

**Question on marine waste found on the beaches of Lantau Island and coastal areas
(Paper TAFEHC 44/2016 and 46/2016)**

Written reply from the Marine Department

Question 3 of Paper TAFEHC 44/2016 and Question 1 of Paper TAFEHC 46/2016

Answer : The Marine Department (MD) is responsible for cleanup of floating refuse at sea. The recently frequent rainy weather caused significant increase of marine refuse. This situation is similar to previous rainy seasons. The MD has enhanced the patrol at various areas of Hong Kong waters and also instructed the marine cleansing contractor to step up the scavenging service in order to prevent excessive accumulation of floating refuse especially at the foreshore waters. Scavenging boats are promptly deployed to cleanup any accumulation of floating refuse once found.

The MD has received a number of reports concerning large amount refuse accumulated at beaches and coastal areas of the southern part of the Lantau Island since end June. The refuse is suspected drifting to the beaches from sea. We have enhanced the patrol at the Southern waters and deployed scavenging vessels to step up scavenging of floating refuse at the Southern foreshore waters. So far, no excessive accumulation of floating refuse was found at sea. The incident has drawn the concerns of both the government and public and the government's Interdepartmental Working Group on Clean Shorelines is taking follow up actions on this matter. As a member of the Working Group, the MD would work together with relevant departments on clean-up floating refuse at sea and investigate the source. MD would also closely monitor the cleanliness condition of sea and deploy resources to step up the cleansing service whenever necessary.

Question 9 of Paper TAFEHC 44/2016

Answer :

Year 2016	Amount of marine refuse at Outlying Islands (tonnes)
Jan	149.6
Feb	111.5
Mar	116.2
Apr	98.1
May	106.6
Jun	115.2

Question 10 of Paper TAFEHC 44/2016

Answer : MD can provide the amount of marine refuse scavenged at Outlying Islands monthly.

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