

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 48 OF 2004

(Navigational and Seamanship Safety Practices)

Notice to Masters and Persons -in-charge of Vessels

Recently there was a collision between two Mainland coastal cargo vessels in the vicinity of the Northern Fairway resulting in the sinking of one vessel to the south of the Stonecutters Island. The investigation revealed that the accident was caused by the failure of the masters of both vessels to maintain a proper look-out while navigating and to take appropriate collision avoidance actions in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972. Further, on the passage from the Pun Shan Shek Anchorage to the container terminal, the master of the sunken vessel had chosen to ignore the fairways and tracked through the Western Anchorage, the Western Dangerous Goods Anchorage and then the Northern Fairway whereby putting his vessel in conflict with the marine traffic navigating along the fairway.

Masters, operators and persons-in-charge of vessels are hereby reminded once again that they should maintain a proper look-out and make every endeavour to follow the fairways when navigating in Hong Kong waters. They should always observe the good seamanship practices and comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.

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Director of Marine

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