

# **MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 110 OF 1999**

## **(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)**

### **Sport Diving in the Vicinity of the Oil Platforms in the South China Sea**

The attention of shipowners, masters, coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels engaged in sport diving activities are drawn to the potential risks in association with diving in the vicinity of the offshore oil platforms in the South China Sea.

2. Hong Kong pleasure vessels have been reported venturing near the oil platforms Xijiang 24-3 (Latitude 21°22.750'N, Longitude 114°54.667'E) and Xijiang 30-2 (Latitude 21°16.294'N, Longitude 114°58.517'E) in the South China Sea and carrying out sport diving activities to spear fish.

3. Sport diving at or near an offshore oil platform is a highly dangerous activity. Beneath these oil platforms, there are structures, pipelines, obstructions and strong sub-sea surface water intakes into which a diver can easily be sucked. No person should attempt to dive at any of these offshore oil platforms.

4. Shipowners, masters, coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels are also reminded that there is a 500 metre restriction zone established by the Mainland authority around offshore oil platforms in the South China Sea. No vessel is allowed to enter or transit the restriction zone without permission.

**M.C. TSANG**

**Director of Marine(Ag.)**

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

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