



**Asia-Pacific
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Economy Report – Hong Kong, China

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**5th Oceans and Fisheries Working Group Meeting
Boracay, Philippines
10-12 May 2015**

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Hong Kong, China (HKC) has taken proactive actions in protecting the marine environment and conserving important ecological habitats and species, and promoting the sustainable use of fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters.

Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation

HKC has designated four marine parks and one marine reserve under the Marine Parks Ordinance to protect marine areas of high ecological value such as the habitats of the Chinese White Dolphin, corals and sea grasses. These areas, covering about 2% of HKC waters, are being actively managed for conservation, recreation, education and scientific purposes. We have plans to designate more marine parks in future with a view to better conserving species and habitats of ecological importance.

HKC has also taken actions to protect the marine environment by preventing significant adverse impact to ecosystems through implementing pollution control strategies, and planning and developing sewerage infrastructure. To combat land-based water pollution, we continue to enforce the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and implement the sewerage programme, including the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS). Among others, HATS involves the implementation of an integrated sewerage system for collecting sewage generated around Victoria Harbour for centralized treatment before disposal.

To protect HKC's marine waters, we have established Water Quality Objectives (WQOs). Our aim is to achieve and maintain the WQOs by implementing various measures, including development planning, controlling pollution sources, expanding sewage collection systems, improving sewage treatment facilities, implementing extensive monitoring plans to track water quality trends, and collaborating with authorities in Guangdong province to protect shared water bodies.

HKC is formulating the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP in short) for Hong Kong with a view to stepping up conservation efforts and supporting the sustainable development of Hong Kong in the next five years.

Sustainable Fisheries Development

HKC has a policy of promoting the sustainable use of our fisheries resources while maintaining a steady and safe supply of quality seafood for our seven million citizens.

In meeting the demand for food safety and quality assurance for fisheries products from the public, we introduce and promote modern techniques on fish culture and good aquaculture practices to fish farmers.

To facilitate the rehabilitation of the damaged seabed and depleted marine resources in Hong Kong waters, we introduced a ban on trawling in the entire territorial waters of Hong Kong in December 2012. To complement the trawl ban measure in restoring the fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters, a suite of fisheries management measures have also been implemented to control the fishing effort in Hong Kong waters such as setting up a registration system for local fishing vessels so as to limit new entrants, restricting fishing activities of local non-fishing vessels and prohibiting fishing activities of non-local vessels. We also plan to designate fisheries protection areas to protect important fish spawning and nursery grounds.

HKC will continue to assist fishermen and fish farmers in developing sustainable fisheries and related operations, manage fisheries resources, and cooperate with international organisations on sustainable fisheries development.

Hong Kong, China

May, 2015