

CB(1) 2389/03-04(01)

Your Ref. CB1/P2/EA

Panel on Environmental Affairs

6th July 2004

Dear Madam Chairlady,

On behalf of the HK Marine Conservation Society, I would like to welcome the proposal to clean up the harbour as laydown in the consultation document for the HATS Stage 2. Our society has been following the issue of clean up harbour since 1992 when SSDS (Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme) was proposed, we commented on the need for treatment and disinfection after meetings with government officials and meeting the two international reviewing panels and presented our views in open forum and legco. We are glad that the government accepted our views and suggestions of other NGO and individuals decided to go ahead with Stage 1 and now adopted option A of the four proposals.

We agree that option A is the most appropriate option, being least damaging to the terrestrial and marine environment. The least disturbing to community and most responsible option, may be most cost effective option, provided a lump sum contract is awarded out.

This option-centralized treatment – its effluent can be further treated easily with biofilters combined with artificial reef to remove the remaining 10% suspended solids. The effluent of the treatment plan at Stonecutter Island is made use of to increase fishery or rather re-store fishery in the area. Efficiency of the biofilter and artificial reef has already been proven in Hong Kong eastern waters in Marine Parks and fishery culture zone. This can be included in Stage 2A.

We support the polluter pay principle. But the capital investment should be recovered over the period of the lifespan of the scheme.

Our society fully supports the government effort to treat our sewage despite delay. The final decision on the present proposal is the work of private and government sectors over the last 15 years.

We look forward to see Hong Kong resume its annual cross-harbour race in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. John Wong
Chairman
HK Marine Conservation Society