

## BEFORE YOU BOARD

In preparation for your trip aboard R/V SHEARWATER, 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 SHEARWATER's Operations Coordinator, LTJG Matthew Davis, [Matthew Davis@noaa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Davis@noaa.gov) or by Telephone: 805.450.1504 *prior to* the day of departure. R/V SHEARWATER is located in Marine 4, Endtie, Santa Barbara Harbor.

### General Safety Considerations

Safety considerations aboard a vessel at sea are entirely different from those encountered at home or in the "average" workplace. Although SHEARWATER 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. When transiting from the harbor to your working grounds and later back to the harbor, it is best practice to remain seated for as much of the transit as possible. If you think you may be prone to sea-sickness, you might want to consider taking over-the-counter motion sickness medication, as directed by the manufacturer. Read the directions carefully, as some motion sickness medications are most effective when taken the day before departure, and all medications have side effects.

Emergency Contact Number Please provide an emergency contact name and phone number to the Chief Scientist/Cruise Leader one week before the date of the cruise so it may be included in the cruise plan. Your emergency contact should be able to answer basic questions regarding your health in the advent of an emergency.

### Chain of Command and Implied Consent

When you come aboard the Shearwater, be advised that you are consenting to comply with the Standing Orders of the vessel, posted signs and the instructions of the crew. The captain has the final authority and responsibility to make decisions on the safe operations of the vessel. All operations aboard the vessel are conducted by willing parties, and each person aboard the vessel has the right not to participate if he/she feels it is unsafe, short of an emergency. The management of the site also has authority to stop, or with consent of the captain, change or initiate operations. A copy of the Standing Orders is available on the bridge, or via email if requested.

### Considering Fitness and Health

Please take some time to consider your own fitness and state of health before coming aboard. You will likely encounter erratic rocking and rolling of the vessel while it is out at sea, and need to be able to safely move about the vessel and up and down the ladders. The vessel often takes spray over the side and decks may become slippery, making movement about the vessel more difficult than on land. An additional consideration concerning health is the remote nature of the Channel Islands. The Shearwater can operate as much as six hours from professional medical care and carries only basic first aid supplies and an AED. Please keep this in mind when considering whether to bring medications you have been prescribed. In the event of an emergency, you will be required to don a life vest and board an inflatable life boat from a height of four feet. Please consider these factors when determining whether to come aboard. Also, be considerate of the fact that you will be in close proximity to your shipmates for long periods of time. Feel free to discretely inform the captain of medical conditions you feel might impact your own or other's safety at sea.

### 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 also address those safety requirements that are specific to your planned operations. 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.

### Personal Protective Equipment

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required whenever you are involved with operations that are being conducted aboard SHEARWATER. 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) **Closed toed, closed heel shoes** must be worn aboard the Shearwater. The only exception is on extended research trips and only inside the cabin. Steel toed boots are highly recommended for any operations involving lifting.
- 2) **PFDs must be worn during all operations** with the safety chains down, line handling while underway, launching and riding in the skiff, launching and recovering equipment over the side and especially working from the swim step. A full wetsuit may substitute for a PFD during dive operations.
- 3) **Hardhats must be worn** during all operations involving lifting equipment, and will be supply by the boat.
- 4) **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. (Common, household devices that produce comparable noise levels include doorbells, ringing telephones, and coffee grinders.) The crew will provide specific guidance on those locations where hearing protection is necessary.

PPE such as hardhats, work vests, hearing protection, work gloves, safety glasses (both indoor and outdoor), and steel-toed rubber boots is carried aboard the vessel, and all embarked personnel will have access to PPE as necessary. Crewmembers will direct you to the locations in which PPE is stored when appropriate. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) strongly recommends, however, 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.

### Weather Considerations

The weather in the Channel Islands can vary greatly, even within the span of a few hours. Conditions in Santa Barbara Harbor are often deceptively calm, while offshore is quite rough. A risk analysis is conducted by the crew before getting under way to determine whether operations can be conducted safely and considers a wide range of factors. A good rule of thumb is, operations during small craft advisories are more often than not, cancelled. Operations or transits during Gale warnings are avoided in all but the most extreme circumstances.

### Provisioning

On day trips please bring your own lunch. On overnight trips, please work with the Chief Scientist/Cruise Leader to see that any special dietary requirements are addressed before departure. The vessel has a microwave, refrigerator and small electric range.

### Berthing (overnight trips only)

There are six bunks available to scientist. No linens or pillows are provided by the vessel.

### Dive Trips

If you are planning to conduct dives from the R/V SHEARWATER, a dive plan needs to be on file with the UDS (Unit Dive Supervisor) Steve Katz before getting underway. There are extensive requirements to dive under a reciprocity agreement with NOAA. Please begin the process with the UDS no later than one month prior to the start of operations. Conducting working dives such as mooring maintenance and equipment installation require specially planning and reciprocity above scientific reciprocity such as AAUS.

### Location

R/V SHEARWATER's home slip is in Santa Barbara Harbor Marina 4, 113 Harbor Way Santa Barbara, CA. Parking in the harbor is available for a fee.

To confirm that you have reviewed and understand these safety considerations prior to departure, please click on the link below to e-mail your **name, project title, and project date(s)** to SHEARWATER'S Operations Coordinator, LT Matthew Davis. 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 SHEARWATER, and we look forward to welcoming you aboard! [Cinms.opscoord@noaa.gov](mailto:Cinms.opscoord@noaa.gov)