

For discussion  
on 22 June 2015

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Control on Marine Pollution  
From Oil spillage, Marine Littering and Floating Refuse**

**PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on the legislative control and measures to tackle marine pollution arising from oil spillage, marine littering and floating refuse in Hong Kong waters.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Hong Kong is an international port, and has a sea surface area of 1,650 km<sup>2</sup> and a coastline of 1189 km. Marine pollution from oil spill, marine littering and floating refuse is unsightly, and can pose human health risk and danger to ship navigation, and be harmful to ecology and marine life. It is therefore necessary to control the discharge of polluting matter and stop marine littering through effective legislative control and enforcement. Once pollution has occurred, it is also necessary to minimize its impact through effective removal of the polluting matter from the sea.

3. The Government has been pursuing measures following the major conventions adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for control of marine pollution, which include

- (a) the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973* (now universally known as MARPOL), as amended by the Protocols of 1978 and 1997 – MARPOL aims to prevent and minimize pollution from vessels. Hong Kong has implemented MARPOL and its six annexes: Annex I and Annex II on the prevention of oil pollution and noxious liquid substances respectively; and the other annexes on the prevention of harmful substances in packaged form, sewage, garbage and air pollution from ships. The

MARPOL requirements are mainly implemented through various subsidiary legislations made under the *Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413)* and enforced by the Marine Department (MD); and

- (b) the *International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC Convention)* – this convention requires each contracting party to establish a system for responding promptly and effectively to oil pollution incidents. Based on the requirements and guidelines of OPRC, Hong Kong has developed the Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan (MOSRP) in 2000.

## **CONTROL OF OIL POLLUTION AT SOURCE**

4. Oil pollution would be caused by marine accidents (such as sinking, grounding collision, etc.), bunkering activities or illegal discharge of oily bilge/water from ship or shore activities. To prevent oil pollution, MARPOL Annex I stipulates the design and construction standard for ships, the controls on the operational discharge of oil, and the requirements for governments to provide port reception facilities at their ports for oily mixture and residuals generated during the normal operation of ships. Specifically, it stipulates that

- (a) every applicable ship is subject to survey and must carry on board an International Oil Prevention Pollution Certificate (IOPP Certificate) (or a Hong Kong Oil Prevention Pollution Certificate (HKOPP Certificate) as required under Cap.413A), as a proof that their structure, equipment, systems, fittings, arrangements and materials are in compliance with the relevant requirements; and
- (b) any disposal of oily waste such as machinery space bilge water or oil sludge etc., has to be recorded in an Oil Record Book.

5. The above requirements are implemented through the *Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations (Cap. 413A)*. If a vessel fails to comply with the requirements under Cap. 413A and discharges oil into the sea, the vessel's owner and master each is liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000,000. Apart from Cap. 413A which sets out the precautionary measures for preventing oil pollution,

provisions under the *Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap. 313)* also control the discharge of oil into Hong Kong waters from vessels other than local vessels, and if a vessel discharges oil into the waters, the offender, the vessel's owner and master each is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000. The *Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548)* meanwhile has provisions to control the discharge of oil into Hong Kong waters from local vessels, and the offender, the vessel's owner and coxswain each is liable to a maximum fine of \$ 200,000.

## **CLEANING UP OIL SPILLAGE**

6. The MOSRP calls for inter-departmental efforts covering information dissemination, strategy development, pollution combating, cleanup and drill. MD is the designated authority for the cleanup of oil at sea in marine oil pollution incidents and also the coordinator of the response actions. MD will determine the level of response actions for oil spill, based on information such as weather condition, nature and quantity of spilt oil, location, etc. Other response departments, such as the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Fire Services Department, Government Laboratory, Marine Police, etc., shall take actions in accordance with the MOSRP, enabling the response operations to proceed in a coordinated and concerted manner.

7. MD's Pollution Control Unit (PCU) together with its contractor maintains oil spill response readiness, on a 24-hour standby basis, to handle oil spills in Hong Kong waters. MD has set a 100% target to respond on site within 2 hours of reported oil spillage inside Victoria Harbour. This target has been achieved over the past years.

8. MD received reports on 493 confirmed cases of oil spill in the past decade (2005-2014), among which 135 cases were caused by shipping casualties or bunkering activities while the sources of oil were unknown for the rest of the cases. All the 493 cases were minor in scale; and they were classified as the lowest level spill and dealt with by MD's cleanup resources alone.

9. MD conducts annual drills, comprising a table-top exercise and a field exercise, to test the readiness and preparedness of concerned government departments and oil companies in combating oil spills, and also monthly drills to maintain the preparedness of its PCU staff and the contractor's personnel for oil spill response.

10. Recognizing that oil pollution in Pearl River Estuary may affect adjacent ports in the region, MD has been working with the maritime authorities of the adjacent ports and formulated the Regional Maritime Oil Spill from Ship Response Plan (珠江口區域海上船舶溢油應急計劃) to combat major oil spill in the region. Drills have also been held with the neighbouring port authorities to test the cooperation of all parties involved.

## **MARINE REFUSE**

11. Marine refuse consists of floating refuse and shoreline refuse washed up on the shores. The quantity of marine refuse (including natural debris) collected by the Government was some 15,200 tonnes in 2014. Over 70% of the marine refuse was collected by MD, and the rest by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

12. Floating refuse comprises a wide range of materials including plastic items like beverage bottles, food wrappers, and foam packaging materials like small food containers and large foam boxes used for transporting aquatic and agricultural products in wholesale fish and vegetable markets and keeping the catch during angling. Over 80% of floating refuse comes from the land. There is a noticeable increase in floating refuse encountered in the harbour following heavy rain as water courses and storm water drains carry refuse on land into the sea. Floating refuse drifts by wind and tide and consequently scatters over large areas, and tends to accumulate near the coastline as shoreline refuse.

13. MD has outsourced the marine refuse cleansing services since 2005 to collect floating refuse, as well as domestic refuse from vessels moored at anchorages and inside typhoon shelters. Currently, MD's marine refuse cleansing contractor provides about 70 vessels to perform daily marine refuse scavenging and collection services. MD's pollution control staff perform daily patrol duties to monitor the cleanliness condition of the sea and the contractor's work. When the cleanliness index (score 0-10)<sup>1</sup> of a particular area falls below 7 (the "satisfactory" level), the contractor is required to restore the satisfactory level condition within a designated period. MD also regularly conducts joint

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<sup>1</sup> A cleanliness index is used to rate and control each contractor's performance. Score 10 stands for no floating refuse.

operations with FEHD to clear refuse accumulated at foreshores other than gazetted beaches.

14. Refuse sunk to the sea bottom may become seabed refuse if not decomposed due to physical, chemical or biological process. Common seabed refuse found in Hong Kong are inert objects, e.g. plastics, fishing gears, food packaging materials, most of which do not cause significant impact to water quality. Removal of seabed refuse is conducted on a need basis. AFCD cleans up seabed refuse affecting marine parks, marine reserve and sites with high ecological value, and other key coral sites under the annual Hong Kong Reef Check. Based on AFCD's regular underwater ecological monitoring at key coral sites and inspection during underwater facilities maintenance works within the marine parks, seabed refuse is not a problem at these sites. Corals have been found in a healthy and stable condition during the annual Hong Kong Reef Check. MD will remove objects found to be affecting navigational safety in fairways and typhoon shelters. The Civil Engineering and Development Department will remove sediments together with seabed refuse during maintenance dredging to ensure navigational safety. In addition, marine works project proponents may also be required to carry out seabed dredging including the removal of seabed refuse affecting their marine works on a need basis.

## **LEGISLATIVE CONTROL ON MARINE LITTERING**

15. While marine refuse amounts to less than 0.5%, in terms of weight, of the municipal solid waste disposed of in Hong Kong, it is costly to remove from the sea and shores. It is more efficient and effective to control the problem at source, including stopping littering through enforcement patrols. Marine littering control is enforced by MD, AFCD, FEHD, and LCSD under the following legislations:

- (a) the *Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance (Cap. 570)* – the offender is liable to a fixed penalty of \$ 1,500;
- (b) the *Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228)* – the offender is liable to a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for 6 months. If the offence is committed from a vessel or premises, the owner/master/proprietor/occupier of the vessel/premises is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year; and
- (c) the *Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A)* – the offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for 1 year.

16. Since Cap. 570 was introduced in 2002, marine littering control was mainly enforced through fixed penalty notices (FPN), and the relevant prosecution statistics of recent years are listed in *Table 1*. The regular patrols and special inspections (*Table 2*) exercised by the enforcement departments at black spots such as waterfront promenades and typhoon shelters, together with the fixed penalty notices, should have served to provide deterrent effect.

Table 1 : Enforcement against Marine Littering

	2012		2013		2014	
	No. of Cases	Fines Collected	No. of Cases	Fines Collected	No. of Cases	Fines Collected
AFCD	-	-	-	-	1 summons	\$2,000
FEHD	4 FPN	\$6,000	7 FPN	\$10,500	6 FPN	\$9,000
MD	2 FPN, 1 summons	\$4,500	10 FPN	\$15,000	10 FPN, 1 summons	\$17,000

Note: LCSD has no prosecution case regarding marine littering and general littering in gazetted beaches in the 3 year period from 2012 to 2014. Due to frequent patrols by beach staff, display of notices and regular public announcement for keeping the cleanliness of beaches, members of the public are generally well aware of the need to keep the beaches clean.

17. There is a 24-hour hotline (Tel (852)1823) for complaints about floating refuse and reports on matters concerning marine littering and floating refuse, and the complaint statistics of recent years are tabulated in *Table 3*. Relevant departments will reschedule their patrolling plan to cover the locations under complaint. MD is meanwhile preparing a leaflet to engage public participation to report marine littering from vessels and to explain to the public the key information necessary for facilitating follow-up investigation.

Table 2: Patrols/inspections/operations conducted by Government Departments

		2012	2013	2014
AFCD	<b>Regular Patrols</b>			
	Wholesale Food, Vegetable and Fish Markets	Performed by staff of AFCD's contractor stationed at the 2 wholesale food markets, staff of the Vegetable Marketing Organization stationed at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market, and staff of the Fish Marketing Organization stationed at the 7 wholesale fish markets. Patrols cover various areas of the markets and including hot spots. At least, 2-3 times per day.		
	Marine Parks and Marine Reserve	Performed by AFCD's wardens at the 4 marine parks and 1 marine reserve at least once daily.		
	Fish Culture Zones	AFCD conducts regular patrols at the 26 Fish Culture Zones on a weekly basis.		
	<b>Special Inspections</b>			
	Wholesale Food Markets	104	104	104
	Wholesale Vegetable Markets	36	40	42
	Wholesale Fish Markets	32	33	36
Fish Culture Zones	(Note 1)			
LCSD	<b>Public Bathing Beaches</b>			
	Regular patrols (Note 2)	Performed by LCSD's staff at the 38 gazetted beaches with lifesaving services at least once a day; and at the 3 gazetted beaches without lifesaving services at least once in 3 days.		
	Sundays/holidays inspections	182	173	208
	Special inspections during festivities such as Tuen Ng Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival	73	65	63
	Other blitz inspections	188	181	272
	<b>Waterfront Parks and Promenades</b>			
	Regular patrols (Note 2)	Performed mainly on daily basis by LCSD's staff at various waterfront parks and promenades.		
	Sundays/holidays inspections	1,230	1,259	1,256
	Special inspections during festivities such as Tuen Ng Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival	138	136	134
	Other blitz inspections	425	473	416
MD	Daily patrols	The MD's Harbour Patrol Section patrols Hong Kong waters. There are 25 patrol boats performing the duties in various districts including 6 vessels performing round-the-clock patrol duty.		
	Special operations (Note 3)	117	167	139

Note :

1. Keeping the fish rafts and its surrounding 2 meters of water clean is one of the conditions stipulated under the Marine Fish Culture Licence. AFCD will take enforcement action against any infringement of the licence conditions during regular patrols of the Fish Culture Zones.
2. LCSD's patrols will also be conducted by contractor staff to ensure the venues are kept and used in proper order.
3. These are MD's special periodic operations for anti-marine littering conducted at various locations such as promenades, typhoon shelters, marine works sites and wholesale fish markets.
4. FEHD's patrols at waterfront areas have been integrated into their regular cleansing inspections.

Table 3: Complaints on Marine Refuse

	2012	2013	2014
AFCD	1	1	2
FEHD	127	123	97
MD	378	462	574
LCSD	16	14	20

## MARINE REFUSE STUDY

18. To enhance coordination among the relevant government departments to address the marine refuse problem, the Government set up an Interdepartmental Working Group on Clean Shorelines (WG) in November 2012. In support of the WG, the EPD conducted a Marine Refuse Study (the Study) to investigate the sources, distribution and movement of marine refuse, and to suggest measures to further improve the cleanliness of our waters and shorelines. The detailed findings are set out in the Study Report at *Annex A*, and the key findings and recommendations are set out below.

19. Based on the study findings, more than 95% of marine refuse originates from local sources, especially from shoreline and recreational activities. Over 70% (excluding natural debris) of the marine refuse are plastic and foam plastic items. More than 80% of the marine refuse originates from land-based sources, such as shoreline and recreational activities; smoking; dumping of construction materials; littering of household products like broken water pipes and detergent bottles and personal hygiene products such as tissues. Majority of the shoreline refuse enters the marine environment via storm water drains, run-offs, or being disposed of irresponsibly, and eventually comes ashore elsewhere if not scavenged by MD's collection fleet.

20. Based on hydrodynamic modelling, the prevailing wind (i.e. south-westerly in wet season and north-easterly in dry season) has marked effect on refuse accumulation. In general, shorelines in Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Southern and Islands Districts tend to accumulate more refuse in the wet season, and Port Shelter and Mirs Bay in the dry season. More refuse is often found after typhoons and heavy rain. The Study has drawn up a list of priority sites (*Annex B-1*), which are more prone to refuse accumulation and subject to more complaints, since the existing cleansing frequency cannot keep up with the pace of refuse accumulation.



## IMPROVEMENT MEASURES TO ADDRESS MARINE REFUSE PROBLEM

21. Drawing reference on the Honolulu Strategy<sup>2</sup>, a three-pronged strategy is adopted to address the marine refuse problem in Hong Kong.

- Reduce overall waste generation at source;
- Reduce the amount of refuse entering the marine environment;
- Remove refuse from the marine environment.

22. With due account of the current local practices, five key improvement areas, accompanied by specific actions, to improve the cleanliness of our shorelines have been identified:

- (a) Conduct publicity campaigns to engage the community to contribute and participate;
- (b) Promote educational messages to target groups, beach users, students and local community;
- (c) Provide support measures and facilities to reduce refuse from entering the marine environment;
- (d) Enhance efforts to remove refuse from the marine environment; and
- (e) Engage public participation to report marine littering and refuse problem.

23. The specific improvement measures are set out in Section 10 of the Study Report. A list of the public relation (PR)/education activities to be organized by WG departments in the coming year is at *Annex C*, while EPD will continue to coordinate the WG activities and maintain the thematic website<sup>3</sup>. Apart from working with the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) to promote the “Marine Conservation, Greener and Cleaner Shorelines Programme” under the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme, EPD will collaborate with ECC to develop teaching materials to educate the younger generation on the clean shorelines messages. The Coastal Watch project by World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWF), sponsored by the Environment and Conservation Fund and ECC, will also continue to facilitate collaboration with community groups to promote the clean shorelines messages in the coming year.

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<sup>2</sup> The Honolulu Strategy aims to address marine refuse from the global perspective. It was developed at the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference which was co-organized by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environment Programme in March 2011.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean\\_shorelines/](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean_shorelines/)

24. In terms of cleanup, since more floating refuse is observed soon after typhoons, MD will conduct land-based patrols right after typhoons to identify areas which have accumulated floating refuse. Cleanup will be conducted once the cleaning vessels can proceed to work. MD is also exploring the setting up of additional shoreline cleanup team(s) to carry out joint operations with other departments so as to remove refuse which has been trapped on rocky bays, breakwaters, etc., before and during the wet season.

