

### No. 48 - Hoi Ha Wan

#### Site

Hoi Ha Wan site is a sheltered bay situated at the northern coastline of Sai Kung Peninsula and covers an area of 278 hectares.

## Date of Designation

5 January 1989

# Special Scientific Interest

The coral communities of Hong Kong are of interest as they exist close the generally recognized limit for hermatypic (i.e. reef-building) coral growth and are distinct from the reef systems of the Philippines, Tung Sha and Sai Sha. Being a sheltered bay but open to oceanic waters, and not affected critically by pollution, Hoi Ha Wan provides a good environment for the corals to flourish. The species belong to the order Scleractinia that are responsible for the building up of coral reefs. The representative species are Pavona decussata (Agariciidae), Platygyra sinensis (Faviidae) and Porites Iobata (Poritidae) which occupy the shallow habitats and Alveopora irregularis (Portitdae) and Stylocoeniella quentheri (Astrocoeniidae) which occupy the deeper habitats, while Cyphastrea spp. (Faviidae) are found throughout the depth range.

### Degree of Hazard

The polluted, sediment loaded, waters of Tolo Channel affect the mouth of bay although the main body of the bay has good water quality and sustains coral communities. Future development and changes of land use in Wanchai Borrow Area may cause water pollution and sedimentation of Hoi Ha Wan. Divers and their associated activities may affect the normal development of coral communities.

# Recommended Protection Measures

The Agriculture & Fisheries Department should be consulted on any development or reclamation proposals which may affect the site.