

## SALT WATER PADDLES

Sea kayaking is different than whitewater or flatwater and has its own set of considerations for safety. For starters, you are now dealing with currents, tides, wind, waves, fog, and boat traffic. Most large boats can't even see you, and probably aren't paying attention. Assume no one can see you. Due to maneuverability and Coast Guard rules of the road, kayaks have no priority water rights. We have to get out of everyone's way.

The Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association website lists the equipment necessary for saltwater paddling.

Here are safety highlights excerpted from RICKA's website.

<http://www.rickaseakayaking.org/basics.htm>

### ***Required equipment for Sea Kayaking:***

- Sea kayak must be 15 feet or longer and have floatation (bulkheads or floatation bags)
- Coast Guard approved PFD
- spray skirt
- paddle float
- bilge pump
- appropriate clothing for the **water** temperature
- appropriate footwear

### ***Suggested Equipment:***

- drinking water
- food
- sunscreen
- whistle
- a change of dry clothes
- knife
- compass

Consider the following before any paddle:

What is the difficulty level of your trip?

Do you know what to do when your boat capsizes?

What is the marine forecast and tide situation? Paddling against wind and/or tide can be brutal!

Links:

Marine weather forecast for RI – MA: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/box/>

Rules of the Road: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/mwv/navrules/navrules.htm>

Narragansett Bay Area SeaKayak Schools:

<http://emskayak.com/>

<http://www.kayakcentre.com/>

<http://www.ospreyseakayak.com/>