

## **OPFAC OPERATIONAL LIMITATION STANDARDS**

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualifications Handbook ABQH M16794.52 (series)  
(b) Auxiliary Operations Process Guide AOPG 16798.31 (series)

Several policy updates were included:

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), operational safety parameters are specified and must be adhered to under the conditions shown below. Operational Facilities (OPFACs) that exceed these environmental limits will be deemed unsafe and will require prior authorization from the Order Issuing Authority (OIA) to operate.

OPFAC Length in feet	Sea Conditions	Wind Conditions	Visibility	Distance from Shore	Towing
19' or less	Calm  less than 1 FT	Calm  6 KTS or less	Clear	3 NM	Like size Vessel or less
20'-25'	Moderate  1 - 4 FT	Moderate 7 - 19 KTS	Clear/Restricted  ¼ mile w/Radar	3 NM	Like size Vessel or less
26'-50'	Heavy  4 - 6 FT	Heavy 20-25 KTS	Clear/Restricted  ¼ mile w/Radar	3 NM	Like size Vessel or less

2. OPFACs shall not exceed a speed of 30 KTS at any time while operating on the water.
3. Smaller OPFACs are not permitted to tow substantially larger vessels due to increased risk. However, a smaller facility may make an approach and secure lines but not tow the larger vessel. This practice will allow training and check rides to be accomplished should only two facilities of dissimilar size be available.
4. OPFACs navigating in delta or river environments where the current surpasses 1.5 knots **shall** have an anchor ready for immediate deployment. An OPFAC operating in such an environment should have an alternative means of propulsion or operate in conjunction with a second OPFAC.
5. Coxswains **shall** have an anchor rigged and ready for immediate deployment at all times when operating in Carquinez Strait between Davis Point and Benecia Bridges, and San Pablo Strait between San Pablo and Pedro Point, regardless of the river flow rate.

**Note:** The local O.I.A. makes the final determination through discussions with the OIC and OTO, of whether requests for orders in their AOR will be 'Approved' or 'Denied'. If orders are

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requested on waters where the current exceeds 1.5 knots, one of the following actions is suggested:

- The coxswain may discuss the request in advance with the O.I.A. Should the O.I.A. agree that the coxswain and the OPFAC are suitable to operate in the prevailing currents, given the parameters noted in Paragraph 3, the order request will be approved.
- The coxswain may discuss the request in advance with the O.I.A. and stipulate the geographic parameters within which the patrol may operate on waters with currents exceeding 1.5 knots.
- Order requests for waters with currents in excess of 1.5 knots may be delayed until currents subside to an acceptable flow rate.