25. During the wet season, the prevailing south-westerly wind has marked effect on refuse accumulation, and more refuse is also collected especially after heavy rain, as observed at locations in Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Southern and Island Districts. AFCD, LCSD and FEHD will strategically enhance the cleansing frequency at the priority sites according to the refuse accumulation pattern concluded by the Study (*Annex B-2*). FEHD has already arranged a special cleanup operation at Lap Sap Wan of Shek O, and due to its remoteness and inaccessibility, the refuse collected has to be removed by MD's contractor when the weather condition permits, as set out in *Annex D*. On top of the enhanced cleansing by government departments, EPD has identified some locations including the priority sites for special monthly cleanup events in partnership with NGOs/community groups.

26. To complement the patrols by government departments in keeping our shorelines clean, signage, posters or stickers will be put up at prominent seaside locations to remind the public about the 1823 hotline for reporting marine littering from vessels or refuse at sea and coastal areas. To ensure speedy referral and to enhance co-ordination among departments in handling complaints, the key contacts of relevant government departments will be updated on a regular basis, so that follow-up actions such as cleanup could be arranged expeditiously soon after receipt of the complaints and clarification with the complainants on the exact locations.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

27. Members are invited to note the various measures in place to tackle marine pollution arising from oil spillage, marine littering and floating refuse in Hong Kong waters.

**Environmental Protection Department**  
**June 2015**



# Investigation on the Sources and Fates of Marine Refuse in Hong Kong

Study Report

April 2015

Environmental Protection Department

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# Study Report

## 1. Introduction

Marine refuse refers to any solid waste, discarded or lost material, resulting from human activities, that has entered Hong Kong's marine environment irrespective of their sources. While it comprises less than 0.5% of municipal solid waste disposed of by the Government, the presence of marine refuse may pose adverse impacts on the marine ecosystems and other sensitive beneficial uses of our waters. The Government set up an Interdepartmental Working Group on Clean Shorelines (WG) in November 2012 to enhance coordination among the relevant government departments in addressing the marine refuse problem, and in support of the WG, this study was conducted to collect, collate and analyse up-to-date information on the sources, distribution and movement of marine refuse in Hong Kong waters, and to suggest measures to further improve the cleanliness of our shorelines.

### Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

AFCD	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
ECC	Environmental Campaign Committee
ECF	Environment and Conservation Fund
FEHD	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
ICC	International Coastal Cleanup
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
LCSD	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
m/s	Meter per second
MD	Marine Department
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMDMP	National Marine Debris Monitoring Program
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
OC	Ocean Conservancy
SEPA	Student Environmental Protection Ambassador
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
WG	Interdepartmental Working Group on Clean Shorelines
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## Definitions

**"Marine refuse"** refers to any solid waste, discarded or lost material, resulting from human activities, that has entered the marine environment irrespective of their sources. According to the Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter (Cheshire et al. 2009) published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), "marine refuse" can be broadly classified into the following materials of man-made origins, including:

- Plastics (e.g. moulded, soft, foam, nets, ropes, buoys, monofilament line and other fisheries-related equipment, smoking-related items such as cigarette butts or lighters);
- Metal (e.g. drink cans, bottle caps, pull tabs);
- Glass (e.g. buoys, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, bottles);
- Processed timber (including particle board);
- Paper (including cardboard);
- Rubber; and
- Cloth.

Following the above definition and the current practices of refuse collection by government departments (Section 3), "marine refuse" in this Study includes the refuse floating on the sea which is collected by MD and LCSD, together with refuse that has been washed ashore and collected by AFCD, FEHD and LCSD.

**"Floating refuse collected by the Marine Department"** refers to floating refuse within Hong Kong waters including foreshore areas and typhoon shelters. Domestic refuse collected from dwelling vessels inside typhoon shelters is not considered in this Study.

**"Land refuse"** refers to any solid waste, discarded or lost material, resulting from human activities that has not yet entered the marine environment and found on land. In this Study, it also refers to refuse collected on the sandy area of gazetted beaches by LCSD.

**"Shoreline refuse"** refers to marine refuse collected by government departments but excludes floating refuse collected by MD. Land refuse collected by LCSD is not defined as marine refuse.

**"Natural debris"** refers to refuse generated by natural causes such as severe weather events in which human activities are not involved (e.g. seaweed, tree branches, dead leaves, seashells, etc.). It is not regarded as "marine refuse" in this study and excluded in all charts, figures and analysis, unless otherwise specified.

**"Refuse from marine-based sources"** refers to refuse generated from ocean/waterway activities and marine littering.

**"Refuse from land-based sources"** refers to refuse generated from human activities conducted on land, near the coast or nearshore.

**"Wet season"** refers to period starting from April to October.

**"Dry season"** refers to period starting from November to March.

**Analysis of marine refuse** is mainly based on the survey findings and data collected from April 2013 to March 2014. The results expressed in percentages and shown in various figures are based on the count of refuse items, unless otherwise stated.

## 2. Study Method

**The Study's Methodology** made reference to the recommendations and practices adopted by the UNEP/IOC's Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter, International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and the USEPA's National Marine Debris Monitoring Program (NMDMP) in monitoring marine refuse. Modifications were made so as to address local concerns and conditions, such as surveying items of local concern (e.g. glow sticks, incense sticks), refuse items of non-local origin (i.e. items with labelling in simplified Chinese characters), and accommodating the current refuse collection practices of the relevant government departments.

The Study involved site surveys to collect refuse data from suitable coastal locations; mathematical modelling to study the transport and accumulation of marine refuse in Hong Kong waters and to examine the dominant factors influencing the sources, transport and distribution of marine refuse; and collation of historical data (2010-2013) on the quantity and types of marine refuse collected by government departments (i.e. AFCD, FEHD, LCSD, and MD), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and other relevant sources.

Two types of field surveys were conducted, namely:

- Refuse Characteristics Survey at Priority Areas for both floating and shoreline refuse;
- Focus Survey at Priority Coastlines for shoreline refuse.

Each survey type comprised five rounds of surveys over a period of 12 months from April 2013 to March 2014, covering both wet and dry seasons. **Appendix A** shows the locations of the survey sites and the coastal landforms. The survey sites were selected after considering several factors, namely, the conditions of the shorelines, feedback and past records of marine refuse problem provided by government departments, district councils and NGOs, and pre-survey site visits.

**The Refuse Characteristics Survey** was conducted at 36 locations of different landforms including rocky shores, mud flats, mangroves, sandy beaches, man-made sea banks, etc., for surveying shoreline refuse, and marine waters for surveying floating refuse. Frequent cleansing services to these sites were provided by government departments to ensure sufficient data could be collected for analysis. Bags of refuse collected at the locations were selected randomly for sorting in accordance with the classification system as shown in **Appendix B**, followed by a systematic process of weighing and counting of each refuse type. Surveys were also conducted during festive periods to identify any possible changes in refuse quantity and composition.

**The Focus Survey** determined the pattern and composition of shoreline refuse deposited on 6 selected locations. The sites were selected by reference to the UNEP/IOC's Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter. They were relatively remote, not covered in any NGO's cleanup operations, and with



infrequent refuse cleansing service. Refuse within the sampling area (**Figure 1**) were sorted, weighed and counted in accordance with the classification system as shown in **Appendix B**.

Figure 1: Sampling Area for Focus Survey



Source: UNEP Marine Litter Survey and Monitoring Guidelines

### 3. Background on Quantity and Trend of Marine Refuse

**Collection of Marine Refuse** is undertaken by four government departments: from gazetted beaches by LCSD, marine parks and marine reserve by AFCD, unallocated coastal area by FEHD, and coastal waters/open waters/typhoon shelters by MD.

AFCD collects marine refuse along the shores within the marine parks and marine reserve. Depending on the field situation, the cleanup frequency ranges from 3 to 6 times per week for marine parks and monthly for the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve where no recreational activities are allowed.

FEHD collects marine refuse washed ashore together with other waste found present at unallocated coastal areas on an ad-hoc or regular basis ranging from, depending on the field situation, daily to half yearly.

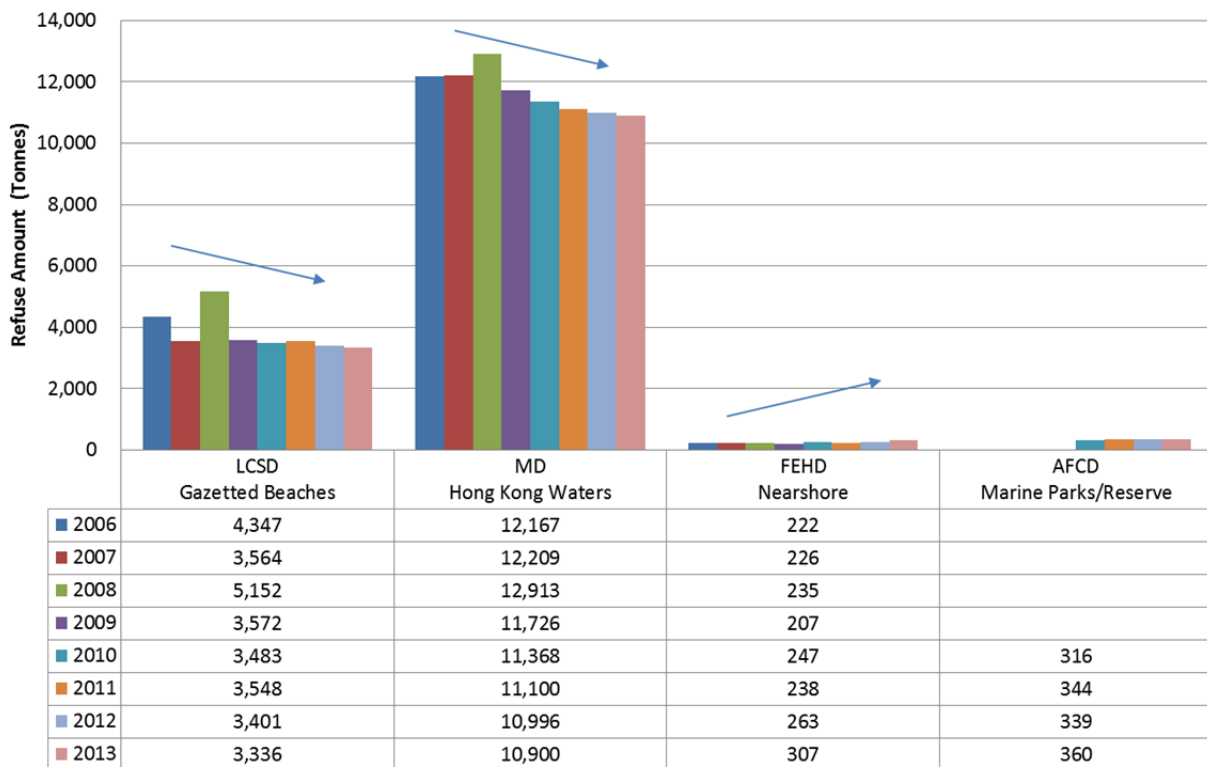
LCSD collects marine refuse in the water or washed ashore within the gazetted beaches, and land refuse from the area behind the foreshore to the back of the beach. Refuse collection is done by staff stationed at beaches on a daily basis, at least twice per day.

MD collects floating refuse within Hong Kong waters including foreshore areas and typhoon shelters through contractual services. Its contractor deploys about 70 scavenging boats of various types to collect

floating refuse at sea, and bagged domestic refuse from vessels on a daily basis. Such domestic refuse is not considered in this Study.

**Annual Trend of Marine Refuse collected by Government Departments in 2006 – 2013** is shown in **Figure 2**. The quantity of marine refuse (including natural debris) collected by the Government ranged from 16,767 tonnes in 2006 to 14,905 tonnes in 2013. The amount of shoreline refuse collected by LCSD and floating refuse collected by MD decreased slightly over the years from 2008 to 2013. The exceptional rise in year 2008 may be related to high rainfall in the year (3,066 mm compared with annual average of 2398 mm during 1981 - 2010). For FEHD, more than half of the shoreline refuse is collected in Islands District. The amount of shoreline refuse collected by AFCD showed no significant increase or decrease over the period examined.

Figure 2: Annual Trend of Marine Refuse Collected by Government Departments in 2006-2013



Remark:

Natural debris included.

\* AFCD's data only available from 2010 onwards and also includes the litter collected from land-based trash bins in Hoi Ha Wan and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks and from the BBQ site of the country park on Tung Ping Chau.

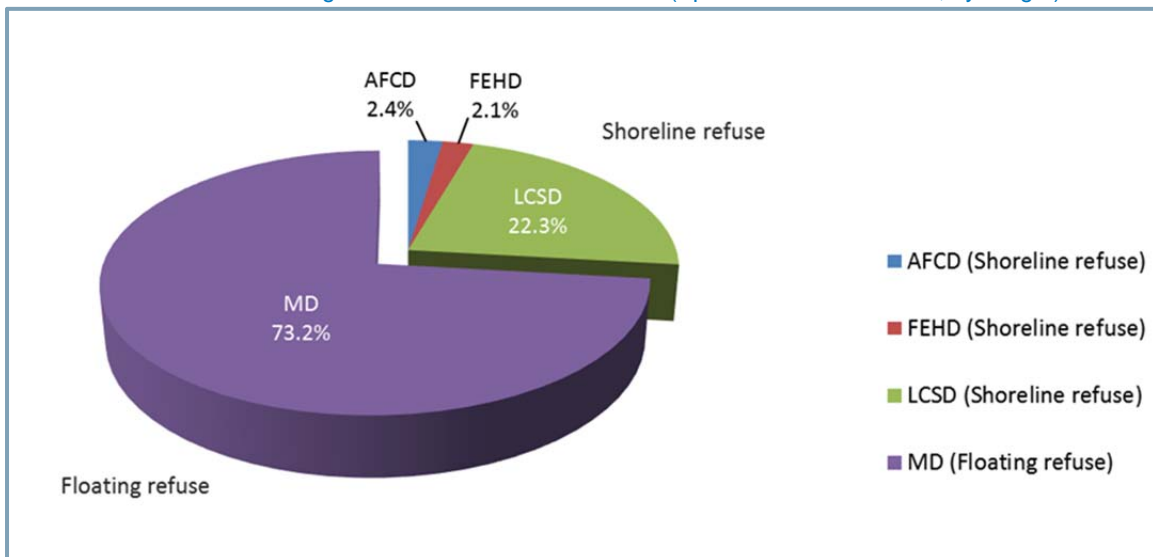
MD out-sourced refuse collection service in 2006, and domestic refuse collected from vessels is excluded.

#### 4. Nature and Origin of Marine Refuse

**Natural Debris** (e.g. seaweed, tree branches, dead leaves, seashells, etc.) was found on the shores all year round. Natural debris in floating refuse was negligible, though large amount (e.g. water duckweed) was occasionally found in wet season. About 18% (by weight) of marine refuse was natural debris collected near the shoreline and attributable to dense vegetation in the hinterland in which tree branches, leaves, etc., might have been ripped off and blown into the sea while submerged vegetation might have been churned up by tidal actions and surfaced. The debris drifted in the sea and finally washed ashore and collected. It is currently collected and disposed of off-site at landfill. Due to the high salt content, it is unsuitable for use as compost or fertilizer.

**Floating Refuse and Shoreline Refuse** are the two terms used to differentiate marine refuse based on the collection method by government departments. Floating refuse is collected by MD while shoreline refuse is collected by AFCD, FEHD and LCSD. Some 73.2% (10,931 tonnes) of the total marine refuse is floating refuse, including natural debris, and the rest was shoreline refuse collected by LCSD (22.3%, 3,331 tonnes), AFCD (2.4%, 353 tonnes) and FEHD (2.1%, 317 tonnes). Furthermore, the composition of floating and shoreline refuse was similar, suggesting that floating refuse is mostly land-generated waste and has entered into the marine environment through stormwater drains, run-offs, or being blown or thrown into the sea. **Figure 3** shows the relative amount of shoreline and floating refuse.

