BOATS AND VEHICLES

The USM Department of Marine Science has vehicles and boats available for legitimate departmental functions including research and instruction. All vehicle and boat use must be paid for. If you are uncertain whether a particular use is legitimate or whether the department will pay for it rather than a grant, ask before reserving the vehicle/boat.

Vehicles

Currently the department has two multi-passenger vans and two trucks. The larger Ford F-350 extended cab truck should only be used if absolutely necessary. This truck is our only vehicle capable of towing the Le Moyne and that use has first priority for the F-350. The mileage rate for trucks and vans (for passenger transport as well as trailering of boats) is the same as the federal mileage reimbursement rate ($0.50/mile as of 9/1/2010). A Fuelman card accompanies all vehicles for fuel purchases: make sure the gas station you stop at accepts Fuelman before filling up.

Forklift

The department has a forklift in Building 1029 for operations in and around that building. You must have been trained and authorized by the department in order to use the forklift.

Boats

The USM Department of Marine Science operates three small boats for coastal research:

1. “The skiff” - A 21' Caroline Skiff with a 90 horsepower Suzuki motor with a 4 horsepower kicker motor. It has a 28 gallon fuel tank with a range of approximately 60 miles with an average 2.0 miles per gallon depending on sea conditions and speed. Vessel has all Coast Guard required safety equipment on board.

2. “GCGC boat” - A 29' Wooldridge aluminum boat with a Yamaha 250 Four stroke engine. It has 150 gallon fuel tank, with a 150 mile range running at 1.5 miles per gallon depending on sea conditions, and a maximum speed of 30 knots. It also has a generator and cabin air condition. Comes equipped with dual sonar mounts and desk area in cabin. Vessel has all Coast Guard required safety equipment on board.

3. “Le Moyne” - A 29' Aluminum Chambered Boat (ACB) with twin 150 horsepower Suzuki motors. It has a 130 gallon fuel tank with a range of 130 miles with an average of 1.0 miles per gallon depending on sea conditions and speed. It has the ability to store extra fuel on deck which will extend the range. The ACB has a fast response hull configuration and is able reach speeds of 30 knots in good seas and designed to handle
rougher conditions if needed. A 5kw generator is on board and able to produce substantial amount of 110v electrical power. Open deck area with a davit boom and electric wench available. Vessel instrumentation components include a C120 RayMarine chart plotter with radar. Vessel has all Coast Guard required safety equipment on board.

Fees for boat and associated vehicle usage are as follows:

**Day rate for the GCGC Boat: $600.00 plus fuel.**
**Day rate for the skiff: $150.00 plus fuel.**
**Day rate for the Le Moyne: $700.00 plus fuel. (Assume 1 nm/gal.)**
**Boat driver: $30/hour (including associated driving time to/from launch site). Note that if you provide your own boat pilot, that person must be certified by the department.**
**Mileage rate for trucks and vans (for passenger transport as well as trailering of boats): charged at federal mileage reimbursement rate ($0.50/mile as of 9/1/2010).**

For non-USM users, we currently require that we provide the boat driver and also passengers must sign a liability waiver.

For USM users, you MUST file a float plan before we will release a boat to you. The float plan form can be found on Coral in the Boat Forms directory. This directory also includes boat operations procedures and pre-cruise checklists. You may fuel DMS vehicles at the SSC service station and pay for the fuel using a USM Purchasing Card. This is the only location where P-card's are authorized to pay for fuel.