

[AFCD strongly urges public not to pursue whale \(with photos\)](#)

Regarding the recent sighting of a whale in Sai Kung waters, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (July 26) strongly urges members of the public not to pursue the whale.

A spokesman for the AFCD said, "Members of the public should not go on boat trips to watch the suspected Bryde's whale emerged in waters in the vicinity of High Island and Port Shelter. The department has stepped up patrols of the waters where the whale has appeared and at places including the Sai Kung Public Pier, urged public not to go on boat trips to watch the whale. Meanwhile, upon sighting of whales, public is reminded that they should keep a distance, slow down their vessels and be aware of their personal safety to avoid accidents."

The spokesman said, "All cetaceans are protected by the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). Irresponsible whale watching behaviour may constitute an act of wilful disturbance of protected wild animals. Offenders are liable to one year's imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000 upon conviction."

Since receiving sighting reports of a whale in Sai Kung waters in mid-July, the AFCD and the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong have kept sending staff to inspect the concerned waters, stepped up patrols with other concerned departments and distributed promotional leaflets to public. The AFCD will keep monitoring the condition of the whale closely and work with other concerned departments and non-government organisations to explore appropriate and feasible options to help the whale.



