

Boating Safety

OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Website

- ▶ <http://research.fiu.edu/facilities/boating-safety-committee/>

Scope

The Boating Safety Manual applies to all FIU sanctioned research and teaching activities.

Purpose

- ▶ To ensure that safe boating practices are followed.
- ▶ Provide a safe boating environment for students, faculty, and staff while using FIU boating assets.
- ▶ To reduce or mitigate liability whenever possible.

Program Administration

- ▶ Boating Safety Committee
 - ▶ At least 5 faculty and staff members appointed by the Vice President of Research.
 - ▶ Charged to create and enforce safe boating practices at FIU.
 - ▶ One Representative from Environmental Health and Safety.
 - ▶ One Representative from the Division of Research.
 - ▶ Maintain and update policies.
 - ▶ Policing and enforcement of policies and violations.

Program Administration (con't)

- ▶ Boating Safety Officer
 - ▶ Record keeping.
 - ▶ Investigation of boating safety incidents.
 - ▶ Providing training as required.

Boat Operations

- ▶ Drugs – Zero tolerance policy for illegal drugs aboard vessels.
- ▶ Prescription Drugs – Shall not operate a FIU vessel under the influence of prescription medication that may impair or influence judgment or capabilities.
- ▶ Alcohol – Strictly prohibited to operate a vessel under the influence of alcohol. Responsibility of boat captain to ensure no alcohol is brought onboard vessels.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- ▶ Personal floatation device (PFD) is mandatory. It must be worn at all times while the vessel is underway.
- ▶ Underway is basically anytime the boat is not anchored or moored.
- ▶ Crew Chief has discretion on if conditions require PFD while anchored or moored.
- ▶ Eye Protection is mandatory when vessel is on plane.
- ▶ Sunscreen is strongly recommended.

Boat Safety Equipment

- ▶ Anchor
- ▶ First Aid Kit
- ▶ Visual Distress Signal Devices
- ▶ Fire Extinguisher
- ▶ Method of communication (radio, SAT phone, cell phone)
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Refer to Boating Safety Manual for complete list.

Operational Safety Procedures

▶ Float Plan

- ▶ A float plan must be filed each day of boating activity.
- ▶ <https://intranet.fiu.edu/research/Pages/Float-Plan.aspx>
- ▶ Boating Safety Officer will receive notification that float plan was filed.

Departure / Arrival Notification

- ▶ Responsible person not part of the boating operation should be designated to monitor departure and arrival times.
- ▶ Upon arrival the designated person should be contacted to alert them to your safe return.
- ▶ If the boat operator fail to make contact, the designated person should attempt to determine if the crew/boat returned safely.
- ▶ If unable to determine status of crew/boat, authorities should be contacted to report overdue crew/boat.
- ▶ Boating Safety Officer should then be notified.

Vessel Inspections

- ▶ All vessels should undergo an annual Visual Safety Inspection.
- ▶ Vessels with current USCG Certificate of Inspections are exempt.

Accident Reporting

- ▶ Notify the emergency contact person, lab manager and Boating Safety Officer immediately if an accident or injury occurs.
- ▶ A Boating Incident Report will be completed.
- ▶ Provide no information to the media.
- ▶ Have the media contact the FIU Press Relations Department.

Operator and Crew Training

- ▶ Crew Chief
- ▶ Science Crew
- ▶ Student
- ▶ Observer

Training (con't)

▶ Crew Chief

- ▶ Successful completion of a boater education course approved by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).
- ▶ This course is required by the State of Florida for anyone born on or after January 1, 1988.
- ▶ US Coast Guard Captain License holders are exempt.
- ▶ Pass the FIU Boating Safety Manual Examination.
- ▶ Completion of a Personal Qualification Standard (PQS) checklist.
- ▶ Current CPR/First Aid training.

Training (con't)

▶ Crew Training

- ▶ Successful completion of a boater education course approved by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).
- ▶ This course is required by the State of Florida for anyone born on or after January 1, 1988.

Training (con't)

- ▶ Science Crew, Students and Observers are permitted after they are instructed in basic safety requirements.
- ▶ Science crew, students, and observers who are neither FIU students nor FIU employees must complete a SERC, Aquarius Reef Base, or University Liability Waiver.
- ▶ All science crew, students, and observers participate solely at the discretion of the crew chief.

PQS Motor Boats up to 26'

- ▶ Obtain Florida Boating Safety Education Card.
- ▶ Current First Aid Certification
- ▶ Current CPR Certification
- ▶ Perform as crew for 20 hours underway.
- ▶ Trailering Component
- ▶ Pre-Trip Preparation Component
- ▶ Operational Tasks
- ▶ Post Trip Tasks

Research Vessel Captain for Boats over 26 Feet (Unrestricted)

- ▶ US Coast Guard Captain (OUPV or Greater)
- ▶ Completion of the Research Vessel Captain or Crew Chief General Requirements and the ARB Personnel Qualification System.

Airboat Operations

- ▶ Only approved Crew Chiefs or Crew Chiefs in Training are permitted to drive airboats.
- ▶ Must wear PFD, ear protection, and eye protection while underway.
- ▶ PQS for Airboat Operations similar to Motorboat Operations.

Charter / Rental Boats

- ▶ If a commercial charter vessel is engaged under the auspices of FIU, it is the responsibility of the supervising faculty member, staff, or principal investigator to assure that the vessel is properly licensed, insured, and inspected.
- ▶ If a vessel is rented or chartered “bareboat” without a hired operator, it is the responsibility of the supervising faculty member, staff, or principal investigator to assure that the vessel is properly licensed, insured, and inspected, and meets all the required safety regulations.
 - ▶ The operator must meet all current crewmember requirements set forth in the FIU Boating Safety Manual.

Personally Owned Vessels

- ▶ It is the responsibility of the supervising faculty member, staff, or principal investigator to assure that the vessel has had an annual safety inspection and meets all required safety regulations.
- ▶ The operator must meet all current crewmember requirements set forth in the FIU Boating Safety Manual.