6.0 Airboat Personal Qualification Standard (PQS)

Personal Qualification Standard (PQS)  
All Airboats at FIU

Airboat Crew Chief Candidate: ______________________________

This PQS is designed to be completed under the guidance of a mentor. Any mentor signing off on a task needs to be a qualified airboat crew chief. The purpose of the PQS is to allow crew members to gain experience and knowledge working under a qualified airboat crew chief, while working as crew during normal research operations. This allows for specific “on the job” training with the vessels being used, and the operational area being worked in. Mentors should only sign off on tasks once the trainee is competent in performing the task independently. Once all sections are complete, the airboat crew chief/trainer should notify a Qualified Examiner to make arrangements for the “dockside” exam and underway check ride. All airboat operators are considered airboat crew chiefs unless they are under training, being supervised by a certified airboat crew chief. They must fulfill general boating requirements outlined in section 3.3.1 of this manual.

AIRBOAT PRACTICAL CHECKLIST

1. Pre-flight safety inspection
2. Trailering
   ______ Appropriate hook-ups (safety chains, trailer lights)
   ______ Launching/loading
      Drain plugs, safety chains, boat strap, trailer lights
      Backing trailer (positioning, proper trailer depth)
      Use of winch and bow line
3. Personal protective equipment (life jacket, ear- and eye-protection)
4. Airboat operation
   ______ Starting/stopping engine (adequate engine warm-up and cool-down)
   ______ Shallow-water operation
      Gradual turns
      Sharp turns
      180-degree turns
      Zig-zag operations
      Operating speed
   ______ Deep-water operation
      Turns
      Operating speed
      Stopping (monitoring wake)
   ______ Other skills (ability to follow trail, caution for wildlife)
   ______ Knowledge of and response to hazards
      Getting stuck
      Swamped boat
      Lightning
Heat-related health issues
Operations during fog, heavy rain, nighttime (low visibility conditions)

5. Preventative maintenance and repairs
   _____ Post-operation clean-up
   _____ Trailer maintenance (tire condition, wheel bearings, trailer lights)
   _____ Airboat maintenance
       Refueling
       Checking/adding oil
       Cleaning sediment trap and bilge pump
       Checking fan belts
       Secure bolts/screws (engine mount, grass rake)
       Condition of spark plugs, wiring, and battery terminals
   _____ Emergency repairs and trouble-shooting mechanical problems

ADDITONAL REMARKS____________________________________________________________

Accomplished:

   Applicant Signature_____________________________________________ Date__________
   Trainer Signature_____________________________________________ Date__________
   PI Signature_____________________________________________ Date__________
**Initial Certifications**

**Completed**

- Obtain state of Florida Boating Safety Education Card. A copy should be submitted with this completed PQS.
- Current First Aid certification. A copy should be submitted with completed PQS.
- Current CPR certification. A copy should be submitted with this completed PQS.
- Pass the Airboat Crew Chief Qualification Examination with a score of 90% or better. The exam should be submitted with this completed PQS.
- Perform as crew for 20 hours underway. Hours underway should be logged and signed off by qualified airboat crew chief. A copy of your log should be submitted with this completed PQS.

**Accomplished:**

Applicant Signature ___________________________ Date ____________

Trainer Signature ___________________________ Date ____________

PI Signature ___________________________ Date ____________
Trailering

Note: The Marine Science BBC Boatyard is an excellent location to practice trailer skills without the complications of traffic.

Completed

_________ Properly hook truck up trailer. Hitch, chains and lights.

_________ Conduct safety checks of truck, trailer and boat in preparation for transport.

_________ Safely drive truck and trailer in forward gear, including pulling up boat ramp.

_________ Safely drive truck and trailer in reverse, including backing down boat ramp.

_________ Prep boat for launch, and safely launch boat.

_________ Retrieve boat onto trailer, pull out of water and secure for travel.

Accomplished:

Applicant Signature___________________________ Date_______________

Trainer Signature____________________________ Date_______________

PI Signature_______________________________ Date_______________
Pre-Trip Preparations

Completed

_______ Demonstrate knowledge of how to reserve FIU vehicle and boat.

_______ Prepare a float plan.

_______ Ensure boat is equipped with all necessary safety and operational equipment.

_______ Verify boat is fully fueled and electrical systems are functional.

_______ Ensure crew and passengers have enough food, water, clothing, and sun protection for anticipated field time, as well as reserves in case of trouble that leave boat and crew stuck for extended length of time.

Accomplished:

Applicant Signature_____________________________ Date_______________

Trainer Signature_____________________________ Date_______________

PI Signature_____________________________ Date_______________
Operational Tasks

Completed

_________ Safely board all gear, crew and passengers.

_________ Brief all crew and passengers, both safety and mission briefings.

_________ Demonstrate proficiency in safely leaving dock/launching area.

_________ Demonstrate proficiency in safely operating boat underway as part of mission.

_________ Demonstrate proficiency in safely docking, returning to launching area, and boat retrieval.

_________ Demonstrate knowledge of communications equipment, use and limitations. VHF radio, cell phone, and satellite phone; as applicable to operating area.

_________ Demonstrate knowledge of emergency signaling devices. Mirror, whistle, etc. Note that flairs are not commonly used in airboats because of risk of fire in sawgrass.

_________ Tie the following knots and state their use. Cleat hitch, bowline, sheet bend, clove hitch, round turn and two half hitches.

_________ Demonstrate ability to read and navigate with appropriate charts and/or maps for area, as appropriate.

_________ Demonstrate ability to use GPS to find your stations and return to launching point.

Accomplished:

Applicant Signature______________________________ Date______________

Trainer Signature______________________________ Date______________

PI Signature____________________________________ Date______________
Post Trip Tasks

Completed

_________ Fuel boat and truck at FIU fuel pumps after return to campus.

_________ Remove and return all gear that does not remain stored aboard.

_________ Wash down boat and trailer.

_________ Close out float plan.

Accomplished:

Applicant Signature______________________________ Date______________

Trainer Signature______________________________ Date______________

PI Signature_______________________________ Date______________