

PORT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**Update on the Establishment and Rearrangement of Principal Fairways and
the Revision to Vessel Traffic Services**

PURPOSE

This paper is to update members on the progress of the following matters arising from previous POC papers:-

- (a) POC Paper No. 5/2013 – Establishment of Principal Fairways in the Waters North of Lantau Island;
- (b) POC Paper No. 2/2015 – Rearrangement of Principal Fairways and Anchorages in the Western Harbour; and
- (c) POC Paper No. 4/2016 – Revision to Vessel Traffic Services Procedures and Re-delineation of Very High Frequency Sectors.

2. Copies of the relevant POC Papers are attached as **Annex A to C** respectively.

PROGRESS UPDATE

3. The legislative amendments to implement the captioned proposals had been consolidated into a single exercise. The amendment legislations were tabled at the LegCo on 25 October 2017 for negative vetting and were passed without amendment after the 28 days negative vetting period.

Establishment of Principal Fairways in the Waters North of Lantau Island and Rearrangement of Principal Fairways and Anchorages in the Western Harbour

4. The Shipping and Port Control Regulations (Amendment of Schedules) Notice 2017 that gives effect to the establishment of 3 new principal fairways in the waters north of Lantau Island as well as the rearrangement of principal fairways and anchorages in the Western Harbour came into effect on 1 February 2018. The Legal Notice is attached as **Annex D**. To promulgate the changes, MD has published the pamphlet at **Annex E**, soft copy of the pamphlet can also be downloaded from the following URL:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/pdf/vtc_fairways.pdf

5. Though the new and rearranged fairways were just implemented on 1 February 2018, the marine traffic in the new fairways at the waters north of Lantau have become more predictable and the dense traffic situation in the Western Harbour meanwhile has also been noticeably alleviated. The traffic management measures have achieved the goals in enhancing navigational safety in these two areas and were well received by the shipping community.

Revision to Vessel Traffic Services Procedures and Re-delineation of Very High Frequency Sectors

6. The Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2017 and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)(General)(Amendment)(No. 2) Regulation 2017 that give effect to the revised Vessel Traffic Services procedures and the re-delineated Very High Frequency (VHF) sectors came into effect on 1 March 2018. The Legal Notices are attached as **Annex F and G** respectively. To promulgate the revised procedures and re-delineated VHF Sectors, MD has published the pamphlet at **Annex H**, soft copy of the pamphlet can also be downloaded from the following URL:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/pdf/vtc_pamphlet.pdf

7. The revisions were made known to the shipping industry in advance of their implementation by different means including issuance of written notification, promulgation in Navigational Safety Seminars organized by the Marine Department in November 2017 and January 2018. In order to ensure a smooth transition, soft launch of the revision was also arranged starting from 13 February 2018 till official commencement on 1 March 2018. It is observed that the revised VTS reporting procedures and demarcation of VHF Sectors has been implemented and adopted by port users smoothly.

8. This paper is for members' information.

**Vessel Traffic Services Branch
Port Control Division
Marine Department
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