

## **MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 31 OF 2014**

**(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)**

### **A swimmer was killed in the Rocky Harbour, Sai Kung**

#### **The Incident**

A fatal accident happened in Rocky Harbour, Sai Kung resulting in the death of a swimmer. Prior to the accident, two pleasure vessels in the Rocky Harbour, Sai Kung carried two individual groups of passengers for water sport activities in the bay area.

2. The three open cruisers belonging to the above two pleasure vessels took passengers out for water ski activity in the bay area, while three passengers swam near to the shore for snorkeling. At the time of the accident, one of the three passengers was hit by a fast moving hard object while he was swimming back to his pleasure vessel following the other two passengers. He was certified dead later.

3. Investigation into the accident revealed the main contributory factor to the accident was that swimmers and the open cruisers were using the same water area when carrying out water sports activities. As a result, the swimmer was hit by either propeller blades of an open cruiser or a ski board.

#### **Lesson learnt**

4. All coxswains of open cruisers engaging in water recreation activities (e.g. skiing) in confined or congested waters should take all necessary precautions in maneuvering their vessels where there are also other persons participating in water sports such as swimming, diving, etc.. Leaflets concerning water sports safety promulgated by the Marine Department, Police and Leisure and Cultural Services Department are attached to this notice for easy reference.

**Michael W. L. WONG**  
**Director of Marine**

Marine Department  
Government of the HKSAR  
Date: 4 March 2014  
Action files ref: L/M No. MAI/P 901/ 088-2012

Encl.

## **Annex. Leaflets concerning water sports safety are promulgated by the Marine Department, Police and Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

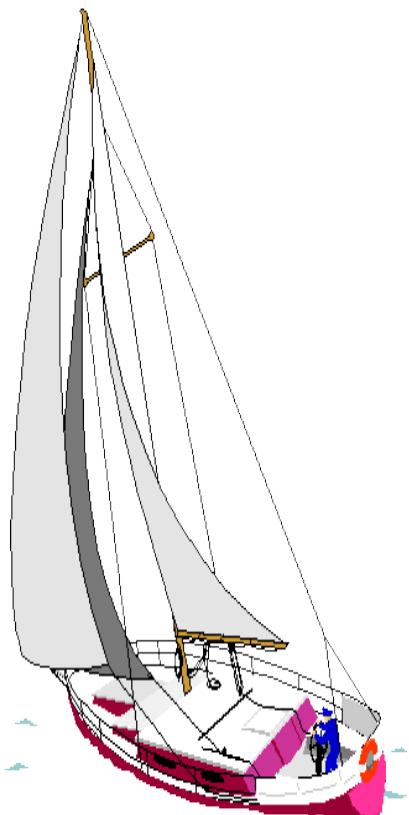
### **1. Guidelines For Boaters - The Dos & Don'ts**

[http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\\_services/ocean/pvguide.html](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/pvguide.html)

#### **Guidelines For Boaters - The Dos & Don'ts**

##### **DO**

- assist any boat in distress.
- slow down when passing dredgers or water areas where divers may be working.
- slow down when making sharp turns or in bad weather.
- slow down, or give a wide berth, when passing small craft.
- learn the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- carry distress signals, especially when operating at night.
- keep your boat clean. Oil in the bilges or dirty rags are a fire hazard.
- familiarize yourself with the limitations of your boat.
- carry an anchor and sufficient length of cable or rope.
- where practicable, join a boat club and keep yourself fully up-to-date with all the regulation.
- get yourself familiar with the [Traffic Separation Schemes](#) in Hong Kong waters and try to stay clear of fairways when large vessels are using them.
- take note of the latest tropical cyclone information and related announcements broadcasted on radio / TV and given on [the Hong Kong Observatory's Internet website](#) and Dial-a-Weather system (Tel.: No.: 1878 200).
- keep to the outer limit of fairways and narrow channels which lies on your starboard side.
- keep the licence number of your boat well painted and unobstructed. If you have a mooring, keep it under repair and make sure the number is clearly visible.
- watch for [Marine Department Notices](#) and [Notices to Mariners](#) which appears in the web site of Marine Department.
- carry charts of the areas in which you are operating.
- stop immediately if the signal "L" (.\_..) is made to you by light, sound or flag from a Government or Police launch and wait for instructions.
- learn all important International and Local signals by their flag codes and in some cases in Morse code equivalents where such signals can be made by sound.



