

**COMMITTEE ON BOATING AND YACHTING**  
*Minutes of Meeting held on 22 November 2002 at 1430 hours  
in the Marine Department Headquarters Conference Room (A)*

**Present**

Mr. K. M. NG	)Marine Department	Chairman
Dr. Alan LAU	)Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club	Member
Mrs. Judy NIP	)	Member
Ms. Cora CHEN	)Hong Kong Yachting Association	Member
Mr. Cowen CHIU	)	Member
Ms. M. C. CHAN	)Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Member
Mr. F. L. CHEUK	)Marine Department	Member
Ms. Grace SUEN	)	Secretary

**In Attendance**

Mr. Summy CHU	)Marine Department
Mr. S. F. WONG	)

**Absent**

Mr. David CULLEN	)Hong Kong Yachting Association	Member
Mr. K. C. KWOK	)	Member
Mr. K. Y. SHIN	)Civil Engineering Department	Member
Miss Dora NG	)Home Affairs Department	Member

**The Chairman** welcomed all present.

**I. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

2. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without amendment.

**II. MATTER ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

***Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (MS(LV)O)- Progress Report***

3. **Mr. F. L. CHEUK** informed members that the drafting instructions for seven sets of subsidiary legislation under the MS(LV)O had been sent to the Law Draftsman for actions. According to the present schedule, it was expected that the MS(LV)O and its subsidiary legislation would come in force in mid 2003.

***Wan Chai Reclamation - Progress Report***

4. **Mr. CHEUK** informed members that upon gazettal of the Outline Zoning Plan, several objections were received and were being handled by the departments concerned.
5. As there was no outstanding marine issue on this topic, this item would be deleted in

the next meeting.

***South East New Territories Development Strategy Review - Progress Report***

6. **Mr. CHEUK** informed members that the South East New Territories Development Strategy Review was completed and there was no particular issue that should be brought to the members' attention.
7. This item would be deleted in the next meeting.

***Installation of Coral Marker Buoys at Ung Kong Wan, Bluff Island***

8. **Mr. CHEUK** informed members that four marker buoys, marked with the words "CORAL AREA" and "ANCHOR NOT SUITABLE", were laid for coral protection at Ung Kong Wan, Bluff Island in December 2001.
9. This item would be deleted in the next meeting.

***Speeding in Hebe Haven***

10. **Mr. CHEUK** informed members that a Marine Department Notice aiming to remind seafarers of the existence of speed restriction zone in Hebe Haven was issued on 31 May 2001. Besides, Marine Department had conducted a joint departmental marine safety campaign with Marine Police in Sai Kung to promote marine safety; and delivered a talk on "Safe Navigation" at Hebe Haven Yacht Club in the evening of 5 September 2001.
11. **Ms. Cora CHEN** tabled a note from the Hebe Haven Yacht Club, proposing to impose a 5 knot speed limit in Hebe Haven at all times. **Mr. CHEUK** responded that the Marine Department had consulted the marine community in Hebe Haven, including yacht clubs; kaito operators; beach pleasure hired boat operators; scout association; ship yards and boat service companies, about the proposal of extending the existing speed restriction period to the whole year round. The proposal was supported by some users. But some users considered that the maximum speed of 5 knots should be relaxed as well as the coverage of the speed restriction zone should be revised. As there were different views on the proposal, it was agreed to tackle the speeding problem by reminding the seafarers concerned first. Therefore, it was

proposed to erect two large marine notice boards at the entrance of Hebe Haven to remind seafarers of the existence of speed restriction zone. The required procedures have been completed and the erection was scheduled for completion by February 2003.

12. **Dr. Alan LAU** commented that Hebe Haven Yacht Club might not know about the actions taken by the Marine Department. **The Chairman** responded that the Marine Department would contact the Hebe Haven Yacht Club direct on this issue.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### *Safety of Wakeboarding and Water-skiing*

13. **Ms. Cora CHEN** advised members that the Lantau Boat Club had complained about the marine traffic safety in Discovery Bay by taking the collision between a speedboat engaged in water skiing and a yacht in Discovery Bay as an example. **Mr. Summy CHU** responded that after the accident, Marine Department had conducted a review and took a series of actions to enhance marine safety at all popular boating areas, including Discovery Bay, such as stepping up patrol service, warning inconsiderate boat operators, taking prosecution actions and conducting educational seminar. **The Chairman** said that the case in Discovery Bay would be further discussed in the next agenda item. He then invited members to express views on safety of water skiing and wakeboarding in general.
14. Members were of the view that to ensure marine safety, masters of vessels had to strictly comply with the COLREGs and operated their vessels in a considerate manner. Speedboats engaged in water skiing and wakeboarding should also take all safety measures for that high speed water activities. The Marine Department should conduct seminars to educate boat operators the importance of marine safety.

#### *Establishment of Speed Restricted Zones*

15. **Mr. S. F. WONG** briefed members about the COMBAY Paper No. 1/02 on the complaint against malpractice of speedboats and the establishment of speed restriction zones at Discovery Bay, Repulse Bay and Tai Tam Bay.

16. Members agreed the considerations and supported the proposal as detailed in the Paper. **Alan LAU** enquired that whether the period of restriction stipulated under regulation 19(3) of SAPCR could be extended since some wakeboarding and water-skiing activities were also conducted in the rest of the year. **The Chairman** responded that he would keep in view the situation and collect relevant data for reference and consideration.
17. After discussion, the committee endorsed the COMBAY Paper No. 1/02.

#### **IV. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

18. The date of next meeting would be announced in due course.
19. There was being no other business, the meeting closed at 1700 hours.