

**PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Establishment of Speed Restricted Zones**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to seek member's views on the establishment of speed restricted zones at Discovery Bay, Repulse Bay and Tai Tam Bay as proposed in paragraph 10 below.

**Background**

2. Recently, the Marine Department (**MD**) has received a number of complaints regarding the dangers arising from the operation of speedboats engaged in water skiing, wakeboarding and towing of banana boats, particularly in popular areas for other waterborne activities. The speedboats concerned were reported operating at a close distance to the swimming beaches, people engaged in other waterborne activities and other slow speed vessels such as canoes and sailing boats. The concerned areas include Discovery Bay, Repulse Bay, Tai Tam Bay, the water channels at Sha Lo Wan, and the north of Kau Sai Chau. It is considered that such inconsiderate acts endanger the safety of other people and vessels in the vicinity.

3. Indeed, such speedboat activities caused two accidents in the last 12 months. In October 2001, a speedboat engaged in water skiing collided with a sailing boat at Discovery Bay. In July 2002, a speedboat also engaged in wakeboarding hit a sampan at Sha Lo Wan resulting in two deaths eleven persons injured.

**Actions Taken by the MD**

4. MD has deployed patrol launches to monitor marine traffic around the areas concerned. Quite often, MD patrol officers did observe some speedboats operating in an inconsiderate manner. However, as it is difficult to

prove that such act is in breach of any of the existing legislation, the speedboats' masters were warned and directed to keep a clear distance from others.

5. In order to enhance marine safety, MD has conducted a review on navigational safety of the areas concerned. As the number of the speedboats concerned is in a growth trend, it is considered necessary to educate the speedboat masters, such as drawing their attentions to the importance of complying with relevant collision regulations and safety requirements. Consideration has also been given the necessity to controlling high speed water activities at the areas concerned by legislative requirement.

### **Relevant Legislation**

6. Regulations 19(3) and 67(1)(a), and paragraph 3 of the Fourth Schedule of the Shipping and Port Control Regulations, Cap. 313A (**SAPCR**) provide for the control of the speed of vessels. The provisions of them are as follows: -

(i) Regulation 19(3) of the SAPCR

Without prejudice to paragraphs (1) and (2), no vessel shall, when underway in any restricted zone specified in the Eighteenth Schedule, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 midnight, on any Saturday or public holiday or on any day during the period from 1 July to 15 September (both dates inclusive) in any year, proceed at a speed exceeding the maximum permitted speed provided in paragraph 3 of the Fourth Schedule.

(ii) Fourth Schedule to the SAPCR

The maximum permitted speed under regulation 19(3) is 5 knots.

(iii) Regulation 67(1)(a) of the SAPCR

The Director may, by notice in the Gazette and in any other manner he thinks fit, prohibit within any area of the waters of Hong Kong any vessel from towing any water ski, aquaplane or

other similar object, or any person, or any person riding upon a water ski, aquaplane or other similar object.

## **Considerations**

7. From the complainants' points of view, they considered that MD should exercise the power vested under regulation 67(1)(a) of the SAPCR to prohibit water skiing or other similar activities at the areas concerned. However, water skiing is a popular water sports if appropriate measures are taken, it can be conducted safely in certain areas. It is difficult to get a consensus on what portions of the areas should be allowed for water skiing and which to prohibit.

8. Noting that water skiing or similar activities are generally not compatible with other water sport activities, it is considered necessary to separate the speedboats proceeding at high speed from other waterborne users. In the case of Discovery Bay, Repulse Bay and Tai Tam Bay, most water sport activities are conducted in the waters close to the beach. From a safety point of view, vessels proceeding at slow speed should be allotted to inshore waters. In other words, those areas should be delineated as speed restricted zones so that no vessel shall proceed at a speed exceeding 5 knots.

9. Vessel movement in Sha Lo Wan is irregular and mainly through traffic. MD will take various actions to control the inconsiderate manner of some speedboats' masters and to closely monitor the marine traffic in this area.

## **Proposal**

10. To enhance marine safety and to obtain a better balance among various marine activities, it is proposed that certain areas of Discovery Bay, Repulse Bay and Tai Tam Bay should be delineated as speed restricted zones. The delineation of the proposed speed restricted zones as well as the existing speed restricted zones nearby are shown in the plans at Annex 1.

11. The above proposal will be implemented by amending the Eighteenth Schedule of the SAPCR to include the proposed areas. After the proposed amendment comes into force, no vessel shall between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 midnight, on any Saturday or public holiday or on any day during the period from 1 July to 15 September (both dates inclusive) in any year, proceed at a speed exceeding 5 knots in the new speed restricted zones.

12. To further review what areas should be prohibited from water skiing or other similar activities from time to time.

### **Consultation**

13. The users of the concerned areas and the Committee on Boating and Yachting have been consulted.

### **Presentation**

14. Mr. W. S. Chu, Senior Marine Officer of the Marine Department will present this paper.

Operations Branch  
Port Control Division  
Marine Department

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擬設立航速限制區的界線：淺水灣和大潭灣  
Boundaries of Proposed Speed Restricted Zones (PSRZ) :  
Repulse Bay and Tai Tam Bay



擬設立航速限制區的界線：愉景灣  
Boundaries of Proposed Speed Restricted Zones (PSRZ) :  
Discovery Bay



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