

## **Update: Boating Safety Guidelines for COVID19 Event Effective November 09, 2020**

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

Changing conditions in the COVID19 Pandemic have led to new policies by State and Local governments regarding workplace safety. This policy replaces previous covid-related changes in FIU boating policies.

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

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. Approved Diving Activities will follow current approved COVID Diving Protocol.
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. 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. 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.
6. Facemasks (re-purposed cloth or medical exam type) must be worn in accordance with current FIU repopulation guidelines.
7. Occupancy of FIU vessels is limited to the minimum number of personnel required to safely accomplish the research or objective as well as the vessel's rated maximum occupancy, and USCG weight limits whichever is lower.
8. 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.

9. 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 reglove or wash before returning to work and touching boat surfaces.
10. 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: 11/6/20

Dr. Mark Butler, Chair

Dr. Evelyn Gaiser

Dr. Piero Gardinali

Dr. Jim Fourqurean

Capt. Rogelio Garcia

Capt. Bill Chamberlain

Capt. Aarin-Conrad Allen

Rafael Gonzalez-Callazo

Chris Grayson