



UCSC - BOATING COVID(19) - Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Department:	DBSP	Date:	3/31/20
Principal Investigator/Supervisor:	Diving & Boating Safety Officer -DBSO	Office Phone#:	831-229-8334
Procedure Author:	Dave Benet	Lab Phone#:	831-229-8334
Location(s) covered by this SOP/Building/Room#:	All Scientific Boating Operations	Author Email:	benet@ucsc.edu

#1 Summary:

All vessel operational plans will need to include the below practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19. All participants shall check and adhere to the latest CDC, State and Local guidelines related to COVID-19 prior to starting field operations.

#2 Qualifying Approval:

Diving and Boating Project applications should be updated and amended by PI's and Lab Managers to include additional precautions and procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Only essential participants on approved projects are eligible to proceed with operation plans adhering to the following guidelines. Essential projects must first be approved by the Vice Chancellor of Research before operational plans will be considered by the Scientific Boating Committee and/or Diving Control Board where applicable. Participants on approved projects must be registered as essential employees with IMS and will be required to have their own e-gate access, building and dive locker key and shall participate in the required facility check-in/out and sanitation stations if on site.

#3 Social Distancing – Field Operations:

- Any team member showing any signs of sickness within the last 72 hours shall not participate.
- Self-health checks (temperature, cough, shortness of breath) shall be completed prior to arriving on site.
- Any team member that has been knowingly exposed or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 shall not participate in any operation and should follow CDC guidelines.
- Every team needs to operate as if there is one member that is asymptomatic, infected and contagious.
- Teams must be kept to a minimum of personnel to accomplish the work. Vessel operations that can be safely conducted by a single qualified operator shall be executed by that person alone.
- When more than one individual is necessary, participants should proceed under the assumption that one team member is asymptomatic, infected and contagious.
- Individual participants must transit to and from operational sites in separate vehicles.
- Interpersonal distances must not be less than 6 feet at any point during the operation.
- Windy/moist environments, such as on a boat or dockside, downwind positions require greater distancing.
- Any vessel used in a team operation needs to be large enough to allow for a minimum of 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- Where physical conditions or weather will not allow for this separation, the operation shall not proceed.

#4 Contamination Protection:

- Appropriate PPE, as discussed with the BSO, must be employed when more than a single individual is present on a vessel at any point during the operation. This includes disposable gloves and face covering or respirator. Eye protection is encouraged but not required.
- All handheld equipment (including non-disposable gloves) should be sanitized with an approved sanitizing agent.

-
- All touched surfaces in vehicles, vessels, equipment, door handles, vessel log, keys, float plan cabinet, hose bib and nozzles should be wiped down with alcohol or bleach wipes after use.
 - Every team member is responsible for disinfecting their own work gear with an approved sanitizing agent. This includes Personal Flotation Devices and any safety gear that was handled.

#5 Field Procedures:

- Pre and post operation briefings should be conducted off the vessel.
- Briefings should be concise maintaining at least 6 feet of interpersonal distance between individuals.
- At this time, we are amending our current PFD requirement: **All participants shall wear a minimum Type II, III or V PFD while on a vessel underway**, unless that person is in their own dive wetsuit or drysuit with the zipper closed. Each participant is responsible for checking out, sanitizing and returning their own PFD.
- Launching and landing of vessels should be done individually or while maintaining a minimum of 6 feet of interpersonal distance.
- When possible, only the vessel operator should handle the vessel controls, electronics, switches and console surfaces. Sanitizing should be done to these areas if another individual has to take over.
 - In order to minimize touching of these surfaces and maintain 6' of interpersonal distance, no "operators in training" shall be allowed to handle the vessel controls while underway.
 - In order to keep track of possible exposure, vessel float plans and roster must be communicated to BSO and/or ABSO prior to departure and notified again upon return.
- Any participant that falls ill within 14 days of participating in a vessel operation shall contact BSO and PI immediately.

#6 Emergency Response Procedures

- The designated vessel Operator In Charge is responsible for the safety of the vessel and its occupants at all times during the operation. This includes ensuring that all participants adhere to these guidelines.
- The vessel operator is responsible for making sure the amended boating project application has been received by the Boating Safety Program at least 72 hours prior to departure and that approval has been granted for both the research project and the boating and/or diving operation. A copy of the Emergency Response Plan should be kept on the vessel at all times during the operation.
- The vessel operator is responsible for ensuring all vessel, trailer and tow vehicle systems are in good working order and that all required safety equipment including communication devices are present.
- The vessel operator shall ensure the BSO and/or ABSO is notified prior to departure and upon return.
- In the event of an on-water emergency, the Emergency Response Plan should be followed and EMS (911, USCG, Harbormaster, INREACH) shall be activated and the BSO/ABSO and PI contacted immediately.
- In the event of a non-life threatening situation, the BSO and/or ABSO should be contacted immediately to help facilitate a response. If the BSO and/or ABSO cannot be reached, arrangements should be made with Vessel Assist to provide assistance and bring the vessel in to safety while following these guidelines as much as is reasonably possible.
- If any safety equipment was used, disinfect with an approved sanitizing agent and notify BSO/ABSO.

It is the responsibility of the BSO to ensure that all individuals conducting these tasks are taught the correct procedures involved.

