

FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

SAFETY AWARENESS ABOARD R/V MANTA

In preparation for your trip aboard R/V MANTA, please review the following introductory comments regarding safety and the use of personal protective equipment aboard the vessel. If you have any questions about the following information, it is important that you address those questions with your Project Lead and MANTA's Marine Operations Coordinator, LTJG Dustin Picard, *prior to* the day of departure.

General Safety Considerations

Safety considerations aboard a vessel at sea are entirely different from those encountered at home or in the “average” workplace. Although MANTA is typically quite stable, it is important to note that the way in which any vessel behaves at sea is sometimes unpredictable. You should maintain a secure hold on the vessel with at least one hand at all times, especially when moving about the vessel. While transiting at high speeds, we have a policy to avoid the main deck area. It is the best practice to remain seated inside, but there is plenty of seating to get fresh air on the top deck as well. If you think you may be prone to seasickness, you might want to consider taking over-the-counter motion sickness medication, (e.g., Meclizine) as directed by the manufacturer. Read the directions carefully, as many motion sickness medications are most effective when taken the *day before* departure. Communication is an important means to ensure safe and efficient operations aboard, so report to the vessel crew any potential safety hazards that you notice.

Safety Briefing

Prior to departure, you will be required to attend a complete safety briefing with a vessel crewmember, to orient you to the layout of the vessel and the safety equipment carried aboard. The briefing will identify types of safety equipment and storage locations, station bill duties, and the boat's equipment specific to your operation. Your undivided attention is required during the briefing, as that will be the perfect time to ask questions or communicate any last-minute concerns that you may have regarding your trip. The safety briefing is separate from the operations meetings, which is also a requirement.

Personal Protective Equipment

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required whenever you are involved with operations that are being conducted aboard MANTA. The safety briefing provided at the start of your trip will include information on the specific safety equipment requirements for your planned mission(s). The following non-negotiable safety equipment rules apply to all operations, at all times.

1. Close-toed shoes are required on all exterior weather decks, at all times. These shoes should cover majority of the entire foot, including full cover of the toes. Dive booties are allowed during dive operations, but close-toed shoes should be donned as soon after the completion of dive operations as possible.
2. Close-toed shoes, hardhats, and work vests are required during all over-head operations, including crane, winch or A-Frame operations. This equipment is required

even if you are not participating directly, but remain in the vicinity of those operations. Close-toed shoes are also required during anchor deployment and recovery operations, particularly when using the windlass. Open-toed shoes are strictly prohibited during all on-deck operations.

3. As a precaution when heavy gear (over 100lbs) is lifted, steel-toed shoes are required.
4. Work vests (PFD's) are required whenever working over-the-side regardless of location of activities, whether it be on the dive step, tending divers, or participating in skiff operations.
5. Work vests (PFD's) and hard hats are required when handling lines for skiff deployment and recovery.
6. Hearing protection is required whenever noise levels exceed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) 8-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) for exposure to noise(s) over 80 Decibels. Hearing protection is required when operating the dive compressors and in other cases as the crew directs.

PPE such as hardhats, work vests, ear plugs, work gloves, safety glasses, and limited number of pairs of steel-toed shoes are provided aboard. Please check on availability before the cruise. Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) strongly recommends that you identify the safety requirements specific to your mission(s) and consider purchasing any required specialized equipment prior to departure. Most people are both safer and more comfortable in gear that fits properly.

Harassment / Discrimination

Sexual harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated aboard the R/V MANTA. This applies to all persons, including members of the operating crew and any scientific or other personnel. Sexual harassment is sex (gender) discrimination that involves inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, which can include both verbal and physical behavior. Some examples of such behavior include pressure for dates or sex, sexually suggestive looks, comments or gestures, sexual jokes, displaying material of a sexual nature, and deliberate touching. Conduct is inappropriate if it is unsolicited and an individual finds it uncomfortable, undesirable and/or offensive.

Further, NOAA, FGBNMS, and the R/V MANTA remain committed to eradicate discrimination and harassment in the workplace. This includes discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy discrimination), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age (40 years of age and over), genetic information, or disability (physical or mental), and forms of harassment, which create a hostile or offensive work environment. Discrimination or harassment in any form will not be tolerated aboard the R/V MANTA.

All instances of discrimination or harassment should be immediately reported to your supervisor, the Principal Investigator, and/or the Captain. In the event this is not possible, please contact Sanctuary Superintendent G.P. Schmahl at george.schmahl@noaa.gov or 409-356-0383 or 979-229-6542 (cell). The NOAA harassment helpline can be reached at 1-866-288-6558.

General information

Food, water, and sodas are provided. Linens, including sheets, blanket, pillows and cases, and a towel are provided for each person. R/V MANTA has a no smoking, no alcohol policy.

