

Pilotage Advisory Committee

Proposed Amendments to the Legislation concerning Marine Restricted Areas surrounding Stonecutters Island

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to inform members' about the proposed amendments to the legislation pertaining to the marine restricted areas around Stonecutters Island as well as the navigation of vessels near the former Victoria Naval Basin.

Background

(A) Marine Restricted Area

2. Regulation 23(6)(c) of the Shipping and Port Control Regulations (SAPCR) was enacted in 1978. It provides that no vessel shall enter any area within 100 metres from the low water mark of the Stonecutters Island except with the permission of the Director of Marine. It is believed that such marine restricted areas is for the protection of the then British military installations and explosive depots on the Island thereon.

(B) Victoria Naval Basin

3. Under Regulation 24 (1) of the SAPCR, no vessel shall enter or navigate within 100 metres of any part of the former Victoria Naval Basin without the permission of the then British naval authority. Regulation 24(2) and (3) of the SAPCR further prescribe the direction of navigation of vessel in the vicinity of the naval basin.

Present Situation

4. Development and Reclamation projects during the past decade has drastically changed the Stonecutters Island into an integral part of Kowloon, this couples with a wide

range of port facilities available nearby has attracted a bulk of local craft traffic activities in the vicinity. To enhance safety of navigation as well as addressing the navigational needs of harbour users plying along the waterway between the eastern part of the Stonecutters Island and the Yau Ma Tei anchorage(YMTA), a proposal of reducing the size of the marine restricted areas around Stonecutters Island has been finalized and agreed upon between the Garrison and the HK SAR Government recently.

5. The former Victoria Naval Basin it has been replaced by a newly established naval basin on the southern part of the Stonecutters Island since 1 July 1997. Hence , it is necessary to respectively change the name of the naval basin and repeal its associated sailing directions prescribed in Regulation 24 (1), (2) and (3) of the SAPCR.

Proposed Configuration

6. It is proposed to realign the boundaries of the marine restricted areas as shown in the attached chartlet. The marine restricted areas on the eastern side of the Stonecutters Island will be narrowed to 50 metres; whereas the 100-metre wide marine restricted area on the southern waters of the Stonecutters Island off the Naval Basin will remain.

Legislative Amendment

7. Regulation 23(6)(c) of the SAPCR will be amended to give effect to the new marine restricted areas on the east shore of Stonecutters Island, whereas Regulation 24(1), (2) & (3) concerning Naval Basin will be respectively renamed and repealed accordingly.

Presentation

8. Mr. C.Y.Tsang, Senior Marine Officer, will present the paper.

Port Control Division
System Support Section
Marine Department
March 2000