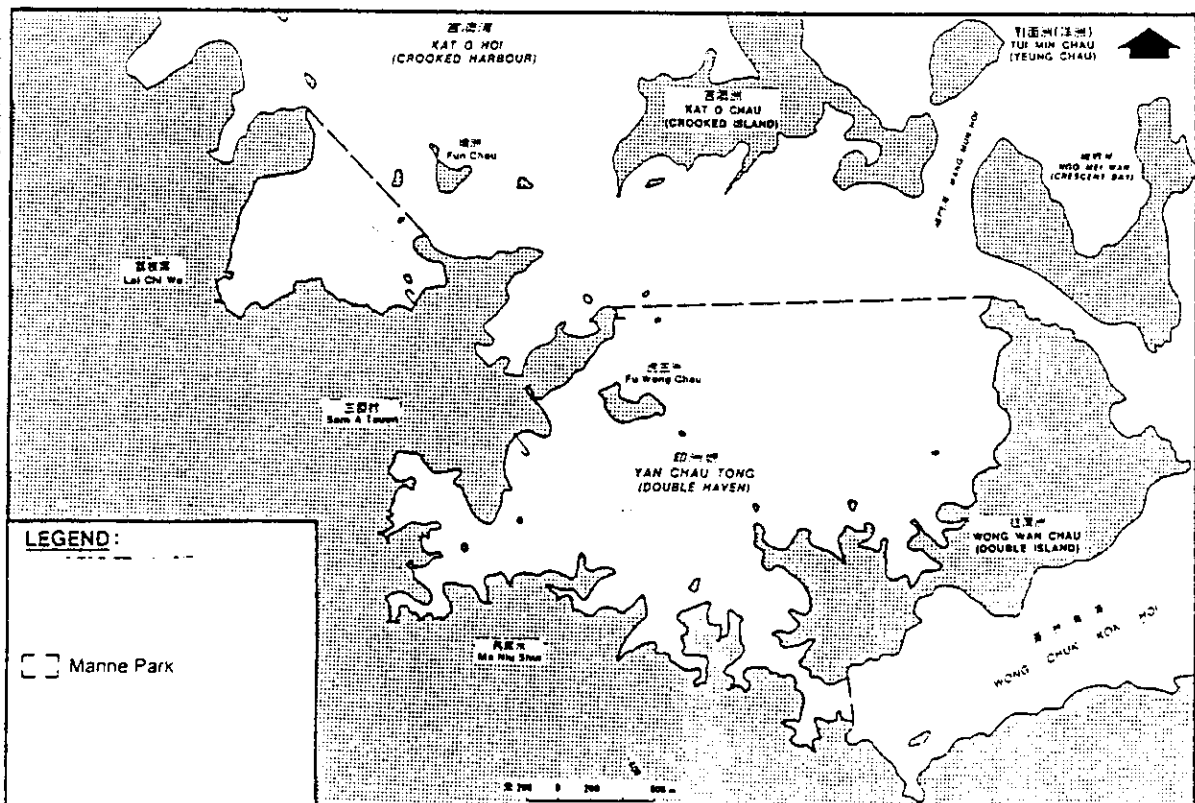
Being a sheltered bay and not affected by pollution, Hoi Ha Wan provides a good environment for corals to flourish. The coral communities here demonstrate the characteristics distinct from tropical reef since Hong Kong is situated close to the northern limit of reef-building coral growth. Of the 49 species of stony coral recorded locally, some 39 species can be found here.



### Yan Chau Tong Marine Park

The Yan Chau Tong Marine Park is situated at the north of the Plover Cove Country Park. It comprises two separate portions with a total sea area of about 680 hectares. The larger portion at Yan Chau Tong is bounded by the coastline of the mainland in the west and that of Wong Wan Chau in the east. The other much smaller portion occupies a small indented bay near Lai Chi Wo.

