

From: Tommy Tsui  
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Dear esteemed members of the Legislative Council - thank you for your time today to hear of an issue very dear to my heart.

I am Tommy Tsui, a Year 9 student of Harrow School, Hong Kong. I'm here to champion Hong Kong's rare sea turtles, that are born and return to breed on the southern shores of Lamma Island. These ancient animals travel the world's oceans and have become endangered due to human activity. The site in Lamma Island has been a restricted area during nesting season since 1999. I argue that this is not enough for their protection - Hong Kong is one of several sites left where Green Sea Turtles still breed in Southern China and without immediate action, they could disappear along with our Pink Dolphin who share some of the same habitat. There hasn't been a significant hatching since 2012 and I don't want this to be the last.

The key issue here is that restricting a small part of Shum Wan beach on the sand for their nesting is not enough. They breed and spend a lot of time in the water near the surface too. These creatures face vicious propellers from yachts and other water crafts running through this previously safe environment. When the regulations for restrictions were first laid out 20 years ago, there was much less boat traffic. This has led many sea turtle deaths from collision with vessels. New regulations need to be set in place with enough enforcement to insure people follow.

Protection of a species is not just about the animals today but the many future generations going forward. It is also a matter of values - do we think that the use of a very small area for water sports is worth more than the continued existence of a unique and beautiful species? In my view further restrictions on vessels running through this area need to be controlled and it is very much in the hands of this committee to do something about it.

With this, I request that consider extending protection for our sea turtles by lowering the speed limit of vessels and increasing fines in areas close to our only 'regular' nesting sight for sea turtle. They deserve a better chance at survival. Thank You.