

To: 6/F Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Country Parks Recreation Development Division
c/o: Dr. TAM Tze Wai (Sr. Country Parks Officer)

Cc: 6/F Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mariculture and Special Projects Division
c/o: Mr. CHOW Wing Kuen (Sr. Fisheries Officer)

and

3/F Manulife Place, 348 Kwun Tong Road
Kwun Tong, Kowloon
Mott MacDonald
c/o Mr. Gary Chow (Technical Director)

By email

3rd October 2025

Dear Dr. T.W. Tam and Mr. Gary Chow,

Re: Joint Recommendation from The Nature Conservancy, Ha Tsuen Tang's Yau Gong Tong and Oyster Farming Associations of the Expansion of Proposed Seaside Portion of Coastal Protection Park

I would like to thank AFCD and Mott MacDonald for inviting The Nature Conservancy Hong Kong (TNC) and other green groups to attend the focus group meeting on the proposed coastal protection park (CPP) on 22nd August 2025. I am writing to submit TNC's joint recommendation with Ha Tsuen Tang's Yau Gong Tong (厦村鄧友恭堂) and three oyster farming associations, for the expansion of the proposed seaside portion of CPP to cover the latest government designated oyster farming areas, i.e. STT2266.

Our vision is to build the city into a sustainable city where people and nature thrive. We aspire to make the CPP a world-class conservation park that showcases a well-managed protected area, that supports and restores thriving climate-resilient ecosystems, promotes equitable development, respects local communities, supports traditional livelihoods and connects people with nature through quality ecotourism.

It is well established that the coastal areas of Deep Bay hold high ecological and cultural values, housing Hong Kong's largest intertidal mudflats, natural oyster reefs, mangrove stands, reedbeds and *Halophila beccarii* seagrass beds, the largest population of endangered juvenile Chinese Horseshoe Crab in Pak Nai, and a long history (at least 250 years) of traditional oyster farming in Lau Fau Shan, which has been recognized as part of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage.

Through consensus building discussion with the aforementioned local community stakeholders, we support your proposed boundary for the seaside portion of the CPP which covers the entirety of the intertidal areas from Tsim Bei Tsui to Ha Pak Nai. This will ensure ecological connectivity for the conservation of intertidal biodiversity as well as benthic oyster farms, which have high ecological and cultural values. In addition, we strongly recommend you consider expanding the proposed CPP seaside boundary **to include the subtidal oyster farming areas under STT2266 as well**. This recommended expansion would ensure streamlined management across the whole oyster farming areas, approximately 2200 hectares of intertidal and subtidal zones. This increased protection could also help enhance the production and quality of the oyster produce, as well as increase the associated ecosystem services that sustainable oyster aquaculture provides, notably, the removal of excess harmful nutrients from the water column which contributes to overall bay health.

TNC is strongly committed to the principles of equitable and inclusive conservation, ensuring that community voices are incorporated in future management plans. With our shared vision to enhance the long-term sustainability of the oyster industry, this recommendation is supported by the Ha Tsuen Tang's Yau Gong Tong and three oyster farming associations. Their supporting letters have been enclosed for your reference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and our Associate Director of Conservation, Marine Thomas at tom.chan@tnc.org and marine.thomas@tnc.org.

Yours Sincerely,



Tom CHAN Tsz-kin
Community Conservation Manager
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hong Kong

(Encl: supporting letters)