

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 66 OF 2012

(Navigational and Seamanship Safety Practices)

Navigation Safety in the Fairway Junction Area near Central Buoy

A collision accident between a high-speed passenger craft and a local ferry happened in the fairway junction near the Central Buoy off Ocean Terminal in June 2011.

2. The investigation into the incident revealed that the masters of the concerned vessels failed to : -

- i) keep proper look-out by all available means to fully assess the risk of collision when a close-quarter situation with the other vessel was developing;
- ii) operate their vessels at a safe speed within the fairway junction around the Central Buoy amid the dense traffic situation; and
- iii) take proper actions when the vessels were meeting in a crossing situation.

3. Owners, operators, masters and coxswains of vessels are required to observe Rules of COLREGS, in particular, the following requirements while navigating in the vicinity of the fairway junction near the Central Buoy : -

- (i) maintain a proper look-out by all available means to determine if risk of collision exists, and to avoid developing into a close-quarter situation with other vessels;
- (ii) always navigate at a safe speed under the prevailing circumstances and conditions, having regard to factors such as weather and traffic density in the fairway junction, particularly the local requirement of speed limits; and
- (iii) take positive collision avoidance actions in ample time, and as far as practicable to avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel.

4. This Notice supersedes Marine Department Notice No. 109 of 2011.

Francis H. P.LIU
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date: 17 May 2012
Action file ref.: MAI/S 902/199-2011