

Boat and SCUBA Regulations

Users of Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) boats are hereby warned that they use these boats at their own risk and that by using the boats do agree to abide by the following regulations laid down for their safety and convenience by BIOS:

1. The Captain's word is final on all matters of safety and boat operation.

2. Nobody will go overboard (even while alongside the dock) without the permission of the Captain or Diving Supervisor.

3. Nothing is to be put in the water without the Captain's knowledge and approval.

4. Nobody is to interfere with switches, valves, dials, blocks, radios, echo sounders, Loran receivers, radars, or any other equipment unless expressly asked to do so by the Captain.

5. Strict attention is to be paid to the safety review given at the beginning of your first trip on a BIOS boat. It will inform you of the safety equipment on the vessel and how it is to be used in case of an emergency. If you do not understand how the equipment functions it is your responsibility to ask the Captain to clarify its use.

6. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the enclosed areas of the boats.

7. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on any BIOS vessel at any time.

8. Under normal circumstances PASSENGERS are not permitted on foredecks or wheelhouse roofs while vessels are underway.

9. Passengers should avoid distracting the Captain while he/she is negotiating bridges, channels etc.

10. Divers and snorkelers are not allowed in the wheel house in wet equipment (wetsuits, etc.) without the express permission of the Captain. Salt water destroys boat interiors.

11. All passengers must, during docking procedures, stand back from the railing to allow the crew to work lines. All hands and feet must be kept inside the vessel at all times, and especially when vessel is approaching docks, bridges, other vessels, etc.

12. Sea sickness is best tolerated on deck in the fresh air. On no account should you use the head if you are sea sick. If you feel sick you should move to the side of the vessel towards the stern and down wind.

13. Do not disembark until the Captain or Dive Supervisor gives permission. Remove your equipment promptly from the vessel.

14. No diving is permitted at BIOS until the appropriate papers have been signed and filed with the Diving Safety Officer (DSO) and a check out dive has been completed by the DSO or his appointed assistant.

15. No diving is permitted from BIOS boats, at the BIOS dock areas, or with BIOS equipment without notification of the Diving Safety Officer.

16. All SCUBA diving, snorkeling and swimming shall be conducted using the buddy system.

17. Obey all rules and regulations regarding specimen or artifact collecting posted on the boats and available from the BIOS Library.

18. Secure all equipment safely to prevent injury.

19. The individual diver must realize that she/he is ultimately responsible for her/his own safety. It is clearly the diver's responsibility to refuse to dive if in her/his judgment, conditions are unsafe.

20. Do not enter the water unless you are sure of the time, depth and air supply constraints on your activity.

21. The following is a list of equipment that each diver must have:

a. Mask, fins, snorkel

e. Time keeping device

b. Regulator with alternate air source
(Octopus)

f. Whistle

c. Submersible pressure gauge

g. Log book

d. Depth gauge

h. Light(s) primary and cylume (night dives only)

BIOS only supplies tanks and weight belts. All other equipment should be obtained prior to coming to Bermuda. (There is no diving gear available for rent in Bermuda unless you dive with a local dive operator.)

22. Should it be necessary to recall divers, snorkelers, and/or swimmers to the boat, the boats are equipped with a recall device that will emit a loud tone into the water or vocal messages may also be used. Upon hearing this signal you should immediately return to the boat. This may result from an emergency or an impending emergency such as bad weather approaching.

I, _____ (PRINT NAME) HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF, AND CONDUCT ON, BERMUDA INSTITUTE OF OCEAN SCIENCES VESSELS AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE REGULATIONS, FROM BEING ON BOARD A VESSEL TO CARELESSNESS DUE TO ACTIVITY OR EQUIPMENT HANDLING AT SEA, COULD RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY TO ME OR A MEMBER OF MY GROUP.

_____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

****NOTES TO CHARTERERS:** To save misunderstanding, please make sure the trip log has been filled out and signed promptly after docking at BIOS.

Departing and Docking: You will be charged from the time you have signed up for the boat NOT when it leaves the dock unless the delayed departure is due to BIOS staff or equipment. Also, you may be charged a cancellation fee if you cancel less than the day before a proposed trip unless it is a weather call, which will be confirmed by the Dive Master or Captain.