

Comments of Aquaculture Sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries	Our Response
<p>The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) briefed the Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries Sub-committees on the proposed works at its meetings regularly and the Aquaculture Sub-committee on site on 7 January 2009. Members were highly concerned about the possible impacts of the proposed works on the marine environment, fisheries resources and the mariculturist operations, and strongly suggested alternative ways including purifying, sun drying, incinerating or packing sediment before disposal, confined disposal facilities and upland disposal facilities, instead of dumping sediment directly into contained aquatic disposal facilities. However, the Sub-committees have not indicated objection to the proposed works at the moment. CEDD has agreed to continue to brief the Sub-committees on the proposed works and give due consideration to the suggestions made and discussed by the Sub-committees in devising a suitable management plan for the sediment disposal activities at the proposed facility at Sha Chau.</p>	<p>At the on-site briefing on 7 January 2009, we shared views with the Members of the Aquaculture Sub-committee about the proposed works and in particular on their suggested alternative ways in managing the sediment generated from works within Hong Kong. In brief, we advised Members that according to the past studies, various management options including those suggested by Members had been thoroughly considered and the proposal for constructing a new disposal facility at Sha Chau was identified as the best option to meet the need of Hong Kong. Reasons for other measures not considered as feasible include inapplicability and unacceptable impact on programming of the methods as well as inadequate capacity of the facilities.</p> <p>Regarding Members' other suggestions including the review of the Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) programme for increased sampling frequency and sampling locations, we will take them into consideration when firming up details of the EM&A programme in due course.</p> <p>We will continue to liaise closely with the Sub-committees about the implementation of the proposed works.</p>