

Cedar Coast Field Station Standard Operating Procedures

Safety to our visitors, volunteers and staff is our utmost priority. This document outlines Cedar Coast Field Station's (CCFS) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as it pertains to environmental conditions. It includes forecasting resources for making decisions about operating the station vessel, and weather condition cut-offs as it pertains to each visiting group. A multitude of variables need to be considered when it comes to making a decision based on a forecast or current conditions. Legally, Environment Canada Marine Forecast needs to be consulted as it is what the legal system and government agencies follow. The final decision after consulting such resources should be made by the skipper (captain), considering their comfort level and skill in carrying out a safe voyage.

Forecasting and Current Conditions Resources

Environment Canada: West Coast Vancouver Island South. (This forecast must be consulted upon making the final call on running a trip).

https://weather.gc.ca/marine/forecast_e.html?mapID=02&siteID=16200

Other forecasting resources are also to be consulted prior to trip departure. Considering variables such as:

- Wind speed and direction
- Swell height, direction and period
- Tides
- Rainfall
- Fog or limited visibility

Windy: <https://www.windy.com/49.146/-125.929?49.098,-125.814,10>

Surf-forecast: https://www.surf-forecast.com/breaks/Cox-Bay/forecasts/latest/six_day

MSW: <https://magicseaweed.com/Cox-Bay-Surf-Report/1122/>

NDBC La Perouse Bank Bouy: https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=46206

Environment Canada La Perouse Bank Bouy:

https://weather.gc.ca/marine/weatherConditions-currentConditions_e.html?mapID=03&siteID=06800&stationID=46206

NDBC and weather.gc.ca are key resources for real time buoy data. La Perouse Bank - 46206 will show real time swell height, period, wind speed, wind direction, etc to get a sense of current conditions off-shore. Keep in mind that off-shore conditions only influence near-shore environments, and aren't true tellers of what you will see in-shore.

Most weather and sea condition forecasts are accurate 2-3 days out. Therefore, we will do our best to communicate all weather concerns to our visiting station users up to 48hrs prior to their planned arrival.

It is crucial that all individuals and groups visiting the Cedar Coast Field Station be aware of our SOPs, and understand that weather plays a significant role in all of our operations. CCFS holds the right to reschedule any planned transport, programming, or accommodation provided by the field station due to a weather forecast that exceeds our SOPs or comfort & skill level of our captains.

The Cedar Coast Field Station follows our SOPs as a guideline and resource when faced with making decisions that involve the safety of our guests, volunteers and staff.

Please find our **limits of operation** relative to forecasted weather conditions:

Lift Dock

Wind speed: 15 - 20kn

Wind Direction: E,SE,SW

Swell Height: 3m +, especially long period (14s +)

Swell direction: S,SW

Visiting Group Transport

Wind speed: 25kn

Wind Direction: SE, SW, NW

Swell Height: 4m +

Swell direction: S,SW

Rain: Heavy rain

Darkness: No paying customer trips after dark

Staff (In house) Transport

Wind speed: 25kn

Wind Direction: SE,NW

Swell Height: 5m+

Swell direction: S,SW

Darkness: Ok to transport after dark if skipper feels comfortable

Pickup/Drop off locations on Vargas Island

CCFS Main Dock (Use in favourable conditions, consult weather cut-offs for raising dock)

Buckle Beach (Use in favourable conditions with large items. Not ideal on strong SE and larger S-SW swell).

Shoreline Drop in front of lodge (Use in calm conditions/mid-high tide)

Mill Bay (Last resort in rough SE conditions and large swell)

Take Skiff to town

When conditions are unsuitable for vessels to be on the float/mooring, the skiff must be taken to town.

Wind speed: 25kn +

Wind Direction: SE, E