



Knottingley Canoe Club

Sea Kayaking Risk Assessment

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Review cycle	Six-monthly during setup, then annual or after incident, near miss, major guidance change, or material change in club practice.

Scope

This assessment covers KCC sea kayaking trips, sheltered coastal practice, tidal journeys, crossings, rock-hopping or coastal-feature activity where within remit, and multi-day coastal activity where separately planned.

It should be used with the trip plan, route plan or location pack, float plan, emergency action plan, incident reporting process, off-water contact and cut-off time, on-the-day dynamic risk assessment, KCC competency spreadsheet and Sea Kayak Lead deployment record.

KCC aims to follow Paddle UK Standards for Deployment principles while also using its own competency spreadsheet to recognise current, observed sea kayaking competence and experience.

Sea Condition and Weather Planning

Condition	Planning controls
Sheltered coastal water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm wind direction, tide, boat traffic, launch, landing, visibility and escape routes • Match route distance and commitment to the least experienced suitable participant.
Moderate sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Sea Kayak Lead remit, tidal streams, wind against tide, sea state, surf, rescue capability and communications • Carry activity-appropriate group safety and communication equipment.
Advanced or exposed sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use advanced deployment controls • Confirm advanced Sea Kayak Lead competence, high-confidence group competence, conservative route options and robust emergency planning • Avoid committing coastlines, crossings or landings where conditions may exceed group competence.
Wind and weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check wind speed, gusts, direction, fetch, wind-against-tide, offshore wind, visibility, rain, lightning, temperature and forecast trend • Set go/no-go thresholds before travel and before launch • Change route, delay, land or cancel when wind or visibility reduces control or rescue margin.
Tide, current and surf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan tidal windows, tidal streams, overfalls, tide races, rip currents, surf, landing timing and contingency routes • Consider wave height, wave period, swell direction and shallow-water steepening/dumping waves • Avoid or time features where group ability, timing or rescue cover is uncertain.

Deployment and Competency

Area	Controls
General deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddle UK qualifications and awards are preferred evidence and carry the strongest weight where they match the activity, for example relevant Paddle UK sea kayak leadership, coaching and safety awards • KCC competency spreadsheet records local judgement, current competence, recent sea kayaking experience, rescue capability, navigation capability and limits • No paddler is treated as suitable for every sea state, route or level by default.
Advanced or exposed sea operating assumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced or exposed sea activity requires advanced competence, current evidence, conservative route choice and robust escape options • Sea Kayak Leads should only lead within their remit, current competence and the limits recorded by KCC • Group selection should consider rescue reliability, distance, exposure, surf/landing competence, navigation, communication and participant condition.

Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Conditions exceed Sea Kayak Lead remit or group competence	Whole group may be exposed to sea state, tide, wind, surf, distance or rescue demands beyond capability. Sea Kayak Leads may become overloaded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify activity and environment before publication • Match Sea Kayak Lead remit to sea state, tide, route commitment, group competence and rescue cover • Check KCC competency spreadsheet before confirming participants • Record route limits, weather thresholds, Assistant Leader roles and supervision arrangements in the trip plan • Apply Paddle UK Standards for Deployment principles alongside club competency records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downgrade, change route, delay, land or cancel if conditions exceed plan • Record material decisions in the dynamic risk form. 	Trip Organiser / Sea Kayak Lead / before publication, before launch and ongoing	Medium / High
Sea Kayak Lead, Assistant Leader and Safety Cover roles unclear	Paddlers may receive conflicting instructions, group control may fail, rescues may be delayed, or no-one may be positioned for key crossings, surf landings or coastal features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name the Sea Kayak Lead • Identify Lead Paddler, Tail Paddler, Assistant Leader and Safety Cover roles before launch • Agree who carries towlines, first aid, group shelter, communication equipment, repair kit and other safety kit • Agree who makes go/no-go, landing, reroute and cancellation decisions • The Sea Kayak Lead should appoint a named person at the start who is responsible for initiating the emergency plan if the Sea Kayak Lead is incapacitated • Brief role changes if the group splits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not launch until Sea Kayak Lead, Tail Paddler and Safety Cover roles are clear • Reduce objective, move to sheltered water or cancel if Safety Cover roles cannot be filled • If the Sea Kayak Lead is incapacitated, the trip should not continue unless another approved lead is present and makes that decision • Otherwise emergency instructions should start, including landing, off-water contact, HM Coastguard or emergency services where required. 	Trip Organiser / Sea Kayak Lead / before launch and after any group split	Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Pre-launch checks or briefing incomplete	Whole group may launch without understanding the route, weather thresholds, signals, rescue plan, equipment checks, emergency actions or group expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a pre-launch safety briefing on every trip before committing to the water • Check forecast, tide, route, landing options, group competence, kit, communication equipment, off-water contact and cut-off time • Cover group spacing, buddy arrangements, signals, capsize/rescue expectations, towline use, landing order, surf-zone plan where relevant, boat traffic and emergency actions • Include safeguarding, junior supervision or welfare arrangements where relevant • Contact HM Coastguard with the trip plan where the Sea Kayak Lead judges it appropriate, especially for rescue practice, night/dark paddling, committing crossings, exposed routes or unusual plans • Rebrief after material changes, late arrivals, confusion, rescues, weather changes, route changes or group splits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not launch until essential checks and briefing points are complete • Delay, shorten, change route, move to sheltered water or cancel where critical checks fail • Contact/update HM Coastguard if the plan materially changes after an HM Coastguard notification. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Assistant Leaders / whole group / before launch and ongoing	Medium
Wind, tide, sea state, surf or weather escalation	Paddlers and rescuers may face drift, failed progress, surf landings, wind-against-tide conditions, rip currents, tide races, poor visibility or reduced rescue margin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check forecast, tide tables, tidal stream information, surf forecast, sea state and local information • Reassess visually at launch and during the trip • Treat sea condition as dynamic • Avoid offshore wind exposure, wind-against-tide features, tide races, rip currents and committed landings where group margin is low • Consider waves and shallowness of water, including dumping surf, breaking waves in shallow water, rebound, clapotis and surf over rocks/sandbanks • Set wind, tide, surf, visibility, tide-race/rip-current and temperature thresholds before travel and before launch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay, reroute, land, shorten or cancel when thresholds are exceeded • Avoid, time or bypass tide races, rips, surf or shallow-water wave zones where rescue margin is not suitable • Notify off-water contact if route or timing changes. 	Sea Kayak Lead / before travel, before launch and ongoing	Medium / High