Figure 3: Distribution of Floating Refuse and Shoreline Refuse (April 2013 – March 2014, by weight)



**The Origin** of marine refuse was examined to identify any non-local items by counting refuse items with packaging labels in simplified Chinese characters. As there was no other viable method to distinguish non-local items originating from the Mainland, identification based on packaging labels was the only technically feasible method that could be adopted to provide a rough approximation of the percentage of non-local items in Hong Kong. Local items comprised 95% of marine refuse while non-local items contributed

approximately 5%. More non-local items were found at Ap Chau, Luk Keng, Tung Ping Chau Marine Park, Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park near Mirs Bay and Pak Lap Tsai in Sai Kung as compared with other regions. No significant seasonal difference was observed in the amount of non-local items in the whole territory of Hong Kong. Even in the wet season during when the southern and the western parts of Hong Kong were subject to greater influences from the outflow of the Pearl River and prevailing south-westerly oceanic flow, there had not been any significant surge in non-local items in the said regions where, on the whole, only a slightly higher amount of non-local items were found at Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach, Lo Tik Wan, the rocky shore between Stanley Main Beach and Hong Kong Sea School, Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Maine Park, and Tuen Mun. Overall, the problem of non-local items was not significant. The distribution and percentage of non-local items by count at each survey site is presented in **Appendix C**.

Majority of non-local items were of packaging materials such as plastic food wrappers, plastic or glass beverage bottles, metal food cans, metal cigarette tins. There are several probable sources of these refuse items. These items could have been purchased in local stores or brought into Hong Kong by tourists/local residents for consumption at the shores and then left behind as litter; littered at sea by vessel operators/passengers; or brought into Hong Kong waters from outside our territorial water by wind and tidal actions. Plastic household cleaning packets and plastic bait packets related to fishing activities were commonly found in Mirs Bay, since the water body is located near potential sources from Mainland (e.g. the populated Yantian), and the presence of fish farms in Hong Kong and Mainland waters. **Figure 4** shows some examples of non-local refuse items found in the site surveys.

Figure 4: Examples of Non-local Refuse Items

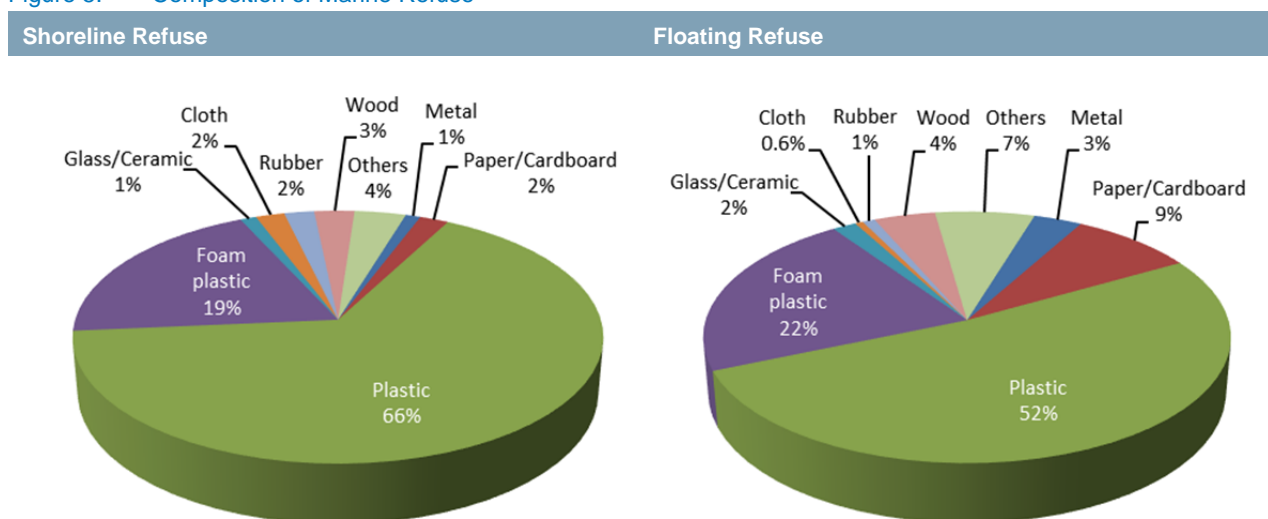




### 5. Composition of Marine Refuse

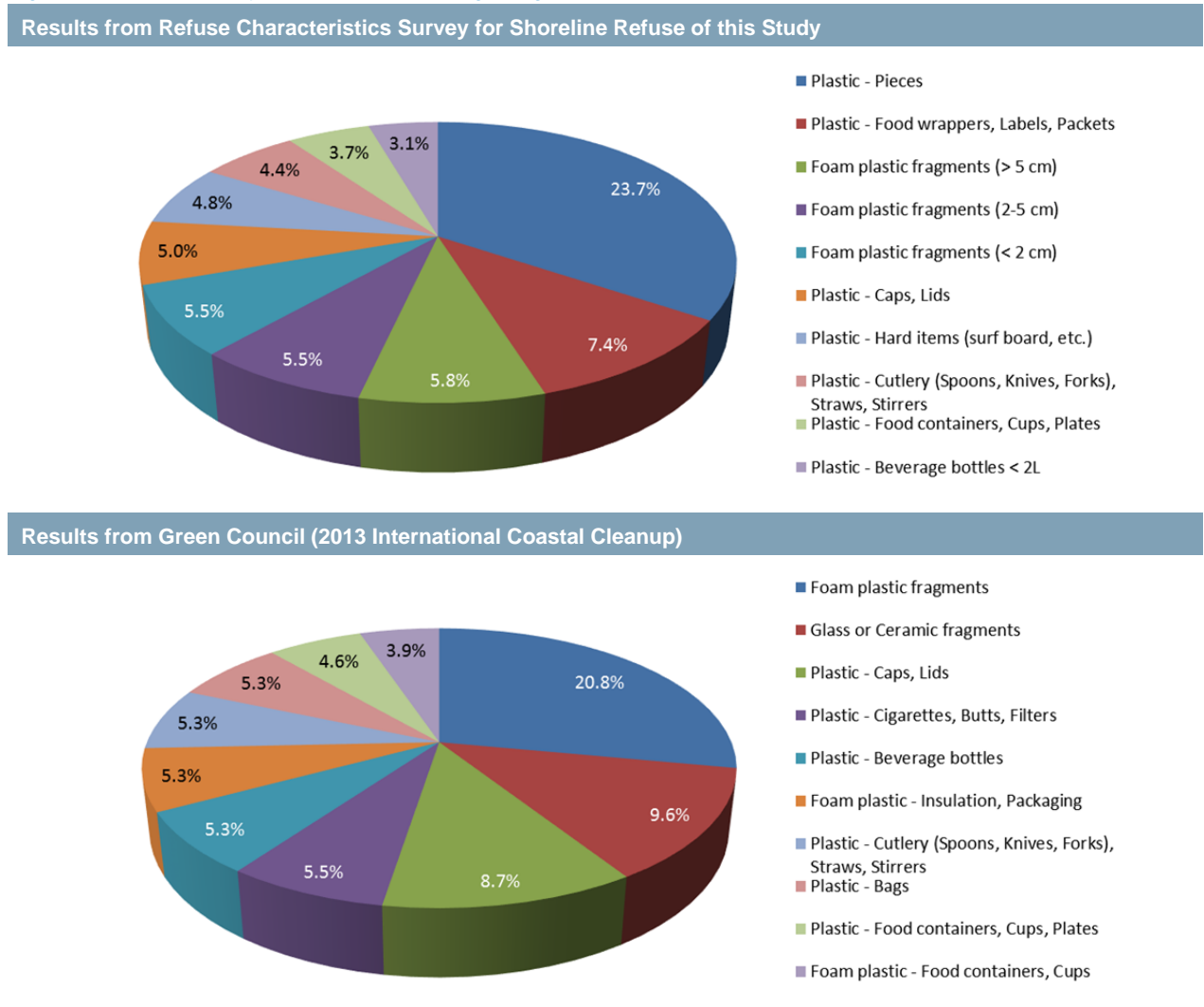
**Composition** analysis is conducted by grouping marine refuse into eight types, namely, plastic, foam plastic, cloth, glass/ceramic, wood, paper/cardboard and others. Over 70% of marine refuse were plastic and foam plastic items (**Figure 5**). Tiny refuse items such as fragmented plastic, foam plastic and ceramic constituted quite a large percentage of the total refuse amount. These items had already been broken down by sun, sea and wind into small fragments and often hard to identify. They were often trapped in rocky areas or blown further inland into bushes at the edge of the beaches, adding difficulties to the cleanup. Excluding the tiny refuse fragments, food-related packaging plastic items, often of single-use and disposable nature, were the most prevalent type of refuse found in shoreline refuse, while foam plastic foods containers and cups, followed by plastic beverage bottles, and foam insulation packaging like foam boxes were the most prevalent items found in floating refuse collected by MD.

Figure 5: Composition of Marine Refuse

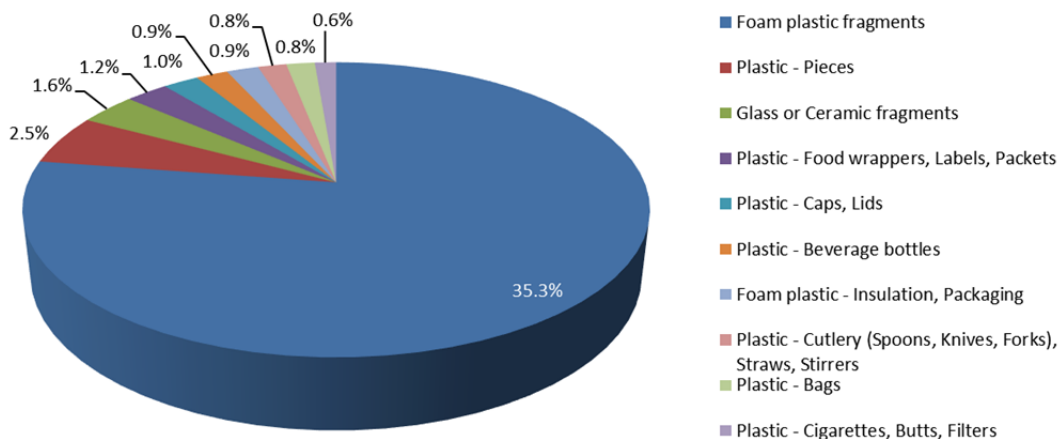


**Cleanup Data from Other Organisations** revealed similar findings. Several organizations provided their cleanup data and their results were considered in the data analysis. Findings from this Study were comparable to those of the two organisations, namely, Green Council and Hong Kong Cleanup, which organised annual ICC cleanups on a large scale, in which various forms of plastic and foam plastic items featured the top ten list, though deviations were observed regarding glass and ceramic fragments, cigarette butts, and plastic bags. Besides tiny trash fragments which topped the list, plastic items of single-use and disposable nature; plastic bags, plastic beverage bottles, plastic/foam plastic food containers and cups, foam insulation and packaging, and cigarette butts were the most commonly found items in the ICC cleanup operations (**Figure 6**).

Figure 6: Top Ten Types of Refuse in Hong Kong



Results from Hong Kong Cleanup (2013 International Coastal Cleanup)



\*Refuse type was adjusted to follow the classification adopted by this study.

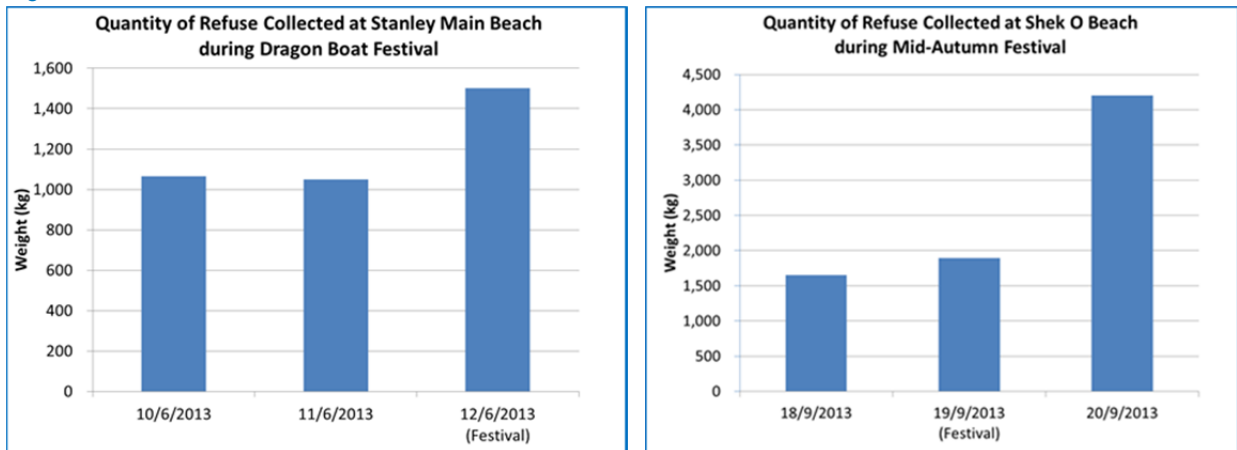
**Foam Plastic Items** included large foam boxes used for carrying aquatic products and vegetables; foam boxes used by the public for keeping their catch during angling; and food containers from recreational activities (**Figure 7**). Broken foam boxes and their fragments were often found in the floating refuse near fish markets or typhoon shelters, especially at Aberdeen waters. These items are light and can easily be blown into the sea if carelessly put aside or littered in the waterfront areas. When not scavenged by MD, they become smaller fragments due to wind and tidal actions over time, and scattered along the shorelines.

Figure 7: Examples of Foam Plastic Items



**Special Events** generated more refuse. Refuse doubled in amount on/after festivals at popular beaches, for example, 1,500 kg of marine and land refuse was collected at Stanley Main Beach on the Dragon Boat Festival (42% increase) and 4,200 kg was collected at Shek O Beach after the Mid-Autumn Festival (122% increase) (**Figure 8**). The increase in refuse amount was more prominent in land refuse. Mooncake tin cans, candle packaging, poker, lanterns, beach mats, tissues, etc., were common items left behind on beaches or promenades (**Figure 9**). This illustrates the result of littering and poor awareness of the consequence of such behaviour.

Figure 8: Refuse Collected after Festivals



Natural debris included.

Figure 9: Refuse on Stanley Main Beach and Shek O Beach after Festive Events  
**Dragon Boat Festival**





### Mid-Autumn Festival



## 6. Sources of Marine Refuse

Potential sources of marine refuse in Hong Kong waters are either marine- or land-based, however, it is not possible to precisely estimate the quantities and types of refuse input to the marine water. Faris and Hart (1994)<sup>1</sup> estimated that 80% of the marine litter enters the ocean by land and it was assumed the remaining 20% was derived from maritime activities such as commercial and recreational fishing, cruises and shipping. According to a report on addressing marine litter problem by NOWPAP member states<sup>2</sup>, around 80% of marine refuse collected originated from shoreline and recreational activities. The findings of this Study are comparable to the results of the abovementioned reports.

Hong Kong is a city with long coastlines and dense populations on both sides of the Victoria Harbour and some coastal areas, hence much refuse is generated from human-related activities. An increase in the use of single-use disposable products and packaging has resulted in an increase in solid waste arising. The most prevalent types of marine refuse found are plastic beverage bottles and food-related packaging items which are associated with shoreline and recreational activities. Natural events such as storms, heavy rainfalls can transport significant quantities of this marine refuse from coastal areas. It is therefore

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<sup>1</sup> Faris, J., Hart, K., 1994. Seas of Debris: A Summary of the Third International Conference on Marine Debris. N.C. Sea Grant College Program and NOAA.

