

Information updated by AFCD in June 2013 漁農自然護理署於2013年6月更新的資料

No. 60 - Shek O Headland

The Site

The Site is located at the south-east coast of the Shek O Headland covering the intertidal zone of the Headland and the surrounding marine environment. The area is about 0.66 hectares.

Date of Designation

3 February 1998

Special Scientific Interest

The Site represents a typical example of exposed rock shore which is subject to strong wave actions. No loose rock or boulder can be found on the exposed rocky platform. Some rock pools are formed at the back of the intertidal zone. There is a clear zone of rocky shore flora and fauna.

The Site is one of the areas with the richest collection of seaweeds in Hong Kong. During winter, the seaweed season, the whole intertidal zone is almost completely covered by marine macro-algae with a distinct zonal pattern. The upper shore is dominated by green algae such as *Ulva lactuca* (石蒓). In the rock pools, other algae such as the calcareous rhodphyte Corallina (珊瑚藻科) can be found. There is also a seasonal pattern. *Porphyra suborbiculata* (圓紫菜), *Bangia autropurpurea* (頭髮菜/紅毛菜) and other red algae dominate the lower shore from November to March. The dominance is replaced by other rhodophytes such as *Polysiphonia harlandii* (具皮多管藻) from March to May.

Due to its rich collection of seaweeds, the site had been used for research of marine algae. It is a favourite site for collecting experimental materials for seaweed studies. The area is also one of the few sites in the territory where local villagers traditionally collect *Porphyra* (紫菜, Zicai, "purple vegetable") for sale. Hence, the site is also of cultural interest.

Degree of Hazard

The intertidal community may be threatened by development proposals that will lead to deterioration of water quality.

Protection Measures

Departments concerned with planning and development should be made aware of the importance of the Site so that due consideration of the Site will be given when planning and development in or near the Site is proposed. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department should be closely consulted on any development proposals which may affect directly or indirectly the Site.

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References

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Lee, K.Y.; Leung, H.C., Hodgkiss, I.J. and Cheung, K.W. 1993. The Effect of Photoperiod and Temperature on the Release of Monospores by Porphyra Suborbiculata Kjellman. In *Marine Biology of South China Sea. Volume 2*. Edited by B. Morton. pp. 653-656. Hong Kong University Press. Hong Kong.