



Water Temperature and Wetsuits

The water temperature changes quite a bit during the year at BIOS and can change rather drastically during a single semester. Water temperatures are approximately:

- **January:** 65 F/18 C
- **May:** 70 F/21 C
- **August:** 84 F/29 C
- **October:** 77 F/25 C
- **December:** 68 F/20 C

We do not have wetsuits available on station for loan and they are rather expensive to buy/rent here in Bermuda so please bring what you need. Here are some guidelines to help you purchase (or borrow/rent) a wetsuit suitable for diving or snorkeling in Bermuda (Note: the 3, 5 and 7mm numbers refer to thickness of the wetsuit material):

- **January to March:** at least a 5mm, up to a 7mm (if you get cold easily); should also consider a hood/hooded vest
- **April-June:** 5mm with a hooded vest for the colder side of the season
- **July-September:** 3mm or shortie type suit
- **October-December:** 5mm with a hooded vest for the colder side of the season

Remember that approximately 70% of body heat is lost through your head. Use of a hooded vest, a hood, or a beanie, are great ways to add warmth at a relatively low price. Hooded vests are more suited to winter months, hoods for spring/fall months, and a beanie for summer.

People's idea of cold is highly subjective. There is a saying in Bermuda; Bermudians swim from May to September, Americans swim from April to October, and the English swim year round. Please try to adjust your wetsuit purchases accordingly.