

本署檔號
OUR REF: (1) in EP76/W9/1 Pt 6
來函檔號
YOUR REF:
電話
TEL NO.: 3509 8628
圖文傳真
FAX NO.: 2834 5648
電子郵件
E-MAIL: daisylo@epd.gov.hk
網址:
HOMEPAGE : <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

**Environmental Protection Department
Headquarters**
15/F & 16/F, East Wing,
Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong



環境保護署總部
香港添馬
添美道二號
政府總部東翼
十五及十六樓

30 June 2017

Chief Council Secretary (1)1
Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms. Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms. SHEK,

**Panel on Environmental Affairs
List of Follow-up Actions from the Meeting on 22 May 2017
Tackling Marine Refuse**

Further to the discussions on Tackling Marine Refuse by the Panel on Environmental Affairs at its meeting dated 22 May 2017, supplementary information provided by the relevant departments is consolidated at the Annex for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Daisy LO)

for Director of Environmental Protection

Encl.

- (a) The follow-up work relating to the incident concerning some fishermen who netted large quantity of refuse in carrying out trawling activities in the Pearl River Estuary region in August 2016, and the measures to be taken by the Administration to respond to emergency situations which required special collection of massive quantity of marine refuse by large-scale refuse collection vessels;**

To maintain the cleanliness of the Hong Kong waters, the Marine Department (MD) is responsible for cleaning up floating refuse and providing domestic refuse collection services to vessels staying at local anchorages and typhoon shelters. In addition to the fleet daily deployed by the MD for refuse collection services, fishermen may also call the 24-hour 1823 hotline or MD hotlines (2385 2791 and 2385 2792) to request the MD for prompt arrangement of large-scale refuse collection vessels with lifting equipment to collect the refuse scooped up during fishing operation.

The fish moratorium will end at noon on 16 August. To assist fishing vessels in handling possible excessive amount of refuse scooped up during fishing operation, the MD will arrange for special refuse collection services within the first two weeks (from noon on 16 August to noon on 31 August) following the fish moratorium. During the period, fishermen may call the 24-hour MD hotlines to inform the MD of the estimated time of arrival of their fishing vessels at typhoon shelters. The MD will then instruct its contractor to arrange for prompt collection of the refuse scooped up. The above-mentioned special services cover both Sundays and public holidays, with details as follows:

- (1) For fishing vessels arrived at typhoon shelters by noon, the refuse collection service will be completed on the same day.
- (2) For fishing vessels arrived at typhoon shelters after noon, the contractor will endeavour to complete its refuse collection service on the same day or the next morning the latest.

The MD will also enhance promotion of such special refuse collection services, as well as other arrangements for collecting excessive amount of marine refuse, to help fishermen dispose of the refuse scooped up during fishing operations.

(b) The existing mechanisms and systems for cleaning up seabed refuse and whether any heritage impact assessments were carried out in or before conducting the cleaning up; and

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts regular underwater ecological monitoring and inspection within marine parks, as well as maintenance works for underwater facilities. Subject to circumstances, clean-up of seabed refuse will be carried out as and when necessary. The AFCD also co-ordinates annual coral surveys at key coral sites in the Hong Kong waters under the Reef Check programme. During the surveys, divers will record the location of abandoned fishing nets and the AFCD will then arrange for its contractor to clean them up. Furthermore, AFCD and the Hong Kong Underwater Association jointly organise underwater clean-up events to engage volunteer divers to remove abandoned fishing nets from major coral sites. The AFCD will also remind the divers to pay attention to supposed antiquity¹ during underwater clean-ups. Any discovery or doubts will be reported to the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for follow up.

For other parts of the Hong Kong waters, the MD will remove any obstructive object found on the seabed of fairways to ensure navigational safety. The MD also carries out seabed level monitoring at appropriate time to identify the need for maintenance dredging taking into account the safety and operation of fairways. When necessary, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will conduct maintenance dredging of the seabed concerned accordingly upon MD's request.

According to the AMO, all capital works projects are subject to the heritage impact assessment (HIA) mechanism as stipulated in the Development Bureau Technical Circular (Works) No. 6/2009. As seabed clean-ups by the AFCD and removal of obstructive objects on the seabed of fairways and maintenance dredging by the MD are not regarded as capital works projects, they are thus not subject to the HIA. Nonetheless, workers are required to pay attention to supposed antiquity when carrying out underwater clean-ups and report any supposed antiquity or doubts to the AMO immediately for follow up.

(c) Whether the locations for trial installation of floating booms to trap refuse were selected with specified criteria, if so, the selection criteria,

¹ Under section 2 of the *Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance* (Cap. 53), a "supposed antiquity" means an object or site which may reasonably be supposed to be or to contain an antiquity.

and if not, the reasons for selecting such locations.

To assess the quantity of refuse flushed out to sea through stormwater drainage systems during adverse weather, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has tried out the installation of floating booms at some seaside outlets. Taking the sizes of individual catchment areas into account, the DSD has estimated that more refuse may accumulate at the upper catchments of large stormwater drains and has therefore decided to try out the installation of floating booms at outlets of large stormwater drains and stormwater tunnels. The sites selected for the trial include Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel, Lai Chi Kok Drainage Tunnel and Cherry Street Box Culvert.

In addition, cleaning up of floating refuse in typhoon shelters is rather difficult as such refuse drifts with water currents and accumulates around vessels. The DSD has thus tried out the installation of floating booms at drainage outlets inside typhoon shelters in Yau Ma Tei, Shau Kei Wan and Aberdeen to test their effectiveness in intercepting refuse.

However, little refuse has been collected by the floating booms installed at seaside outlets so far. Since most of the inlets of public stormwater drainage systems (e.g. upstream intakes, roadside gullies and surface channels) were fitted with gratings to prevent debris/rubbish from being washed into drainage systems, we believe that most refuse has already been intercepted by the gratings fitted at inlets at the upper catchments.

—END—