

ROYAL WEST OF SCOTLAND AMATEUR BOAT CLUB – Risk Assessment

Date			
Assessor's Name		Review Date	
Description of Assessment	Paddle Area – Firth of Clyde		
Location Details	RWSABC Lunderston Bay		

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further actions do you need to take to control risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Risk of Injury when moving Kayaks	All Participants	Minimum 2 people to move kayaks from shed.	Trolleys are available if needed.	Leader/Coach to supervise movement of Kayaks. Experienced members should take responsibility for helping each other.	Immediate.	
Slips, trips, falls Beach condition, erosion	All Participants	Each Kayak should be moved by a minimum of 2 people. People should stay away from the slipway below the High Water line to avoid seaweed.	Carrying straps are available if more than two people are needed. Trolleys are available if needed.	All Participants.	Immediate.	
Use of Equipment	Participants/Leaders	All equipment will be checked for damage before	Pre-session equipment check.	Leaders, Coaches, competent assistants.	Every time going afloat.	

		<p>activity. Participants will be shown how to carry out safety checks. Members are required to maintain their personal equipment to a safe and serviceable standard.</p>	<p>Regular servicing and maintenance of equipment – buoyancy aids, cags, paddles, boats, spray decks. Members are required to maintain their personal equipment to a safe and serviceable standard.</p>			
<p>Injury, Fatigue, Medical Emergency</p>	<p>All participants</p>	<p>Observe and talk to participants regularly to assess condition. Take regular breaks, make sure participants are capable of proposed trip/activity.</p>	<p>Have Safety Equipment available to assist, towline, First Aid Kit, spare clothing, ability to call for help (VHF Radio Channel 16/Phone 999). Be familiar with escape routes.</p>	<p>Leaders, Coaches, competent paddlers.</p>	<p>At all times on the water.</p>	
<p>Military, Commercial & Ferry traffic. Other leisure craft, Powerboats, Yachts. Swimmers</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<p>Stay clear of shipping channels. Observe Ferry Movements. Cross Shipping Channels at 90° with due speed and caution.</p>	<p>Check Ferry Timetables for movement. All move together</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<p>At all times</p>	

Anglers and fishing lines	All participants	Stay clear of Anglers and fishing lines.	Give ample distance for lines being cast.	All participants	At all times	
Weather deterioration. Tidal conditions and the effects of weather on and tide during the planned activity.	All participants – difficulty returning safely	Check weather and Tides before going afloat. Continuously assess conditions. Turn back early	Use sheltered coastline	Leaders. Coaches. Experienced Paddlers on collaborative paddles and trips	At all times	
Hypothermia, capsize, cold water shock and Hyperthermia.	All participants	Wear suitable clothing for conditions. All members should be made aware of the risks and causes and undertake safety and rescue training and practise skills regularly including rescues and self-rescues.	Carry spare clothing, emergency shelters or bivvi bags. On longer paddling activities paddlers should carry appropriate food and drinks.	Leaders. Coaches. Experienced Paddlers.	At all times on the water.	
Leaving someone behind	Slower/weaker participants	Leaders/Coaches Planned Sessions	Buddy System/ Personal competences on Collaborative Paddles.	All Participants	Every Trip	
Drowning	All Participants	All paddlers must wear Buoyancy Aids	Capsize Drills Rescue Training	Leaders/Coaches Proficient Paddlers	All times on the water.	

Additional notes on VHF Channels in the Clyde:

Channel 16

The international maritime frequency for distress, safety, and hailing. This channel is monitored by HM Coastguard and by most vessels with VHF radios. Paddlers who carry a VHF radio should keep a 'listening watch' on Channel 16 as it is the channel used for any safety announcements

This is the channel to use for a distress call on radios without DSC or to speak after a DSC distress call has been initiated.

Channel 16 can also be used to make or receive non-DSC calls before switching to a 'working' channel.

Channel 12

This channel is reserved for port operations. While it is principally for use between commercial vessels and Peel Ports (Estuary Radio) it is a useful channel for kayakers to obtain an indication of the movement of commercial traffic.

Paddlers would normally only communicate on Channel 12 to establish movement commercial traffic and/or where it would be helpful to make Peel Ports aware of their presence – for example when using the narrower areas of the shipping channel up river of the Esplanade around the area of the working areas of the harbour.

If a VHF allows, it would be useful to maintain a simultaneous 'listening watch' on channel 12 and Channel 16.

Channel 73

Paddlers entering the Gare Loch or Loch Long should, in addition to listening on Channel 16, listen on Channel 73 as that is the channel used by the King's Harbour Master and MOD vessels operating in these areas.