

Boating Safety Guidelines for COVID19 Event Effective May 8, 2020

Policy for re-opening scientific boating activities at FIU in response to changing conditions associated with the novel corona virus pandemic.

Note, the policy and guidelines below may change depending on University, County, and/or State mandates.

Changing conditions in the COVID19 Pandemic have led to new policies by State and Local governments regarding workplace safety. This policy replaces cessation of all boating activities initiated on April 3, 2020.

1. This special policy will be in effect until changed by the Boating Safety Committee.
2. Each proposed float plan must be accompanied by documentation that the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) have approved all participants to conduct research at the time of the trip.
3. All float plans must include a plan for rescue should mechanical or other problems arise. This can be availability of SeaTow for marine trips or back-up rescue crews on-call at FIU for airboat trips. For airboats, access to back-up boat and vehicle must be arranged with FOC in advance.
4. The night before the research activity, the PI in charge of the laboratory will check in with all participants to ensure everyone is healthy and willing to participate. **No job actions will be taken against any employee who does not want to participate because of safety concerns.**
5. No one should participate in any boating activity if they are feeling ill or if any members of their household are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Further, personnel who live with people in high-risk groups for COVID-19 should not participate in boating activities.
6. No more than two people may occupy a vehicle used to tow a boat to the work site or in a vehicle transporting participants to the boat. Seating in boats and trucks must maintain maximum distance (e.g., passenger in back seat on passenger side). Vehicles smaller than Ford F250 trucks may only be occupied by the driver and multiple vehicles are required to transit to and from boat launch site. An exception is permitted by crews of people you are cohabiting during the pandemic (e.g., housemates). Personnel using personal vehicles to transit to boat launching sites must plan this with the project Principal Investigator and file a TAR in advance of the trip to assure possibility for reimbursement.
7. Truck keys, door handles and steering wheel must be disinfected with an agent proven effective against the novel coronavirus before and after the field day.
8. Facemasks (re-purposed cloth or medical exam type) must be provided and worn at all times to minimize aerosol exchange of exhalent.
9. The maximum number permitted in each boat will be determined based on boat size to maintain distancing while underway. No boating may be conducted by a single operator. All FIU airboat crews will be limited to two crewmembers. Boats 21' and less will be limited to crews of two. Vessels over 21', but less than 27', will be limited to a crew of

three. Vessels larger than this will be limited to crews of four. Non-motorized vessels (jonboats and kayaks) will be limited to one person, but a second boat or support personnel must be present following FIU Boating Safety Manual policies. In this policy, we are calling all people on the boat crew - including the operator and any other people on the vessel.

10. All crew are required to wear eye protection and gloves (if available) while conducting boating activities. Crew will re-glove as conditions dictate during the cruise, and dispose of the used gloves to preclude further contamination. In the case gloves are unavailable, all participants will liberally use hand sanitizer or soap any time it would be appropriate to re-glove.
11. All crew will be required to bring ample water/liquids for themselves in clearly labelled bottles, and no sharing of drinks will be allowed. Each crew member will also bring their own food in a secure, clearly marked cooler or similar small box. No sharing of food allowed. All crew must re-glove or wash hands prior to eating or drinking, and then re-glove or wash before returning to work and touching boat surfaces.
12. Upon returning to dock, all rails, gunwales and helm areas will be disinfected with an agent proven to be effective against the novel coronavirus.

Approved by the FIU Boating Safety Committee: April 24, 2020

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