

## **Marine Department Notice No. 223 of 2006**

(Miscellaneous Information)

### **The Danger of Carrying Passengers on Local Fishing Vessels**

On 8 June 2006, while a locally licensed fishing vessel was returning to Hong Kong, a passenger fell overboard from the vessel and went missing.

2. The accident happened when the vessel rolled suddenly to a large angle after being struck by a heavy wave. A passenger who was standing near the starboard bulwark lost his balance and fell overboard. The height of the bulwark was 0.7m, which was not high enough to prevent the passenger from falling overboard. The incident shows that a vessel designed primarily for efficient operations in fishing, is not meant for safe carriage of passengers and should never be used for such a purpose.

3. Fishing vessels are licensed on the condition that no passengers should be carried. The fishing vessel in the incident had violated its licensing conditions.

4. The attention of the owners and masters of local fishing vessels is drawn to the danger of carrying passengers on fishing vessels. Prosecution actions will be taken against those who breach the licensing conditions.

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Director of Marine

Marine Department  
Government of the HKSAR  
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