



SMALL BOAT USE REGULATIONS

Definitions

Operator: A Cal Poly student, Graduate student, staff or faculty member.

Passenger: One of the above or an officially registered Cal Poly volunteer.

Small Boats: 21' Munson, 19' Zodiac inflatable, 16' Bay Runner, 13' Boston Whaler, Kayaks

Boat Operator Qualification Levels

- 1. Course/Test:** Provided documentation of successful completion of the California State Boating Safety Course (<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoatSafeCourse.asp>) or USCG Auxiliary Course (http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe_visitor/index.html) and pass written test. .
- 2. Basic:** Qualified to operate small boats in San Luis Bay and Morro Bay harbor. Perspective operator must become familiar with equipment, requirements, check out procedures and basic operation of vessels. A minimum of three cruises with a qualified operator required prior to check out.
- 3. Near shore:** Qualified to take the Bayrunner or Zodiac offshore within two miles of a Harbor entrance.
- 4. Trailing:** Qualified to use boat trailers for launching and recovering small boats. Local knowledge of areas launching from, such as Santa Barbara or Monterey Harbors, is required. Range from launching harbor limited to two miles except by specific approval.
- 5. Offshore:** Qualified to take small boats further than two miles from Harbor areas. This qualification will be on a case-by-case basis. Specific approval for each cruise plan required.

Qualification Procedure:

Before you are allowed to operate a Cal Poly owned vessel for your thesis work or for research projects you must complete the appropriate level of qualification and get approval for the intended use of the boat. You must be a registered student, employee of Cal Poly or employee of an associated institution with an agreement with Cal Poly. The following is a list of the necessary steps.

- 1. Course/Test:** Successful completion of the California Department of Boating and Waterways Boating Safety Course, or the Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Safety Core Course or an equivalent course. A Coast Guard license or other form of certification and experience may be substituted. Contact the Pier Manager for clarification.
- 2. Basic:** Attend a demonstration session with a member of the Pier staff covering small boat equipment, safety gear, rules and boat operation. It is also essential to become familiar with the local operating area by going out in the boats with experienced operators. If you are just learning to operate a boat, fellow students and the Pier staff can work with you to help you learn. You must then demonstrate to the Pier staff your familiarity with boat check out procedures, equipment, operation and local knowledge. Successful completion of these first two steps qualifies you at level two which is the minimum for operating boats in San Luis Bay and Morro Bay harbor.

3. Nearshore: You must demonstrate to the Pier staff a level of competence in operating the boats considered adequate for working outside the harbor. You must also show your familiarity with the added dangers of operating boats off shore, knowledge of the local area and with the environmental aspects such as wind, swell and fog. A minimum of 40 hours boating experience is required.

4. Trailing: You must have sufficient experience with the operation of small boats to satisfy the Pier staff as to your ability. You must demonstrate your ability to launch and recover the boats with a trailer, to back and maneuver a trailer and properly hook up the trailer to a vehicle and secure the boat to it. You must also be university driver approved and be familiar with driving a vehicle while pulling a trailer. In addition you must demonstrate your knowledge of the area to which you intend to take the small boat and must get specific approval for the area of operation. A nearshore qualification is a prerequisite.

5. Offshore: For offshore vessel usage you must demonstrate that you have the capability and experience to operate in the area proposed. A minimum of fifty hours boating experience is required. This qualification is on a case-by-case basis and requires specific approval.

Anyone with evidence of their ability to safely operate small boats such as a USCG license or other certificate may have all or parts of this process waived by the Pier Staff.

General Procedures:

1. Check out procedures: Schedule the use of small boats ahead of time by emailing a request to the Pier Manager (eventually using the online calendar accessible from the CCMS home page). If there is a conflict the following priorities apply:

- Class use
- Thesis use
- Research work
- Lab related projects

Within these categories first come first serve applies - although co-operation is encourage in resolving scheduling conflicts.

2. Boat Equipment: All proper equipment must be in the boats when in operation. Law and common sense require this. The Coast Guard will stop you and give you a citation if the required equipment is not on board. The following equipment is required and will be provided, with the exception of an approved Type III Personal Floatation Device (PDF)

- A Type III PDF for each person. PDF must be worn at all times while onboard
- At least one Type IV throwable flotation device (Seat cushion)
- Oars
- Anchor and line
- Bailer
- Distress signals (flares/rockets)
- Horn
- Fire extinguisher (must be readily accessible)
- Copy of Registration Certificate
- Hand held radio when operating offshore or for extended periods
- Running lights when operating at night
- Other equipment as required

All equipment will be cleaned, returned and properly stored after use. Refer to the protocols and equipment lists available for the particular watercraft you will be operating.