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Capsize, separation or failed rescue	Paddlers may become separated, cold, injured, unable to self-rescue or dependent on group rescue. Rescuers may be placed at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm boat, buoyancy, spraydeck release, clothing and rescue competence • Agree group spacing, buddy system, signals and regroup procedure • Use Lead Paddler / Tail Paddler or agreed buddy-pair structure • Carry towlines, spare paddle, first aid, communication equipment and other route-appropriate kit • Practise or confirm rescue competence before committing to exposed conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land, shorten or move to sheltered water if rescues become unreliable or repeated capsizes occur • Rebrief group spacing and rescue procedure after any separation or near miss. 	Sea Kayak Lead / group / ongoing	Medium / High
Navigation, visibility or communication failure	Whole group may miss route, become delayed, enter more exposed water or fail to communicate distress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry chart/map, compass, route notes and bearings where appropriate • Install an offline map or chart of the area before travel • Carry printed route notes, chart extract or tidal plan where the trip is committing • Confirm launch, landing, escape options, tidal gates, bearings and emergency access points before launch • Use VHF, phone, PLB or other communication equipment appropriate to route • Leaders carry whistles • Other paddlers should carry whistles where practical • Consider walkie-talkies where they would improve group control on larger groups, surf landings, poor visibility or split landing/launch situations • Agree signals and lost-contact procedure • Keep float plan with route, group, off-water contact and cut-off time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land, hold, reroute or use emergency plan if visibility or communication deteriorates • Delay launch if the group has no usable offline/printed route information for a committing trip • Notify off-water contact if cut-off time is at risk. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Assistant Leader / before travel, before launch and ongoing	Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Emergency contact and off-water information unavailable	Emergency escalation may be delayed if phones fail, signal is poor, VHF/PLB details are not understood, or contact information is only held digitally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate an off-water contact • Share float plan, route, group summary, cut-off time, action plan and emergency plan with the off-water contact • Sea Kayak Leads carry a laminated first aid reference card with emergency contact details and key instructions • Carry printed emergency contacts or a printed emergency summary where appropriate • Keep private phone numbers and emergency details out of public documents • Confirm who contacts the off-water contact, HM Coastguard or emergency services if delayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not launch without off-water contact arrangements for trips requiring a float plan • Notify off-water contact if route, timing or group changes • Activate off-water action plan if cut-off time is missed. 	Trip Organiser / Sea Kayak Lead / before launch and during trip	Low / Medium
Participant medical disclosure incomplete	Participants may have medical conditions, medication needs, injuries, confidence limits, sea sickness risk or other relevant factors that affect safe participation, rescue, exposure, distance or emergency response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage participants to share relevant medical conditions, medication needs, injuries, limits, sea sickness history or confidence concerns confidentially before activity • For juniors, parent/guardian information and emergency contact details are used to support confidential disclosure where needed • Manage medical information in line with the KCC privacy policy • Keep medical information private and only share it with those who need it for safe delivery or emergency response • Check whether any disclosed limits affect route distance, sea state, wind threshold, kit choice, supervision, medication access or emergency plan • Record only the minimum necessary information in controlled private planning channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pause confirmation or launch where essential medical or emergency information is missing for safe participation • Adapt activity, kit, supervision, route, landing options or emergency plan where disclosed information changes the risk. 	Trip Organiser / Sea Kayak Lead / planning and before launch	Low / Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Boat traffic and navigation channels	Paddlers and other water users may be involved in collision or near miss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain lookout and group control • Avoid obstructing commercial or private vessels • Cross channels only where timing, visibility and group control are suitable • Use VHF/channel awareness where appropriate • Brief crossing plan, holding points and abort options before entering busy water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold, reroute or land if traffic density exceeds safe group control • Do not start a crossing if visibility, timing or group spacing is unsuitable. 	Sea Kayak Lead / whole group / during crossings and busy areas	Medium / High
Launch, landing, surf, rocks, caves, cliffs and coastal features	Paddlers may be injured by impact, surf, rocks, difficult landings, entrapment, pour-overs, shallow-water waves or poor timing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose launch and landing points that match group competence and forecast conditions • Helmets are not mandatory for all sea kayaking, but are required for specific higher-impact activity such as surfing, substantial surf near shore, playing near coastal rocks, rock gardens, caves, pour-overs, surf over shallow rocks/sandbanks, or other coastal-feature activity where head impact risk is material • Avoid caves, cliffs, rock gardens, pour-overs, surf landings or tide-race activity outside Sea Kayak Lead remit • Identify alternative landings and escape points before committing • Brief surf-zone and landing order where relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use alternative landing, avoid feature or change route if conditions change • Do not run higher-impact activity unless helmet requirements, safety cover and group competence are suitable • Land earlier if escape options reduce or group confidence drops. 	Sea Kayak Lead / before launch and before committed sections	Medium / High
