

Local Vessels Advisory Committee
Proposed Water Sports and Recreational Activities
at Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS)

Purpose

HKALPS Limited¹, a non-Government Organization will organize water sports and recreational activities within the passage area of Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS). The project is in line with our initiatives to promote waterbody co-use in the KTTS and to enhance the vibrancy of the waterfront in Kowloon East. The project brief of HKALPS Limited is set out in the **Annex**.

2. Members are invited to provide your comments, if any, on the above project by replying to the Secretariat on or before 24 January 2022.

Energizing Kowloon East Office

Development Bureau

10 January 2022

¹ A non-profit making organization, HKALPS Limited, is operating and managing the three Fly the Flyover sites for the Energizing Kowloon East Office of the Development Bureau. The three sites were renamed as VESSEL 01, VESSEL 02 and VESSEL03.

**Proposed Water Sports and Recreational Activities
at Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS)**

Purpose

This paper serves to brief Members of the Committee and seek their views/comments on the proposed water sports and recreational activities to be carried out at Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS).

Background

2. As a result of the relocation of the airport from Kai Tak to Chap Lap Kok in 1998 and shifting of port activities from Eastern Harbour to the Western Harbour in recent years, coupled with the decommissioning of the former Kwun Tong Public Cargo Working Area in 2011, there has been a great impetus for the rejuvenation of the waterfront of Kowloon East and the nearby KTTS. Besides, the impact of COVID-19 has created community demand for physical wellness. Broadly speaking, the Government and the local community are keen to see KTTS as a platform for water sports and recreational activities. With the policy support from the Energizing Kowloon East Office, Development Bureau, and the full support of Hong Kong Water Sports Council and Hong Kong, China Rowing Association, as well as the favourable operating environment of the KTTS, water sports and recreational activities at VESSEL 03 and within the passage area of KTTS are therefore proposed.

Proposed Rowing Areas

3. HKALPS Limited proposes to organize a series of water sports and recreational activities, including board rowing courses from beginners to intermediate levels (see **Appendix 1**), within the passage area of KTTS. The proposed rowing area is located fronting the vertical seawall of the Kwun Tong Promenade within the northern passage area of the KTTS, and the water entry point will be located in front of VESSEL03 (see **Appendix 2**).

4. It is proposed to conduct two sessions of rowing course in the afternoon of weekdays, maximum 90 minutes in each session; and conduct four sessions during weekends, (two sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon), maximum 90 minutes in each session.

5. The objective of the proposed board rowing courses is to provide a training platform for the participants, especially students from nearby secondary schools or youth community centres, to learn board rowing, to build confidence in the water, and to explore basic boat manoeuvring skills and board rowing experience under coach supervision.

No Adverse Impact on Main Functions of KTTS

6. To assess whether the proposed board rowing courses will generate any conflicting marine traffic situations with other port users in the vicinity, Ancient Mariner Consultancy Limited, an independent marine consultant, was commissioned by HKALPS Limited to carry out a comprehensive Marine Traffic Impact Assessment Study within the study water area (See **Appendix 2**). The findings indicated that the northern passage area of KTTS is 100 m wide, which is wide enough to allow co-use of the waterbody by rowers within the dedicated rowing area and other vessels in KTTS. The marine traffic impact arising from the proposed board rowing courses on the surrounding traffic environment is insignificant, and the associated risk to the rowers in the concerned rowing area is comparatively low.

Proposed Control Measures

7. To ensure the board rowing courses are conducted in a safe and orderly manner, we propose implementing a series of safety measures which will include but not limited to the following:

- i. Each board rowing course should be under the supervision of a competent coach, and all participants should be well briefed about the demarcation of the proposed rowing area and safety considerations in conducting water sports activities;
- ii. The number of participants in each board rowing course should not exceed ten (10) and all of them must wear appropriate life jackets before commencement of the course;

- iii. The proposed rowing area should be properly displayed ashore with appropriate markings to indicate the starting point and finishing point before each board rowing course begins;
- iv. Effective means of communication should be established among the Marine Department (MD), other relevant departments and organizations, the coach and the person-in-charge of the proposed water sports activities at VESSEL 03. HKALPS Limited will arrange at least one person as person-in-charge and his/her name and contact means should be provided to MD and other relevant departments and organizations for communication at any time;
- v. Relevant key stakeholders in the vicinity, such as the ferry company which runs ferry services between Kwun Tong, Kai Tak and North Point, should be notified in advance about the schedule of the board rowing courses; and
- vi. The arrangements under inclement weather conditions should be formulated. (See **Appendix 3**)

Way Forward

8. A series of consultations with a view to gaining the support from the local boating community has commenced. Subject to the support from the relevant stakeholders, including LVAC's members, HKALPS Limited targets to start the operation of the proposed water sports and recreational activities in early 2022.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to take note of the above and provide comments on the proposed water sports and recreational activities. In case of any enquiries on the related matters, please contact Ms Ruby Yeung of HKALPS Limited at 3618 4470, or by email: rubyyeung@hkalps.org.

