

Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

ECF Project:	ECF 2021-67
Project Title:	Study on the ecology and biodiversity of soft shore in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park
Principal Investigator:	Professor Leung Mei Yee Kenneth, Department of Chemistry, City University of Hong Kong
Total Approved Grant:	\$972,200
Duration:	1/5/2022 to 31/12/2023
Project Status/Remarks:	On-going
Project Scope:	<p>Among the first batch of Marine Parks in Hong Kong, the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP) has been established since 1996. HHWMP helps protecting the marine environment and conserving the marine life therein for the purposes of conservation, education and recreation. During 2005-2006, the project team conducted a comprehensive ecological survey on the ecology and biodiversity of the sandy beach (i.e., soft shore) in HHWMP. The study found that it had a total of 97 macro-benthic animal species which was higher than those recorded in the other 40 soft shores in Hong Kong, highlighting the ecological importance of the soft shore of HHWMP. However, being one of the most easily accessible marine habitats by the visitors, the soft shore of HHWMP has been receiving high disturbance and pressure from visitors that may pose considerable impacts on its ecology and biodiversity. This study, therefore, aims to repeat the comprehensive ecological survey using the same protocol, and verify whether there is species loss or gain after 17 years by comparing the results between 2005-2006 and 2022-2023. The results of this timely research will be highly essential to the long-term monitoring and effective management of the soft shore of HHWMP.</p>
Summary of the Findings/Outcomes:	To be available upon completion of the project