

Policies, Procedures and Restructuring of the Marine and Freshwater Research Vessel Fleet within the Institute of Environment's Field Operation Center

Overview

The Field Operations Center (FOC) is responsible for maintaining and scheduling a fleet of airboats, coastal and marine boats and other service vehicles. In addition, the FOC maintains an inventory of field and safety equipment such as: spotlights, personal flotation devices, whistles, fire extinguishers, flares, first aid kits, blankets, VHS radios, GPS units, personal locator beacons, flashlights, and signal horns. A safety kit and accompanying tool kit appropriate for the vessel is also provided during checkout.

Due to our recent growth across the Institute of the Environment (IoE) we are restructuring the FOC into two operational divisions, the **Marine** and **Freshwater** branches to help with demands and needs for resource use. IoE acknowledges that many of the existing resources are used in both marine and freshwater habitats, and these designations will not restrict use. It is important to emphasize that all resources across the two branches will be 1) available *equally* to all faculty, staff and students and 2) available for use in all appropriate aquatic environments. The FOC resources are to be used for both research and education/class trip purposes. Although there will be "base" location for each vessel and truck, these resources are free to move across locations as needed to address demand.

Management, Vessel Designations and Pricing

The Marine and Freshwater FOC has undergone management, vessel, and truck reorganization, which includes approved prices for all resources (Table 1). Although pricing is listed for full day usage, reduced pricing is available for fractional-day when appropriate. In these circumstances, the resource (vessel/truck) **MUST** be available for others to use when not in operation. These requests must be discussed in advance with FOC branch management. All research and educational use will be charged the same rate for usage, and all use must be charged to an activity number provided at reservation time. We encourage all faculty, staff, and students to become familiar with the new policies and procedures to ensure a smooth and efficient transition moving forward.

For the most current rates, please visit the Office of Research [website](#).

Marine FOC: The Marine FOC will be directed by Heather Bracken-Grissom and managed by William Chamberlain. Several vessels included in the Marine FOC were recently added so please see Table 1 for updates. Contacts here:

Heather Bracken-Grissom
Assistant Director of Coastlines and Oceans Division
Office: MSB 361
Phone: 305-919-4190
Email: hbracken@fiu.edu

William Chamberlain
MSB Building Director
Office: MSB350B
Phone: 305-919-4010
Email: whchambe@fiu.edu

Freshwater FOC: The Freshwater FOC will continue to be directed by Piero Gardinali and managed by Rafael Gonzalez-Collazo. Most vessels in the Freshwater FOC were previously included, however see Table 1 for updates. Contacts here:

Piero Gardinali
 Director of the Freshwater Resources Division
 Office: MSB 356
 Phone: 305-348-6354
 Email: gardinal@fiu.edu

Rafael Gonzalez-Collazo
 Marine Services Supervisor
 Office: CASE 184A
 Phone: 305-348-4240
 Email: gonzalra@fiu.edu

Table 1. List of Vessels Available for use along with new branch designations, contact, and other relevant information.

FOC Branch	Contact	Vessel or Truck	Type of Boat/Truck	Type of Fuel	Number	Year	Location	Rate (name)	Boat Reg./License No.
Marine	Chamberlain	R/V Quackenbush 32'	Catamaran	Gasoline	B11	1998	BBC	Extra Large Marine Boat	FL 2450 JA
Marine	Chamberlain	R/V Dewey Dwayne 34'	Munton High Speed Landing Craft	Gasoline	MUN34	2009	BBC	Extra Large Marine Boat	O.N. 1223661 (USCG documented)
Marine	Chamberlain	R/V Makemson 25'	C-Hawk cabin boat	Gasoline	CHAWK25	1997	BBC	Large Marine Boat	FL2329JA
Marine	Chamberlain	Jones Brothers Boat 23'	Center Console	Gasoline	JB23	2005	BBC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 1247 SP
Marine	Chamberlain	Panga 26'	Panga	Gasoline	Panga25	2016	BBC/Keys	Large Marine Boat	FL6879SX
Marine	Chamberlain	Twin Vee 17'	skiff	Gasoline	TV17	2003	BBC/Keys	Small Marine Boat	FL1355SW
Marine	Chamberlain	SeaArk 18'	skiff	Gasoline	B26	2008	BBC	Small Marine Boat	FL 1678 RZ

Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Mako 21'	Center Console	Gasoline	M21	2002	BBC/MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 2065 LT
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Southern Blowfish Proline 21'	Center Console	Gasoline	PL21	2006	BBC/MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 0542 NC
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Twin Vee 26'	catamaran	Gasoline	TV26	2012	BBC/MMC	Large Marine Boat	FL 2268PF
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Jonboat 14'	skiff	Gasoline	J14	2018	MMC	Small Marine Boat	FL 0287 RR
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Smitty's Skiff 16'	skiff	Gasoline	S16	2001	MMC	Small Marine Boat	FL 4961 LS
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Carolina Skiff 16'	skiff	Gasoline	C16	1996	MMC	Small Marine Boat	FL 2164 JA
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Mako 17'	Center Console	Gasoline	M17	2002	MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 2060 LT
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Parker 18'	Center Console	Gasoline	P18-1	2004	MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 0368 MP
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Parker 18'	Center Console	Gasoline	P18-2	2008	MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 4861 NT
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Parker 18'	Center Console	Gasoline	P18-3	2001	MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 4720 NU
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Carolina Skiff 19'	skiff	Gasoline	C19	2002	MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 4427 MC
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Oquawka (Electrofishing) 21'	skiff	Gasoline	OB21	2016	MMC	Medium Marine Boat	FL 6892 RB
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	14' Airboat	Airboat	Gasoline	AB14	2015	MMC	Airboat	FL 4890 PY
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	15' Airboat	Airboat	Gasoline	AB15-1	1995	MMC	Airboat	FL 2015 JA
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	16' Airboat	Airboat	Gasoline	AB15-3	2018	MMC	Airboat	FL 7719 RN
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	16' Airboat	Airboat	Gasoline	AB16-1	2004	MMC	Airboat	FL 6905 MS
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	16' Airboat	Airboat	Gasoline	AB16-2	2012	MMC	Airboat	FL 0089 PJ

