

## Tech Com Report on the Hiking lines /stanchion situation

The 2011 IMCA World Council AGM instructed the Technical Committee to conduct a research on the optimum deflection of the hiking lines taking into account the need for both crew comfort and safety.

The possibility of running a large dedicated trial was considered, however assembling the necessary boats, equipment and personnel in a single venue proved to be both logistically challenging and costly. Under the current budget restraints it was not possible for this trial to go ahead.

To gather data at reasonable cost members of the class were instead asked to test different deflection lengths and report their findings. They were asked to test a variety of lengths from the current class legal “no part of the line may touch the deck”, right the way up to tightly stretched with absolutely minimal deflection and a variety of lengths between.

The main findings of the test were that any significant reduction in the deflection length created problems for the crew when hiking. Hiking under normal conditions became very uncomfortable and considerably more precarious and in the event of a strong gust/extreme boat heel the crew typically found themselves falling backwards into the cockpit – a potentially very dangerous scenario.

We also took the opportunity to discuss the deflection length with as many crews as possible and the vast majority of those questioned felt that they did not wish to see any significant change to the deflection.

Based on the above findings the Technical Committee recommends that no change is made to the current hiking line deflection rule at this time.

Peter Goeckel

Chairman – IMCA Technical Committee

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