



## A1 OVERVIEW OF THE MARINE ECOLOGY AND FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY (MEFES)

The *Marine Ecology and Fisheries Enhancement Strategy (MEFES)* of the 3RS Project has been set up for the purpose of enhancing the marine environment for the benefit of marine ecology (including Chinese White Dolphins (CWD)) and fisheries resources in the vicinity of the project area, in Hong Kong western waters and further afield into the Pearl River Estuary (PRE). It is also for the purpose of providing support and assistance to affected fishers to achieve more sustainable fishing operations.

It is important to note that the MEFES and associated enhancement and assistance initiatives are not intended to address or directly mitigate impacts identified in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study as these are already addressed by the specific construction practices, mitigation measures and monitoring programs that will already be implemented for the project. These include the establishment of a new Marine Park, associated management plan and marine ecological and fisheries enhancement measures, and an Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) programme, which includes extensive CWD monitoring, water quality monitoring and coral translocation efforts at the HKIA seawall.

The main geographical focus of initiatives and measures under the strategy is on North Lantau and Hong Kong western waters but will extend to other Hong Kong waters and PRE.

Initiatives under the MEFES can be grouped into three main categories:

- EIA committed enhancement measures;
- Marine Ecological Conservation Plan (MECP); and,
- Fisheries Management Plan (FMP).

EIA committed enhancement measures are those initiatives which AAHK has committed to progressing and directly funding such as eco-enhancement of seawall design, deployment of artificial reefs and re-stocking of fish fry. Through a different funding mechanism, AAHK will also fund initiatives proposed by third-parties (eg Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) and researchers) which will form and be under the MECP and the FMP. Further details are provided in the remainder of this Annex.

### A1.1 EIA COMMITTED ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

An overview summary of initiatives in the MEFES to be progressed and directly funded by AAHK are as follows:

- ***Implementation of early enhancement measures within the preliminary boundary of the future marine park area and/or near to the future 3RS works***





**area.** AAHK will define habitat enhancement areas near the project area where enhancement measures are expected to be implemented during the construction phase of the project and these will be the responsibility of AAHK. These may include:

- Restricting SkyPier High Speed Ferries (HSFs) and construction vessels from entering into defined high value habitat enhancement areas / dolphin protection areas under normal circumstances <sup>(1)</sup>;
  - Development and deployment of artificial reefs <sup>(2)</sup>;
  - Conducting restocking of fish fry and shrimp seedling <sup>(2)</sup>; and,
  - Eco-enhancement design of seawall.
- **Enhancement Studies in Hong Kong Territorial Waters.** AAHK will support enhancement initiatives through:
    - Support for Feasibility Study for Artificial Reef deployment <sup>(2)</sup>
    - Feasibility Study for fish fry stocking <sup>(2)</sup>
  - **Conduct additional voluntary surveillance in Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP).** AAHK will liaise with AFCD and Country and Marine Parks Board to decide the feasibility of supporting reporting of incidents of apparent non-compliance with Marine Park Regulations by other marine users.

## A1.2

### **MARINE ECOLOGY CONSERVATION PLAN (MECP)**

AAHK will fund initiatives that support the objectives of the MEFES. The MECP and its funding through the Marine Ecology Enhancement Fund (MEEF) will be administered by a Management Committee set up by the AAHK. Applicants will be able to apply for funding for their initiatives with proposals invited under three overall themes:

- Enhancement of habitats for marine ecology and fishery resources;
- Encouragement of scientific research and studies; and,
- Promotion of environmental education and eco-tourism.

(1) The planned high value habitat enhancement areas / dolphin protection areas were identified during the 3RS EIA approval process and are located to the east of the existing Sha Chau Lung Kwu Chau marine park and in the area to the west of HKIA. Further details on these areas are provided in the Marine Travel and Routes Management Plan for High Speed Ferries of SkyPier and the Marine Travel and Routes Management Plan for Construction and Associated Vessels.

(2) Implementation would be subject to the outcome of feasibility studies.





Should the enhancement studies for Hong Kong Territorial waters identify values for implementing enhancement measures in other Hong Kong Territorial waters, their implementation and future management would also be addressed under the MECP.

### **A1.3**

#### ***FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)***

AAHK will fund initiatives that promote sustainable fisheries for affected fisheries in North Lantau waters. The FMP and its funding through a Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF) will be administered by a Management Committee set up by the AAHK. Fishers will be able to apply for funding for their initiatives with proposals invited to:

- Support and enhance on-going fisheries operations;
- Support measures that assist in shifting fisheries operations; and,
- Support the promotion and enhancement of fisheries-related business opportunities.

