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, adequate protection of passengers can be achieved with personal protective equipment (PPE) or 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
- 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 reviewed 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)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- All boat personnel should be responsible for bringing and maintaining their own individual PPE, including a face covering that covers the wearer’s nose and mouth, gloves and eye protection
- All boat personnel should also bring spare sets of PPE 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 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
    - Leeward Crew ZoU - leeward, 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, 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