<sup>2</sup> NOWAP 2011. Third Overview: Marine Litter in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Region. Member states covered in the report include China, Japan, Korea and Russia.

important to identify specific locations and types of activities that generate and cause materials to become marine refuse.

The specific source of individual types of refuse is not easy to determine due to multiple uses of products by a variety of user-groups. For example, a plastic beverage bottle can be land-based refuse from shoreline and recreational activities or marine-based refuse littered from a vessel. However, associating human behaviours and activities with specific types of marine refuse can provide information to assign source. Drawing reference to the data card used in the ICC initiated by the Ocean Conservancy (OC) and the approach adopted by the NMDMP<sup>3</sup>, five major categories of human activities, namely, shoreline and recreational, ocean/waterway, smoking-related, dumping and medical/personal hygiene uses are used to associate the refuse types with their likely sources. In particular, refuse items in the ocean/waterway category are grouped under marine-based sources while items from the remaining four categories are grouped under land-based sources. Under this categorisation, refuse from vessels, offshore fish farms and works sites as well as fishing-related activities at waterfront areas is considered marine-based sources while contribution to the land-based sources by refuse from marine vessels and refuse generated from smoking-related activities and medical/personal hygiene uses carried out at sea are relatively not significant. Though with limitations, this source assignment method is considered acceptable given land-based activities are comparatively more intense than marine-based activities. **Table 1** summarizes the possible major sources of marine refuse in Hong Kong and the association with human activities.

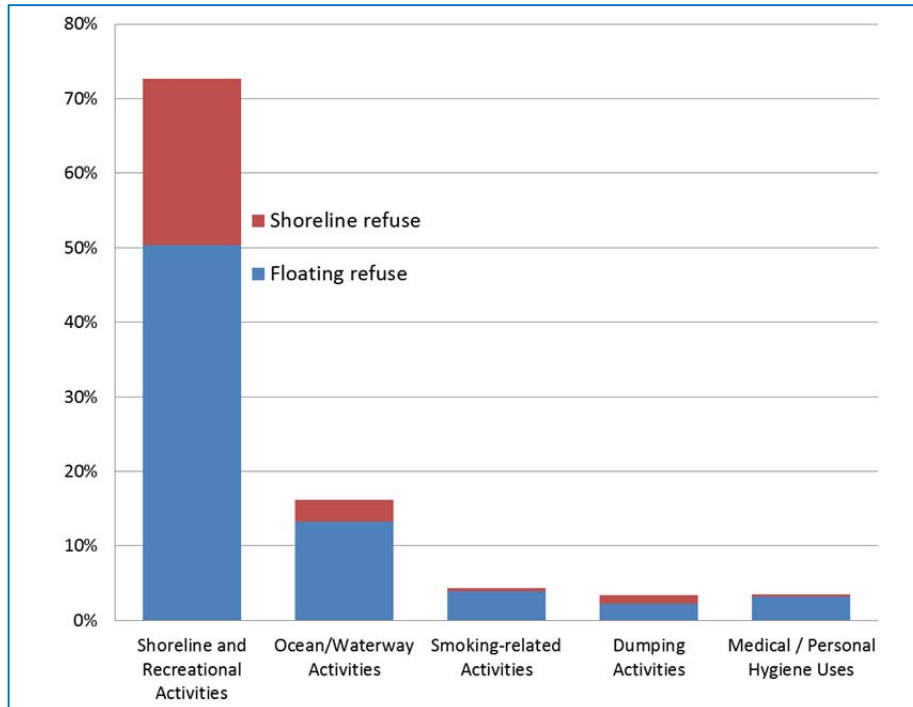
**Table 1: Possible Major Sources of Marine Refuse and Types of Activities**

Type of Activity	Major Sources
Shoreline and recreational activities	Waterfront areas Typhoon shelters and marinas Untreated urban stormwater runoff Riverbanks
Ocean/waterway activities	Fishing-related activities at waterfront areas Marine vessels Offshore fish farms and works sites
Smoking-related activities	Waterfront areas and inland zones
Dumping activities	Waterfront areas and inland zones
Medical/personal hygiene uses	Waterfront areas and inland zones

**Figure 10** presents the percentage of marine refuse due to various human activities, in which 73% of the collected marine refuse originated from shoreline and recreational activities, 16% originated from ocean / waterway activities with the remaining approximate 11% originating from various other activities.

<sup>3</sup> Seba B. Sheavly, 2010. National Marine Debris Monitoring Program, Lessons Learned, prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Figure 10: Percentage of Marine Refuse due to Human Activities



**Land-based Sources** of marine refuse may originate from coastal areas or from further inland. Refuse generated from recreational activities and left behind at waterfront areas such as beaches, piers, promenades, shore, etc., may enter the marine environment by tidal wave, wind or rain.

Improper disposal of waste by operators at wholesale fish and vegetable markets and marine works sites; users of public piers, typhoon shelters and marinas, etc., may also introduce refuse into the marine environment.

Littering by vessels moored inside typhoon shelters is used to be considered a potential source of marine refuse. The MD has employed contractors to scavenge floating refuse and collect domestic refuse from vessels inside typhoon shelters to alleviate the problem. As such, this source of marine refuse has become secondary. Refuse from storm drains (e.g. Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter) and waterfront activities within the typhoon shelter areas (e.g. Aberdeen and To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter) are now the predominant sources.

Although most of the inlets of the public stormwater drainage systems (e.g. upstream intakes, roadside gully, channels etc.) are provided with gratings to prevent debris/rubbish being washed into the drainage systems, part of the land refuse could be washed into the stormwater drains and flushed out to the sea during adverse weather such as tropical storms and heavy rain. In particular, districts with a high

population density (e.g. the harbour area) are susceptible to stormwater pollution due to increased human activities.

Streams and rivers are also potential carriers of floating refuse as demonstrated by the fact that more refuse were found at Pui O Beach, Hung Shing Yeh Beach after heavy rain. Streams entering these beaches may be a likely source of refuse.

**Marine-based Sources** of marine refuse are mainly due to littering at sea by people conducting fish farm operations, water sports, leisure boating activities or angling. Marine refuse items likely generated from marine and fishing vessels were ropes, buoys/floats, and oil/lubricant or coolant bottles, broken nets, strapping bands, etc, whereas items from water sports, leisure boating activities were found to be of domestic waste in nature, such as plastic beverage bottles, food packets, and metal beverage cans, etc. The refuse composition was similar to that of the land-based sources of refuse generated from shoreline and recreational activities, making it difficult to distinguish from land-based sources.

Cruise ships and cargo carriers could possibly be another potential source introducing refuse to the marine waters. Domestic waste from cruise ships is significant due to the large number of passengers. Domestic items for marine voyage often come in large packaging size. However, waste items with such packaging were not found in the marine refuse collected by MD during the survey. Currently, MD provides free of charge domestic refuse collection service to vessels at anchorage and harbour moorings while they are staying in port. Domestic waste from vessels is under proper management in Hong Kong.

Cargo container lost at sea from cargo ships in severe weather is a very rare and exceptional occurrence. Refuse resulted from lost cargo is not regarded as marine refuse in normal circumstances.

## 7. Impact of Refuse Sources

**Shoreline and Recreational Activities** generated the largest amount of marine refuse (22.3% and 50.4% of shoreline and floating refuse respectively, **Figure 10**). Most of the items were of single-use disposable nature and food-related (e.g. beverage bottles, caps and lids, food packets, and food packaging materials). The quantity of refuse was highly related to human activities carried out at shorelines and littering behaviour. A significant increase in the amount of land and marine refuse collected during the Dragon Boat and Mid-autumn Festivals was observed while the increase was insignificant after the Chinese New Year during which shoreline activities were less common. For instance, abandoned mooncake tin cans, lanterns, beach mats, etc., were seen on beaches and promenades after Mid-autumn festival celebration. Besides festive events, more refuse was collected during summer where people went to the bathing beaches and the seaside for leisure.

**Ocean / Waterway Activities** contributed a moderate percentage of marine refuse (2.9% and 13.3% of shoreline and floating refuse respectively, **Figure 10**). Plastic hard items, plastic rope, plastic strapping bands, processed timber and plastic baits packets were commonly found items. These small pieces were possibly originated from fisherman vessels and off-shore fish farms.

**Smoking-related Activities** generated trash like cigarette butts, package and lighters, and comprised a very small percentage of marine refuse (0.4% and 3.9% of shoreline and floating refuse respectively, **Figure 10**). More smoking-related items were found on land (including land above high tide mark and within the inter-tidal zone) than in water, especially on gazetted beaches. People smoked and littered. The refuse was then washed or blown into the sea and, if not collected by MD, eventually landed on a shore elsewhere. Fewer cigarette butts were found in floating refuse as soaked cigarette butts sink, and would only be collected by MD when they were churned up by water currents and uplifted to water surface.

**Dumping Activities** contributed a very small percentage of the marine refuse (1.1% and 2.3% of shoreline and floating refuse respectively, **Figure 10**). Common refuse items were fragments of foam plastic sponge, rubber sheet, plastic household cleaning bottles, and paper cardboard boxes, due to littering of smaller items of construction materials and household waste rather than dumping of construction materials in larger loads.

**Medical / Personal Hygiene Uses** contributed a very small percentage of the marine refuse (0.3% and 3.1% of shoreline and floating refuse respectively, **Figure 10**). Sanitary items such as cotton buds, diapers, were the most commonly found types of medical / personal hygiene waste. Problem of medical waste such as used syringes and vials was rather limited.

## 8. Seasonal and Spatial Distribution of Marine Refuse

**Seasonal Variation.** Refuse amount varied in different weather conditions. More marine refuse was collected during the wet season and following severe weather (e.g. typhoons) than during the dry season (**Figure 11**). It was also positively related to rainfall (**Figure 12**). Refuse amount increased from May and reached a maximum in August during which more people would go to beaches and seaside for bathing, carnivals and water sports.

Figure 11: Variation of Marine Refuse Amount in Wet Season, Severe Weather and Dry Season

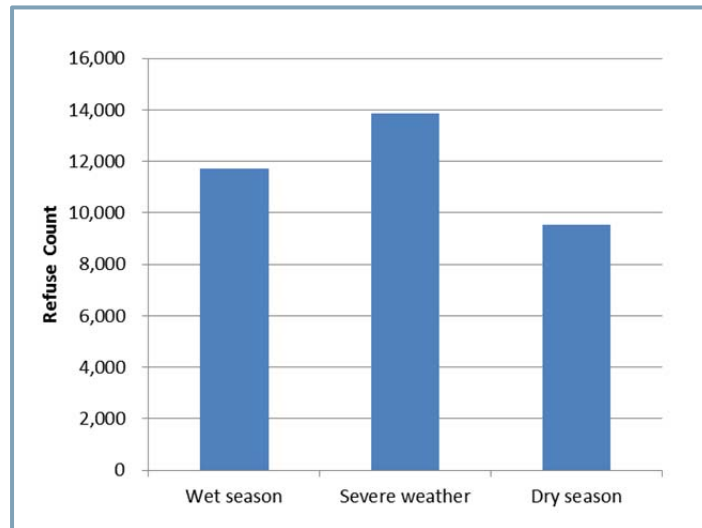
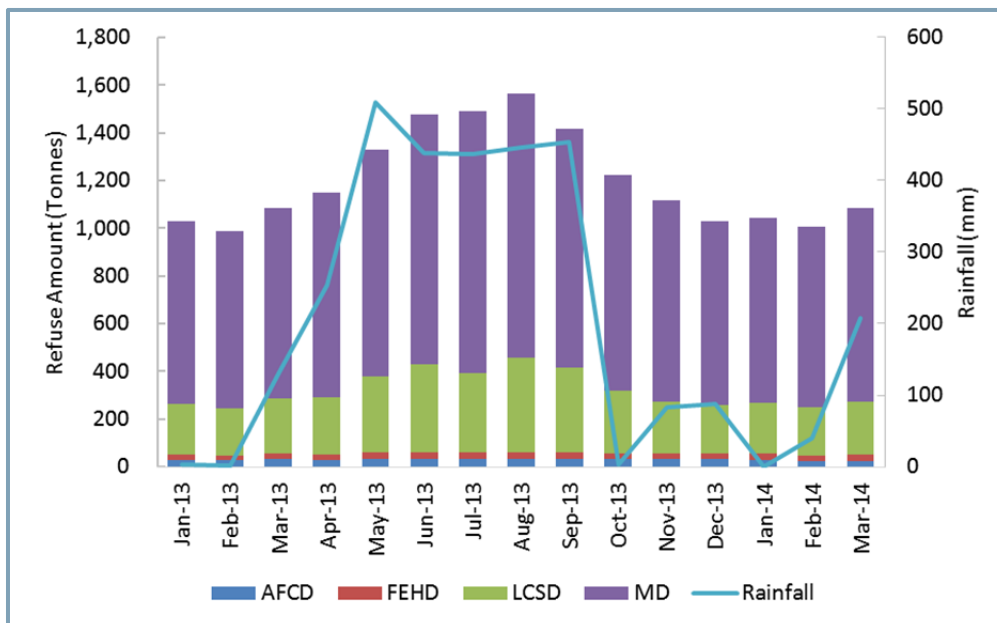


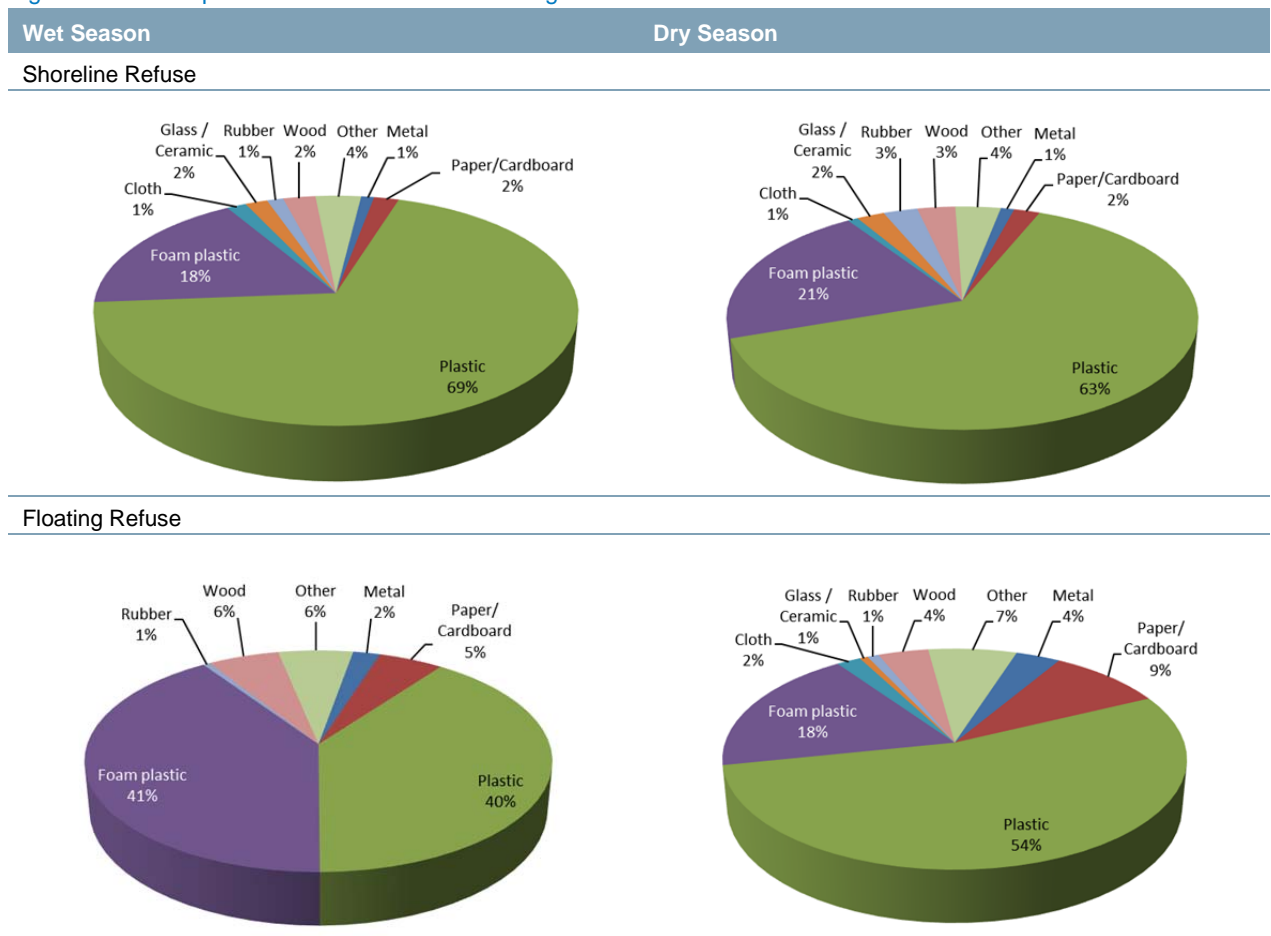
Figure 12: Marine Refuse Amount and Monthly Rainfall



Nature debris included.

