



生態教育及資源中心
Eco-Education & Resources Centre

BY EMAIL ONLY

Lantau Development Task Force

Financial Secretary

Email: fso@fso.gov.hk

16 December, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Protection of the Habitats of Alligator Pipefish at Sunny Bay, Lantau

The HKSAR Government is targeting at Lantau Island for intense development. We learnt from the media that Sunny Bay is planned to be developed into “Sunny Tourism Node” for leisure and entertainment purposes. Green Power and Eco-Education and Resources Centre (GP & ERC) would like to draw your kind attention to the newly discovered habitat of Alligator Pipefish at Sunny Bay, Lantau.

Pipefish belongs to the same family of seahorse, Family Syngnathidae, which is under the threats of by-catch from trawling, collection for medicine and aquarium pet, and habitat destruction. GP & ERC conducted a pilot research on pipefish in Hong Kong waters from 2011 to 2012 (please see the attached summary).

As pointed out in our study, pipefish are mostly observed in coastal waters in western Hong Kong. Alligator Pipefish, *Syngnathoides biaculeatus*, was found in Sunny Bay. It should be noted that its distribution and the population in Hong Kong were unclear. The discovery of Alligator Pipefish at Sunny Bay was the first record of this species in western Hong Kong waters. Sunny Bay is the only natural lumber preservation zone in Hong Kong, many natural lumbers were on stilts in the bay and this might provide an important habitat for Alligator Pipefish.

The proposed development plan at Sunny Bay may encroach on the only known habitat of Alligator Pipefish in western Hong Kong water, and threaten their survival by the reclamation of habitat, water pollution and removal of lumbar. GP & ERC urge the Administration to protection the habitat of Alligator Pipefish through preservation of natural shorelines, mangroves, seagrass beds, lumber zone and water quality at Sunny Bay. Moreover, environmental impact assessment must be conducted in prior to any engineering design, planning and implementation of development projects at Sunny Bay or in the vicinity.

For any inquiries, please contact the undersigned at Green Power. (T: 3961 0200, Email: lkcheng@greenpower.org.hk)

Thank you very much for your kind attention. We look forward to your favourable reply.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of

Green Power and Eco-Education & Resources Centre

Cheng Luk Ki, Ph.D.

Division Head, Scientific Research and Conservation

c.c. Secretary for the Development (sdev@devb.gov.hk)

Encl. *A Summary of Pilot Research – Searching for Pipefish in Hong Kong*