

Joint submission from Hong Kong Yachting Association
Windsurfing Association of Hong Kong
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

Why we need space in the Harbour

There is no need to elaborate on the benefit to Hong Kong tourism, and to its ability to provide a certain level of quality of life by allowing recreational use in the Harbour.

At present, PHKYC runs races in the eastern side of the Harbour. There is at least one race every Saturday throughout the years. There are at least 10 Sundays that there are races. In the Summer from June to August, in addition to the Saturday races, there is an evening race every Wednesday. There are an average of 50 boats racing in these races, from a low of 10 to a high of 80 boats. There are an average of 4 persons on a boat. Once per year, we run a round-the-island race which attracts 200 boats and windsurfers. However, in the last few years, due to restricted use of the western part of the harbour to boats without engines, this race now starts in Causeway Bay towards the east, rounds a buoy near Stanley and returns from the east to Causeway Bay.

The Harbour races cover mainly the area from Causeway Bay to E2, just off Taikoo Shing. But the majority of the time, the sailboats are in the area bounded by the Hung Hom Buoy, E5 and along the old runway into Kowloon Bay.

Furthermore, because the wind in Hong Kong is normally South-Easterly, the sailboats leaving the Typhoon Shelter in Causeway Bay need to beat against the wind to get out of the Harbour, especially when the western side of the Harbour is now closed to sailboats without an engine. Without the space in Kowloon Bay, the boats will need to tack up the shipping channel more frequently whereas, if the space is available in Kowloon Bay, the boats can sail up to the limit and tack along the runway, thus out of the way of the commercial crafts using the fairways.

The windsurfers are presently not using the Harbour but if the water in the Harbour is cleaner, it would be ideal to be able to have a windsurfers' center in the Harbour using the Kowloon Bay area, for the wind conditions and the fact that it is away from commercial traffic. Similarly, smaller boats are not using the Harbour because of its filth. If it were cleaner, the ideal place would also be Kowloon Bay.

We hope that when considering the reclamation of eastern Kowloon, due consideration is given to recreation use of water sport in the Harbour.