In terms of refuse composition, seasonal variation was insignificant for shoreline refuse but a noticeable increase in foam plastic items in wet season for floating refuse (**Figure 13**), possibly due to more intense fishing-related and water sports activities during that period.

Figure 13: Composition of Shoreline and Floating Refuse



In terms of refuse source, shoreline and recreational activities contributed the major source of refuse, followed by ocean/waterway activities and smoking-related activities (**Figure 14**) in both wet and dry seasons. The distribution pattern was similar for shoreline and floating refuse in the two seasons. However, a noticeable increase was observed for refuse from ocean/waterway activities in wet season, possibly due to more intense water sports, leisure boating and fishing-related activities during that period.

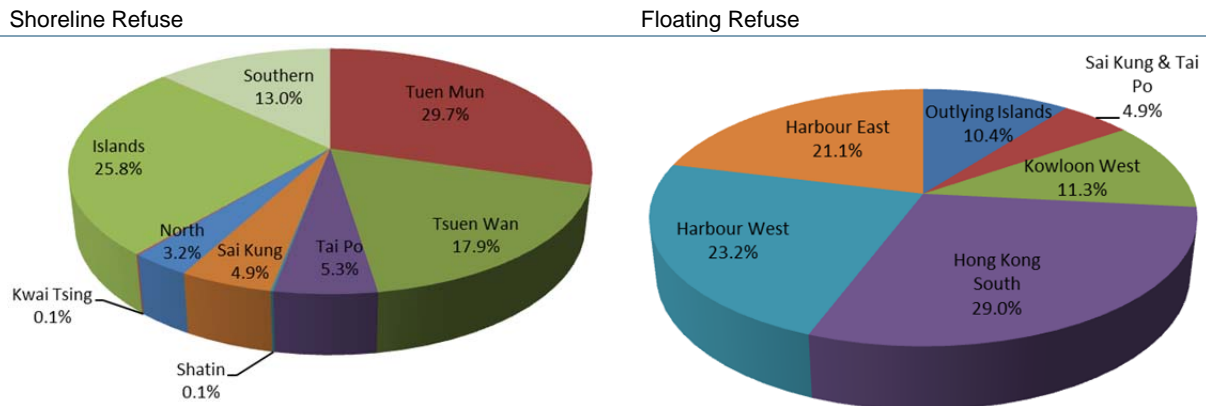
Figure 14: Source Activities of Shoreline and Floating Refuse



**Spatial Distribution.** More refuse was found in the western and southern parts of Hong Kong (**Figure 15**). Shoreline refuse was mainly found in Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun, Southern District and Islands District while more floating refuse was found in Outlying Islands, Harbour East, Harbour West, Hong Kong South, and Kowloon West.



Figure 15: Geographical Distribution of Marine Refuse (by weight)



Natural debris included.

Demarcation for shoreline refuse follows that of the District Councils.

Demarcation for floating refuse:

Harbour West: Yaumatei, Sham Shui Po, Western District, Central District, Tsim Sha Tsui

Harbour East: Hung Hom, To Kwa Wan, Kwun Tong, Sam Ka Tsuen, Chai Wan & Lei Yue Mun, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, North Point & Quarry Bay, Shau Kei Wan, Junk Bay

Hong Kong South: Aberdeen, Tin Wan, Stanley Bay, Deep Water & Repulse Bay

Kowloon West: Urmston Road, Castle Peak Bay, Tuen Mun, Tai Lam, Ma Wan, Tsing Yi (North), Tsuen Wan, Ramble Channel

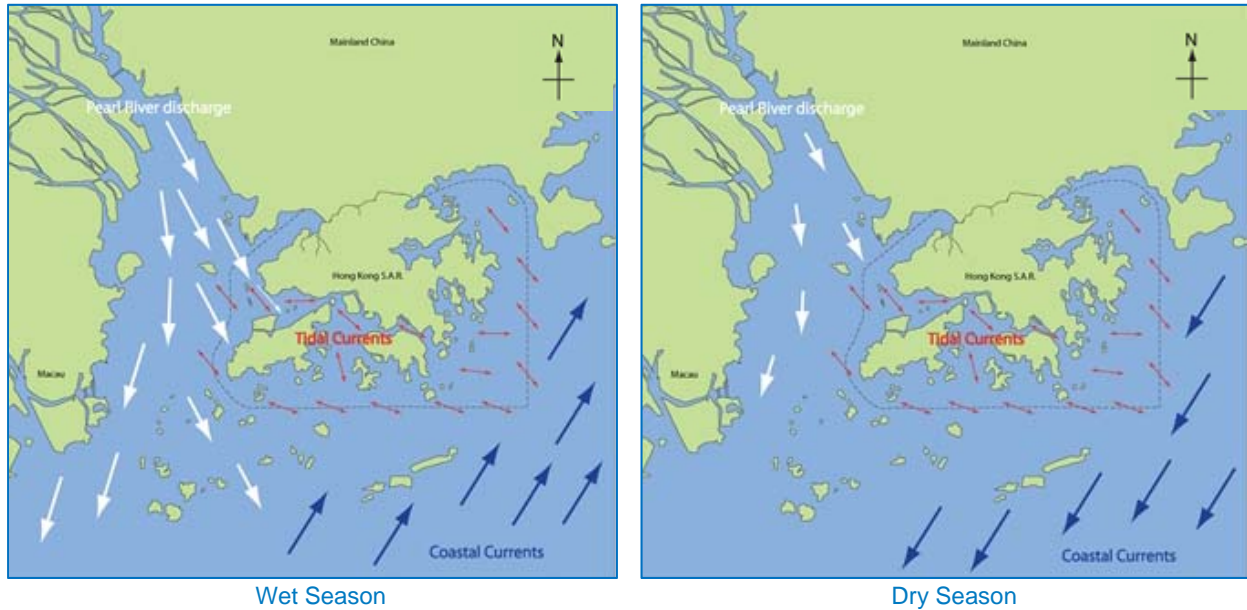
Sai Kung & Tai Po: Sai Kung Harbour, Sai Kung Hoi, Pak Sha Wan, Tolo (North), Tolo (West), Tolo (South)

Outlying Islands: Cheung Chau, Lamma Island, Lantau (East), Tai O, Chep Lap Kok

**Overall Distribution.** More marine refuse is collected from different parts of Hong Kong in wet seasons since more people go to bathing beaches and the seaside in the summer period, hence higher amount of marine refuse is observed. This can be further explained by the influence of water movements in the South East China where south-westerly oceanic flow prevails in the summer period. In summer when rainfall is at its highest, refuse accumulated in local storm drains and on the shores will be flushed into the sea or some refuse may be carried by the Pearl River flow and brought to Hong Kong's waters and shores. The influence of Pearl River outflow and the oceanic flow is progressively reduced towards the east, and the eastern and north eastern coasts of Hong Kong (i.e. Sai Kung, Tai Po) are virtually unaffected. This phenomenon is reflected by the higher refuse accumulation rate observed at Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan and Southern District and Islands District in the wet season. The influence on seasonal variation on spatial distribution is presented in **Figure 16**.

The spatial distribution of marine refuse during the wet season would have implications on the MD's cleansing programmes for the collection of floating refuse from western and southern waters during the wet season, including the arrangement for special cleansing of shoreline refuse trapped in foreshore water, etc., before and during wet season.

Figure 16: Factors Influencing Hong Kong's Hydrography during Wet and Dry Seasons



Source: Project WATERMAN, University of HONG KONG, 2010.

## 9. Shorelines Vulnerable to Refuse Accumulation

Computer modelling results suggest that wind direction, instead of water current, is a dominant factor affecting the distribution of marine refuse when the wind speed is greater than 4 m/s (moderate wind)<sup>4</sup>. This factor would be more obvious under adverse weather conditions such as typhoon. The northeast monsoon generally prevails over the coast of southern China in winter while the southwest monsoon dominates in summer and as a result, shorelines facing the prevailing wind direction tend to accumulate more refuse. Coupled with the less dominant water current factor, shores along the south and southwest coast of Hong Kong are more vulnerable to refuse accumulation than those in the east or northeast in the wet season. Hence, the refuse cleanup schedule can be drawn up in light of the seasonal pattern of refuse accumulation.

The deposition of floating refuse along Hong Kong shorelines in wet and dry seasons are presented in **Figures 17** and **18**. Shorelines are highlighted by different colours to indicate the predicted deposition at these shores under different modelling scenarios.

<sup>4</sup> The Beaufort Scale is used to describe wind speeds. The scale is divided into 13 levels, from the calm wind force of 0 (<0.56 m/s), light wind force of 1-2 (0.56-3.33 m/s), moderate wind force of 3-4 (3.61-8.33 m/s), to hurricane wind force of 12 (≥32.8 m/s).

Figure 17: Shores Vulnerable to Refuse Accumulation in Wet Season

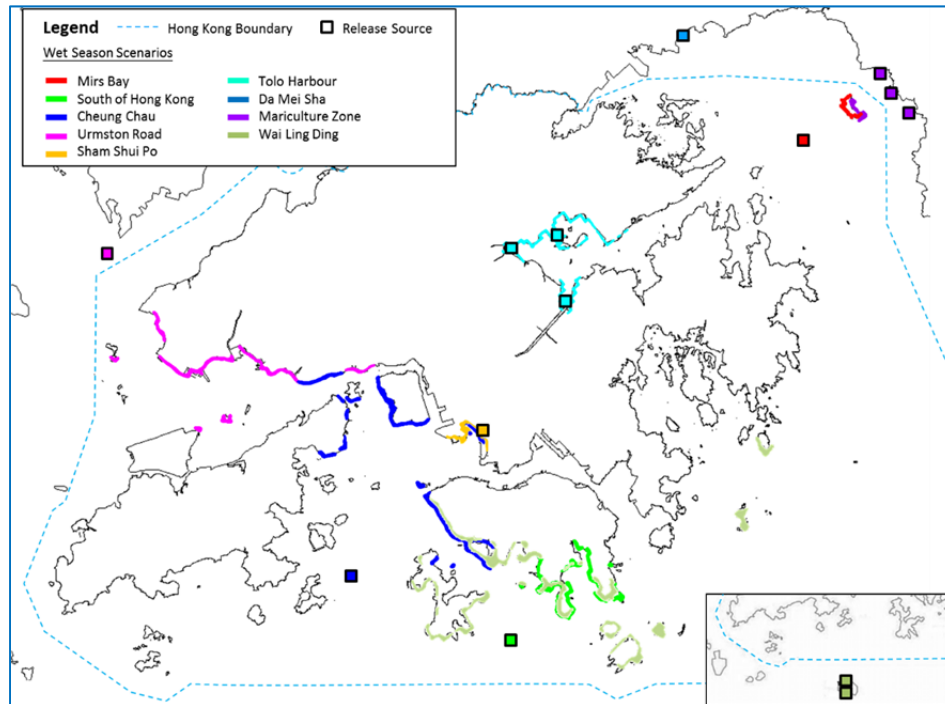
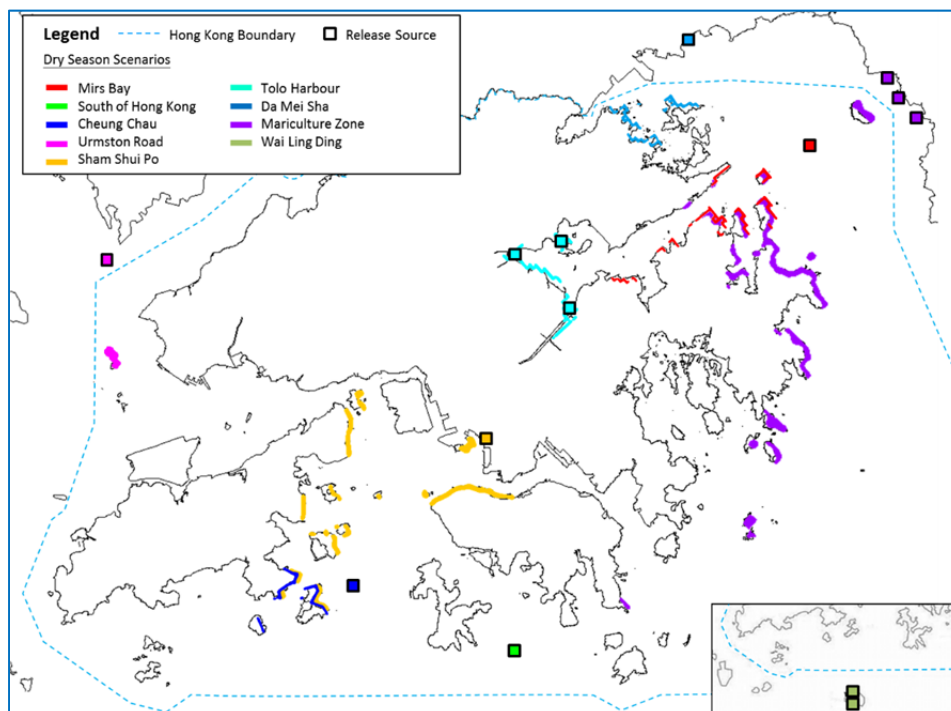


Figure 18: Shores Vulnerable to Refuse Accumulation in Dry Season



## 10. Improvement Measures

In light of the survey findings and the computer modelling results, and drawing reference to the Honolulu Strategy<sup>5</sup> in addressing marine refuse from the global perspective, a three-pronged strategy is necessary to address marine refuse problem in Hong Kong:

- **Reduce overall waste generation at source;**
- **Reduce the amount of refuse entering the marine environment;**
- **Remove refuse from the marine environment.**

With due account of the current local practices, five key improvement areas have been identified to improve the cleanliness of our shorelines:

**Measure 1** Conduct publicity campaigns to engage the community to contribute and participate;

**Measure 2** Promote educational messages to target groups, beach users, students and local community;

**Measure 3** Provide support measures and facilities to reduce refuse from entering the marine environment;

**Measure 4** Enhance efforts to remove refuse from the marine environment; and

**Measure 5** Engage public participation to report marine littering and refuse problem.

With support of relevant government departments, a series of specific actions will be implemented to improve the cleanliness of Hong Kong's shorelines. A summary of actions under the five improvement measures is given in **Appendix D**.

### **Measure 1: Conduct publicity campaigns to engage the community to contribute and participate.**

The WG initiated various promotional activities in 2013 and 2014, e.g. Clean Shoreline Campaign, Clean Shoreline Day, a slogan competition, comics competition and video filming competition to promote clean shoreline messages, i.e. *"Use reusable instead of disposable items at the coast"*, *"Take away your rubbish, dispose properly or recycle it"*, and *"Protect our coast Leave no trace"*. A thematic website<sup>6</sup> was set up to serve as a platform for public education, information sharing, promoting participation in cleanup events, and reporting on marine refuse pollution.

