



CHIEF DIRECTORATE SHIPPING

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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11 MARCH 1998

MARINE NOTICE NO. 5 OF 1998

TO ALL PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, BOAT BUILDERS, BOAT REPAIRERS, BOAT OWNERS, BOAT OPERATORS AND SKIPPERS OF SMALL CRAFT

HYDRAULIC STEERING GEAR FAILURE - SMALL CRAFT

1. During the investigation of a recent casualty, it was found that the nylon tubing of the hydraulic steering gear burst. The outboard motors swung to starboard, which caused the boat to turn sharply. This sudden movement flung a passenger overboard and he was run-over by the boat. The passenger died of the injuries he sustained.
2. The investigation further brought to light that the accident was caused by the failure of incorrect nylon tubing in the steering gear. Although it is common practice to fit nylon tubing to the hydraulic steering gear of small craft, all tubing used in hydraulic steering systems must comply with the manufacturer's specifications with regard to withstanding the relief pressure, the minimum bursting pressure and ultra-violet protection characteristics.
3. Boat builders and owners are furthermore reminded that prior to undertaking major alterations to a licenced vessel, specifications and plans must be submitted to this Department for approval.

for **DIRECTOR-GENERAL: TRANSPORT**

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