

## KML Education & Research Boating & Snorkeling (Free diving) Agreement

*\*\*Please review with all members of your group*

As **Principal Investigator (PI)/Group Leader** from \_\_\_\_\_, students in my care understand that all forms of ocean recreation activities, including but not limited to snorkeling (free diving) and boating (collectively the "Activities") have inherent risks and dangers associated with them. Persons not in good physical condition, pregnant, with heart conditions, asthma (exercise or cold-induced), back or neck injuries, open wounds and recent surgeries should not participate in the *Activities*.

\_\_\_\_\_**1. They agree that if they participate with an in-water snorkeling activity that they can swim and have the skills to snorkel in the open ocean with no assistance. If they cannot swim they agree to remain on the boat/vessel at all times. They also agree that they will not expect the Released Parties to teach them how to swim or snorkel and that prior to the activity they will have the skills necessary to participate without assistance. It is required that the PI or Group Leader possess at least minimal snorkel skills. (Recommended minimal skills supplied upon request)**

\_\_\_\_\_**2. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS INVOLVED WITH SNORKELING AND BOATING, included but not limited to equipment failure, perils of the sea, harm caused by marine creatures (including bites), acts of fellow participants, entering and exiting the water, boarding or disembarking boats, and activities on the docks and THEY HEREBY ASSUME SUCH RISKS.**

\_\_\_\_\_**3. They are physically fit to swim and participate in the Activities and understand that they can be physically strenuous activities and that they will be exerting themselves during the Activities.**

\_\_\_\_\_**4. They are in good mental and physical fitness for the Activities and that they are not under the influence of any drugs that are contradictory to the Activities and if, they are taking medication, they have been advised by a physician and have approval to participate in the Activities while under the influence of the medication.**

\_\_\_\_\_**5. If they need a flotation device they will ask for one. If they use a flotation device they will not remove their flotation device at any time while in the water. They acknowledge that doing so will constitute a violation of safety rules and procedures for which they expressly assume the risk. If they become distressed at the surface, they will immediately inflate their floatation device for flotation assistance.**

\_\_\_\_\_**6. They understand that sea conditions may change while we are en route or on site or at any time during the Activities and that this is a function of the environment. They will not hold Keys Marine Lab or its staff responsible for sea conditions that are out of their control.**

\_\_\_\_\_**7. They further understand and are fully aware that the boat, or boats involved in the Activities have limited medical facilities and that in the event of an illness or injury, appropriate medical care must be summoned by radio and that treatment may be delayed until they can be transported to a proper medical care facility.**

\_\_\_\_\_**8. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE A DUTY TO EXERCISE REASONABLE CARE FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY AND AGREE TO DO SO. KML STAFF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PROHIBIT ANY INDIVIDUAL FROM PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES IF IT IS DEEMED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOT CAPABLE OF PERFORMING TO ACCEPTABLE AND SAFE EXPECTATIONS.**

**Principal Investigator/Group Leader:** I am responsible for students in my group and have informed them of the contents of this understanding and agreement by reading it before I signed it.

Print: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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