

Marine Department Notice No. 124 of 2006

(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

Safety Precautions for Swimmers on Diving Activities

In a recent accident a person was injured after diving to the seabed to free up the anchor of a sampan at Sai Kung. The anchor of the sampan was covered by sea mud and could not be picked up for departure. A passenger of the sampan dived down to free up the anchor. However, on his way back to the water surface, he was hit by a passing pleasure vessel. His left hand was seriously injured by the turning propeller.

It is important for those persons remaining on board small vessels, while someone is overside and underwater, to maintain a proper lookout and alert any approaching vessels by appropriate means to keep clear.

Owners, masters, crewmember of vessels, and persons participating in water sports and boating activities are urged to observe the above-mentioned measures to prevent similar accidents.

We also take this opportunity to remind persons intending to engage in diving activities from their vessel to comply with the provision of Rule 27(e) of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG) by exhibiting the appropriate flag and light signals.

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Date: 8 August 2006
Action file ref.: MAI/P 901/086-2005