

## UCSB's Boat Safety Example of Boat Planning Considerations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Actual Modifications will vary depending on location, environment, type of vessel, tasks to complete, etc. Specific plan approval is required from UCSB's Boat Safety Officer*

### COVID-19 Scientific Boating Operations Plan

Boat users must follow guidelines from the original UCSB Small Boating Manual with the following modifications:

#### Operations and Planning

- Boat operations should be limited to those deemed critical OR those with written verification.
- Boat operations should be limited to those where at least one of the following applies: a minimum of 6ft distancing between boat passengers can be maintained OR adequate protection of passengers can be achieved with personal protective equipment (PPE)/other physical barriers.
- Boat operations during this time should be limited to days of forecasted calm weather conditions (e.g. swell <5ft, wind <15knts) and return if conditions deteriorate while on the water.

#### Boat Personnel

- Boat crew should be limited to the minimum number of personnel needed to safely conduct the operations.
- Include boat crew list

#### Prior To Launch

- Boat and equipment operations rehearsed prior to the on-water day to troubleshoot issues and minimize possible contamination points that could lead to increased risk.
- Proper sanitization of any commonly touched surfaces and shared equipment: VHF radio, GPS, Hand Rails, Sampling Equipment, etc.
- All personnel involved in the planned operation review the most recent [UCSB Covid Boating Guidelines.pdf](#), [UCSB Disinfection Guidelines for Covid.pdf](#), and [COVID-19 Dive & Boat Resources](#).
- A risk assessment and procedural review conducted with the Launchmaster and PI's prior to each mission as guidelines are often changing (see [COVID-19 Dive & Boat Resources](#)).

#### Face Covering and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All boat personnel should be responsible for bringing and maintaining their own individual face covering (should cover the wearer's nose and mouth), gloves and eye protection. Additional PPE may be required.
- All boat personnel should also bring spare clean face covering in case the original gear is compromised.
- At minimum, all boat personnel must use a face covering that covers the wearer's mouth and nose while on the boat or anytime social distancing is hard to maintain.
- The use of gloves or eyewear / eye protection is at the discretion of the individual unless required when using a disinfectant.

#### Personal Gear

- Each crew member should be responsible for the appropriate loading, unloading, use, and storage of their gear for the entire day including any personal gear or sampling gear.
- All gear should be loaded and unloaded only by the person using that gear.
- All personal gear should be kept separated.

#### Travel to Dive Site / Boat

- Vehicle sizing must be also be planned to allow adequate social distancing and personnel driving in separate vehicles may be required.

### Boat Zones of Use (ZoU)

- The boat should be divided into distinct, non-overlapping Zones of Use (ZoU)
  - Example: With two researchers
    - Pilot ZoU - at the cabin of the boat
    - Crew ZoU - towards the stern
  - Example: With three researchers
    - Pilot ZoU - limited to the starboard helm, in cabin of the boat
    - Port side Crew ZoU – Port side, at midship of the boat
    - Starboard Crew ZoU - starboard, towards stern of the boat
- Each ZoU should be assigned.
- Storage of personal gear should be limited to each passenger's assigned ZoU.
- If an occupied ZoU is to be temporarily crossed by personnel from another ZoU, face covering and PPE must be in place.

### During Operations

- Repeated activities should be assigned to a designated crew member in order to help maintain distancing and to eliminate cross contamination.
- Members should practice routine cleaning of heavily contacted surfaces and gear before and after they are touched per CDC home sterilization guidelines.
- Each person on the boat should have their own sanitization kit.

### Emergencies

- Proper PPE must be used for CPR and First Aid procedures.

### Following an Outing

- All vessels must be thoroughly cleaned with any commonly touched surfaces and shared equipment (VHF radio, GPS, Hand Rails, Sampling Equipment, etc.) being properly sanitized.

### Recommended Additional Gear List

- Spare clean face-covering
- Eye protection- optional but should be used when working with sanitizing chemicals
- Gloves
- Disinfectant
- Extra Sun protection and Hydration (when applicable)