

Final Report
on
CLP Environmental Enhancement Fund

Sea Patrols to the Water Regions
Between water outside Hong Kong Airport and Shek Pik

July 2023



1.0 Introduction

The main objective of this sea patrol exercise carried out sponsored by the CLP Environmental Enhancement Fund is to utilize the existing resources of fishermen to conduct regular patrols at sea and clean up abandoned fishing nets and other floating garbage to improve the marine environment and ecology. This exercise will bring benefit to the fishery by collecting data to understand the seriousness of the problem of abandoned fishing nets and marine garbage. The collected data could be used to facilitate future formulation of solutions to disposal at sea Policies and programs on fishing nets and marine litter.

2.0 Procedures

To facilitate the data collection work, a mobile App has been developed by a consultant to help the fishermen to record types, quantities and locations of the collected abandoned fishing nets and other floating garbage. The data could be used by the relevant government departments to plan the necessary resources to deal with the clearance of the collected abandoned fishing nets and floating garbage over the concerned water regions.

- (i) Small fishing boats have been deployed to conduct patrols over the water regions to the west of the Lantau Island between the western part of Chek Lap Kok Airport and Shek Pik for about ten months.
- (ii) Sea patrols using about 5 boats every time have been carried out to collect the data on abandoned fishing nets and general floating garbage.
- (iii) The planned sea patrols were conducted about 3 times a month (one in every 10 days) to log the abandoned fishing nets and floating garbage that encountered on the patrolled areas, including the date, time, type, size, weight and their approx. locations. A total of about 150 patrols have been planned to be undertaken over a 10-month period.
- (iv) Photos of the abandoned fishing nets and floating garbage have been taken by patrol teams.
- (v) The abandoned fishing nets and floating garbage identified have been collected by the patrol teams and disposed or recycled after they have been transported back to the land.
- (vi) A project manager has been employed to oversee the exercise, including liaison and making arrangement for the fishermen to conduct the patrolling work in the targeted areas. The project manager also provided support to the patrolling teams on procurement of necessities for collecting the debris, such as the collecting tool, garage bags and mobile phones etc. The project manager also provided necessary training to the fishermen participating in the exercise to help them to accomplish the patrolling and debris collection work safety and efficiently.