Suggested Packing List for Bahamian Conservation Biology Study Abroad Summer 2015

IDENTIFICATION
- Passport
- Original notarized Medical form (your group leader should carry all originals)

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS
- Notebook, pencils, pens
- Mask, snorkel, fins, and mesh bag*
- Plastic drinking container / water bottle
- Sun glasses
- Toothbrush, soap, shampoo
- 2 towels (bedding provided)
- Waterproof sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Laptop**
- Flashlight
- Cash in small denominations
- Underwater camera (optional)
- Motion sickness medication (optional)

CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS
- Lightweight, long-sleeved shirt
- Lightweight shorts
- 1 pair lightweight pants
- Lightweight shirts
- Lightweight windbreaker / jacket / poncho
- Swimsuits
- Tennis shoes, flip-flops or sandals, water shoes
- Hat or visor

SCUBA GEAR (certified divers only; optional)
- Regulator, Octopus
- Buoyancy compensator with power inflator
- Alternate air source
- Depth and submersible pressure gauges
- Certification card and log book
- Liability release forms read, completed, and signed
- Optional: whistle, compass, wetsuit (esp. November-May), light, underwater slate

Luggage: We recommend packing toiletries, swimsuit, and change of clothes in a carry-on bag if possible, as this can prove very useful if your checked bag arrives a day or so late. Check with your respective airlines regarding their specific luggage allowance policies. Western Air permits one 40-lb bag with ticket purchase, and charges $50 for additional bag (40lb limit) or $1.80 charge per pound extra.

Clothing: You will have 1 opportunity to do laundry during the trip, as a Bahamian staff member does laundry once per week (it costs a few dollars).

Spending Money: Do not expect to be able to use credit/debit cards for purchases, or to access ATM machines, on the island. These capabilities are growing on the island, but are still rare. American currency is accepted in the Bahamas—bring the cash you think you will need. Typical expenses include personal items (drinks, snacks), souvenirs—all meals, lodging, and transportation included in program fee.

*A limited supply of snorkeling gear is generally available to borrow or rent for small fee. Personal gear is recommended.

**Note that we strongly recommend you bring a laptop if possible. This is because of the nature of the scientific research involved in this course—each research team will need to record data, analyze data, write methods, etc. during the trip. Some projects involve considerable amounts of digital video data that will require analysis on computers during the course. All teams should have a minimum of 1-2 laptops to properly conduct the research. You may notice that Forfar’s suggested packing list differs from ours in several respects, including their recommendation not to bring a laptop. This is because their list is designed for high-school students and Forfar wants the students to divorce themselves from the likes of Facebook, email, etc. during their trip. While security can never be guaranteed, we have been bringing our laptops with us for 13 years without incident.