## DON'T

- pass close to another craft when underway.
- pass closer than 100 metres from the shore or piers in the Victoria Harbour.
- stand up or change seats in a small boat, particularly when the boat is full.
- mix liquor and boating.
- use a leaky or poorly built boat.
- operate near swimmers.
- cruise at a fast speed near smaller boats, the wash caused could well capsize them or cause damage to the boat or injuries to its occupants.
- leave the tiller or helm unattended, especially when in crowded waters.
- throw refuse into the sea.
- sound your horn unnecessarily.
- wait until last minute before following the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- anchor near other boats so that they are inconvenienced.
- drop anchor, fish or in anyway make connection with the seabed in areas marked on your charts as "Cable Area", "Cable Reserve" or similar notation.
- exceed the speed limit in Typhoon Shelter which is five knots (jogging speed).



## **Speed Restricted Zones For Vessels**

Speed restricted zones for all vessels is set by the Marine Department to ensure safe navigation in the Hong Kong waters. The speed limit in these zones is 5 knots between 8 am and midnight on any Saturday or public holiday, or on any day during the period from 1 July to 15 September in any year. Such a speed limit precludes the towing of water skiers within the zones. The speed restricted zones are:

### **Tolo Harbour**

T1 [Plover Cove \(PDF\)](#)

T2 [Sha Tin Hoi \(PDF\)](#)

### **Port Shelter and Rocky Harbour**

K1 [Tai She Wan \(PDF\)](#)

K2 [Tsam Chuk Wan \(PDF\)](#)

K3 [Hebe Haven \(Pak Sha Wan\) \(PDF\)](#)

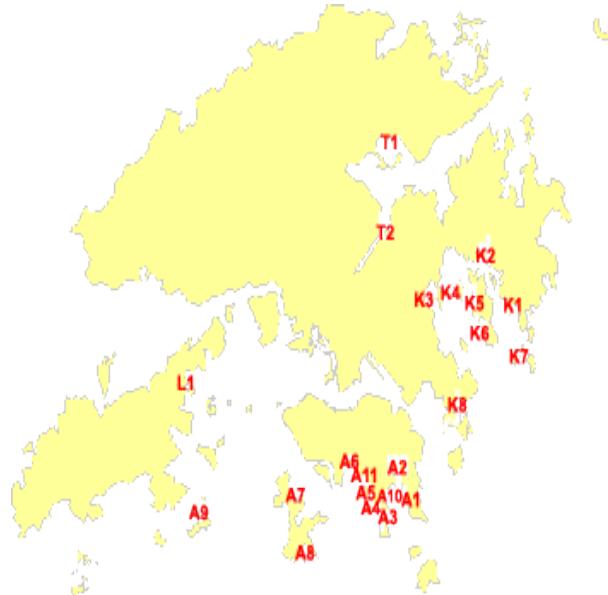
K4 [East Kiu Tsui Chau \(PDF\)](#)

K5 [West Kau Sai Chau \(PDF\)](#)

K6 [South Kau Sai Chau \(PDF\)](#)

K7 [Bluff Island \(PDF\)](#)

K8 [Clear Water Bay \(PDF\)](#)



### **Hong Kong Island, South**

A1 [To Tei Wan \(PDF\)](#)

A2 [Tai Tam Harbour \(PDF\)](#)

A3 [Stanley Bay \(PDF\)](#)

A4 [Chung Hom Wan \(PDF\)](#)

A5 [South Bay \(PDF\)](#)

A6 [Deep Water Bay \(PDF\)](#)

A10 [Tai Tam Bay \(PDF\)](#)

A11 [Repulse Bay \(PDF\)](#)

### **Lamma Island**

A7 [Luk Chau Wan \(PDF\)](#)

A8 [Sham Wan \(PDF\)](#)

