

PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Proposed Amendment to the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84) **Pilot Boarding Station Area at Lam Kok Tsui (Black Point)**

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' advices and endorsement on the proposed amendment to the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84) to extend the area of pilot boarding station located at Lam Kok Tsui in Urmston Road as set out at Annex for better operation of pilotage services and navigational safety of vessels.

Background

2. Pilotage services are provided to ships visiting Hong Kong to ensure their safe navigation within Hong Kong waters. Pilotage in Hong Kong is regulated under the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84) (the Ordinance) and its subsidiary legislation¹.
3. Schedule 2 to the Ordinance (the Schedule) specifies the locations and areas of pilot boarding stations (PBS). The Schedule was last revised in May 2023².

The Proposal

4. Recently, the pilotage service provider (The Hong Kong Pilots Association Limited) has proposed to the Pilotage Authority to extend the radius of the pilot boarding station area at Lam Kok Tsui (Black Point) in Urmston Road from 0.5³ to 1 nautical mile.

¹ The subsidiary legislations are (a) Pilotage Regulations (Cap. 84A); (b) Pilotage (Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 84B); (c) Pilotage Order (Cap. 84C); and (d) Pilotage (Dues) Order (Cap. 84D).

² The last revision added a new PBS at South of Cheung Chau Island.

³ The 0.5 nautical mile radius has been in operation since December 2022.

Justifications

5. Considering the heavy traffic in the Urmston Road, the short distance and narrow channel to/from the western Shenzhen ports area, along with strong current and wind, special attentions are required for ships navigating in this water area to avoid drifting towards shallow waters along both sides of the channel. Mega containerships, in particular, with high windage area and deep draught are apparently prone to the effects of wind, current, and shallow water.

6. The proposal of extending the radius of the pilot boarding station area at Urmston Road from existing 0.5 nautical mile to 1 nautical mile will help to enhance both navigational safety of ships and operational safety of pilotage services with more flexibility of pilotage arrangement and increased water area for vessel cascade thereby: (i) enabling pilots to board a vessel and reach the wheelhouse timely thus ensuring sufficient communication time for the exchange of navigational information with the ship's master; (ii) allowing pilots to embark/disembark ships in a relatively sheltered water area thus protecting both vessels and pilots from exposure to strong wind and waves that occur during monsoons or adverse weather conditions; and (iii) providing more manoeuvring room between vessels, particularly in situations where traffic congestion exists within a convoy of multiple ships.

Way Forward

7. Subject to members' comments, MD would commence the process for amending item 3 in the Schedule by extending the radius of the pilot boarding station area at Lam Kok Tsui (Black Point) in Urmston Road from 0.5 to 1 nautical mile as detailed in the Annex.

Advice Sought

8. Members are invited to comment and endorse the proposed amendment.

**Marine Department
July 2024**

Proposed Amendment to Schedule 2 of the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84)

Item No.	General Heading	Proposed Amendment																			
1.	Pilot boarding stations	<p>To amend item 3 in the Schedule 2 to Cap. 84 by extending the radius of the pilot boarding station area at Lam Kok Tsui (Black Point) in Urmston Road from 0.5 to 1 nautical mile. The description of the pilot boarding station is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="545 768 1386 1071"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="545 768 651 856">Item</th><th data-bbox="651 768 863 856">Description</th><th colspan="3" data-bbox="863 768 1386 856">An area of 0.5 1.0 nautical mile radius centred by position</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="545 856 651 1071">3</td><td data-bbox="651 856 863 1071">Lam Kok Tsui (Black Point) in Urmston Road</td><td data-bbox="863 856 1040 898">latitude</td><td data-bbox="1040 856 1253 898">22°24.925'</td><td data-bbox="1253 856 1386 898">north,</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td data-bbox="863 898 1040 940">longitude</td><td data-bbox="1040 898 1253 940">113°53.347'</td><td data-bbox="1253 898 1386 940">east</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Note: the geographical co-ordinates of a position are based on the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84).</p>					Item	Description	An area of 0.5 1.0 nautical mile radius centred by position			3	Lam Kok Tsui (Black Point) in Urmston Road	latitude	22°24.925'	north,			longitude	113°53.347'	east
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