

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 73/2025
(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

An allision accident of a locally licensed launch with a public pier

The Incident

A locally licensed launch (*the launch*) hit the landing steps when berthing a public pier. While *the launch* was approaching and heading towards the landing steps for berthing at the pier to pick up passengers, *the launch's* bow suddenly hit the landing steps, rupturing the outer rubber edge of the landing steps and causing some of the passengers on board to lose their balance and fall down. As a result, some passengers were injured and one of them was subsequently sent to hospital for treatment. In addition, the cabin handrail on the main deck was also broken at the welding seam due to the allision accident.

2. The investigation revealed that the contributory factors leading to the accident were that the coxswain failed to properly control *the launch's* speed when approaching the pier and disregarded the risk of approaching the pier with a speed exceeding 7 knots, which eventually led to the accident.

Lessons Learnt

3. To prevent the recurrence of similar accidents in the future, operators of local vessels should carefully maneuver their vessels during berthing operations, properly control the speed of their vessels, always pay attention to the operating status of the main engine and the environment of the pier waters, and practise good seamanship to ensure safety.

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