### **Cheung Chau**

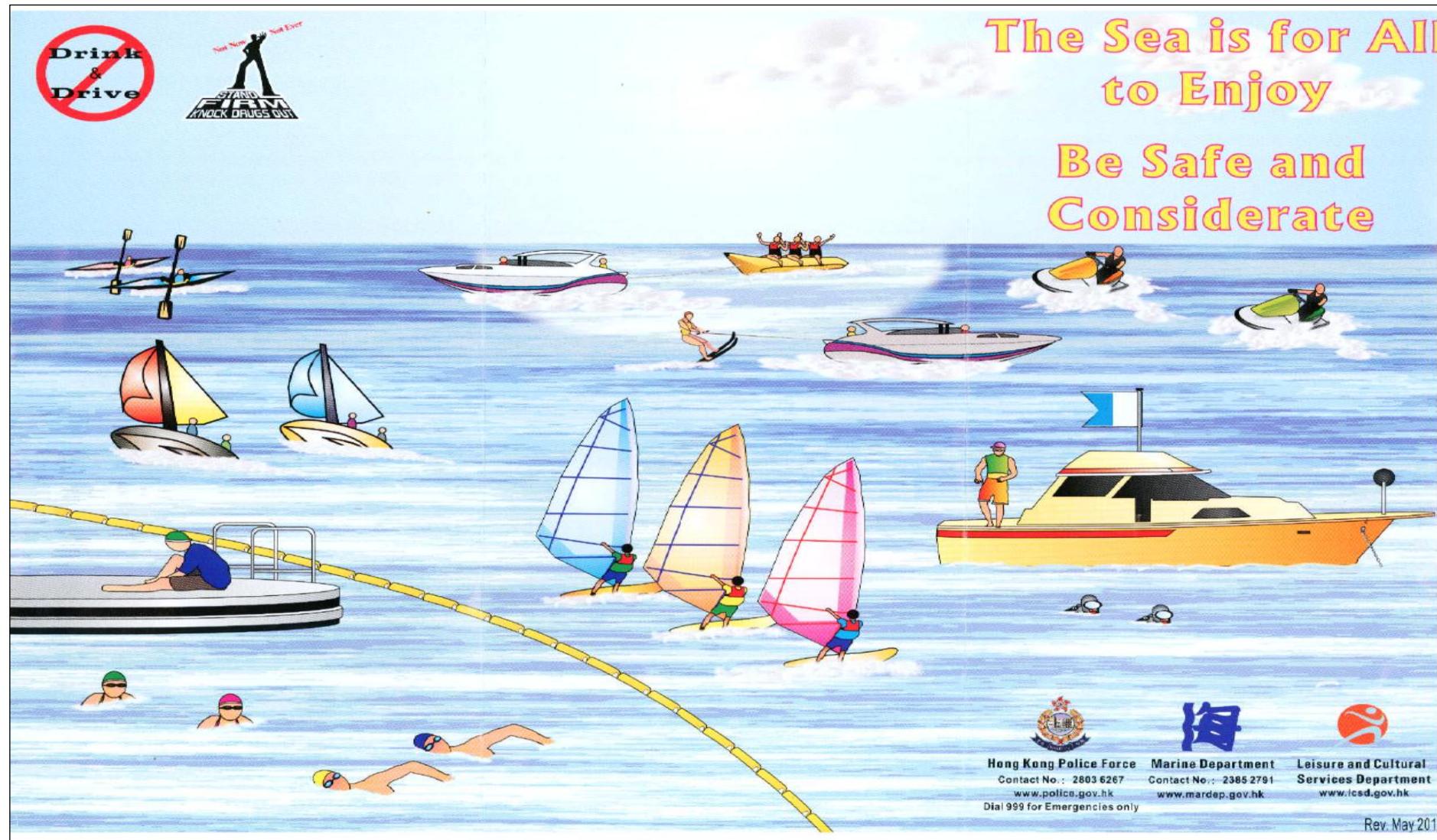
A9 [Tung Wan \(PDF\)](#)

### **Lantau Island**

[L1](#) [Discovery Bay](#) (PDF)

1. Before taking a trip, check that you have all the necessary equipment and that it is workable.
2. Do not carry more people on your boat than your licence allows.
3. Check the latest weather report. Fog, rain and wind coupled with rough seas are your enemies. If you are in any doubt - don't go.
4. Study the charts to learn the hazards: submerged rocks, strong tides, ocean traffic, fishing obstructions, etc.
5. Remember large vessels cannot take rapid action to avoid collision and fishing vessels may have gear out which could foul your propeller.
6. You should leave with these thoughts firmly fixed in your mind:  
I will be alert.  
I will be cautious.  
I will be seamanlike.  
I will be courteous and considerate to other boat users.