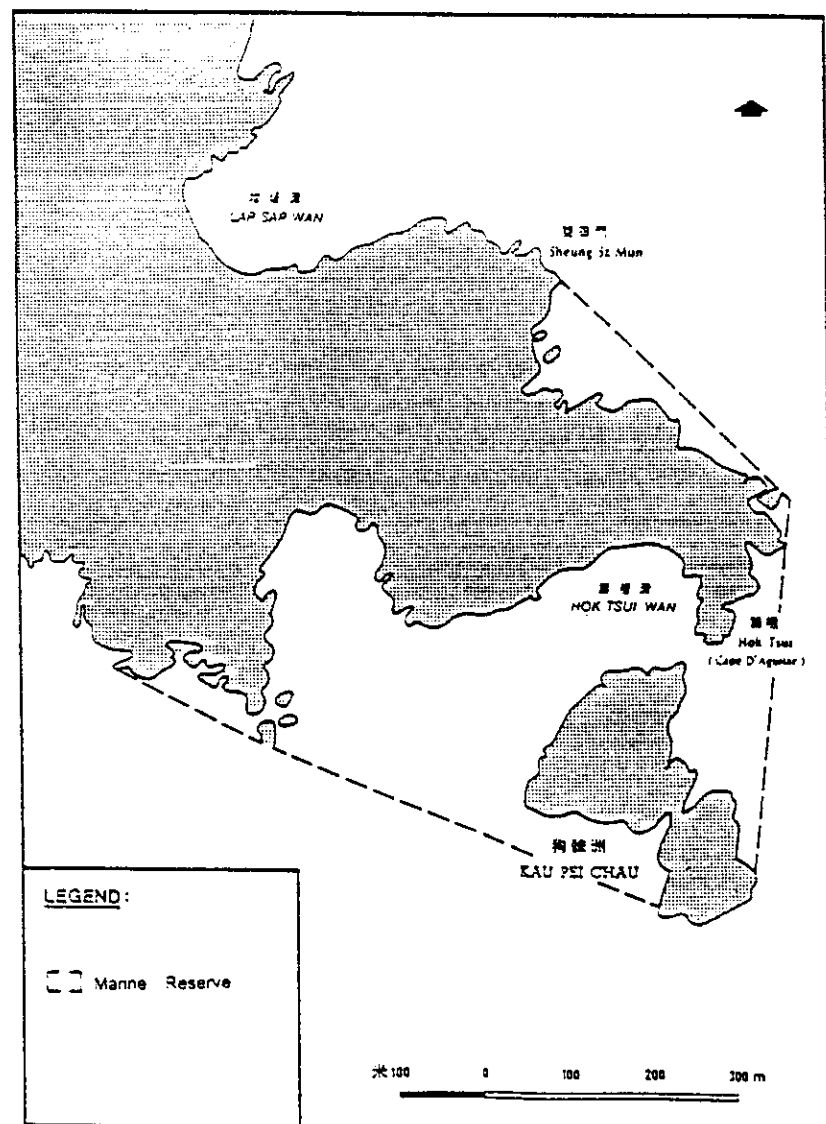
A wide variety of landforms, such as bays, projecting headlands, peninsula, rock cliffs, sand spits and beaches can be found in the area, creating diversified beach types ranging from mudflats to rocky shores. Fringing coral reefs occur along the shallow shores of the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park. It also supports the common starfish, *Archaster typicus* which was once occur abundant on most of sandflats in Hong Kong. At Lai Chi Wo, the rare marine eel grass, *Zostera japonica*, which was thought to be a temperate species, claims its stand. The Yan Chau Tong Marine Park is also the spawning and nursery ground of commercially important fishes.



### Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve

The Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve is situated at the southeastern corner of the Hong Kong Island and covers an area of about 20 hectares. Various gorgonian corals and stony corals and other rare species of marine life are found in the area, including the interesting snail which propels itself by leaping instead of crawling and one species of coral indigenous to Cape D'Aguilar. It is also a spawning and nursery ground of fish such as Rock Fish and cuttle fish.

The Swire Institute of Marine Science of the University of Hong Kong is situated next to the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve. It is an important centre of marine biology research in Hong Kong. On-going research projects undertaken in the area are providing valuable baseline information of Hong Kong's coastal ecological systems.



## Appendix IV

海岸公園及海岸保護區內獲准許、受管制或禁止的活動  
 Activities allowed, controlled and prohibited in a marine park or a  
 marine reserve

活動 Activities	海岸公園 Marine Park	海岸保護區 Marine Reserve
具破壞性的捕魚 Destructive fishing	x	x
非破壞性的捕魚 Non-destructive fishing	☒	x
魚類養殖 Fish culture	x	x
管有某些釣魚、捕魚器具 Possession of certain fishing devices	x	x
損壞海岸線特徵 Damaging shoreline features	x	x
損壞當局設置的設施 Damaging Authority's installations	x	x
阻塞或污染任何水源 Obstruct or pollute water	x	x
亂拋垃圾 Littering	x	x
滑水、操作噴射滑橇或水上電單車 Water skiing, jet skiing or water scootering	x	x
游泳或潛水 Swimming or diving	✓	x
划獨木舟、划艇、操作帆船或滑浪風帆 Canoeing, rowing, sailing or wind-surfing	✓	x
船艇超速 (10 海里) Speeding of vessels (over 10 knots)	x	x
碇泊或錨泊 Mooring or anchoring	☐	☐
販賣或將物件出租 Hawking or letting articles on hire	☐	☐
展示標誌或廣告 Displaying signs or advertisements	☐	☐
燒烤或露營 Barbecuing or camping	☐	☐
公眾集會或體育競賽 Public meetings or sporting competitions	☐	☐

