

Question on super incinerator on Shek Kwu Chau
(Paper TAFEHCCC 29/2020)

Written reply from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Q1. What is the latest progress on the establishment of a marine park near Shek Kwu Chau and which areas it will cover?

A1. We propose to merge the proposed Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) Phase 1 compensatory marine park with the adjacent proposed Soko Islands Marine Park into a marine park called South Lantau Marine Park to enhance effectiveness of future maintenance of marine park facility, law enforcement and patrols, implementation of fisheries enhancement measures and other aspects of management and operation.

Among them, the proposed compensatory IWMF Phase 1 Marine Park covers approximately 797 hectares of water between Soko Islands and Shek Kwu Chau; the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park covers approximately 1,270 Hectares of water. When the two proposed marine parks are merged into the South Lantau Marine Park, the area will reach 2,067 hectares and will become the largest marine park in Hong Kong (see Annex I).

Regarding the latest development of the proposed marine park on South Lantau - the Soko Islands Marine Park and the IWMF Phase 1 Marine Park, we have consulted the Islands District Council Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee from 2015 to 2017.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is currently preparing for the proposed designation of the South Lantau Marine Park and plans to commence relevant statutory procedures within this year, including the preparation of a draft map of the South Lantau Marine Park in accordance with the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and consultation of the Country and Marine Parks Board on the draft map.

Q2. What measures would be taken to protect fishes and endangered species such as Chinese White Dolphins and Finless Porpoises?”

A2. The designation of the proposed South Lantau Marine Park will help protect the Chinese White Dolphins and Finless Porpoises, as well as the long-term conservation of the nearby marine environment. The proposed South Lantau Marine Park will be managed in accordance with the Marine Parks Ordinance and the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulations. According to the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulations, the speed of vessels in the proposed South Lantau Marine Park must not exceed 10 knots. Proper implementation and enforcement of speed limits will reduce the potential impacts of existing vessel activities on marine mammals including the risk of injury and death from collision with ships, and interference from underwater noise.

Furthermore, in order to enhance fisheries resources in southern waters of Lantau Island, the EPD will deploy artificial reefs and restock fish fry / fingerlings in the proposed South Lantau Marine Park. Artificial reefs will be deployed in the core area of the proposed South Lantau Marine Park where fishing will be restricted, so that the fisheries resources can be well protected.

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Proposed South Lantau Marine Park Boundary

