

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND RULES FOR SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS AT TERN ISLAND

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### *Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument*

#### **Trip Authorization**

All boat trips, including the use of non-FWS vessels, must be authorized by the resident refuge manager before leaving Tern Island or entering French Frigate Shoals. Information must be provided on the trip objectives, the destination(s), and approximate time of return. The resident refuge manager may withhold permission for a boat to leave Tern Island or operate within the refuge boundary if in his/her opinion, the seas are too rough, the weather is inclement, the equipment is in questionable condition, or the operator lacks the experience to cope with prevailing conditions.

#### **Boat Operators and Passengers**

All boat operators are required to have completed a Boat Safety Course for use of boats at French Frigate Shoals. FWS Employees must have official DOI boat training certification. Operators must be experienced in handling small craft around coral heads and choppy seas and be familiar with outboard engine operation and repair. If the resident refuge manager is not familiar with their abilities, he/she may request a demonstration ride or other means for skills verification. All persons involved in boating operations must be able to swim. The operator is responsible for seeing that all boat use policy requirements are met. Any kind of unsafe boat operation (violation of boating policy, reckless driving, excessive speed, etc.) will be cause for the resident refuge manager to revoke that person's right to operate boats at French Frigate Shoals. Everyone in the boat must have his/her life jacket on at all times! Each person that is to operate boats at French Frigate Shoals will be required to read and sign the Tern Island copy of the Boat Use Policy to verify that he/she has read and understood it.

#### **Boats and Equipment**

All boats going on solo trips are required to have two motors in working condition. Both motors must be tested before leaving the dock area and must be attached to the boat by a safety chain or rope unless bolted to the hull. Boats must have standard safety equipment on board including a life preserver for each person (diving buoyancy compensators and wet suits are not adequate), a bow anchor with at least 120 feet of line (and a similarly equipped stern anchor, if landing on another islet), paddles or oars, an emergency tool kit, a first-aid kit, an emergency locating transmitter (EPIRB), an emergency strobe light, and handheld radios.

A second boat with two motors in good working condition will either travel with the other boat(s) or be ready for immediate use at Tern Island should an emergency arise and rescue be required.

#### **Radio Procedure**

All boats launched from Tern Island must be equipped with two operational radios. An exception to this rule is when several boats are being used to offload vessels. Since all boats will be in visual contact with other boats, Tern Island, or the offloading vessel, only one radio is required.

Check with the resident refuge manager for the radio frequencies being used. Radios must be tested before leaving the dock area. It is the responsibility of the boat operator to make sure that radios are properly charged prior to any trip (check with the resident refuge manager for proper charging procedures).

Boats must contact Tern Island when they leave a location and when they reach their destination. Arrangements must be made prior to a boat trip to have someone monitoring the radios at Tern Island within 15 minutes after arrival at a destination, or of the time of a prearranged radio call. If contact is not made the boat must immediately return to Tern Island. If radio contact is made while returning to Tern Island the trip can be resumed. If Tern Island does not hear from a boat 1 hour past the expected arrival or prearranged radio call, the backup boat will be launched and a search will commence.

Previous FFS Boating Policy required a rescue boat to be launched 1 hour after any boat is overdue for radio check in. This remains unchanged except that in the late afternoon all boat operators must check in prior to the Departure Guidelines listed below. If a boat has not checked in by the listed guideline, a rescue boat will be launched immediately and sent to the last known location of the missing boat.

### **Departure Guidelines**

All boating activities must be limited to a period between half an hour after sunrise and 1 1/2 hours before sunset. If you change your original route for any reason during the day, contact the resident refuge manager by radio on Channel 16. To allow reasonable amount of time to perform search and rescue, boats must depart the following areas before sunset as stated: Disappearing Island 5 hours, the Gins 2 hr 15 min; East Island 2 hours; Shark, Trig, and Round Islands 1 hr 50 min.

### **General Rules**

No boats may be launched if the wind speed exceeds 20 knots or if seas are deemed exceedingly rough by the resident refuge manager. Approach to within one-half mile of any islet not specifically mentioned on Monument Permits is prohibited, except in emergency situations or unless permission is otherwise obtained in advance from the resident refuge manager. At least two people must be aboard a boat at all times unless pre-approved by the resident refuge manager.