

## SMM 7.1.5 Boat Operations and Qualifications

### Procedure

- The Master must approve all boat operations, and determine the suitability of the crew for the conditions. He/she also ensures the crew is qualified.
- At the Master's discretion for a unique boat operation, new operators, or in rough weather, a risk assessment shall be completed.
- Science operations may have to end temporarily for launch and recovery.
- The Duty Deck Officer must be informed of any boat operations so the vessel can be in the best position in relation to the current conditions for launch and recovery.
- All personnel in boat operations must have their names logged in the Deck Log.
- Personnel aboard the boat must don a life vest and helmet prior to loading.
- Extreme care shall be taken during launch, recovery and operation of the boat and each deck department member shall understand their duties in each phase.
- The safety of the personnel in the boat, and the operational integrity of the boat are of the utmost importance.
- The boat operator, while underway, is in command and responsible for the embarked personnel and safe operation of the boat. All persons in the boat shall follow the Boat Operator's instructions.
- The boat must be loaded in accordance with its capacity and the prevailing conditions.
- Sufficient personnel must prepare the boat for launch.
- The Boat Operator must ensure that the boat is operationally ready for launch or recovery, including what the mission is and a communications check. The Master shall ensure that a qualified deck officer is present to direct the launch and recovery operations.
- The Boat Operator shall:
  1. Confer with the Deck Duty Officer and the science party.
  2. Establish communications with the Bridge, Science Lab or Deck.
  3. Ensure proper equipment for recovery of gear and personnel is available and operate the boat within safe operating parameters.
  4. Check with the Bridge before each launch and recovery.
  5. Properly secure and stow boat after each use.

### Deck

- Deck Department personnel shall be required to assist in the maintenance of the boat's hull, equipment and davit arrangements.

### Engineering

- The vessel's small boat's machinery and handling equipment is to be maintained by the Engineering Department.
  - Engineering department may be called on to operate and or ride in the small boats and must be familiar with the propulsion and the machinery.
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