

Fatal Accident caused by turning propeller of a local pleasure vessel “Crescent Island” at Port Island

1. The incident

- 1.1 On 27 July 2008 at about 1500, a passenger participating in diving activity from a pleasure vessel “Crescent Island” was killed instantly by the turning propeller as she was swimming at the stern awaiting her turn to board the vessel.
- 1.2 The cause of the fatal accident was the failure of the Master of the vessel to be aware that the deceased was in the water waiting to board near the stern as he engaged the propulsion engine for astern movement trying to free the vessel from grounding. As a result, the deceased was drawn towards the propeller and killed instantly.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 Master of the vessel should not operate the engine unless they are absolutely sure after checking by himself or by a lookout that there are no divers in close proximity to the vessel.
- 2.2 Good communication must be established between the Master and the lookout, if posted.
- 2.3 Those engaging in diving or swimming activities should aware of the danger of swimming close to the stern of any vessel and to make their presence known to the crew.