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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 & Port \_\_\_\_\_  
Document / Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Year / Make \_\_\_\_\_  
Length \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_  
Hull & Trim Color \_\_\_\_\_  
Unique Feature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNICATIONS: (Check all onboard & supply requested information)

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

### PROPULSION:

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ hp \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_  
Auxiliary: \_\_\_\_\_ hp \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

### NAVIGATION: (Check all onboard)

Maps  Charts  Compass  Navigation Rules  
 GPS  Radar  Loran C  \_\_\_\_\_

## SAFETY & SURVIVAL

### PFDs: (Specify quantity)

\_\_\_\_ Type I  
\_\_\_\_ Type II  
\_\_\_\_ Type III  
\_\_\_\_ Type IV  
\_\_\_\_ Type V

### VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS: (Specify quantity)

\_\_\_\_ Mirror (Day only)  
\_\_\_\_ Red or Orange Distress Flag (Day only)  
\_\_\_\_ Orange Smoke, Floating (Day & Night)  
\_\_\_\_ Red Distress Flares (Day & Night)  
\_\_\_\_ Electric distress light (Night only)

### AUDIBLE DISTRESS SIGNALS:

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

### MEDICAL/HEALTH:

First Aid  
 Food/Water \_\_\_\_\_ (days)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### GROUND TACKLE: (Check all onboard & supply requested information)

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

### OTHER GEAR:

Survival Suit(s)  Flashlight / Searchlight  
 Safety Harness  Life Rafts: \_\_\_\_\_ (Qty) Lifeboats: \_\_\_\_\_ (Qty)  
 Sea Anchor  EPIRB Freq: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fire Extinguisher  \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONS ON BOARD

### OPERATOR:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Notes (Medical Condition, Can't Swim, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Drivers License \_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle (Year, Make & Model) \_\_\_\_\_ License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Where will trailer be parked? \_\_\_\_\_ License No. \_\_\_\_\_

### PASSENGERS:

	Name & Home Phone	Age	Sex	Notes (Medical Condition, Can't Swim, etc.)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

## ITINERARY

	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	MODE OF TRAVEL	REASON FOR STOP	CHECK-IN TIME
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**