
RV APALACHEE



Cruise Planning Manual Revised 08/16/2023



Florida State University
Coastal & Marine Laboratory
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INTRODUCTION

This manual has been prepared to acquaint researchers with the capabilities of the Research Vessel (RV) APALACHEE and policies for conducting oceanographic research from this vessel. We hope the information contained in this manual will be helpful as you prepare to go to sea.

The RV APALACHEE was built by GEO Shipyards, Inc., in New Iberia, Louisiana. The APALACHEE commenced her maiden voyage from New Iberia to the home port in St. Teresa, FL, on 24 January 2013, arriving on 25 January 2013. The vessel is owned by the Florida State University (FSU) and is operated by the FSU Coastal and Marine Lab (FSUCML). FSU is a member of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) but is not a UNOLS vessel.

MARINE OPERATIONS

History of FSU Research Vessels

The FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory have operated small coastal research vessels since its inception in 1968. The first of these ships, the RV TURSIOPS (1968-1978), was a 60-ft steel-hulled converted Navy T-boat (T-458) Boat Captained by Joe Barber, with Bobby Millender as the First Mate. This vessel was used by FSU scientists to conduct work throughout Florida coastal waters. For the following three years, the FSUCML only operated small outboard and pontoon boats. The next vessel, the RV SEMINOLE (1981-2012), was a 46-ft diesel-powered craft that was secured from U. S. Customs, arriving in 1981. Boat Captains for this ship included Steve Wilson, Mike Lavender, and Rosanne Weglinski. The ship was decommissioned at about the same time that construction started on the RV APALACHEE.

Marine Operations Group

The Marine Operations Group is responsible for the supporting the science conducted from the RV APALACHEE as well as the day-to-day operation and maintenance. Personnel include the Facilities & Marine Operations Director, the Boat Captain, the first mate, marine technicians, and the Reservations Coordinator. The Facilities & Marine Operations Director is the primary contact for maintaining, calibrating, and operating a broad range of equipment, ship operations, and fiscal management of the operation. The Boat Captain is responsible for cruise logistics, pre- and post-cruise staging, specifications for vessel maintenance and repair, shipyard planning, regulatory adherence, and compliance reporting. In matters of navigation and the safety of the Vessel, crew, scientific party, and equipment, the judgment of the Boat Captain shall be controlling at all time. The Charterer shall provide the Boat Captain with direction as to the Vessel requirements needed to accomplish the scientific mission during the cruise. The first mate assists the Boat Captain in all duties and serves as an alternate captain. Marine Technicians provide assistance in the operation, maintenance, and repair of shipboard scientific equipment and help to ensure its safe operation. The Reservations Coordinator assists with scheduling and fiscal management.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Marine Operations Director: Capt. Matt Edwards medwards5@fsu.edu , (850) 645 – 3470

Assistant Director: Travis Mohrman tmohrman@fsu.edu, (850) 645 – 3482

Captains: Capt. Matt Edwards and Capt. Cullen Morris ccmorris@fsu.edu

Reservations Coordinator: Durene Gilbert degilbert@fsu.edu, (850) 645 - 3485

CRUISE PLANNING

Cruise Scheduling

Requests for ship time are submitted online through the FSUCML reservation system at the following link: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/facilities/reservations/> . Cruises are scheduled according to ship availability and capability, area of operation, and equipment requirements. Transit times for RV APALACHEE are calculated using a ship speed of 18 knots.

Cruise length and costs for ship time are based on a ship-operating day, which is defined as any day away from the FSUCML dock, including the day of departure and the day of return to the home port. A day equals 24 hours or less. Thus, the cruise length and costs includes days of transit as well as days at sea to conduct scientific operations. Departure and return times will be coordinated between the Boat Captain and Chief Scientist/PI, as influenced in part by tidal cycles at the FSUCML.

If the vessel does not leave the FSUCML dock (= home port) during the scheduled time-range due to delays caused by weather, late Boat Captains, vessel-related malfunction – that is, delays not caused by the Charterer -- then the Charterer is not responsible for payment during the additional time in the homeport. When the vessel docks away from the home port during the chartered period, the Charterer incurs daily vessel fees and dockage fees when the intent is to avoid bad weather, make Charterer crew changes, fuel the vessel, or any other reason precipitated by the Charterer. The Charterer does *not* incur these charges if the vessel docks away from the home port during the chartered period for vessel-related malfunctions not caused by Charterer or for FSUCML Boat Captain or crew changes.

The Boat Captain must receive in writing the name of the person on board the vessel who has the authority to make port call decisions and the authority to terminate a cruise for reasons other than the safety of the vessel and crew (which is a call made by the Captain).

For all cruises longer than eight (8) hours, two (2) FSUCML Boat Captains or a Boat Captain and First Mate serving as an alternate Captain, shall be on board the vessel at all times, consistent with U.S. Coast Guard regulations .

Cruise Questionnaire and Cruise Plan

The Chief Scientist or Principal Investigator (PI) is expected to complete and submit a **cruise questionnaire and a synopsis of the cruise plan** to the Reservation Coordinator once their cruise is scheduled on the RV APALACHEE. This alerts the Marine Operations Group to the logistical and scientific requirements of the cruise. Once the Marine Operations Group has reviewed the material, the Boat Captain will contact the Chief Scientist/PI directly if they have any questions. Two weeks prior to departure, the Chief Scientist/PI is required to submit a **final cruise plan** to the Fiscal Coordinator.

