

## Capstone Project – Database System -- E-Float Plan

**Abstract:** This prospective capstone project is intended to create a web-based float plan filing system and corresponding searchable database for U. S. Coast Guard search and rescue use. The E-Float Plan system would be publicly-accessible for data entry by citizens and searchable by recognized search and rescue authorities (U. S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Centers (RCC), U. S. Air Force RCC, etc.)

A float plan is a document that a citizen can complete and leave with a responsible person who can be depended upon to notify the Coast Guard should the citizen not return as planned. A float plan can be as simple as a general itinerary given verbally or as complete as a written document in the format found on <http://www.floatplancentral.org/>. The proposed E-Float Plan system would instead have an easy-to-complete web interface containing the basic information found in a float plan. As a required data field, the boater will enter an e-mail address and/or telephone number of their trusted responsible person. If the boater does not close out the float plan after the designated time of return, the E-Float Plan system will generate a notification to the designated responsible person. The notification could include the contact information for the nearest U. S. Coast Guard RCC once the responsible person has verified that the boater has in fact not returned, at which time the search and rescue system may be activated.

In addition, the E-Float Plan system would be searchable by RCCs. If an RCC receives indication of possible distress with no identifying information (uncorrelated mayday, flare sighting, unmanned/adrift vessel, for example), search and rescue personnel could query the E-Float Plan database for float plans in the area. If any float plans, open or closed, exist in the geographic area for the specified timeframe, search and rescue personnel could use contact information as part of preliminary communications searches to further investigate. The E-Float Plan system would also be a source of statistical data for Coast Guard strategic and program analysis. This system may not be limited to boaters as it would also have utility for hikers, hunters, swimmers, etc.

**Data available:** <http://www.floatplancentral.org/>  
<http://www.wikihow.com/File-an-FAA-Flight-Plan>  
<http://forms.faa.gov/forms/faa7233-1.pdf>

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