Table 1. List of Trucks Available for use along with new branch designations, contact, and other relevant information.

Marine	Chamberlain	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4	Diesel	4008	2017	BBC	Vehicle	YL055
Marine	Chamberlain	Truck	Ford F-250	Gasoline	4507	2011	BBC/Keys	Vehicle	YT064
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford Expedition 4X4	Gasoline	4021	2008	MMC	Vehicle	YB650
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Extended Cab 2wd	Gasoline	4031	2007	MMC	Vehicle	40249
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4X4	Gasoline	4060	2008	MMC	Vehicle	YA827
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-150 Crew Cab 4X4	Gasoline	4097	2009	MMC	Vehicle	YB652
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4	Gasoline	4205	2015	MMC	Vehicle	YH731
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4	Gasoline	4206	2015	Key Largo	Vehicle	YH730
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4X4	Diesel	4002	2020	MMC	Vehicle	YR693
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4	Diesel	4009	2017	MMC	Vehicle	YL054
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4	Diesel	4023	2019	MMC	Vehicle	YN548
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4X4	Diesel	4029	2020	MMC	Vehicle	YS319
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4X4	Diesel	4301	2022	MMC	Vehicle	YU425
Freshwater	Gonzalez-Collazo	Truck	Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4X4	Diesel	4302	2022	MMC	Vehicle	YU424

Boating Safety Program

The mission of the Florida International University’s Boating Safety Program is to effectively provide training, support and oversight for the operators of small vessels used in research. As such, we must develop and implement university policy; adopt acceptable community standards for training; educate and train members in both safe and environmentally sound boating practices. More information can be found here: <http://research.fiu.edu/boating-safety/>

Boating Safety Officer:
 Anne (Annie) Sevon
 Phone: (305) 919-5228, Mobile: (215) 359-6661
 Email: asevon@fiu.edu

In accordance with the boating safety program, a [Float Plan](#) is MANDATORY for all field crews using either airboats or marine boats, and they must be filed at least 24 hrs in advance (but see COVID restrictions). More information can be found here: <https://environment.fiu.edu/research/facilities-labs/foc/index.html>

COVID restrictions have affected the use of these resources and are constantly changing. It is the user’s responsibility to adhere to the University’s COVID Guidelines. More can be found here: http://research.fiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FIU-Boating-Safety_COVID-19-Boating-Policy_updated-2020-11-06.pdf

Scheduling and Reservation Protocol

Until we come up with a solution for a unified reservations system, the Marine and Freshwater FOC will be operating under separate scheduling software, each managed by Chamberlain (Marine) or Gonzalez-Collazo (Freshwater). The [Freshwater FOC calendar](#) (see full link below) and [Marine FOC calendar](#) (see full link below) can be checked to see if a truck or vessel is already reserved on a particular day, though keep in mind it's possible a prior request has not been added to calendar yet. As part of this system, we will also provide current information on the status of each resource, for example, if a boat is in a different locality (other than "base") or if being serviced. All reservation requests during COVID protocols must be accompanied by ORED approval for the trip and personnel on the trip. Cancellations should be made as soon as practicable. Once the reservations are placed in the calendars PI's should communicate with the branch managers directly for potential schedule changes and cancellations. New users should work with the branch managers for fueling procedures/options for both vessels and trucks. Those not familiar with driving an FIU trucks also need to be briefed on vehicle use (diesel vs. gas).

Freshwater calendar: <http://serc.fiu.edu/Web%20Calendar/webcal/html/calendar.htm>

Marine calendar:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=sac9f5dt6ji7g4ur3flnjvp8vs@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York

Current COVID Protocol: FOC reservations should be initiated by the Principal Investigator that is listed as the cognizant on the float plan. Reservations can be made after approval of the field work by Office of Research and Economic Development (see current COVID restrictions). Branch Directors will confirm the fieldwork approvals and will then transfer the equipment request, list of field personnel involved, grant activity to charge and work location information to branch managers before the reservations is placed in the calendar.

Protocol for Marine FOC:

Email reservation requests to Bill Chamberlain, whchambe@fiu.edu. Include a brief description of the location of the work, preferred vessel, preferred truck, PI name, billing ID number, crew chief, crew and scientific crew names. An emergency management plan is usually included in the approved Float Plans but if vessels are not used, a description of the emergency management plan is required for a truck only reservation.

Protocol for Freshwater FOC:

Email reservation requests to Rafael Gonzalez-Collazo, gonzalra@fiu.edu. Include a brief description of the location of the work, preferred vessel, preferred truck, PI name, billing ID number, crew chief, crew and scientific crew names. An emergency management plan is usually included in the approved Float Plans but if vessels are not used, a description of the emergency management plan is required for a truck only reservation.