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: gonzatra@fiu.edu

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOC Branch</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Vessel or Truck</th>
<th>Type of Boat/Truck</th>
<th>Type of Fuel</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rates plus Fuel</th>
<th>Boat Reg./License No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>R/V Dewey Dwaine 34'</td>
<td>Munson High Speed Landing Craft</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>MUN34</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>$479 / Day Plus Fuel</td>
<td>G.N. 1223661 (USCGI documented)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>R/V Makemson 25'</td>
<td>C-Hawk cabin boat</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>C/AW/K25</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>$268.06 / Day Plus Fuel</td>
<td>FL23295A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>Jones Brothers Boat 23'</td>
<td>Center Console</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>J823</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>$223.42 / Day Plus Fuel</td>
<td>FL 1247 SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>Panga 26'</td>
<td>Panga</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>Panga 25</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>BBC/Keys</td>
<td>$268.06 / Day Plus Fuel</td>
<td>FL68795X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>Twin Vee 17'</td>
<td>skiff</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>TV17</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>BBC/Keys</td>
<td>$117.35 / Day Plus Fuel</td>
<td>FL13555W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>SeaArk 18'</td>
<td>skiff</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>B26</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>$117.35 / Day Plus Fuel</td>
<td>FL 1678 RZ</td>
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</table>

**Freshwater FOC:**  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Mako 21' | Center Console | Gasoline | M21 | 2002 | BBC/MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 2065 LT  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Southern Blowfish | Proline 21' | Center Console | Gasoline | P121 | 2006 | BBC/MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 0542 NC  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Twin Vee 20' | Catamaran | Gasoline | TV26 | 2012 | BBC/MMC | $268.06 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 2268PF  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Jonboat 14' | skiff | Gasoline | J14 | 2018 | MMC | $80.07 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 0287 RR  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Smitty's Skiff 16' | skiff | Gasoline | S16 | 2001 | MMC | $117.35 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 4961 LS  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Carolina Skiff 18' | skiff | Gasoline | C16 | 1996 | MMC | $117.35 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 2164 IA  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Mako 17' | Center Console | Gasoline | M17 | 2002 | MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 2060 LT  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Parker 18' | Center Console | Gasoline | P18-1 | 2004 | MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 0368 MP  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Parker 18' | Center Console | Gasoline | P18-2 | 2008 | MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 4861 NT  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Parker 18' | Center Console | Gasoline | P18-3 | 2001 | MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 4720 NU  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Carolina Skiff 19' | skiff | Gasoline | C19 | 2002 | MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 4427 MC  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Oquawka (Electrofishing) 21' | skiff | Gasoline | OB16 | 2016 | MMC | $223.42 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 6892 RB  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Airboat 14' | Airboat | Gasoline | AB14 | 2015 | MMC | $134.44 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 4890 FY  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Airboat 16' | Airboat | Gasoline | AB15-3 | 2018 | MMC | $134.44 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 7719 RN  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Airboat 16' | Airboat | Gasoline | AB16-1 | 2004 | MMC | $134.44 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 6905 MS  
Gonzalez-Collazo  
Airboat 16' | Airboat | Gasoline | AB16-2 | 2012 | MMC | $134.44 / Day Plus Fuel | FL 0089 PI
Table 1. List of Trucks Available for use along with new branch designations, contact, and other relevant information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marine</th>
<th>Chamberlain</th>
<th>Truck</th>
<th>Ford F-250 Crew Cab-4x4</th>
<th>Diesel</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>BBC</th>
<th>$72.67 / Day + $0.65 / Mile</th>
<th>Y055</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>Truck</td>
<td>Ford F-250</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>4507</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>BBC/keys $72.67 / Day + $0.65 / Mile</td>
<td>YT064</td>
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<td>Freshwater</td>
<td>Gonzalez-Collazo</td>
<td>Truck</td>
<td>Ford Passenger Van</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>3066</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>MMC $72.67 / Day + $0.65 / Mile</td>
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<td>Freshwater</td>
<td>Gonzalez-Collazo</td>
<td>Truck</td>
<td>Ford Expedition-4x4</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>4021</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>MMC $72.67 / Day + $0.65 / Mile</td>
<td>YB650</td>
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<td>Gonzalez-Collazo</td>
<td>Truck</td>
<td>Ford F-250 Extended Cab 2wd</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>4031</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>Ford F-250 Crew Cab-4x4</td>
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<td>Truck</td>
<td>Ford F-150 Crew Cab-4x4</td>
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<td>4097</td>
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<td>Truck</td>
<td>Ford F-250 Crew Cab-4x4</td>
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<td>4205</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>YH731</td>
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<td>Truck</td>
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<td>4206</td>
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<td>Key Largo $72.67 / Day + $0.65 / Mile</td>
<td>YH730</td>
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<td>Truck</td>
<td>Ford F-250 Crew Cab-4x4</td>
<td>Diesel</td>
<td>4002</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>MMC $72.67 / Day + $0.65 / Mile</td>
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<td>4009</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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<td>Freshwater</td>
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<td>4029</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>MMC $72.67 / Day + $0.65 / Mile</td>
<td>YS319</td>
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</table>

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/](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](http://research.fiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/float-plan-11-06-20.pdf) 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](https://environment.fiu.edu/research/facilities-labs/foc/index.html)

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](http://serc.fiu.edu/Web%20Calendar/webcal/html/calendar.htm) and [Marine FOC calendar](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=sac9f5dt6ji7g4ur3flnjvp8vs@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York) 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](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](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.