

HANDOUT 7.4 - BOARDING OBSERVATIONS AND INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH SEABORNE PATROLS (PH-8, 2001)

Pre-boarding observations.

Type of information	Purpose
Vessel location	To determine the approximate position of the vessel, e.g. latitude/longitude, inside municipal waters
Vessel activity	To determine the activity of vessel, e.g. anchored, stationary, in transit, fishing as evidenced by smoke, wake, gear in the water, or other signs that can be spotted from a distance
Type of vessel	To determine the vessel type as fishing, cargo, or passenger, approximate length, and tonnage as more or less than 3 GT and to determine the feasibility of boarding the vessel
Vessel markings	To identify any distinguishing features, suspicious or unusual markings on the vessel especially on the hull and stern. Stern markings determine the homeport and registration of the vessel
Gear of the vessel	To determine the type, position, and other characteristics of the gear used by the vessel
Course and speed	To establish course and speed of vessel in transit
Electronics (kind and purpose)	To determine if radio contact can be made and navigational equipment is present
Number of persons visible on board and movements	To ascertain the typical activities of the crew and crew numbers
Crew and vessel reaction to law enforcement presence	To determine change in activity of the crew or vessel
How persons on board are dressed	To ascertain if the origin of people on board is foreign
Weather and sea conditions	To determine feasibility and safety of boarding

Minimum information to be obtained during an investigation of a maritime vessel.

Name of vessel
 Nationality/flag of vessel
 Vessel registration/documentation/official number
 Length overall
 Tonnage
 Purpose of voyage
 Last port of call
 Next port of call
 Master/Operator's name
 Master/Operator's date of birth
 Master/Operator's citizenship
 Number/nationalities, names, and date of birth of additional persons on board
 Whether there are weapons on board
 Documentation request and review:
 Certificate of seaworthiness
 Commercial vessel operators/masters license
 Commercial fishing license (if applicable)
 Fishworkers licenses (if applicable)
 Personal identification cards or drivers license
 Number and type of lifesaving equipment on board
 Description of communication and navigational gear on board