

NZOIA™ Sea Kayak Leader Scope and Syllabus

Scope

Sea Kayak Leader Profile

The NZOIA Sea Kayak Leader can:

- Plan and prepare introductory sea kayaking experiences.
- Instruct groups in the kayaking skills required for a positive introductory experience.
- Lead and manage groups kayaking on flat or sheltered water environments.
- Demonstrate effective safety management.
- Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills.
- Provide interpretive information about natural and cultural history and about flora and fauna.
- Role model accepted environmental practices.

The NZOIA Sea Kayak Leader can work independently without direct supervision. Leaders are qualified to operate within an activity specific risk management plan but the qualification does not define the skill set required to approve such a plan.

This is a foundation level qualification and provides a stepping stone towards the Sea Kayak Guide and Instructor level qualifications.

Instructional Scope

The NZOIA Sea Kayak leader can lead sea kayaking activity on flat or sheltered water, including estuaries, river deltas, sheltered beaches, lakes, coastal inlets and swimming pools, when the following environmental conditions apply:

- Wind does not exceed 15 knots.
- Swell and wave height does not exceed 0.5m.
- No significant tidal flow.

The following are examples of flat or sheltered water environments that could be within the scope of a Leader depending on the characteristics of the group, weather conditions and equipment:

- Sheltered bays on any lake (e.g. Acacia Bay. Lake Taupo).
- Sheltered Bays in a harbour (e.g. Evans Bay).
- Avon / Heathcote estuary.

The following are examples that would be beyond the scope of the NZOIA Sea Kayak Leader:

- Open ocean crossings.
- Crossings of large lakes, bays and sounds.
- Grade 1 sections of rivers or above.

Equipment

The Sea Kayak Leader can lead participants using single or double sit on tops, closed and open deck kayaks.

Pre-requisites

The NZOIA Sea Kayak Leader will have no less than 10 days (4 hours duration) experience sea kayaking **and** no less than 5 days additional experience as a co-leader or assistant leader all completed using a closed deck single or double sea kayak.

The NZOIA Sea Kayak Leader will hold a current First Aid qualification.

The NZOIA Sea Kayak Leader will be 18 years old or over.

Revalidation

The NZOIA Sea Kayak Leader qualification remains valid as long as the holder completes NZOIA's revalidation and registration requirements.

Progressing to Guide and Instructor level qualifications

As the Sea Kayak Leader gains more experience they may progress towards gaining the SKOANZ Sea Kayak Guide and NZOIA Sea Kayak Instructor Level 1 qualifications. The steps they would follow include:

- Gaining the experience outlined in the SKOANZ Sea Kayak Guide and NZOIA Sea Kayak Instructor Level 1 pre-requisites.
- Completing the Coastguard Boating Education Marine VHF Radio Operators qualification and NZ Day Skippers certificate.
- Being able to roll.
- Attending an NZOIA Instructor Level 1 training course.
- Working with a SKOANZ Sea Kayak Guide or NZOIA Kayak Instructor Level 1 or 2.

Syllabus

Technical Competence

1. Demonstrate knowledge, care and appropriate use of sea kayaking gear and equipment.
2. Demonstrate effective personal paddling skills.
3. Demonstrate effective sea kayak rescue techniques.

The Environment

4. Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills.
5. Demonstrate cultural and environmental knowledge and interpretation of areas visited.
6. Understand and role model accepted environmental practices.

Group Management and Leadership

7. Lead and manage a group sea kayaking.
8. Demonstrate effective safety management.

Instruction

9. Plan and prepare an introductory sea kayak experience.
10. Instruct a group in the sea kayaking skills required for a positive introductory experience.