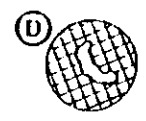
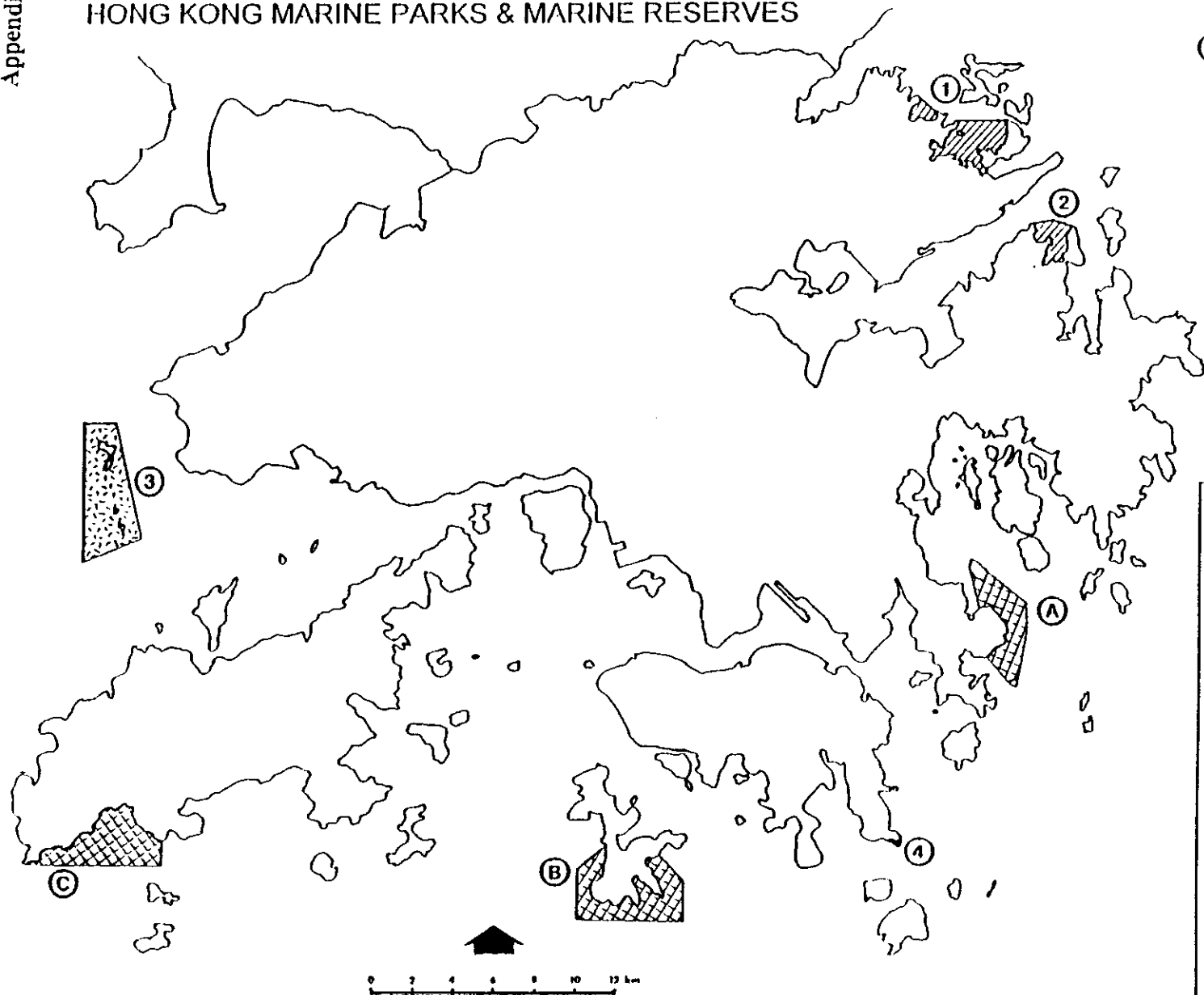
✓: 獲准許 allowed      ☐: 以許可證制度管制 controlled by a permit system      x: 受禁止 prohibited


☒: 許可證只發給真正的漁民及許可證所載通常在海岸公園附近居住的人士。

permits will only be issued to bona fide fishermen or to a person who ordinarily resides near a marine park to which the permit relates

# 香港的海岸公園及海岸保護區之地點

## HONG KONG MARINE PARKS & MARINE RESERVES



	海岸公園 MARINE PARKS
1	印洲塘 Yan Chau Tong
2	海下灣 Hoi Ha Wan
	建議中的海岸公園 PROPOSED MARINE PARK
3	沙洲及龍鼓洲 Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau
	海岸保護區 MARINE RESERVE
4	鶴咀 Cape D'Agulier
	可劃作海岸公園及 海岸保護區之地點 POTENTIAL SITES FOR MARINE PARKS & MARINE RESERVES
A	牛尾海 Sheller Island Area
B	南丫島以南 South Lamma
C	大嶼山西南 South-west Lantau
D	平洲 Ping Chau