

**MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 83 OF 1997**

**(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)**

**Tsing Ma and Kap Shui Mun Bridges**

**Maximum Permissible Air Draught and Safety Precautions**

Shipowners, operators and masters or persons-in-charge of derrick barges or other vessels are reminded that the maximum permissible air draughts for vessels passing underneath the Kap Shui Mun and Tsing Ma Bridges are 41.0 and 53.0 metres respectively. A prohibited anchorage area for vessels with an air draught of more than 41 metres has been established as shown in the drawing attached to this Notice.

2. Recently, the maintenance platform of the Kap Shui Bridge was hit by a passing vessel. It should be noted that hitting of the bridges by the superstructure or topped-up derricks of vessels may cause severe damage to the bridges as well as serious disruption to the movement of road and rail traffic leading to and from the Lantau Island, in particular, those bound to and from the new airport at Chek Lap Kok. It may also impose immense liability on the part of the owners, operators, masters and persons-in-charge of the vessels involved in hitting the bridges.

3. For the sake of the safety of vessels and the integrity of the bridges, vessels are required to ensure that the highest points of their vessels above the waterline do not exceed 41.0 and 53.0 metres when passing underneath the Kap Shui Mun and Tsing Ma Bridges respectively.

4 To avoid unnecessary delays to vessels, barge operators are strongly advised to lower the derricks on their barges well before attempting to pass underneath the Kap Shui Mun Bridge. With immediate effect, patrol officers will pay special attention to derrick barges with derricks topped-up and other vessels suspected to be overheight from approaching the Kap Shui Mun Bridge. Such vessels will be directed to suitable locations or anchorages for ascertaining the height of the highest point of the vessel above the waterline. Where prima facie evidence has been established for overheight vessels attempting to pass underneath the bridges, such vessels are liable to prosecutions. Barges with topped-up derricks and other vessels may pass underneath the Tsing Ma Bridge provided that the maximum permissible air draught of 53.0 metres is not exceeded.

5. This Notice should be read in conjunction with Notice to Mariners No. 38 of 1995 and Marine Department Notice No. 43 of 1995.

6. Copies of this Notice may be obtained free of charge from the Port Formalities Office, Room 318, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Hong Kong.

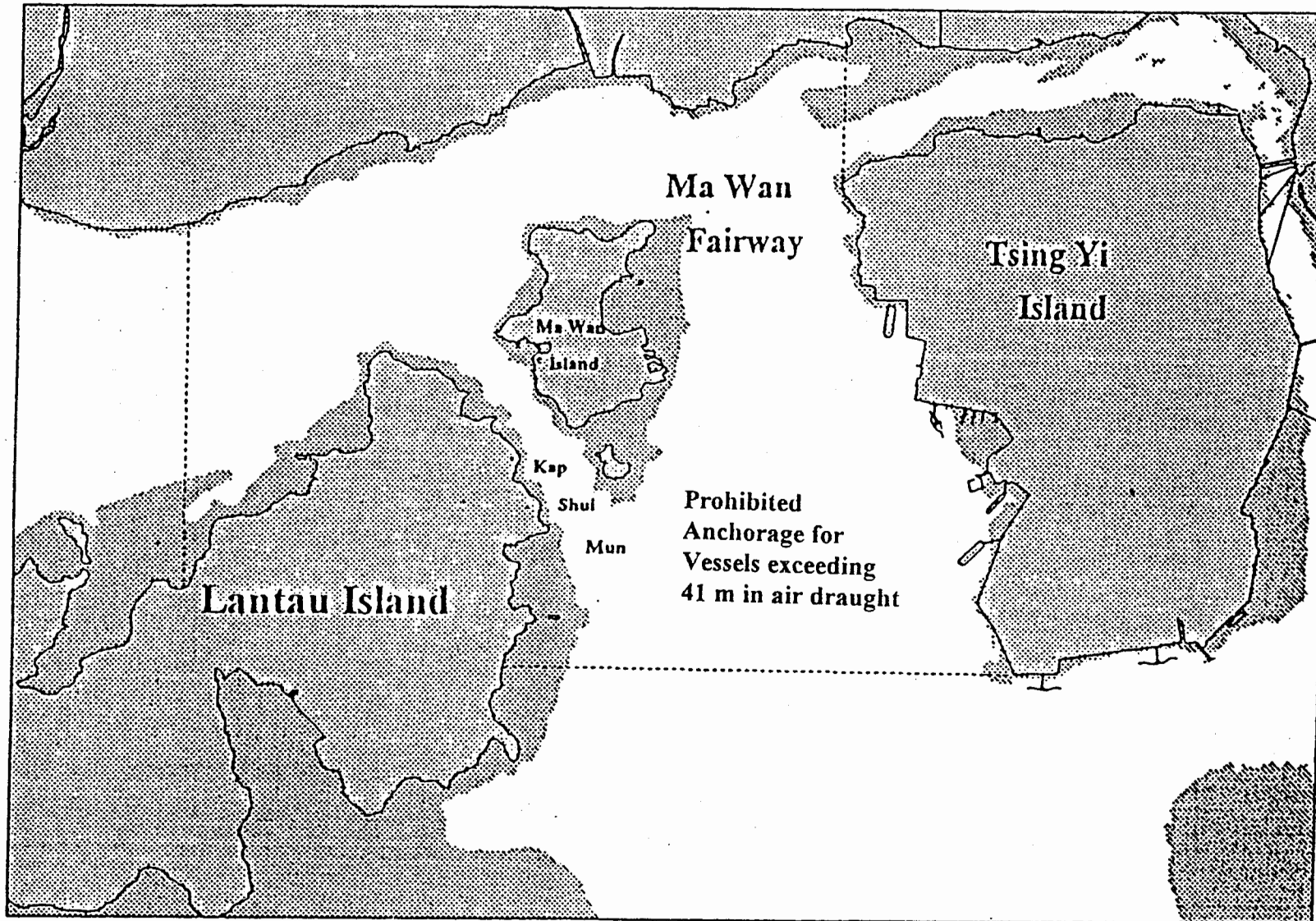
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DIRECTOR OF MARINE (Ag.)

Marine Department  
Hong Kong

Date: 17 May 1997

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Drawing Attached to Marine Department Notice No. 83 of 1997



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION