

Policy is effective July 1, 2024

## **CMAST Policy on Boat Use & Field Safety**

1. All new boaters are required to take an on-line Boat U.S. Foundation boat safety course (<https://courses.boatus.org/course/id/BTUS100S>). This is a web-based course that is self-paced and -directed. This course also complies with the NC Boater education law. The course cost is Free.
2. Individual faculty/principal investigators (or their designated staff or graduate students) are responsible for providing hands-on training in boat handling and trailering to new boaters.
3. Individual faculty/principal investigators/staff are responsible for ensuring that their boat(s) meet U.S. Coast Guard required safety inspections and has the following items available to bring onboard.
  - Lifejackets for all persons onboard and a throwable floatation device
  - Fire Extinguisher
  - A sound signaling device (horn, air horn, or whistle)
  - First aid kit
  - Visual Distress Signaling Device (SOS distress light or non-expired flares)
  - A communication device capable of reaching someone onshore (cell phone/VHF radio)
4. Individual faculty principal investigators (or their designated staff or graduate students) are responsible for designating an onshore/CMAST point of contact. The onshore contact should be informed of the specific boat being used, all personnel onboard, location of field work, the time you leave/get on the water, and your expected return/off the water. A cell phone is appropriate to communicate with the onshore contact if you are within cell range. If your location is outside of cell service both the onshore contact and persons in the field should have a VHF radio, and an agreed-upon channel to communicate on. If field personnel are not back by the specified time and have not contacted the onshore contact, the onshore contact person should be contacting the field personnel to ensure everything is ok. **If the onshore contact person does not hear from the field personnel within a reasonable and agreed upon time frame the onshore contact should contact the coast guard.**
5. All persons onboard an NCSU vessel should know where to find the NCSU CMAST Sea Tow policy and phone number. If you have purchased a new boat, please make sure you let Marlu Bolton know so she can add your boat to the Sea Tow policy.
6. All NCSU paid staff/faculty/and students (grad students and undergraduate interns) must fill out a travel authorization through MyPack Portal prior to going in the field and/or using a boat. This is to ensure the individual is covered under the insurance policy and by workers compensation.
7. All NCSU students that are unpaid and all researchers, staff, faculty, or students that are not part of NCSU must sign the “NCSU Volunteer Workers involved in Field, Laboratory, or Teaching Activities” form. Anyone under 18 must sign and have a parent or guardian sign the “Minors as Volunteers in Field, Laboratory, and Teaching Activities at North Carolina State University” form.