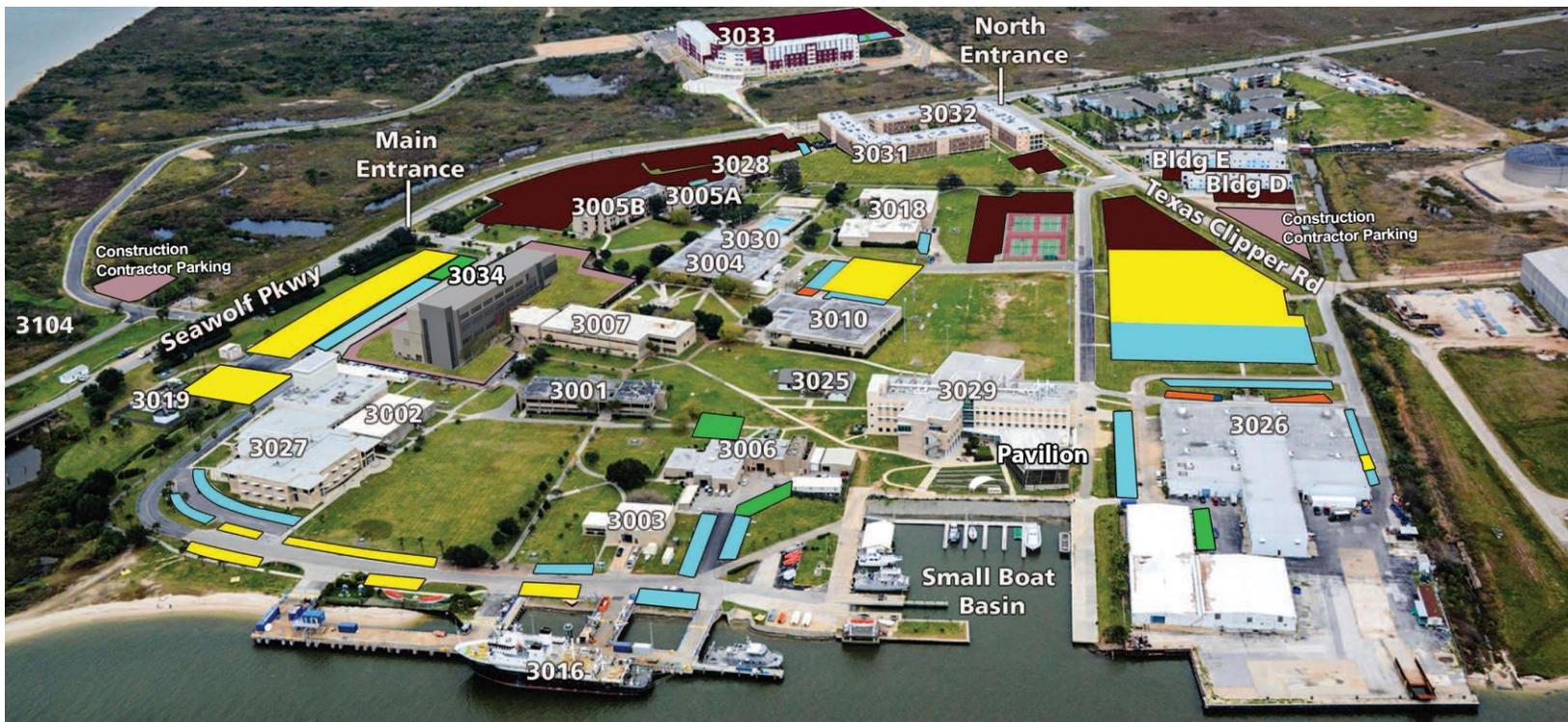
The MANTA is equipped with a NOAA Scientific Computer System, which logs the following data: GPS, heading, vessel heave, pitch, roll, sea temperature, conductivity, salinity, sound velocity, chlorophyll-a, CDOM, turbidity, backscatter, wind speed, wind direction, air temperature, relative humidity, and barometric pressure. The data is collected continuously on each cruise, and available to science parties upon request.

Please send a confirmation email stating that you have reviewed and understand these safety considerations one day prior to departure. Send your email including your name, project title, and project date(s) to MANTA's Operations Coordinator, LTJG Dustin Picard or Leslie Clift. Please feel free to include any safety-related questions that you may have in the body of your e-mail message. Thank you for helping us to maintain safer, more efficient operations aboard MANTA, and we look forward to welcoming you aboard! Dustin.R.Picard@noaa.gov or Leslie.Clift@noaa.gov

Driving Directions

The R/V MANTA is docked on at Texas A&M University-Galveston on Pelican Island.

1. South on I45/Broadway
2. Left on 51st Street
3. After crossing the bridge over to Pelican Island, take first right into TAMUG campus.
4. Follow road around to the right, curve left along waterfront.
5. R/V MANTA is docked on the far east end of the pier.
6. If unloading heavy equipment, vehicle may be pulled onto the dock for a short period of time.
7. Park vehicles in designated commuter spaces. A \$15 per day fee is associated with on campus parking.



- Resident Parking
- Commuter Parking
- Faculty & Staff Parking
- Authorized Vehicle Parking
- Visitor Parking

FOR MINORS PARTICIPATING IN R/V MANTA ACTIVITIES:

Please send the signed Parental Consent Form below, stating that you have reviewed and understand these safety considerations and that you acknowledge that your son/daughter will be participating in a day trip aboard R/V MANTA. Either scan the signed paperwork, or fill out the Consent Form, along with the Emergency Contact Information form, and fax it to MANTA'S Operations Coordinator, LTJG Dustin Picard or Leslie Clift. Please send any safety-related questions to the email address below. Thank you for helping us to maintain safer, more efficient operations aboard MANTA, and we look forward to welcoming you aboard!

Dustin.R.Picard@noaa.gov or Leslie.Clift@noaa.gov

Fax: 409-621-1316

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

I am aware my son/daughter _____ will be on a research vessel, R/V MANTA during a cruise on (insert dates) _____.

I have read the Safety Awareness Aboard letter and give permission for my son/daughter to participate in this activity. Any concerns have been addressed by the Project Coordinator or the Vessel Operations Coordinator, LTJG Dustin Picard.

Participant Name (printed) _____

Parent/Guardian (printed and signed) _____

Date _____