

Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) Boating Operations

1. Scope

The Boating Operations Program applies to any boats that are:

- University owned, leased, hired, or by any other means under the direct control of the University of Queensland that are accessing Heron Island; and
- Being used for official University of Queensland business including transportation of users and materials (excluding contract owner-driver boats).

2. Objectives

- Ensure boats are used in a responsible and legal manner;
- Protect sensitive areas from damage from boats; and
- To minimise the potential environmental damage from the operation of boats.

3. Using Boats on Heron Island

3.1 Licensing and Authorisation

For any boat used on Heron Island by staff, researchers, students, visitors, etc of HIRS, the operator must hold a valid license to operate the boats (Australian Recreational Shipmaster Licence or a Commercial licence as applicable). For University owned or leased boats, the operator must hold appropriate authorisation from the section, centre or school responsible.

3.2 Legal Use

All boats must be operated in accordance with relevant waterways regulations.

3.3 Permits and Reporting Access

The Heron Island Research Station is the University's visible presence for the Heron Island Community. Any activity undertaken by the University is generally assumed to be associated with the Research Station and any issues raised by the community is often directed to the station.

3.3.1 Reporting Access

Any access by a University controlled and/or signed boat on or around Heron Island Reef and Wistari Reef must be reported to the Research Station Manager. The "*Notification for Accessing Heron Island and Surrounds*" form is attached in Appendix 1. If you are required to

submit a “*Notification for Accessing Heron Island and Surrounds*” (refer to the details on the form), follow the directions on the form to complete and submit it.

3.3.2 Permits

You may be required to carry permits for boat access or to conduct research in certain areas around Heron Island and its surrounds. Refer to the details below on possible requirements for permits and ensure these are gained.

3.4 Boats

All boats will use, where possible, marked channels. General boating operations may be limited to certain areas. Please refer to HIRS Boating and Diving Manual.

4. Maintenance

4.1 Refuelling

Boats, or removable fuel tanks are to be refuelled at designated refuelling sites. For information regarding the location of refuelling areas, see HIRS manager.

For large boats that are not removed from the water on a regular basis, refuelling is only to be performed by licensed and/or qualified operators and in areas designated for in water refuelling.

Smaller vessels with switchable tanks (i.e. a removable petrol tank) may change tanks at shore without being removed from the water. Tanks are not to be filled at the shore. Any reserve or extra tanks must be removed from the vessel and refuelled in the manner described above. When transferring fuel tanks between the shore and the vessel, both tanks (full and empty) must be sealed (capped). Caps on full tanks shall only be removed once inside the boat and in a location where any spillage will be contained with in the vessel.

4.2 Washing

Boats should be washed to remove dirt and saltwater at HIRS on the washdown slab. Washing should be performed with a minimum of water and biodegradable detergents as supplied by HIRS.

Engine washouts for boats may be performed at HIRS. However, the times these can be undertaken is restricted by noise regulations (refer to the noise program in this manual).

Any other washing (i.e. degreasing), must be undertaken at the washdown pad.

5. Transporting

5.1 People

In accordance with above, all boats will only be used to transport the licensed number of occupants.

5.2 Dangerous Goods

Boats will only be permitted to transport goods it can legally carry, **including fuel**. i.e. any chemicals, radioactive material, etc must be transported in quantities legally permitted to be

carried in the boat under the Dangerous Goods Code. The OH&S Manager must be advised well in advance of the transport of any dangerous goods.

Any person transporting dangerous goods must be qualified to do so.

Unless specifically designed to or when ever possible, dangerous goods shall not be stored on boats when not in use or unattended

5.3 Spills

Any boats carrying any type of dangerous good must carry adequate spill kits to contain and clean up the transported materials (Note: provision does not need be made for quantities of fuel carried in fixed, internal fuel tanks). For water borne vessels, equipment in spill kits must be suitable for containing and absorbing spills that float on water also.

6. Responsibilities

Use of boats by the University is the responsibility of the authorised operator of that boat under the guidelines of the school that owns the boat.

7. Documents

All documents issued with respect to boating operations are held by the school that owns the boat, or the manager, Heron Island Research Station or delegate as required. The term documents for the purpose of this program includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Logbooks;
- Checklists;
- Notes;
- Letters;
- Invoices;
- Reports;
- Electronic Information; and
- Permissions.

8. Enquiries

For further information regarding use of boats refer to Table 1.

Table 1. Boating and Motor Vehicle Operations Contacts

Subject	Contact	Person	Telephone
Permissions	HIRS	Manager	(07) 4978 1399
Accessible Areas	HIRS	Manager	(07) 4978 1399
Transport of Dangerous Goods	Occupational Health and Safety Unit	Manager	(07) 336 52563
Refuelling and Servicing Locations	HIRS	Manager	(07) 4978 1399

Notification for Accessing Stradbroke Island and Surrounds

You are required to submit this form if the vessel you are using is being taken on to Heron Island or the waters surrounding Heron and Wistari Reefs is:

- University signed (University of Queensland decals or stickers displayed).
- Leased, hired, rented, or in any other way under short term contract, to any University of Queensland section, school or centre.
- Is in any other way distinguishable as being used for official University business.

1. Make of Vessel: _____

2. Registration Number: _____

3. Name of Driver/Operator: _____

Contact Details: _____

Extension/Phone: _____

4. Owner of Vessel: _____

5. Arrival Date: _____

6. Departure Date: _____

7. Do you require a permit to conduct your research in any particular areas of Heron Island or its surrounds?

yes (go to question 8)

no (go to question 9)

8. List the areas you are accessing by permit, the dates you are accessing them and the permit number (if applicable). Copies of the permit showing the permit number and valid dates must be attached.

Area to be accessed	Will be accessed		Permit Number
	From	To	

9. Signature of Driver/Operator: _____

Date: _____

Forward the completed form to:

Paper copy: fax: 07 4972 4173
 Post: Heron Island Research Station
 Attention: Mr Ted Upton
 Heron Island
 Via Gladstone QLD 4680

Electronic copy: email: hirs@uq.edu.au