

Response to the First Stage Public Engagement Document for the Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives

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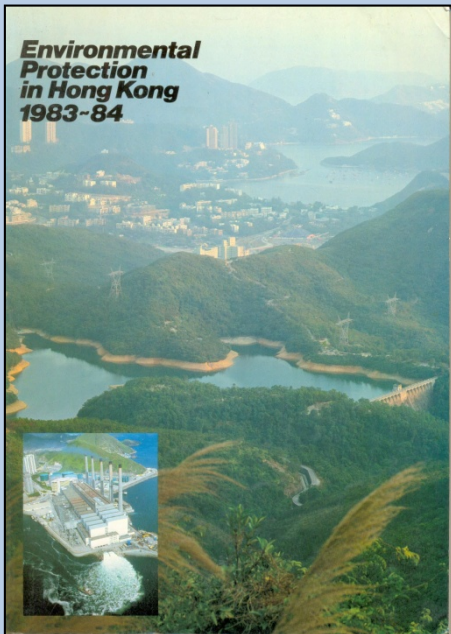
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Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) - Water Quality Objectives (WQO) Review

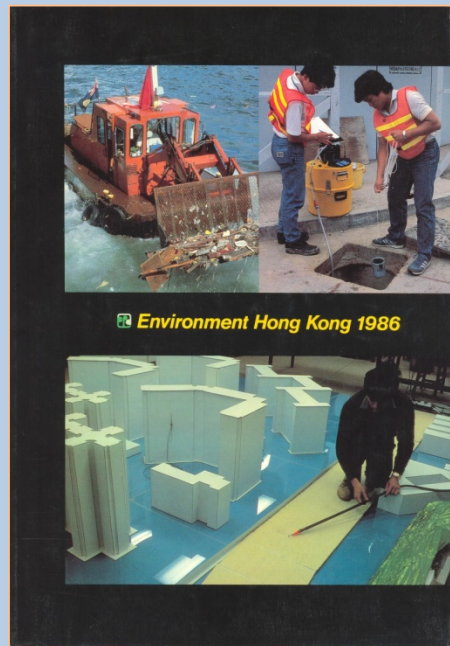
- Why is there a need for Review?

Historical background

- WPCO (Cap.358) – enacted in July 1980;
- The Ordinance was brought into operation in April 1981;
- WQO declared in the first Water Pollution Control Zone (WCZ) namely, the Tolo Harbour and Tolo Channel WCZ in June 1982;
- The regulations of WPCO were fully implemented in April 1986, with EPD assigned the enforcement duties
- Health related investigation on bathing beaches, on which the current bathing beaches water quality objectives (mainly based on E. coli) was based, on 1986-88



EPD annual Report
1983-84



EPD annual
Report 1986

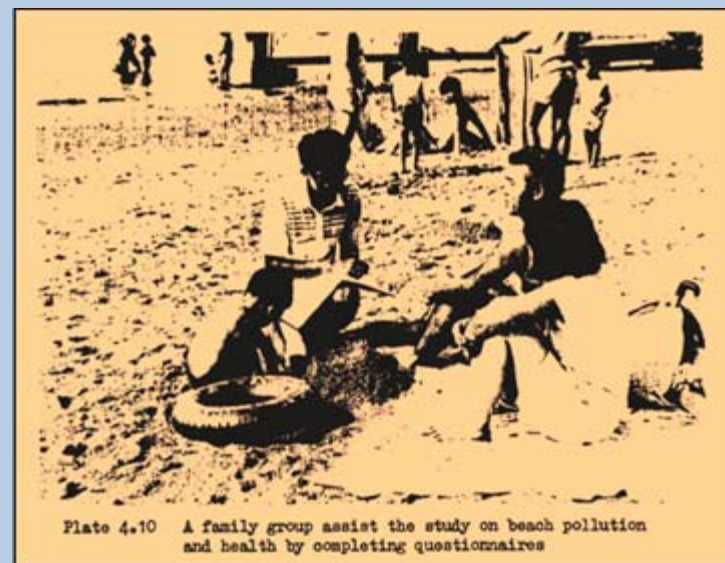
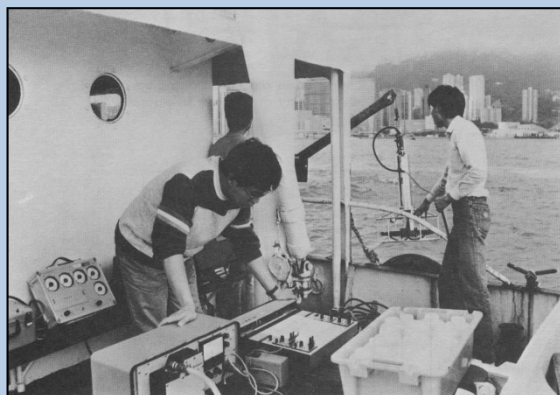


Plate 4.10 A family group assist the study on beach pollution and health by completing questionnaires

EPD beach survey
1986-87



The answer is simple:

Changed with time
與時並進！

How appropriate is the present objectives?

- Beneficial uses (BU) based
- Zonation - Linked with Water Control Zones (WCZ)
- Technical Memorandum (TM), instead of strict discharge standards
- Simple and concise – Bathing beach grading

What should be further considered?

Parameters:

- Dissolved Oxygen – Depth-averaged or layered?
- Eutrophication – Only ammonial nitrogen? Inclusion of TIN, DIP, N:P ratio?
- Toxicants-sediment parameters not included? POPs inclusive? Bio-accumulators? Biological indicators? Genotoxicity indicators?

Zoning:

- The present 10 Water Control Zone, a need for re-delineation?
- Land-based, or marine functions/activities based?

Linkage with land-based pollution:

- TM – a need for subsequent review?
- How scientific is the present links between TM and WQOs?

Bathing beach grading:

- The general public's gut-feeling is different from the epidemiological grading
- Floating refuse, debris, color, red tide organisms etc. to be inclusive?

The way forward:

Review of WQO – a continuous process

The need of setting up more technical committees to collect views from the society, for examples:

- **Scientific Committee (research and investigation)**
- **Pollution Control Committee (enforcement and regulation)**
- **Policy & Management Committee (legislation and development)**
- **Education & Community Actions Committee (to promote compliance)**