

PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PAC Paper No. 7/98

Speed Limit Review

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members endorsement on the proposed modification to the boundaries of the speed restriction area and the speed limits put forward by the Speed Limit Review.

Background

2. Members may recall that an in-house review on the present speed limits within the Victoria Harbour was conducted by Marine Department in 1994. Following extensive consultation with various committees in 1994 and 1995, an information paper was circulated to members in 1996 to update them on the progress of the Speed Limit Review.

Final Proposal

3. Taking into consideration comments from various committees and different sectors of the shipping industry, the proposals of the Speed Limit Review are now finalized with the following modifications:

- (a) The western boundary of the Speed Restriction Sub-Zone (SRSZ) will be extended westward to cover Kellett Bank and its adjacent fairways. Slight re-alignment of the boundaries of the Speed Restriction Area (SRA) will also be made (Annex III).
- (b) Categorization of vessels will be simplified into two groups within SRSZ and SRA, i.e. vessels over 60 meters in length and vessels of 60 meters in length or below.

- (c) To maintain a balance on marine safety, port efficiency and wave conditions, the proposed speed limits within SRA and SRSZ will be as follows:

| Vessel Length | SRSZ | SRA |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| Over 60m | 8 knots | 10 knots |
| 60m or below | 10 knots | 15 knots |

- (d) To ensure smooth traffic flow and suit the need for manoeuvrability of large modern vessels, thus the safety of navigation, the speed limit in fairways adjacent to the East Lamma Channel within the SRA will be set as follows:

| Fairway / Channel | Vessel Length | Speed Limit |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| East Lamma Channel | Any length | 15 knots |
| Western Fairway | Any length | 15 knots |
| Ma Wan Fairway | Any length | 15 knots |
| Kap Shui Mun Fairway | Any length | 15 knots |

Presentation

4. This paper will be presented to members by Mr. K.M. NG, Senior Marine Officer/Vessel Traffic Centre.

- Annex I** Recommendations of the Speed Limit Review
Annex II Boundaries of the existing speed limits
Annex III Proposed new boundaries of the speed limits

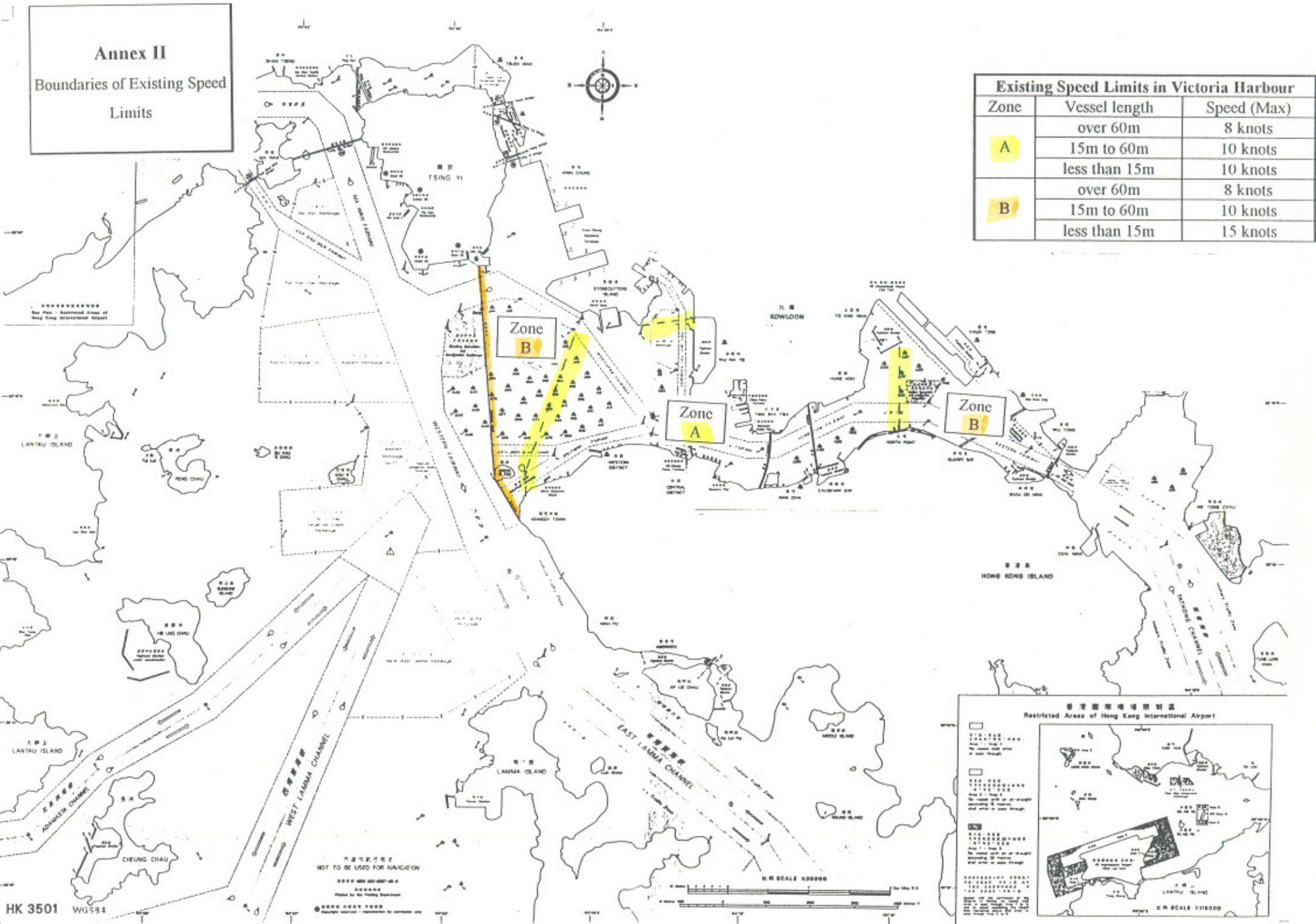
Vessel Traffic Services Branch
Marine Department
May 1998

