



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Sixteenth Regular Session
Electronic Meeting
23 – 29 September 2020

SAFETY CONCERNS ON THE SIZE REQUIREMENT OF THE
HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION PENNANT

WCPFC-TCC16-2020-DP01
24 August 2020

Proposal by the United States of America

Safety Concerns on the Size Requirement of the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Pennant

**Proposal by the United States of America
to the
Sixteenth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee
of the
Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

Paragraph 18 of Conservation and Management Measure 2006-08, *Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures*, states that, “[a]uthorized inspection vessels shall fly, in clearly visible fashion, the WCPFC inspection flag as designed by the Commission.” TCC3 considered and recommended specific technical requirements for the flags and pennants of high seas boarding and inspection vessels, as detailed in WCPFC-TCC3-2007/11 (Rev.1), which WCPFC4 endorsed.

As shown in the attached exhibits 1, 2, and 3, the current length of the pennant required for small boarding vessels is too large and obstructs the view of the vessel crew. Obstruction of visual references prevents crewmembers from maintaining a proper look-out to ensure safe operations. The International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs) includes specific requirements for look-outs, including for when vessels approach other vessels. Specifically, Rule 5 of the IMO’s COLREGs states, “Look-out: Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.” Potential obstruction of view on a boarding vessel’s look-out during approach of fishing vessels for high-seas boarding and inspections increases the risk of collision between the boarding vessel and fishing vessels.

In order to address the potential safety hazards described above, the United States proposes that TCC16 recommend to the Commission a minimum pennant size requirement for boarding vessels: 44 centimeters (cm) by 66 cm (height by length). This is smaller than the current requirement of 94 cm by 213 cm and would increase safety by improving visibility of boarding vessel look-outs and operators. The North Pacific Fisheries Commission has adopted the 44 cm by 66 cm size requirement for its boarding vessels, as required in the NPFC CMM 2017-09 and has published this information on its official website.



Exhibit 1

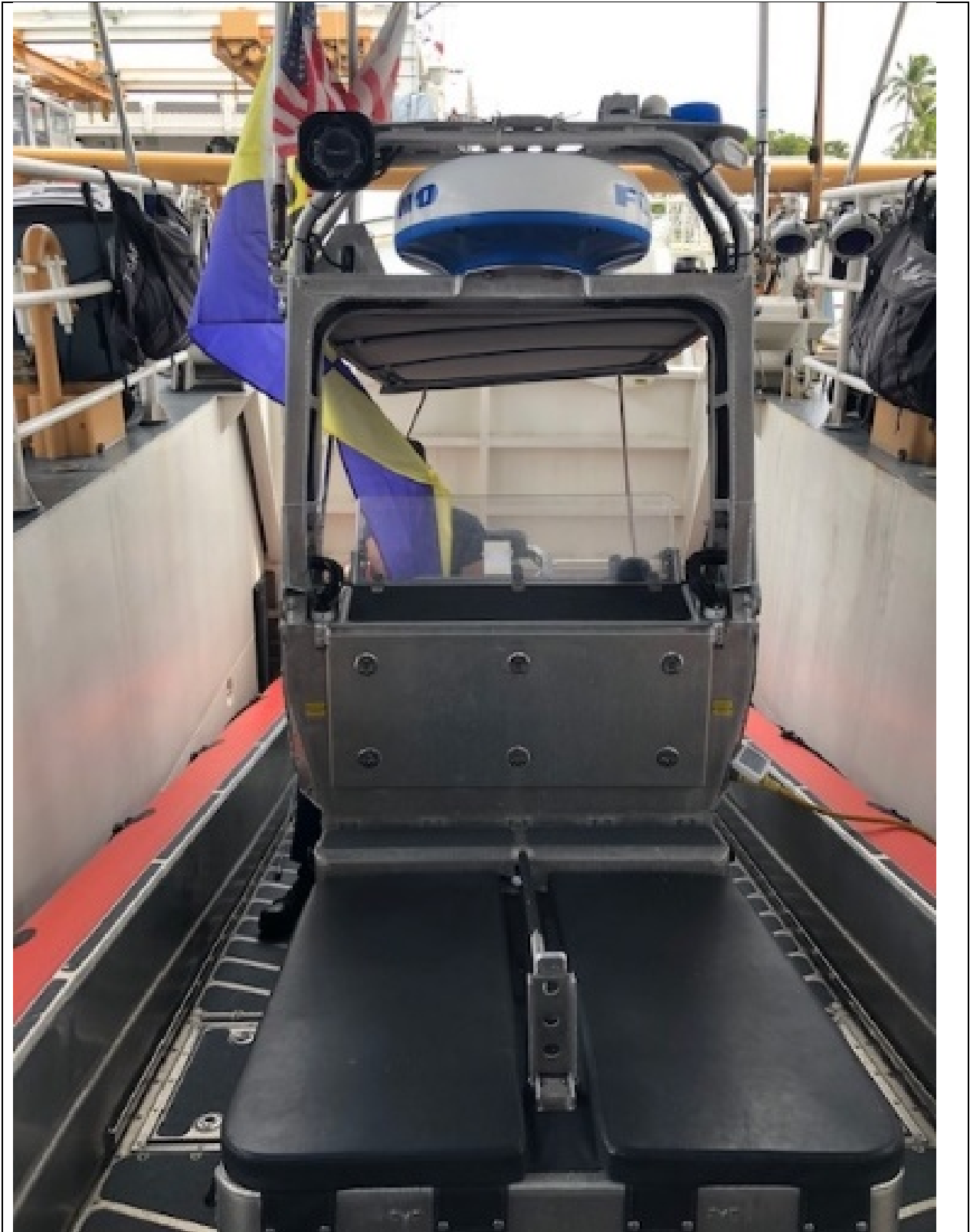


Exhibit 2



Exhibit 3