Requirements for Technical Support on Cruises

If marine technical support is required for the cruise, please inform the Boat Captain in advance so that arrangements can be made to provide this support to the Chief Scientist/PI at the current technician day rate.

Science Party Cruise Forms

Each member of the science party must complete a **Shipboard Scientific Personnel Form** that includes a medical profile and the FSUCML Acknowledgment of Responsibility. These forms are mandatory and must be completed and provided to the Reservation Coordinator one week before the cruise departure. An FSUCML Hold Harmless Agreement is required for any member of the science party under 18 years of age to participate on a cruise. The form must be completed and signed by both the minor and a parent or guardian one week before the cruise. Final approval rests with the Marine Operations Director. All forms referenced above can be found at <https://www.marinelab.fsu.edu> .

If anyone in the science party has a special medical requirement or dietary requirements that need to be accommodated during the cruise, please make this information known in advance to the Boat Captain and state on the Shipboard Scientific Personnel Form. Persons coming on board with medications that need to be refrigerated should make this known to the Boat Captain or Marine Operations Director. All medical information about members of the science party is kept in strict confidence.

Insurance is not provided for persons on board who are not employed by the State of Florida. Individuals not covered by their respective institution's liability insurance (worker's compensation) should make provisions for this type of coverage. All members of the scientific party are required to complete an FSUCML Waiver - https://marinelab.fsu.edu/media/1148/fsucml_general_waiver.pdf

Meals and Special Dietary Requirements

Food for cruises will be purchased by the Chief Scientist/PI or his/her designee on the cruise. Meal preparation is the shared responsibility of the science party members.

Science Party Berthing

With the exception of the Boat Captain's cabin, all other quarters are located on the main deck. Berths are available in the forward quarters in a separate room (sleeps 4). In addition, the bank table converts to a double bed (sleeps 2). Each bunk in the forward quarters has an associated closet. The Chief Scientist/PI assigns science party berths. Additional cots are available upon request.

Scientific Diving

Chief Scientist/Pis planning diving operations should consult with the FSU Diving Safety Officer (DSO) well in advance of their cruise to ensure enough time to obtain required authorization from the DSO for scientific diving to be conducted from RV APALACHEE. The expectation is that all science divers are active AAUS divers. Small boats are available, as needed, to support diving operations.

Hazardous Materials

The Science Officer and Boat Captain must be notified in the pre-cruise questionnaire for the planned use of chemicals, gasoline, compressed gases, and/or cryogenic gases. The information provided should include the chemical name, common name, type of compound, and its classification. Some materials are restricted as to where they may be used or stored on the vessel and advance warning of impending arrival will simplify cruise loading. Prior to the cruise departing, the Chief Scientist/PI must provide the Boat Captain with a chemical inventory and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each hazardous material brought onboard. The Chief Scientist/PI is responsible for insuring the proper packing, labeling, shipping, and disposal of all hazardous materials, waste materials, and empty containers associated with their project. In no case will the responsibility be passed to the ship's crew, Marine Technicians, or FSUCML personnel unless arrangements are made with the Marine Operations Director in advance.

Gas cylinders must always be secured and when not in use stowed in an upright position with the valve protective cap in place. The ship has a variety of brackets that are available for securing single cylinders and double compressed gas cylinders. The Marine Technician can provide these brackets.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL

The science party and their support personnel may berth in the FSUCML dormitories before or after cruises by making a reservation online prior to cruise departure <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/facilities/rates-reservations/>. Boarding of Scientific Personnel will be coordinated with the Boat Captain.

Receiving, Loading & Off-loading Equipment:

The FSUCML has space set-aside for the reception, storage and staging of advance shipments of cruise equipment. Advance staging requirements should be coordinated with the Marine Operations Director well ahead of cruise departure. For your and our protection, we are not responsible for unannounced or unaccompanied shipments. Shipments should be sent to:

Florida State Coastal & Marine Laboratory
3618 Highway 98
St Teresa, FL 32358

ATTN: R/V Apalachee Captain, Reservation # & Name of Chief Scientist/PI

The Chief Scientist/PI is responsible for ALL SHIPPING COSTS and all SPECIALIZED STAGING COSTS at departure and termination ports, including the home port and at all other ports. This includes shore crane rental, containers, ship's agent fees, storage, forklifts, trucking, etc. The Chief Scientist/PI is also responsible for making all arrangements (including paperwork) for equipment and cruise gear to be trucked or shipped back to their home institution at the end of the cruise. Ship's crew and technicians will assist loading gear onto trucks or taking gear to FSU Shipping and Receiving for return shipment but they are not responsible for packing, securing or labeling boxes for shipment.

In St. Teresa, FL, the ship will normally be available for loading on the day following arrival from the previous cruise and will be offloaded on the day of return. Cruise preparations requiring more port time, vessel services, or crew assistance will require careful planning to prevent conflicts. Routine vessel maintenance and logistics can interfere with laboratory setup. To minimize disruptions, please consult with the Boat Captain well in advance so we can plan for your loading and setup requirements. Crew rest must be provided for during in port periods. When in port the crew typically works from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rest requirements dictate that loading extending beyond 4 p.m. will not permit the ship to depart until the next day.

Scientific Personnel forms, Cruise Questionnaire, Cruise Plan and Waiver can be downloaded at the following link: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/facilities/rates-reservations/>

R/V Apalachee Cruise Calendar can also be viewed here: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/marine-ops/apalachee/calendar/>