Since the launch of the promotional activities, more schools and commercial companies have shown interest in organizing cleanups or joining cleanup events organised by NGOs/community groups. Two enquires were received about organizing cleanup in 2013 and twenty three enquires in 2014. A total of fifty four schools<sup>7</sup> joined the cleanup events of the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador (SEPA)

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<sup>5</sup> The Honolulu Strategy was developed at the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference which was co-organised by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environment Programme in March 2011.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean\\_shorelines/](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean_shorelines/)

<sup>7</sup> 38 schools joined the cleanup under a regular programme and due to overwhelming response, a top-up session was organised

Scheme in the 2013-14 school year and thirty seven schools have registered to join in 2014-15. Fostering government-community partnership and widening the community network will be continued so as to promote community awareness of and joint efforts in keeping the shorelines clean.

Starting from April 2015, the EPD will partner with NGOs/community groups to conduct special cleanup events on a monthly basis in 2015-16, with the assistance of WG departments<sup>8</sup>. Students and the public will be invited to join the cleanup events. Other promotional campaigns to be conducted in 2015 and 2016 include the WWF's Coastal Watch programme which is sponsored by the Environmental and Conservation Fund (ECF) and Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC); the beach cleanup event of the LCSD's annual sand sculpture competition and beach carnival, and an underwater cleanup event to be co-organised by the AFCD and the Hong Kong Underwater Association at selected coral sites to spread the message of protecting our marine environment and marine conservation.

**Measure 2: Promote educational messages to target groups, beach users, students and local community.** The marine refuse problem in Hong Kong is mainly a result of littering and poor awareness about the consequence of such behaviour. Various educational and outreach activities are being carried out regularly by departments for target groups such as visitors to beaches and shoreline recreational facilities; fishermen; users of typhoon shelters and marinas, operators at fish and vegetable wholesale markets, and major marine works sites, etc. Departments will continue to spread the anti-littering message with seasonal appeal to the public to help keep public venues and places clean, especially during festival celebrations. Publicity and education activities will be organised by WG departments while the EPD will continue to coordinate the WG activities and maintain the thematic website. Apart from collaboration with the ECC to promote the "Marine Conservation, Greener and Cleaner Shorelines Programme" under the SEPA Scheme, the EPD will collaborate with ECC to develop teaching materials to educate the younger generation on marine refuse and clean shoreline message.

During the forthcoming outreach activities, the MD will give greater emphasis to the issue of floating refuse during the regular meetings with fisherman organizations. Slide shows, pamphlets and statistics will be used to further publicize the message of keeping the sea clean. Fisherman representatives will be educated about penalties for marine littering at meetings held with MD during regular visits to the fish wholesale markets as part of the routine patrol. With the assistance of the Fish Marketing Organization's staff, MD patrol officers will inspect the refuse collection facilities of fishing vessels operated at the market to ensure there is proper storage and disposal of refuse generated during the operation. Both MD and AFCD patrol officers will remind workers at the fish and vegetable wholesale markets to properly store their foam boxes to avoid boxes falling into the sea by accident. Beside, staff of AFCD will inspect the market hygiene and enforce the Market Administrative Rules ("the Rules") for improper depositing of trade refuse. Anyone who contravenes the Rules may result in termination of the stall tenancy.

**Measure 3: Provide support measures and facilities to reduce refuse from entering the marine environment.** Drinking fountains have been installed at some gazetted beaches, water sports centres, promenades, waterfront parks and recreational sites of some country parks. The LCSD will consider

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for 16 more schools.

<sup>8</sup> Assistance such as provision of gloves, garbage bags and refuse removal service is required.

providing more drinking fountains at more gazetted beaches, parks, waterfront promenades and other recreational venues. In particular, the LCSD has planned to install drinking fountains at four beaches in the Sai Kung District and a promenade in the Kowloon City District, namely, Clear Water Bay First Beach, Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Silverstrand Beach and Hung Hom Promenade in 2015 and Trio Beach in 2016. Departments will explore the viability of installing more drinking water fountains along the shoreline and suitable locations and also seek to encourage the public to use the drinking fountains in publicity and education activities.

The Study notes that there is a noticeable increase in floating refuse following heavy rain and adverse weather conditions, since the refuse will enter the sea through water courses and storm water drains. Cleansing at storm water drains would need to be stepped up to remove refuse before and during the rainy seasons. The DSD will continue to try out the installation of floating booms at three new locations in Kowloon City, Yau Tong and Shau Kei Wan to trap floating refuse from drainage outlets.

Departments will review the location, size and number of rubbish bins and waste separations bins at the shores and beaches, and the clearance frequency of the bins to encourage the public to recycle or dispose of their waste properly.

**Measure 4: Enhance efforts to remove refuse from the marine environment.** Since more floating refuse is observed soon after typhoons, the MD will conduct land-based patrols after typhoons to identify areas which have accumulated floating refuse requiring clean-up once the collection fleet can proceed to work. The MD will increase shoreline cleansing and carry out joint operations with the departments concerned to remove refuse trapped at the rocky bays by deploying foreshore cleansing teams before and during wet seasons. Additional resources will be deployed as necessary.

During wet season, the prevailing south-westerly wind has marked effect on refuse accumulation, and more refuse is also collected especially after heavy rain, as observed at some shorelines in Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Southern District and Islands District. The Study has drawn up a list of priority sites (**Appendix E**), which are more prone to refuse accumulation and subject to more complaints. Three gazetted beaches are included in the list, since they have more shoreline refuse collected due to their geographical location which makes them more prone to refuse accumulation under the influence of the prevailing wind and heavy rain, apart from human activities in the beach hinterland. Regarding other locations, the list includes a marine park and a marine reserve, and the rest are more remote areas facing the prevailing winds during the wet or dry seasons. These sites are subject to more complaints since the existing cleansing frequency cannot keep up with the pace of refuse accumulation. This Study has therefore suggested the need for adjusting the cleansing frequency in order to remove the accumulated refuse before it becomes an eyesore.

The AFCD and FEHD will strategically enhance the cleansing frequency at priority sites according to the refuse accumulation pattern as concluded by this Study. FEHD will conduct an overview of the cleansing frequency at the priority sites in accordance with the refuse accumulation pattern in the summer and the winter seasons, as appropriate. AFCD plans to increase the cleanup frequencies at the Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park from three times per week to four times per week and Cape D'Aguilar from once a month to twice a month in 2015-2016. The LCSD's on-site cleansing contractor at the three gazetted

beaches listed as priority sites will continue to regularly remove the refuse before it generates complaints. LCSD will also conduct 100 additional ad-hoc cleanups at the priority sites during wet seasons. On top of the enhanced cleansing by government departments, the EPD has identified some locations including the priority sites suitable for special monthly cleanup events to be organised in partnership with NGOs/community groups.

**Measure 5: Engage public participation to report marine littering and refuse problem.** To complement the patrols by government departments in keeping the shorelines clean, signage, posters or stickers will be put up at prominent seaside locations to remind the public about the 1823 hotline for reporting marine littering from vessels or refuse at sea and coastal areas. The MD will also produce a leaflet to explain the key information that should be provided in reporting marine littering from vessels that would facilitate follow-up by the department. To ensure speedy referral and to enhance co-ordination among departments in handling complaints, the key contacts of relevant government departments will continue to be updated on a regular basis, so that follow up actions such as cleanup could be arranged expeditiously soon after receipt of the complaints and clarification with the complainants on the exact locations.

## 11. Conclusions

The following summarises the key messages from this study:

- **Overall, marine refuse does not constitute a serious problem in Hong Kong.** Marine refuse, comprised less than 0.5% of municipal solid waste in terms of weight. Non-local refuse item (i.e. items with labelling in simplified Chinese characters) is not a significant problem in most shorelines, but relatively more common in Mirs Bay. However, refuse accumulated at shores or floating on sea becomes a visual amenity problem and an eyesore generating complaints, and could cause impacts to the marine environment threatening the health of ecosystems. Concerted actions from the government and the community should be called for to keep the shorelines clean.
- **Improper handling and disposal is the major attribution to marine refuse.** Marine refuse is mainly a result of littering and poor awareness of the community about the consequence of such behavior. Over 80% of marine refuse originates from land-based sources with shoreline and recreational activities being the predominant activity type contributing to marine refuse. The majority of this refuse becomes floating refuse, which enters the marine environment via stormwater drains, run-offs, or being disposed of irresponsibly at the seaside and got blown into the sea. Education campaigns targeting people carrying out shoreline and recreational activities at beaches, waterfront areas, piers, water sports centres as well as shore users including vessel operators/passengers and fish farmers should be organised.
- **Marine refuse distribution is mainly affected by prevailing winds.** In general, the western and southern part of Hong Kong are more prone to refuse accumulation, particularly, Tuen Mun, Tuseen Wan, Southern District and Islands District in wet season due to south-westerly prevailing wind coupled with oceanic flow and discharge of the Pearl River; whereas, Tai Po and Sai Kung will receive more

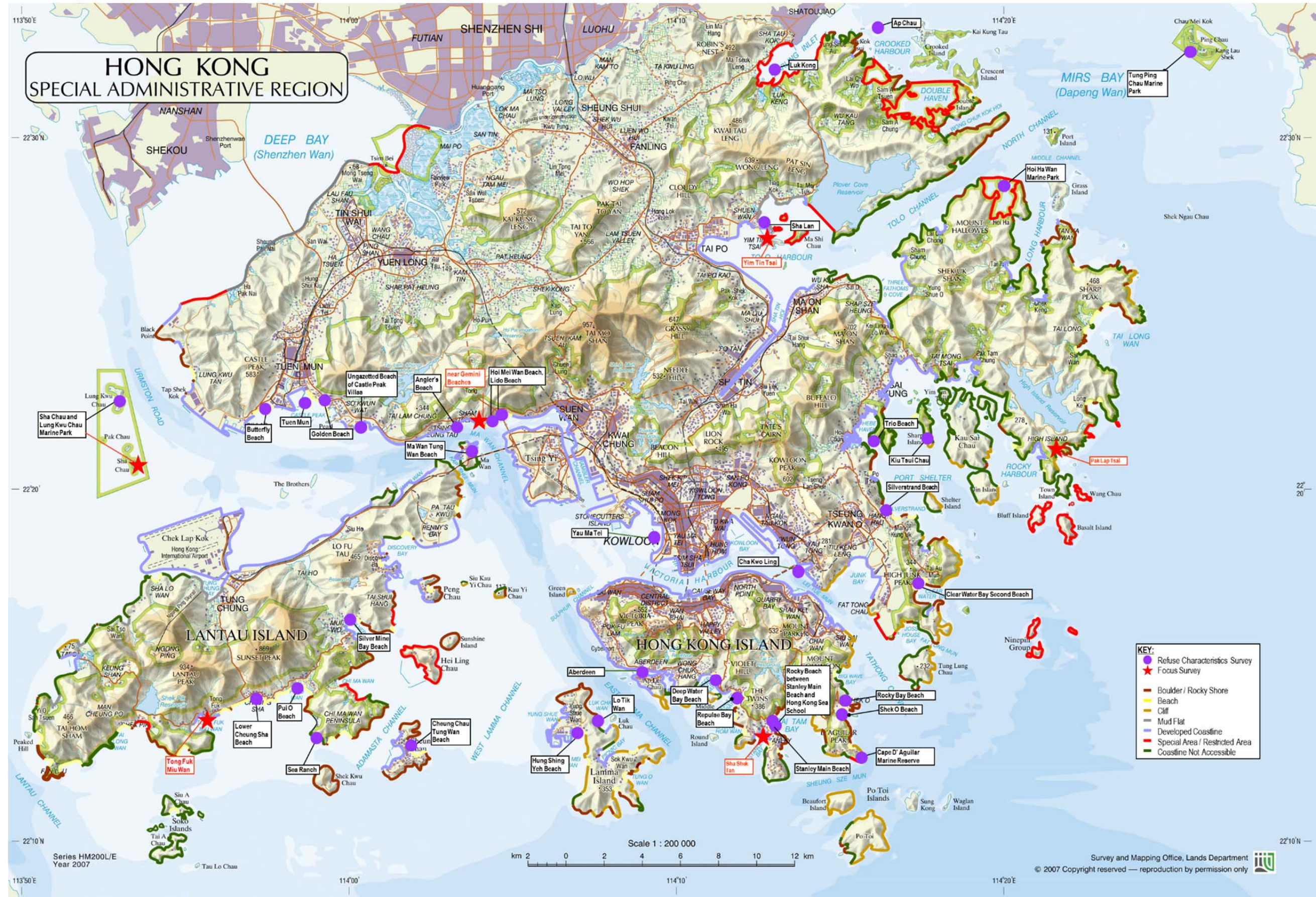
marine refuse in dry seasons due to north-easterly prevailing wind and the oceanic flows from north-west.

- **Education, enforcement and waste prevention and removal are key improvement measures.** Drawing reference to the Honolulu Strategy, a recognized global framework for prevention and management of marine debris, a 3-pronged strategy is necessary for Hong Kong to address the local marine refuse problem where strengthened publicity and outreach would be an effective way to instill a sense of responsibility and care for shorelines; enforcement and patrols would have a deterrent effect against irresponsible littering; and finally, waste prevention and removal would reduce the amount of refuse entering the marine environment while timely or enhanced cleanup of marine refuse would reduce refuse accumulation to the extent of becoming an eyesore.
- **Government and community partnership is crucial to tackle marine refuse problem.** Hong Kong has a long shoreline and considerable amount of resources is required to keep the shorelines clean especially when the refuse sources are diffuse. While the Government has put in place cleansing regimes to remove refuse from the sea, beaches and shorelines, many community organizations have also been conducting regular beach cleanups which play an important part in raising public awareness, and the cleanups themselves improve the local environment for the benefit of all. NGOs' efforts should be supported and expanded to build up the capacity of the public to co-manage marine refuse problem with the Government through source prevention and community cleanup efforts.



# Appendix A. Landforms of Hong Kong Shores and the Locations of Survey Sites

Appendix A: Landforms of Hong Kong Shores and the Locations of Survey Sites



## Appendix B. Sample Data Card for the Marine Refuse Surveys



**Data Card for Marine Refuse Survey Type 2  or Type 3**

**Study on Investigation into Sources and Fates of Marine Refuse in Hong Kong**

<b>Refuse type:</b> (✓ tick applicable)	Marine-based <input type="checkbox"/>	Land-based <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date and time:</b>	
<b>Shoreline name:</b>			<b>District:</b>	
<b>Name of team leader:</b>			<b>Team members:</b> (Names)	
<b>Contact no. / email:</b>				
<b>Total no bags:</b>			<b>Total weight:</b>	

**Collect items according to their material composition**

A pre-sorting exercise is recommended when collecting refuse.  
Use 5 bags for collecting refuse according to material composition (Metal, Paper, Plastic, Natural or Other).  
Count and weight the total number of bags collected for each material and fill in the table below:

Bags collected:	Metal (all types)	Paper (and Cardboard)	Plastic (and Foamed plastic)	Natural (seaweed, branches, leaves)	Other (Rubber, Glass, Wood, etc.)
No. of bags					
Total weight					

**Record information on collected items, sorting them according to the categories below:**

Empty the content of 1 of the 4 bags of pre-sorted refuse (Metal, Paper, Plastic or Other) onto an area shielded from wind and the public for further sorting according to the categories listed below. (Note that the 'Natural' debris bags do not require further sorting).

Count and enter the total number of items per category in the 1<sup>st</sup> box.  
You may use tally marks to help count items (optional).  
Weigh and enter the total weight of the items in the 2<sup>nd</sup> box (preferable).