## 2. The Sea is for All to Enjoy, Be Safe and Considerate.



## **The Sea is for All to Enjoy**

### **Be Safe and Considerate**

- Ensure qualified persons are handling the boat and do not exceed the number of persons permitted to carry
- Avoid generating a large wake when close to small boats
- Avoid anchoring too close to other boats as it may cause danger or inconvenience
- Always proceed at a safe speed
- Never leave the helm unattended while underway
- Slow down and give a wide berth when passing other boats
- Proceed with extra caution when divers or swimmers are in the water
- Do not exceed the 5-knot speed limit in Speed Restricted Zones or Typhoon Shelters
- Take early & substantial action to avoid a collision
- Do not sound your horn or bell unnecessarily
- It is safer to swim inside the designated swimming zones of gazetted beaches when the beaches are attended by lifeguards
- Do not swim alone/in the dark/when a red flag is hoisted at gazetted beaches
- Do not swim or engage in other water sports during adverse weather conditions
- Dive within your limit in respect of skills, experience and depth
- Do not dive alone
- Alcohol and drug abuse can harm your safety and the safety of others

### **Duty to Report Collisions and Fires, etc.**

Serious incidents involving vessels have to be reported forthwith to the Director of Marine, with full particulars submitted in writing within 24 hours of the occurrence.

### **Speed Restricted Zones for Vessels (5 knots)**

There are currently 22 Speed Restricted Zones in HKSAR waters that apply to all vessels. The speed limit is 5 knots between 8 a.m. and 12 midnight on all days from 1 July to 15 September (both dates inclusive) every year and on all other Saturdays and public holidays. Details are published annually in a Marine Department Notice that can be accessed via [www.mardep.gov.hk](http://www.mardep.gov.hk).

### **Flag Signals at Gazetted Beaches**



This beach is attended by lifeguards

There is a report of shark in the vicinity

Swimming at this beach is unsafe.  
Please do not enter the water

### **Position Reporting at Sea**

The Marine Department and the Marine Police use a box numbering system based upon minutes of latitude and longitude to quickly locate areas within the HKSAR waters. For example, Port Shelter is located at position  $22^{\circ} 20.456'N$ ;  $114^{\circ} 17.456'E$  or, alternatively, in Box 2017.

### **Marine Police Operational Bases**

Marine Police Control: 2803 6267

Marine Police East Division  
8 Wa Yung Road, Tui Min Hoi, Sai Kung  
Tel : 3661 1718 Fax : 2194 4542

Marine Police South Division  
28 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen  
Tel : 3661 1724 Fax : 2553 7165

Marine Police West Division  
16 ½ Milestone, Castle Peak Road  
Tel : 3661 1726 Fax : 2452 2759

Marine Police North Division  
Ma Liu Shui, New Territories  
Tel : 3661 1722 Fax : 2602 7353

Marine Police Harbour Division  
Tai Hong Street, Sai Wan Ho  
Tel: 3661 1720 Fax : 2884 9242

### **Reporting Incidents relating to the apparent excessive speed or mishandling of a vessel**

Any person wishing to make a report concerning the apparent excessive speed or mishandling of a vessel may do so by calling the Harbour Patrol Section of the Marine Department on telephone no. 2385 2791. The person making such a report may be requested by the Harbour Patrol Section to confirm the details in writing and may be required to appear in court as a witness should the report subsequently result in a prosecution.

### 3. Safety Rules for Jet Ski

**Safety rules for JET SKI**

**DON'T**

1. Operate at high speed in speed restricted area.
2. Operate in an area which is full of swimmers.
3. Drink and drive.

**DO.**

1. Make sure your expected location is known by somebody and check the condition of the equipment.
2. If possible ride with a partner.
3. Use the "Buddy" system to render assistance when problems occur.
4. Use the correct safety equipment.

Remember if you see someone in trouble at sea CALL 999 and ask for the Marine Police.