

COVID-19 Planning Guide for RV BEYSTER and Small Boat Operations

Updated – June 16, 2020

Effective June 1, 2020, UCSD entered the “Orange” phase for approved research activities in accordance to [UCSD’s Guidelines for Research Ramp-Up](#).

Research plans that involve small boating operations will be considered following submission to the BSO the projects phase “Orange” Research Continuity Framework and Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocol approved by the PI's Section Head and the Scripps Deputy Director for Research (or appropriate designee from other UCSD department).

Additional considerations intended to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 for approved small boating activities must include the following guidelines.

Institutional Review and Approvals:

- Departmental Leadership review of current Research Continuity Framework and Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocols.
- Small Boating Program review of Research Continuity Framework and Field Safety Plans ([domestic](#) and [international](#)) to ensure consistency with SIO Small Boating (2018 rev.), [institutional field safety policies](#), and applicable COVID-19 considerations.
- Travel must be consistent with current [UC San Diego policy](#) and registered via UC Away (see <https://ehs.ucop.edu/away/#/trip/detail>).

General Safety Practices:

- All personnel must complete a [COVID-19 symptom screening](#) before beginning work on-site each day. Those with symptoms should not enter the workplace or field research site.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet, whenever feasible.
- Keep from touching face (specifically eyes, mouth, and nose); follow CDC guidance to [Prevent Getting Sick](#).
- Wear a face covering in common areas, while in proximity to others; follow local public health requirements.
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) when soap and water is not available.
- Cover coughs and sneezes; cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Dispose of tissues and wash your hands immediately.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces with a disinfecting product listed on the [EPA List N](#) prior to, during, and following any operation. For pier launch/recovery, use hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) following use accommodation ladder.
- If a cough develops, wear a face covering to prevent spread via saliva droplets and return home.

Pre-Operation Briefing:

- Each team member should be asymptomatic for at least 2 weeks prior to fieldwork and will not participate should they feel ill or have reasonable cause to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Team members should have dedicated PFD’s, hardhats, PPE, provisions, and supplies, if feasible, to minimize sharing.
- Team members have the right to refuse participation without fear of penalty if s/he feels the conditions are unsafe.
- Maintaining social distancing logistics based upon the size of the vessel defining roles/responsibilities of all team members, equipment handling, disinfection procedures, signs/symptoms of COVID-19, communication options in the field check in procedures, and emergency procedures.

Vessel Crew Considerations:

- **17' Boston Whalers:** Minimum/Maximum 2 (operator and crew). The operator should remain at the stern control and the crew towards the bow of the vessel. The operator will remain the helmsman for the duration of the mission.
- **19'-21' Boston Whalers, Pangas:** Minimum 2, Maximum 3. The operator will remain the helmsman for the duration of the mission.
- **23'-27' Vessels:** Minimum 2, Maximum 3. The operator will remain the helmsman for the duration of the mission. For vessels with enclosed an enclosed cabin, minimize crew inside the cabin, ensure adequate social distancing, and keep all windows and doors open (as weather allows) to provide maximum air exchange within the cabin.
- **42' R/V Beyster:** Minimum 2, Maximum 5. Minimize crew inside the cabin, ensure adequate social distancing, and keep all windows and doors open (as weather allows) to provide maximum air exchange within the cabin. While conducting operations which may require the passing of lines, boat hooks and/or other equipment rubber gloves will be worn.

Transportation:

- Meet at the worksite (each crewmember should have their own vehicle).
- Depending upon the history of the vehicle, all common areas should be disinfected with a disinfecting product listed on the [EPA List N](#) prior to and following use.
- When fueling vehicles and/or making service stops, use disinfecting wipes on handles or buttons before you touch them; or single-use towels as a barrier, and use hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) prior to re-entering your vehicle.

Provisions:

- Each participant should be responsible for their own field provisions for the day.
- Water, food, snacks, etc. should all be prepared and brought from home, if possible.
- Each team member should have at least two gallons of drinking water available per workday.
- If coolers are required for provisions, each team member should have their own assigned cooler.
- Stops to make purchases in the field should be kept to a minimum in order to lessen contact with the public.
- For overnight trips, ensure lodging is available to maintain social distancing.