

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 133 OF 2012

(Navigational and Seamanship Safety Practices)

Notice to Mariners / Coxswains and Operators of Vessels

A collision occurred between a high-speed passenger ferry and a motor launch when they were on convergent courses within the speed restriction zone “A” in the Victoria Harbour. As a result, the motor launch sank while the bow of the passenger ferry sustained minor damage.

2. The investigation into the incident revealed that the inappropriate actions taken by the masters of both vessels were the main factors contributing to the accident. The masters :-

- did not maintain a proper look-out to assess the risk of collision at early opportunity;
- did not take appropriate actions to avoid collision in accordance with Rule of 15, 16, 17 of COLREGS while the risk of collision existed;
- did not comply Rule 6 of COLREGS to steer in a safe speed in the congested water;
- did not operate their vessel within the maximum permitted speeds stipulated in the speed restricted Zone-A in the Victoria Harbour.

3. Masters / Coxswains and Operators of vessels are hereby reminded that: -

- a proper look-out shall always be maintained by all available means to obtain a full appraisal of the situation and on the risk of collision;
- when a close-quarters situation and/or risk of collision exist, early and substantial actions to avoid collision should be taken to pass clear of the other vessels at a safe distance, and to avoid crossing ahead of the other vessels on the starboard side in a crossing situation;

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- vessels shall always proceed at a safe speed according to the prevailing navigation circumstances and conditions, so that proper and effective actions to avoid collision can be taken in time;
- when navigating in speed restricted area, vessels shall exercise strict compliance with the speed restrictions appropriate to their vessels.

4. This notice supersedes the Marine Department Notice No. 110 of 2011.

H. M. TUNG

Director of Marine (Ag.)

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

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