

Marine Department Notice No. 37 of 2009

(Miscellaneous Information)

Safety Precautions for Diving Activities

On 27 July 2008, a passenger participating in diving activity from a pleasure vessel was killed instantly by the turning propeller as she was swimming at the stern awaiting her turn to board the vessel. The deceased was not aware that at the time the vessel had grounded on a rocky beach after dragging anchor.

2. The cause of the fatal accident was the failure of the Master of the vessel to be aware that the deceased was in the water waiting to board near the stern as he engaged the propulsion engine for astern movement trying to free the vessel from grounding. As a result, the deceased was drawn towards the propeller and killed instantly.

3. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, the attention of masters and lookouts are drawn to the importance of ensuring that no diver/swimmer is in close proximity to the vessels prior to engaging the propulsion engine to the propeller shaft. An alert lookout for this must be kept at all times and constant communication maintained between the master and the lookout. Those engaging in diving or swimming activities should be aware of the danger of swimming close to the stern of any vessel and to make their presence known to the crew.

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Director of Marine

Marine Department
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