**Notes:**

-  Items recycled in Hong Kong are marked with an asterisk (\*).
- NL Non-local items

Total	Item description	Code	Kg
6	Metal - Beverage cans (aluminium)	ME03	0.09

**Shoreline and Recreational Activities** (Debris from beach-goers, sports/games, festivals, streets/storm drains, etc)

NL		Code	NL		NL		NL
	Metal - Beverage cans (aluminium)*	ME03					
	Metal - Foil wrappers* (Potato chips packaging, etc.)	ME06					
	Metal - Food tins, cans (< 4L)*	ME04.2					
	Metal - Food tins, cans (> 4L) *	ME05.2					
	Metal - Fragments (< 2 cm)	ME08.1					
	Metal - Fragments (2-5 cm)	ME08.2					
	Metal - Fragments (> 5 cm)	ME08.3					
	Metal - Pull tabs, Lids*	ME02					
	Metal - BBQ forks, Cutlery, Plates, Cups	ME01					
	Paper - Bags, Newspapers, Magazines*	PC01					
	Paper - Food containers, Beverage cartons*	PC03.1					
	Paper - Tubes for fireworks	PC04					
	Plastic - Bags*	PL07.1					
	Plastic - Mesh bags (vegetables, oysters, etc.)	PL15					
	Plastic - Beverage bottles < 2L *	PL02.1					
	Plastic - Beverage bottles > 2L *	PL03.1					
	Plastic - Caps, Lids*	PL01					
	Plastic - Beverage package rings (6-Pack holders, etc)*	PL05					
	Plastic - Cutlery (Spoons, Knives, Forks), Straws, Stirrers*	PL04					
	Plastic - Cyalume (glow) sticks	PL24.3					
	Plastic - Food Containers, Cups, Plates*	PL06					
	Foamed plastic - Food Containers, Cups	FP02.1					
	Foamed plastic fragments (< 2 cm)	FP02.2					
	Foamed plastic fragments (2-5 cm)	FP02.3					
	Foamed plastic fragments (> 5 cm)	FP02.4					
	Plastic - Gloves	PL09					
	Plastic - Toys *	PL08					
	Plastic - Pieces	PL07.3					
	Plastic - Food wrappers, labels, packets	PL07.4					
	Plastic - Pens	PL24.6					
	Cloth - Backpacks & bags	CL02					
	Cloth - Clothing, Shoes, towels, hats*	CL01					
	Glass - Beverage bottles*	GC02					
	Glass or Ceramic - Tableware (Plates, Cups)	GC03					
	Glass or Ceramic fragments (< 2cm)	GC07.1					
	Glass or Ceramic fragments (2-5 cm)	GC07.2					
	Glass or Ceramic fragments (> 5cm)	GC07.3					
	Rubber - Flip-flops footwear	RB02					
	Rubber - Toys, Balls, Balloons	RB01					
	Wood - Chopsticks, Toothpicks, Ice-cream sticks	WD03					
	Wood - Corks	WD01					
	Wood - Incense sticks, Matches	WD05					
	Other - Candles	OT01					
	Other - Shotgun shells / Wadding	PL24.5					
	Other - Food waste	OT05.3					



### Data Card for Marine Refuse Survey

**Ocean / Waterway Activities** (Debris from recreational / commercial fishing and boat / vessel operations)

NL		NL
	Metal - Crab / Lobster / Fish traps	ME07
	Metal - wire, wire mesh, barbed wire, electrical wire	ME09
	Plastic - Bait packets *	PL07.2
	Plastic - Oil / Lube, Coolant bottles (< 2L) for industrial use*	PL02.2
	Plastic - Oil / Lube, Coolant bottles (> 2L) for industrial use*	PL03.2
	Plastic - Buoys / Floats*	PL14
	Foamed plastic - Buoys / Floats	FP03
	Plastic - Crab / Lobster / Fish traps	PL17.1
	Plastic - Crates, Baskets, Trays *	PL13
	Plastic - Fish lures	PL17.2
	Plastic - Fishing line	PL18
	Plastic - Fishing nets	PL20
	Plastic - hard items (surf board, etc.)	PL24.1
	Plastic - Pellets*	PL23

NL		NL
	Plastic - Rope	PL19
	Plastic - Sheets / Tarps*	PL16
	Plastic - Strapping bands	PL21
	Foamed plastic - Insulation, Packaging (< 0.5 m)	FP04.1
	Foamed plastic - Insulation, Packaging (> 0.5 m)	FP04.2
	Cloth - Canvas, Sailcloth & Sacking (Hessian)	CL03
	Cloth - Rope, String	CL04
	Glass - Fluorescent Light tubes	GC05
	Glass - Glass buoys	GC06
	Glass - Light bulbs	GC04
	Rubber - Gloves	RB03
	Rubber - Rubber bands	RB06
	Wood - Pallets, Processed timber	WD04
	Wood - Fishing traps and pots	WD02

**Smoking-Related Activities**

(Debris of smoking-related material and packaging by smokers)

NL		NL
	Paper - Tobacco packaging*	PC03.2
	Plastic - Cigarettes, Butts, Filters	PL11.1
	Plastic - Cigarette lighters	PL10
	Plastic - Cigar tips	PL11.2

**Dumping Activities**

(Improper disposal of construction material and household waste)

NL		NL	NL	NL
	Metal - Drums, Gas bottles, Buckets, Cans (> 4L) *	ME05.1		
	Metal - Paint tins, Spray cans, Buckets (< 4L) *	ME04.3		
	Foamed plastic - Foam sponge	FP01		
	Plastic - Furniture (Chairs, etc)	PL24.2		
	Plastic - Dish-washing/laundry/household cleansing bottles (DOVE, AXE, etc.) (< 2L) *	PL02.3		
	Plastic - Dish-washing/laundry/household cleansing bottles (DOVE, AXE, etc.) (> 2L) *	PL03.3		
	Paper - Cardboard boxes and Cartons including household waste	PC02		
	Wood - Furniture (Chairs, etc)	WD06		
	Cloth - Carpet & Furnishing	CL05		
	Other - Building / Construction material (Brick, Cement, Pipes)	GC01		
	Other - Batteries (Torch type) *	OT04		
	Other - Appliances, Electronics*	OT03		
	Other - Bamboo (< 1 m)	OT05.1		
	Other - Bamboo (> 1 m)	OT05.2		
	Rubber - Tyres	RB04		
	Other - Car / Car parts	PL24.4		
	Rubber - Inner-tubes and rubber sheet	RB05		

**Medical / Personal Hygiene**

(Debris from beach-goers, sewers, storm drains, etc.)

NL		NL
	Metal - Aerosol / Spray cans (< 4L) *	ME04.1
	Plastic - Syringes	PL12
	Plastic - Medicine Bottle (< 2L)	PL02.4
	Other - Sanitary items (Cotton buds, Diapers, Tampons, etc.)	OT02
	Rubber - Condoms	RB07
	Glass - Vials	GC08

**Entangled animals**

Dead or  Alive

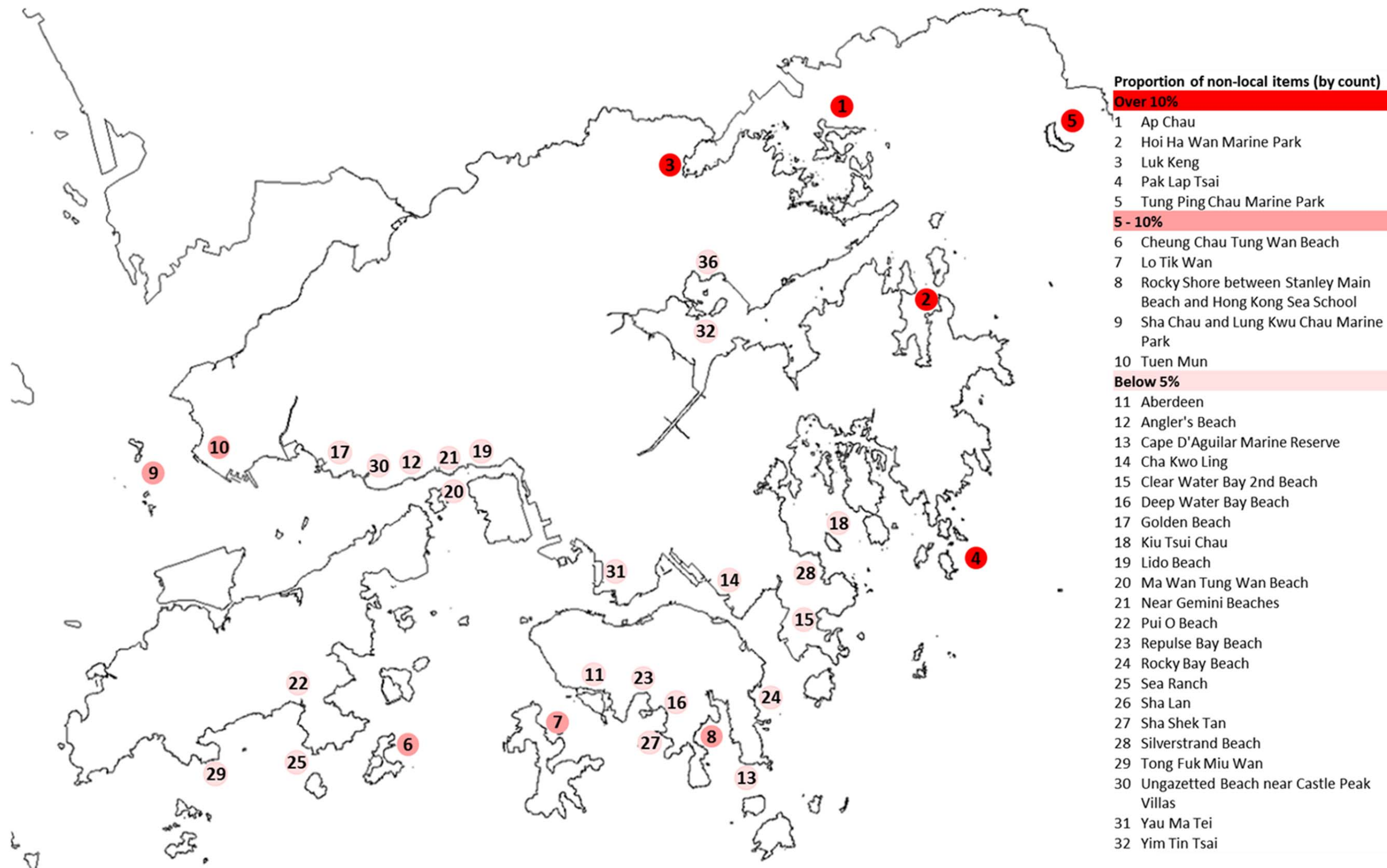
List all entangled animals found during the Cleanup and describe in what they were entangled (e.g. fishing net, rope, etc.)

**What was the most peculiar item collected?**

**Items not originally from Hong Kong?** Comment on the likely origin of items (e.g. by reference to language on packaging)

**Notes** (Comments on any additional refuse observed and its abundance)

## Appendix C. Geographical Distribution of Non-local Items



## Appendix D. Summary of Actions under the Improvement Measures



**Measure 1: Conduct publicity campaigns to engage the community to contribute and participate**

- 1.1 Maintain and improve the dedicated website as a platform for interaction with local community and the public
- 1.2 Conduct monthly cleanup event coordinated by EPD in partnership with community groups
- 1.3 Conduct beach cleanup event during the annual sand sculpture competition and beach carnival
- 1.4 Conduct an underwater cleanup event at selected coral sites

**Measure 2: Promote educational message to target groups, students and local community**

- 2.1 Promote waste reduction/clean shorelines messages through programmes for target groups, e.g. visitors to beaches, BBQ sites, visitors' attractions, camp sites, marine parks, fishermen; users of typhoon shelters and marinas; operators at fish and vegetable wholesale markets and major marine works sites, etc.
- 2.2 Education against smoking at gazetted beaches (i.e. displaying more posters, stickers and notices to advise visitors not to smoke in non-smoking area at gazetted beaches.)
- 2.3 Collaborate with Environmental Campaign Committee to promote "Marine Conservation, Greener and Cleaner Shorelines Programme", and to develop educational tools for students
- 2.4 Arrange printing of environmental message, including telephone numbers for requesting the collection service, on garbage bags being distributed to vessels in typhoon shelters for collection of their domestic garbage
- 2.5 Conduct campaigns to promote related themes or messages and to embrace the broader context of "Keeping Hong Kong Clean"

**Measure 3: Provide support measures and facilities to reduce refuse from entering the marine environment**

- 3.1 Support community groups in launching cleanup operations and promotional activities by providing guidance information on organizing cleanup operation and publicizing their upcoming cleanup operations on the thematic website, providing gloves and garbage bags, arranging for refuse disposal and rendering assistance upon request
- 3.2 Support community groups in undertaking educational, research and other projects and activities for understanding, control and prevention of marine refuse
- 3.3 Provide more drinking fountains at gazetted beaches, parks, waterfront promenades, and other recreational venues
- 3.4 Conduct more frequent refuse removal from surface drainage (e.g. road gullies, upstream catch-pits, storm drains)
- 3.5 Continue to try out floating booms at storm drain/culvert outlets

- 
- 3.6 Review the location, size and number of rubbish bins/waste separation bins, and the clearance frequency of the bins

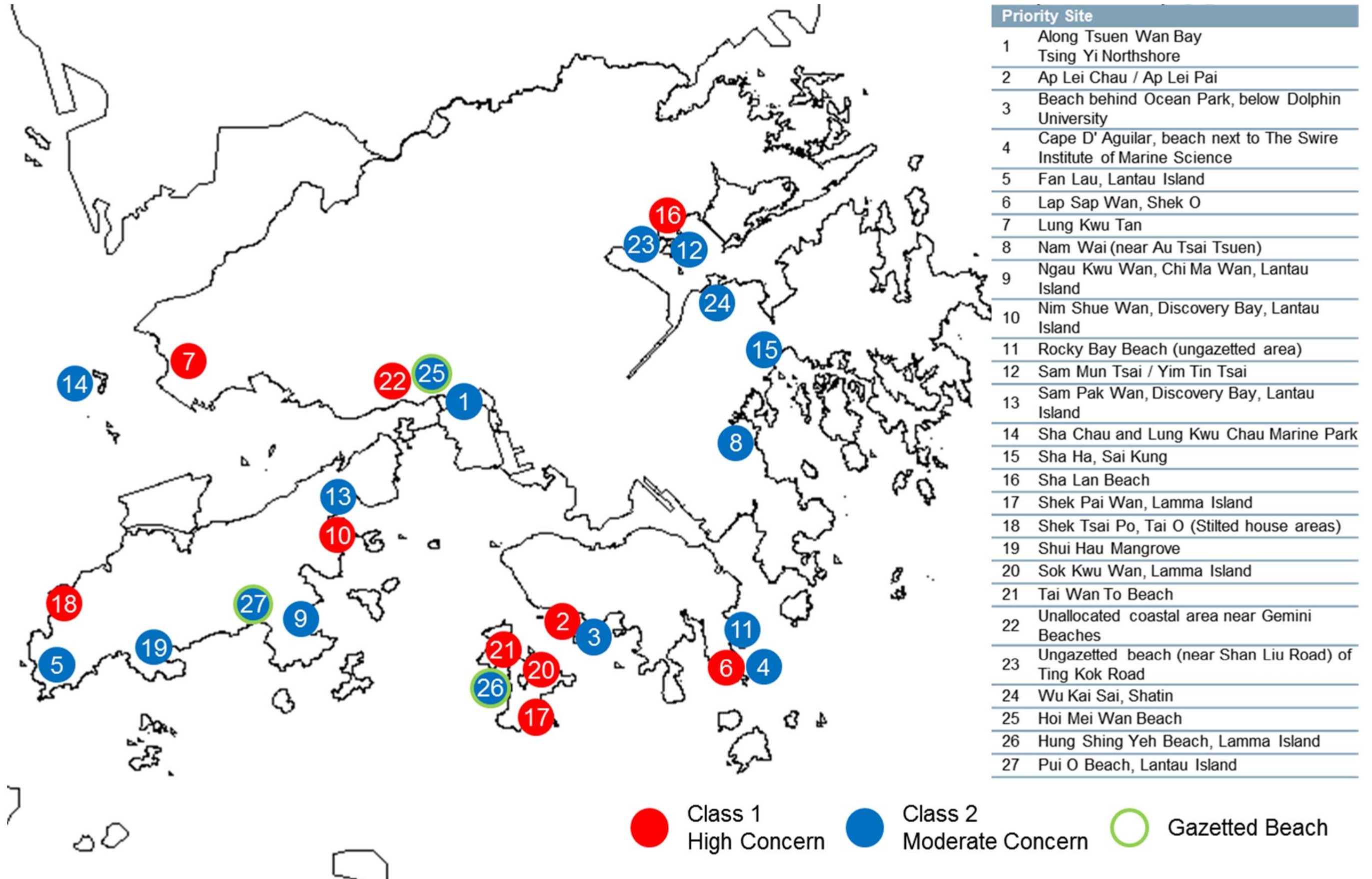
**Measure 4: Enhance efforts to remove refuse from the marine environment**