Recommendations of the Speed Limit Review

- a) To rewrite Regulation 19 of the Shipping and Port Control Regulations and the Fourth Schedule for consolidating all speed restrictions in Hong Kong waters.
- b) *To impose a speed restriction sub-zone in the Central harbour, where vessels are restricted to a maximum speed of 10 knots.*
(The boundaries of the speed restriction area and the speed limits are now finalized with modification)
- c) To include the speed restriction zones for pleasure vessels into the Fourth Schedule of the new Regulation 19 and to apply the speed restriction to all vessel.
- d) To include the speed restriction in typhoon shelters into the new Regulation 19 and to imposed a speed of 5 knots.
- e) The existing speed restriction exemption permission will be revised.
- f) The Fourteenth Schedule should be updated as soon as possible.
- g) A more stringent enforcement against speeding and a simplified prosecution procedure should be adopted.
- h) New seawalls to be designed to dissipate/absorb wave energy.
- i) *It is considered necessary to retain in the speed restriction requirements in minor ports.*
(Subject to a further study on the need of retaining the minor ports)

Annex II
Boundaries of Existing Speed Limits

| Existing Speed Limits in Victoria Harbour | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Zone | Vessel length | Speed (Max) |
| A | over 60m | 8 knots |
| | 15m to 60m | 10 knots |
| | less than 15m | 10 knots |
| B | over 60m | 8 knots |
| | 15m to 60m | 10 knots |
| | less than 15m | 15 knots |



Annex III
Proposed New Boundaries
of Speed Limits

| Speed Restriction Area (SRA) | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Area | Vessel Length | Speed(Max) | Applicable to area in SRA |
| | Over 60m | 10 Knots | All areas except areas (1) to (4) and SRSZ |
| | 60m or below | 15 Knots | All areas except areas (1) to (4) and SRSZ |
| (1) | Any length | 15 Knots | East Lamma Channel |
| (2) | Any length | 15 Knots | Western Fairway |
| (3) | Any length | 15 Knots | Ma Wan Fairway |
| (4) | Any length | 15 Knots | Kap Shui Mun Fairway |

| Speed Restriction Sub-Zone (SRSZ) | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Vessel Length | Speed (Max) |
| | Over 60m | 8 Knots |
| | 60m or below | 10 Knots |

