



Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences
Boat/Snorkel Waiver

THIS AGREEMENT made the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, \_\_\_ BETWEEN (your name) \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ (hereinafter called "the User") and the BERMUDA INSTITUTE OF OCEAN SCIENCES, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in the United States of America (hereinafter called "BIOS").

- 1. The Captain's word is final on matters of safety and boat operation.
2. Nobody will go overboard (even while alongside the dock) without the permission of the captain and/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, etc 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 prohibited in the enclosed areas of the boats.
7. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on any BIOS vessel at anytime.
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 negotiating bridges, channels etc.
10. Snorkelers are not allowed in the wheel house in wet equipment (wet suits, 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 and keep all hands, feet, etc 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 then remove your equipment promptly from the vessel.
14. All snorkeling and swimming shall be conducted using the buddy system
15. Obey all rules and regulations regarding specimen or artifact collecting posted on the Stommel and available from the BIOS Library.
16. Secure all equipment safely to prevent injury.
17. The individual diver must realize that she/he is ultimately responsible for her/his own safety. It is clearly the snorkeler's responsibility to refuse to enter the water if in her/his judgement, conditions are unsafe.
18. Should it be necessary to recall snorkelers, and/or swimmers to the boat Stommel is 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.
19. All equipment should be obtained prior to coming to Bermuda.

WHEREBY IT IS AGREED that in consideration of BIOS making available to the User the boats, diving gear and other equipment relating thereto, belonging thereto, or in the possession of BIOS, the User hereby for himself, his heirs, his personal representatives and dependents, hereby releases, discharges and agrees to hold harmless BIOS, its successors and assigns and its trustees, directors, officers, employees, representatives and authorized agents (individually or collectively) from all actions, proceedings, claims and demands that the User, his heirs, personal representatives and dependents may have for injury (including injury resulting in death) however caused or sustained by the User and for the loss of or damage (however caused) to his personal belongings suffered while using the boats, diving gear or other equipment relating thereto belonging to or in the possession of the BIOS, including, but not limited to, such injury, loss or damage resulting directly or indirectly from negligence or failure to take reasonable care to see that the User will be reasonably safe, of BIOS, its trustees, directors, officers, employees, representatives or authorized agents, from the malfunction of diving gear or other equipment, and from operation, use, loading, unloading or unseaworthiness of boats or other watercraft owned, maintained or operated by BIOS.

In Witness Thereof the parties have signed this agreement the day and year first written above.

User (signature)

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian (signature)

Date

Witness (signature)

Date