- 4.1 Step up enforcement on marine littering through more regular patrols, and special operations after festive events at coastal locations which are popular places for festival celebration
- 
- 4.2 Conduct land-based patrols soon after typhoons and organise subsequent cleanup by MD
- 
- 4.3 Consider deploying additional resources as necessary to set up shoreline cleanup by MD and carry out joint operation with concerned departments to remove refuse trapped at the foreshore during wet seasons
- 
- 4.4 Step up cleansing at priority areas which are more prone to accumulate marine refuse as identified by the "Marine Refuse Study", and enhance cleanup after festive events at coastal locations which are popular places for festival celebration

**Measure 5: Engage public participation to report marine littering and refuse problem**

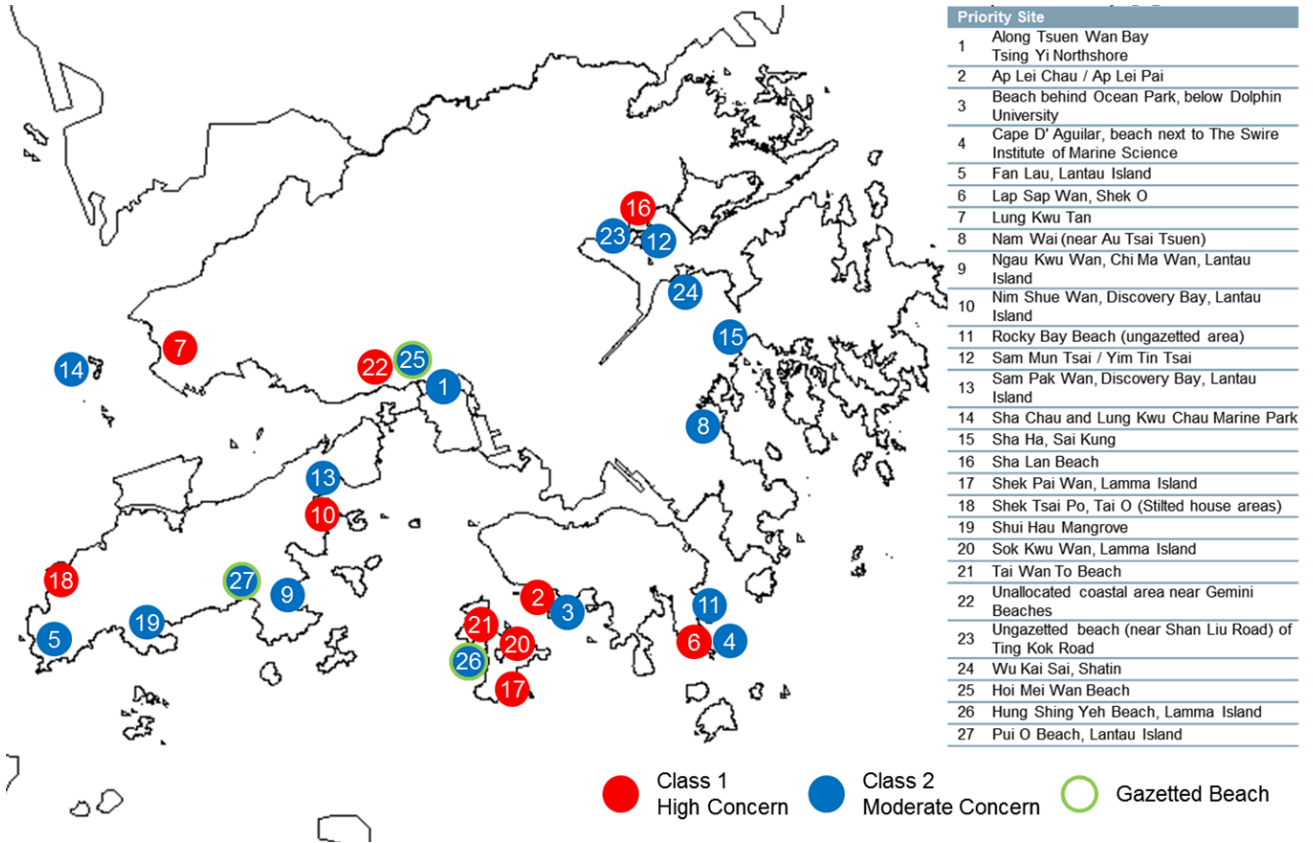
- 5.1 Put up signage/posters/stickers at prominent locations to encourage the public to report marine littering and refuse problem at sea and coastal areas through the 1823 hotline services
- 
- 5.2 Educate the public to record key information in reporting marine littering
- 
- 5.3 Update key contacts of the relevant departments regularly for speedy referral and cleanup in handling complaints/report of marine refuse
-

## Appendix E. Marine Refuse Priority Sites





List of Priority Sites for Enhanced Cleansing Efforts



**Enhanced cleaning at the Priority Sites  
by Government Departments**

	<b>Priority sites</b>	<b>Responsible department</b>	<b>Enhanced cleaning (from April 2015 to March 2016) About 440 additional cleanup operations will be conducted.</b>
1	Along Tsuen Wan Bay & Tsing Yi Northshore	FEHD/ MD	FEHD will conduct 4 cleanup operations spreading over a 12-month period, instead of on an ad-hoc basis. In addition, MD will conduct land-based patrol after typhoons to see if floating refuse has accumulated in the area so as to arrange speedy cleanup as necessary.
2	Ap Lei Chau / Ap Lei Pai	FEHD	FEHD will conduct 3 cleanup operations (2 in wet season and 1 in dry season), instead of on an ad-hoc basis.
3	Beach behind Ocean Park, below Dolphin University	FEHD	FEHD will conduct 3 cleanup operations (2 in wet season and 1 in dry season), instead of on an ad-hoc basis.
4	Cape D' Aguilar, beach next to The Swire Institute of Marine Science	AFCD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from monthly to twice a month.
5	Fan Lau, Lantau Island	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from bi-monthly to weekly.
6	Lap Sap Wan, Shek O	FEHD	Urgent cleanup is being conducted by FEHD with assistance from MD, and at least 1 cleanup operation each year from now on (see <i>Annex D</i> for more details).
7	Lung Kwu Tan	FEHD	The weekly cleanup frequency will be re-scheduled for more operations in wet season, while keeping the total number of operations unchanged.
8	Nam Wai (near Au Tsai Tsuen)	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from bi-weekly to 3-4 times/month.
9	Ngau Kwu Wan, Chi Ma Wan, Lantau Island	FEHD	On top of the current cleanup frequency of 12 times per year, two operations will be added (one in August 2015, and one in January 2016).
10	Nim Shue Wan, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island	FEHD	The current 48 times/year cleanup frequency will be re-scheduled for more operations in dry season, while keeping the total number of operations unchanged.
11	Rocky Bay Beach (ungazetted area)	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from bi-weekly to weekly.
12	Sam Mun Tsai / Yim Tin Tsai	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from bi-monthly to monthly.
13	Sam Pak Wan, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from 48 times/year to weekly.
14	Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	AFCD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from 3 times/week to 4 times/week.

	<b>Priority sites</b>	<b>Responsible department</b>	<b>Enhanced cleaning (from April 2015 to March 2016) About 440 additional cleanup operations will be conducted.</b>
15	Sha Ha, Sai Kung	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from weekly to 5-6 times/month.
16	Sha Lan Beach	FEHD	The current monthly cleanup frequency will be re-scheduled for more operations in wet season, while keeping the total number of operations unchanged.
17	Shek Pai Wan, Lamma Island	FEHD	The current weekly cleanup frequency will be re-scheduled for more operations in wet season, while keeping the total number of operations unchanged.
18	Shek Tsai Po, Tai O (Stilted house areas)	FEHD/ MD	FEHD will increase the cleanup frequency from monthly to twice a month. MD will continue to provide daily scavenging service at the nearby waters.
19	Shui Hau Mangrove	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from 36 times/year to 43 times/year by adding one operation in each month of the wet season.
20	Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from 14 times/year to weekly.
21	Tai Wan To Beach	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from 7 times/year to weekly.
22	Unallocated coastal area near Gemini Beaches	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from bi-monthly to 2-3 times/month.
23	Ungazetted beach (near Shan Liu Road) of Ting Kok Road	FEHD	Cleanup frequency will be increased from yearly to 3 times/year (twice in wet season and once in dry season). AFCD is planning to organize a total of 4 coastal cleanup events at Ting Kok East under the Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan (Ting Kok+) in 2015/16.
24	Wu Kai Sai, Shatin	FEHD	On top of the current 5 times/week cleanup frequency, 24 cleanup operations will be added with relatively more operations in dry winter months.
25	Hoi Mei Wan Beach, Tsuen Wan	LCSD	On top of the daily cleanup operations, 40 operations will be added in wet season.
26	Hung Shing Yeh Beach, Lamma Island	LCSD	On top of the daily cleanup operations, 20 operations will be added in wet season.
27	Pui O Beach, Lantau Island	LCSD	On top of the daily cleanup operations, 40 operations will be added in wet season.



### List of PR/Education Activities Organized by Working Group Departments

Department	Key Actions
Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange Shorelines Cleanup Days by partnering with NGOs/community groups with assistance from relevant departments.</li> <li>• Continue to broadcast TV and radio APIs on “Protect our coast Leave no trace 保護海岸 廢物不留”.</li> <li>• Conduct poster design competition in schools adopting the theme “Protect our coast Leave no trace 保護海岸 廢物不留”.</li> <li>• Arrange roving exhibitions at the 18 districts to share the clean shorelines message and the study findings.</li> <li>• Develop an online teaching material platform in collaboration with the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC).</li> <li>• Continue to organize the “Marine Conservation, Greener and Cleaner Shorelines Programme” under ECC’s Student Environmental Protection Ambassador (SEPA) Scheme.</li> <li>• Coordinate the participation of Member departments of the Working Group in the annual International Coastal Cleanup events.</li> </ul>
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct underwater cleanup at selected coral sites in September 2015.</li> <li>• Liaise with the Fish Marketing Organization and Vegetable Marketing Organization to put up posters and distribute notices to disseminate the message on keeping the market clean.</li> <li>• Emphasize messages on clean shorelines, anti-littering and penalty for marine littering in their regular seminars/talks with fisherman groups near Chinese New Year and fish moratorium period together with Marine Department and visits to mariculture zones.</li> </ul>
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to broadcast TV and radio APIs on “Keep Hong Kong Clean”.</li> <li>• Distribute posters and leaflets on “Littering Fixed Penalty 亂拋垃圾 會被定額罰款” to government departments, schools and residential associations.</li> <li>• Conduct school and public talks and activities with keep clean messages through the Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre.</li> <li>• Support the monthly cleanup events organized by EPD at the priority sites in collaboration with the community groups.</li> </ul>

Department	Key Actions
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote clean shoreline messages at the annual sand sculpture competition and beach carnival.</li> <li>• Display more posters and notices to educate visitors not to smoke in non-smoking area at gazetted beaches.</li> </ul>
Marine Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide garbage bags printed with telephone numbers calling for domestic refuse collection services to vessels in typhoon shelters.</li> <li>• Emphasize messages on clean shoreline, anti-littering and penalty for marine littering in their regular meeting with fisherman groups near Chinese New Year and the fish moratorium period.</li> <li>• Conduct visits to typhoon shelters, wholesale fish markets, mariculture zones, marinas, piers, marine work sites, etc., to promote the message of keeping the waters clean.</li> <li>• Design a leaflet to explain to the public the key information necessary when reporting marine littering for follow up investigation.</li> </ul>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage/advise the public via signage/posters/stickers/departmental website to report marine littering/refuse pollution using the 1823 hotline service.</li> </ul>

## Removal of refuse at Lap Sap Wan, Shek O

1. Lap Sap Wan is an easterly-facing bay on the southern tip of Shek O. It is exposed and embedded in sheer cliffs. Its beach is dotted with irregular-shaped, submerged and semi-submerged rocks. Sea surface is always subject to downhill and uphill winds, which make for turbulent waves. This is exacerbated by easterly gusts in the winter, rendering calm periods available only in the summer, at low tides and during daytime.
2. The bay is vulnerable to refuse accumulation due to the predominantly easterly wind with sudden gust during dry season in the winter. During wet season, the bay also tends to accumulate refuse under the influence of strong currents and waves. Refuse from diverse land-based sources and marine-based sources will be carried by the prevailing winds and water currents to Lap Sap Wan and settles there.



Lap Sap Wan situates near the Cape d' Aguilar Marine Reserve in Shek O.



3. Cleanup of the foreshore refuse was conducted in 2009 by the Marine Department (MD). However, due to topographical reasons, refuse has piled up on the beach. Refuse items such as foam plastic items, plastic buckets, plastic bottles, fishing nets, buoys, floats, metal tins, waste tyres, etc., are found on the beach. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has started planning a cleanup operation since early 2015, as the Marine Refuse Study has shortlisted Lap Sap Wan as a priority site for enhanced cleaning efforts.



Refuse piled up on the beach. (Photo taken on 29 April 2015)

4. With MD's assistance, FEHD has arranged an urgent cleanup trial on 16 May 2015. FEHD's contractor packed the refuse into plastic bags and MD's contractor shipped the bags of refuse to the Ap Lei Chau Marine Refuse Collection Point and then loaded them onto a grab lorry for final disposal at landfill. The trial lasted for two weekends and was found satisfactory. To expedite the cleanup, FEHD awarded a 2-month contract at the end of May 2015 to a cleansing contractor to pack up the refuse in June and July. In view that there is no proper road access to the beach, MD will continue to assist the operation by shipping away the refuse for disposal.



**Urgent cleanup operation by FEHD and MD (Photo on 18 May 2015)**

(Left photo) FEHD's contractor packed the refuse into plastic bags.

(Middle photo) FEHD's and MD's contractor removed the refuse bags from the beach to a sampan.

(Right photo) Bags of refuse were transferred onto a vessel for shipping to Ap Lei Chau Marine Refuse Collection Point.

5. Cleanup operations for Lap Sap Wan are difficult, due to technical, weather and safety concerns. It is more feasible to do the cleanup between May to August, before the arrival of the northeasterly monsoons. Depending on the results of the first cleanup, the rate of refuse accumulation and available resources, annual cleanup can be considered as a long-term arrangement.
6. MD will also enhance patrolling the nearby waters and cleanup floating refuse as necessary. The Marine Police, Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department and Environmental Protection Department will also help in reporting marine refuse problem found at remote locations during their own routine patrols or marine/beach water quality monitoring.



Due to bad weather and unsuitable sea conditions, bags of packed refuse were left on the beach waiting for removal by MD, which had to be conducted a few days later when the sea condition was more suitable. (Photo taken on 27 May 2015)



Cleanup by FEHD cleansing contractor in progress (Photo taken on 5 June 2015)