HKALPS Limited

January 2022

Introduction of board rowing used for the courses:



Board Rowing

Flexible Easy to learn

Affordable price of facilities

Little venue constraints

COMPONENTS

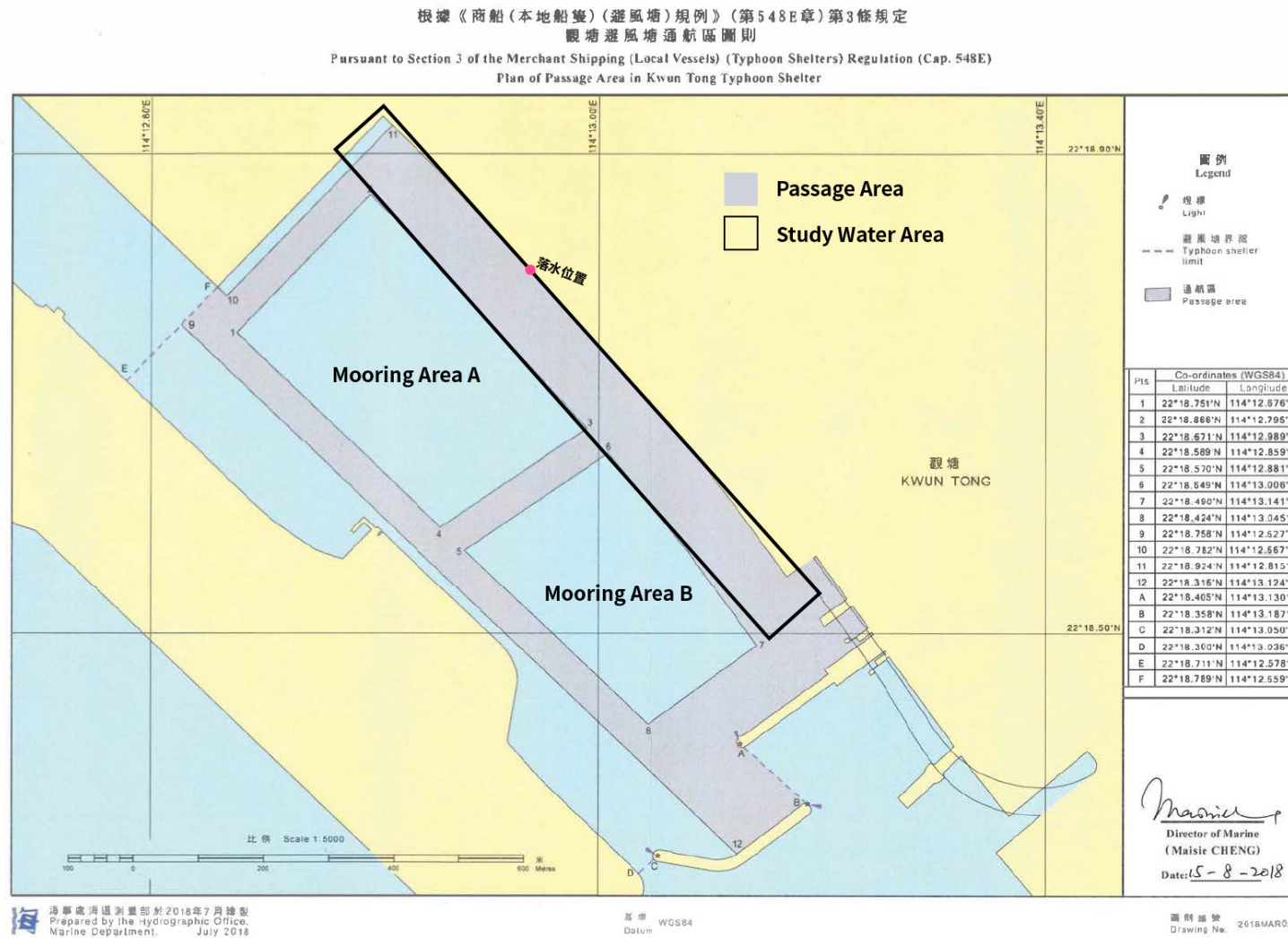
- Hard-coated aluminum sculling rig
- Optional SUP paddle & sculling oars.

SPECIFICATIONS

SPECIFICATIONS

- Length: 14/4.27m
- Beam: 27.2"/69cm
- Depth: 8"/20.5cm
- Capacity 220lbs/100kg
- Board Volume 67.4 Gal/255L
- SUP Weight 32 lbs/14.4kg
- Rowing Rig Weight: 21.5lbs/9.8kg

Plan showing the location of study water area and proposed rowing area within the passage area fronting vertical seawall of KTTS:



Arrangements for Inclement Weather

1. If the Hong Kong Observatory's announcement of warning signals of thunderstorm, amber rainstorm, tropical cyclone warning signal No. 1, or strong monsoon, is imposed within 1 hour before the course commencement, water activities will be cancelled while land training will be remained.
2. If the Hong Kong Observatory's announcement of warning signals of red or black rainstorm, tropical cyclone warning signal No. 3 or above, is imposed within 1 hour before the course commencement, all activities will be cancelled and make-up class will be arranged.
3. If Very Hot Weather Warning is imposed, all courses will be remained. However, participants are reminded drinking adequate water and applying sunscreen lotion. Coaches will make appropriate arrangement according to the actual weather condition.
4. If bad weather condition is happened locally, e.g. heavy rainfall, dense fog or strong wind, water activities will be paused while land training will be remained. Coaches will make appropriate arrangement according to the actual weather condition.