

Use of GML boats is restricted generally to faculty, staff and students of the College of Charleston for tasks related to teaching and research in marine science. **All persons must secure permission from the Marine Operations Manager, Laboratory Manager or the Laboratory Director to use a boat.** This permission is secured in writing by filing a Float Plan (see below). Motor boat use at GML is supported by boat user fees. They are listed by boat on the Float Plan. There are no fees for kayak usage.

Certification Requirements

All persons wishing to operate GML vessels must be certified. The certification program is intended to ensure the safety of those persons involved in vessel activities. To become certified, a boating safety course must be completed. The course must be approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources offers a basic boating course and test at a cost of \$ 29.50 for which reimbursement may be available. Please see the Marine Operations Manager for instructions or contact the Department of Natural Resources office at Fort Johnson. Documentation of successful course completion must be submitted to the Marine Operations Manager.

Additionally, the following general requirements must be met. Users:

1. Must be of good physical and mental health.
2. Must be at least 18 years of age.
3. Complete a minimum of three trips with a qualified boat operator/ captain.
4. Must demonstrate knowledge of boat operations, local waterways, and boating safety as a captain with the Marine Operations Manager during a final checkout and test.

Motorboat Operating Regulations

1. The ultimate responsibility for safe operations and the safety of the crew rests with the motorboat operator. It is the duty of the operator to refuse to operate the vessel if conditions are unsafe or if the boat operation would violate the precepts of the operators training or the regulations of this guide.
2. Motorboat operators are responsible for understanding and obeying the U.S. Coast Guard's Rules of the Road applicable to their area of operation. This includes functional knowledge of Coast Guard and State aids to navigation.
3. Motorboat operators are responsible for understanding and abiding by federal, state, local and College regulations concerning vessel usage and equipment on board (see the list of equipment on the float plan). Boating privileges will be revoked for violations of these regulations.
4. Scheduling of boat usage should be done well in advance of the date of intended use, but no later than 24 hours before departure. All scheduled trips **must be approved** by the Marine Operations Manager, Laboratory Manager or the Laboratory Director. Regular, repetitive use is to be arranged with the Marine Operations Manager or Laboratory Manager.
5. Vessel operators are required to file a formal **float plan** with the Marine Operations

- Manager or Laboratory Manager no less than 24 hours before departure. If a trip is scheduled for the weekend, the float plan must be approved by noon on Friday. The float plan must include an account number for the boat user fee. In the absence of the Marine Operations Manager or Laboratory Manager, the float plan will be submitted to the Laboratory Director. **Float plans must be approved by the Marine Operations Manager, Laboratory Manager or the Laboratory Director before a boat can be used.** Float plan forms can be obtained from the shelf outside Room 116, the computer lab, or downloaded from the Grice Marine Laboratory web site. In addition to the float plan, the following information will be posted on the white board outside the Laboratory Manager's office before departure: boat requested, date requested, purpose, name of operator, and date of request. Forfeiture of boat use privileges will result from failure to comply with the letter or intent of these regulations. *In the event that the scheduled boat trip is canceled, the boat operator must notify the float plan approver immediately.*
6. All boat operators are required to check the weather forecast before leaving land. Weather can be monitored using the weather radio in the main office or the hand held VHF radios. The operator may also check the coastal water forecast via the NOAA website. Vessel use is prohibited during periods of small craft warnings. The good judgment of the operator should be exercised when the weather worsens while on the water.
 7. The buddy system will be used. At least one competent crew member will accompany the operator at all times. In addition, work in potentially hazardous areas (inlets, jetties, beaches, etc.) may require the use of more than one boat. This determination will be by the GML Marine Operations Manager, Laboratory Manager or the Laboratory Director.
 8. Upon completion of the trip, the vessel operator will:
 - a. Immediately notify the holder of the float plan (i.e., the Marine Operations Manager, Laboratory Manager or the Laboratory Director) of the safe return.
 - b. Remove all gear from the boat; be sure that the gear is clean and rinsed with fresh water, if appropriate.
 - c. Stow all gear neatly in its proper place.
 - d. Flush the motor with fresh water.
 - e. Return, gas tanks to the shelves in the boat storage building.
 - f. Wash lock the storage area.
 - g. Wash the boat thoroughly inside and out with soap and water.
 - h. Lock the caged storage area.
 - i. Log the use of the boat on the back of the float plan (vessel log). Fill out the log sheets completely and comment on accidents/injuries, potential hazards, maintenance and any use that might be deemed as being stressful on the motor.
 - j. Submit paperwork and gas receipts to Marine Operations Manager.
Failure to complete the boating policy procedures immediately after the cruise may result in loss of boat privileges.
 9. If the boat operator wishes to use the DNR-MRRI boat hoist to put the boat in the boat slip, he/she must be checked out on its proper use by the Marine Operations Manager.
 10. If the boat operator plans to haul a boat to a landing, the boat trailer must have operable brake lights and turn signals. Also, the boat must be properly strapped to the trailer using

available belts or ropes. Any fines incurred due to improper trailering are the responsibility of the vehicle operator.

11. Gas used during boating operations is the responsibility of the boat user. The account listed on the float plan will be used for gas receipts unless other arrangements are made. Boat and towing vehicle gas tanks should be filled immediately after the boat trip is completed. The receipts must be submitted to the Marine Operations Manager with the completed float plan/vessel log.
1. To operate a GML vehicle or use the gas procurement card, the driver must adhere to the GML Gas and Travel Policy for State Vehicles and Boats posted at <http://www.cofc.edu/~grice/pdf/GMLVehicle%20Policy.doc> . A copy of their SC driver's license and the last five digits of their social security number must be submitted the lab manager two weeks prior to use. The Social Security Number will enable them to use the state gas card. However, an IDT must be submitted to the lab for reimbursement of gas costs. If they do not have a SC driver's license, a copy of the out of state driver's record can be submitted instead.

Other Regulations

2. No alcoholic beverages or drugs are permitted on GML vessels.
3. Motorboat operators and passengers are required to wear Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) at all times.
4. Accidents and mechanical or structural problems will be reported, in writing, to the GML Laboratory Manager using the appropriate section of the float plan.
5. Smoking is not allowed during fueling operations, around open fuel tanks, or during any operation when smoking may be a hazard.
6. Any damage to vessels or equipment due to negligence is the responsibility of the vessel operator, and the Grice Marine Laboratory will require compensation sufficient to repair the damage or replace the item.
7. All passengers must remain seated (or standing adjacent to grab rails on center consoles) when the boat is underway. Passengers should not sit on the gunwales or the bow.
8. Use of the boats during evening hours is discouraged and may be done only with working navigation lights and with the permission of the Marine Operations Manager, Laboratory Manager or the Laboratory Director.
9. SCUBA diving is not permitted from GML boats.
10. The collection of biological specimens requires a SCIENTIFIC COLLECTION PERMIT. This permit may be obtained from the SC Department of Natural Resources via the Administrative Assistant in the main office.

Failure to comply with these regulations shall be cause for revocation or restriction of boating privileges.