

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CENTAL REGION SUPPLEMENT 09-2005
APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-310
December 5, 2005***

***OPERATIONS AND SERVICES
MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICES, NWSPD 10-3
MARINE WEATHER, NWSI 10-310***

FAMILIARIZATION FLOAT PROGRAM

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: W/CR1x3 (G. Schmeling)

Certified by: W/CR1 (J. M. Looney)

Type of Issuance: Initial

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This is a new Central Region supplement that details the Central Region Familiarization (Fam) Float Program.

(Signed by)
Gary S. Foltz
Acting Regional Director

November 17, 2005
Date

<u>Table of Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Eligibility	2
3. Familiarization Float Pay Status	2
4. Requesting Fam Float Authorization.....	3
5. Suspension of Fam Float Privileges.....	3

1. Introduction. The objective of the Familiarization Float (Fam Float) Program is to provide an opportunity for NWS marine forecasters to learn directly from “end users” the operational needs and concerns of boaters, and how weather affects marine operations and decision-making of the boat crew.

2. Eligibility. All Meteorologists working at offices that issue marine products are eligible to participate in the program; Meteorological Interns who have completed the training requirements of the forecaster Development Program (FDP); Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs): and supervisors and program managers of local and regional marine programs are eligible to participate in the Fam Float Program.

3. Familiarization Float Pay Status. While participating in a Fam Float, NWS personnel will be in regular duty status. NWS personnel are in duty status when en route to, and from, the vessel (including both to and from residence and port-of-call lodging) and while onboard the vessel. However, daily duty status cannot be more than the number of regularly-scheduled work hours.

While not on regular duty status, NWS personnel must be on scheduled days off or leave status as authorized by the participant’s supervisor.

No overtime or compensatory time for work or travel, holiday pay, or Sunday or night differential will be granted while participating on a Fam Float.

At the discretion of the participant’s supervisor, annual leave may be taken in conjunction with a Fam Float, but in no case will the Fam Float exceed 144 hours from the scheduled time of departure of the vessel to its scheduled destination.

The NWS will NOT pay travel or per diem expenses for Fam Floats. However, reimbursement for emergency or unexpected expenses resulting from schedule changes or delays, or travel associated with ‘one way’ Fam Floats may be requested on a case by case basis and paid from local office funds.

4. Requesting Fam Float Authorization. A participant wishing to go on a Fam Float must receive approval from both his/her supervisor and the Central Region Marine Program Manager. In the regional program manager's absence, approval should be obtained from the Chief, Central Region Services Division. After receiving approval from both, the participant should, if appropriate, coordinate with the Central Region PMO and the vessel operator to determine the availability, and schedule of the vessel(s).

Travel will be performed under the office's Blanket Travel Order (BTO). The Trip Authorization should include the following statement in "Remarks"; "Familiarization Float authorized in accordance with NWS CR Supplement xx-205." A copy of the Trip Authorization must be provided to the Central Region Marine Program Manager prior to the participant's departure.

Within two weeks of the completion of the Fam Float, the participant will submit a report summarizing his/her experiences to the CR Marine Program Manager.

Central Region Headquarters (CRH) strongly suggests each participant send a note of thanks to the vessel operator and/or its headquarters after completion of a Fam Float.

5. Suspension of Fam Float Privileges. CRH may suspend Fam Float privileges of individuals who do not adhere to the guidelines provided in this Supplement.