

## **MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 144 OF 2002**

(Navigational and Seamanship Safety Practices)

### **Notice to Owners, Operators, Masters and Persons -in-charge of Locally Licensed Vessels – Safe Operation of Vessels**

A recent serious accident involving a collision between a sampan and a pleasure vessel resulted in the death of two persons and injuries to others. While failure to maintain proper look out of both masters concerned was determined as the primary cause of the collision, the investigation has identified impairment of the forward view for look out on the sampan as one of the contributing factors resulting in the casualty. In the incident, the forward view of the master steering at the aft of the sampan was largely blocked by a canopy and passengers sitting in front. The investigation also determined that the number of passengers carried on board exceeded the number of persons the sampan had been permitted to carry.

2. Owners, operators, masters and persons-in-charge of locally licensed vessels are urged to pay attention that under no circumstances should the clear view required for proper lookout in the navigation of their vessels be obstructed, whether by permanent or temporary fixtures, passengers or stowage of cargo. They are also reminded that it is a contravention of law to carry on board persons exceeding the permitted number.

**S.Y. TSUI**  
**Director of Marine**

Marine Department  
Government of the HKSAR  
Date: 30 November 2002  
Action File Ref.: MAI/S 902/207-2002

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