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# FLOAT PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this plan before you go boating and leave it with a reliable person who can be depended upon to notify the Coast Guard, or other rescue organization, should you not return or check-in as scheduled. If you have a **change of plans** after leaving, be sure to notify the person holding your Float Plan.

Do **NOT** file this plan with the Coast Guard.



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## VESSEL

### IDENTIFICATION:

Name & Home Port \_\_\_\_\_  
Doc. / Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Year & Make \_\_\_\_\_  
Length \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_ Draft \_\_\_\_\_ (Inch/CM) Hull Mat. \_\_\_\_\_  
Hull Color(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Prominent Feature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

Radio Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
DSC MMSI Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Radio-1: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Ch / Freq. Monitored \_\_\_\_\_  
Radio-2: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Ch / Freq. Monitored \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Pager \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPULSION:

Primary - Type \_\_\_\_\_ No. Eng. \_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_  
Auxiliary - Type \_\_\_\_\_ No. Eng. \_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

### NAVIGATION: (Check all on board)

Maps  Charts  Compass  GPS / DGPS  
 Radar  Loran C  Sounder  \_\_\_\_\_

## SAFETY & SURVIVAL

### VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS:

Day Only type  
 Night Only type  
 Day & Night type

### AUDIBLE DISTRESS SIGNALS:

Horn / Whistle  
 Bell  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER GEAR / SUPPLIES:

Lifeboat / Life Raft  Flashlight / Searchlight  
 Dinghy / Skiff  Signal Mirror  
 Food / Water  Drogue / Sea Anchor  
 EPIRB Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foul Weather Gear  \_\_\_\_\_

### PFDs: (Do not count Type IV devices)

\_\_\_\_ Quantity on board

### GROUND TACKLE:

Anchor - line length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

## PERSONS ON BOARD

### OPERATOR:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle (Year, Make & Model) \_\_\_\_\_  
Where will trailer be parked? \_\_\_\_\_

Age M/F Notes (Special medical condition, Can't swim, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Experience: w/Boat  w/Area   
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Trailer License No. \_\_\_\_\_

### PASSENGERS:

Name & Home Phone  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Age M/F Notes (Special medical condition, Can't swim, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attach Supplemental Passenger List if additional passengers on board.

## ITINERARY

|        | DATE | TIME | LOCATION | MODE OF TRAVEL | REASON FOR STOP | CHECK-IN TIME |
|--------|------|------|----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Depart |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Arrive |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Depart |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Arrive |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Depart |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Arrive |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Depart |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Arrive |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Depart |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Arrive |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Depart |      |      |          |                |                 |               |
| Arrive |      |      |          |                |                 |               |

Attach Supplemental Itinerary if additional space required.

Contact 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a genuine concern for the safety or welfare of any persons on board this vessel, who have not returned or checked-in within a reasonable amount of time, then follow the step-by-step instructions on the **Boating Emergency Guide** included with this plan, or on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.uscgaux.org/~floatplan/BoatingEmergencyGuide.htm>

# BOATING EMERGENCY GUIDE

You will need the following items before you begin: 1) The **Float Plan**, if one was given to you; 2) **Pen or Pencil**; 3) Clean sheet of **paper** or **writing tablet**; and 4) **Telephone Directory**.

## Step 1

Is there a genuine concern for the safety or welfare of any persons on board the vessel, who have not returned or checked-in within a reasonable amount of time?

If YES, continue with **Step 2**. If NO, then **Stop**. No further action is required at this time.

## Step 2

Were you given a prepared Float Plan by anyone onboard the vessel?

If YES, continue with **Step 3**. If NO, then go to **Step 5**.

## Step 3

On the Float Plan, locate the two contact lines, below the "Itinerary" at the bottom of the Float Plan. Call the telephone number of Contact-1.

| IF:                            | THEN:  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|-------|-----|-------------------------------|----|--|
| A person answered the phone... | Take notes during your conversation.   |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|                                | 1. Let the person know that you are responding to a late return or check-in by the individuals designated on the Float Plan.   |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|                                | 2. Determine if the person you are talking to, or anyone else at that location, has recently had contact with anyone on the vessel, and when and where that contact occurred.  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|                                | 3. Are you still concerned about the safety or welfare of any persons on board the vessel?   |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|                                | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>IF:</th> <th>THEN:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>Continue with <b>Step 4</b>.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td><b>Stop</b>. No further action is necessary at this time.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | IF: | THEN: | Yes | Continue with <b>Step 4</b> . | No | <b>Stop</b> . No further action is necessary at this time. |
| IF:                            | THEN:  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
| Yes                            | Continue with <b>Step 4</b> .  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
| No                             | <b>Stop</b> . No further action is necessary at this time.   |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
| Otherwise...                   | Continue with <b>Step 4</b> .  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |

## Step 4

Call the telephone number for Contact-2.

| IF:                            | THEN:  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|-------|-----|-------------------------------|----|--|
| A person answered the phone... | Take notes during your conversation.   |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|                                | 1. Let the person know that you are responding to a late return or check-in by the individuals designated on the Float Plan.   |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|                                | 2. Determine if the person you are talking to, or anyone else at that location, has recently had contact with anyone on the vessel, and when and where that contact occurred.  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
|                                | 3. Are you still concerned about the safety or welfare of any persons on board?  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
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| IF:                            | THEN:  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
| Yes                            | Continue with <b>Step 6</b> .  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
| No                             | <b>Stop</b> . No further action is necessary at this time.   |     |       |     |                               |    |  |
| Otherwise...                   | Continue with <b>Step 6</b> .  |     |       |     |                               |    |  |

## Step 5

Take a moment to jot down the facts you know about each item in the checklist below:

Do not speculate! Speculation of a fact may mislead search and rescue personnel and add to the overall search and rescue time, adversely affecting the outcome.

- Period of time the vessel has been overdue.
- Purpose of the trip or voyage.
- Description of vessel (color, size, shape, etc.)
- Vessel's departure point and destination.
- Places the vessel planned to stop during transit.
- Navigation equipment on board (such as GPS, Compass, Maps, Charts, LORAN C, etc.)
- Survival equipment on board (life jackets, EPIRB, flares, etc.)
- Number of people on board the vessel, as well as personal habits e.g. dependability, reliability, etc.
- Was the vessel already moored, or did a vehicle tow it to the location?
- License plate number and description of the vehicle of the towing and/or crew transport vehicle.
- Communications equipment on board including radio frequencies monitored, cellular telephone numbers of people aboard.
- Additional points of contact in the area.
- Were there any pending commitments (work, appointments, etc.)?

Continue with **Step 6**.

## Step 6

1. Contact your local Law Enforcement agency.
  2. Let the dispatcher know that you are responding to a late return or check-in by the persons on board.
    - a. The dispatcher will guide you from there. The dispatcher will provide you with the necessary contact or agency connection (if one was not given on the Float Plan) to get a Search And Rescue (SAR) mission started. This is usually handled this way because it puts you closest to the agency conducting the rescue mission, eliminating an unnecessary middleman.
    - b. The dispatcher will let you know if they would like a follow-up call from you on the outcome.
  3. The dispatcher will instruct you from there.
- Continue with **Step 7**.

## Step 7

Be patient... you've done everything you can possibly do for now. Stay off of the phone, so emergency personnel can contact you with additional information and/or questions concerning the Search And Rescue (SAR) effort.

**End of Guide**