

## **Marine Department Notice No. 118 of 2006**

(Miscellaneous Information)

### **Safety Precautions for Diving Activities**

On 16 October 2005, a person was seriously injured by the propeller of a locally licensed pleasure vessel while he was engaged in diving activities near Beijian Island outside Hong Kong waters. He was certified dead on arrival at hospital.

2. The cause of the fatal accident was due to the Assistant Master, who was not aware that a passenger had just entered the water at the stern of the vessel, engaging the engine to stop the vessel from drifting. As a result, the person was drawn towards the propeller and seriously injured.

3. To conduct diving activities without first anchoring the vessel is dangerous. The Master, who is not able to see divers once submerged, may need to use the engine to arrest the movement of an unanchored vessel under the influence of wind and current, causing danger to divers in the water.

4. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, owners, masters, diving instructors and divers are urged to ensure that prior to carrying out any diving activities, the vessel should first be anchored with the engines switched off.

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Director of Marine

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