Slips, trips, falls, access and egress hazards	Paddlers, volunteers, spectators or members of the public may slip, fall, strain themselves, cut hands/feet or be injured carrying boats at beaches, slipways, rocks, harbours, sea walls, steps or roadside parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check launch, landing, parking and carry routes before committing • Wear suitable footwear for wet rocks, weed, mud, shingle, slipways and surf landings • Avoid algae-covered slipways, unstable rocks, steep steps or exposed edges where safer options exist • Use safe lifting, two-person carries, straps, trolleys or staged carries where practical • Keep boats and kit tidy and clear of public paths, harbour edges and roads • Manage loading/changing with visibility, traffic and privacy in mind • Consider shallowness, shore dump and wave surge when choosing where people stand, launch, land or empty boats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use alternative access/egress or cancel if launch/landing cannot be managed safely • Stop and reorganise carrying/loading if people are rushing, lifting unsafely or terrain becomes unsuitable • Record access issues in trip report/location notes. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Assistant Leaders / Drivers / before launch, at landing and shuttle points	Low / Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Head injury or suspected concussion	A paddler may have a head injury after impact with rocks, boat, paddle, surf, landing zone, another paddler or during a capsize/rescue. Continuing may worsen injury or delay urgent care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmets are not mandatory for all sea kayaking, but are required where the planned activity has material head-impact risk • Treat head impacts seriously even where symptoms are not immediate • Stop and assess the paddler after any significant head impact • Remove the paddler from further paddling where concussion or significant head injury is suspected • Monitor symptoms and use the emergency action plan where symptoms are serious, worsening or uncertain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow return to paddling that day if concussion is suspected • Land, evacuate or contact HM Coastguard/emergency services if symptoms indicate serious injury • Report the incident and follow up through the incident reporting process. 	Sea Kayak Lead / first aid responder / immediately and post-activity	Medium
Cold, heat, illness, fatigue, dehydration or sea sickness	Participants may become unwell, distressed, slow, cold, overheated or unable to continue safely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require clothing, food, drink, sun protection, medication and spare layers suitable for route • Set temperature and kit thresholds before travel, including wetsuit/drysuit, pogies or mittens where required • Monitor fatigue, cold, heat, hydration and sea sickness • Keep route length and pace realistic • Use breaks and landings where available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce distance, land, warm/cool, evacuate or end the activity if participant condition deteriorates • Apply stricter thresholds for juniors where appropriate. 	Sea Kayak Lead / all participants / ongoing	Medium
Water quality, pollution, sewage, harmful algal bloom or fuel contamination	Participants may become ill or contaminated through polluted coastal water, sewage discharge, algal blooms, harbour fuel/diesel contamination, dead wildlife, sharp debris or contaminated kit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check available water quality, pollution, sewage discharge, bathing-water or harbour notices where relevant before trips • Avoid visible pollution, fuel sheen, strong sewage smell, harmful algal bloom, dead wildlife concentrations or contaminated debris • Cover cuts • Avoid ingestion • Use hand hygiene after paddling and before eating • Shower/wash after paddling where appropriate • Apply clean-check-dry where invasive species transfer is relevant • Brief participants to report illness symptoms after activity through the appropriate club/medical route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not paddle, change launch/landing, reroute or exit early if pollution risk is unacceptable • Clean/quarantine kit if contaminated • Advise participants to seek appropriate medical advice where symptoms suggest infection or illness. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Paddlers / before, during and after activity	Low / Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Entanglement in towlines, deck lines, fishing gear, ropes, nets or debris	Paddlers, swimmers or rescuers may become caught in towlines, deck lines, fishing gear, pot lines, harbour ropes, nets, loose straps or floating debris, especially during rescues, towing, rock-hopping or surf/landing incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief towline, deck-line and rope-management expectations before towing or rescue activity • Keep towlines, loose straps and deck clutter tidy and secured when not in use • Avoid fishing gear, pot markers, harbour ropes, nets and debris where possible • Towlines are used by competent people and kept clear of swimmers where practical • Carry safety knives where appropriate to the route, towline use, rescue plan or entanglement consequence • Rescue plans avoid creating a second casualty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop towing or rescue activity if entanglement risk is not controlled • Reroute, land, portage/carry or avoid areas with unmanaged fishing gear, ropes, nets or debris • Treat significant entanglement or near entanglement as a reportable incident or near miss. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Competent Paddlers / before launch and ongoing	Medium / High
Emergency kit quantity, distribution or responsibility inadequate	Emergency response may be delayed if all emergency kit is with one person, group splits, a Sea Kayak Lead capsizes, or kit is inaccessible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry first aid kit • Identify first aid provision before launch and match it to the route, remoteness, weather, group size, junior involvement and likely emergency service/HM Coastguard response time • Where possible, include at least one currently first-aid-trained person in the group, especially for committing, exposed, remote or junior trips • Carry group shelter capacity appropriate to the trip and group • Carry at least one spare paddle or split paddle set per 8 paddlers • Carry repair kit, towlines, communication equipment and route-appropriate emergency kit • Carry warm drinks where suitable • Carry spare clothes or spare warmth in boats where suitable • Keep spare warmth in vehicles • Split emergency kit between Sea Kayak Leads, Assistant Leaders and Competent Paddlers so responsibility is distributed • Recheck kit if the group splits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay launch until critical emergency kit is available and distributed • Reduce group size, move to sheltered water, add first aid provision, add kit, change route or cancel if first aid, shelter, communication, repair or split-paddle cover is inadequate. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Assistant Leaders / before launch and after any split	Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Transport, long journeys, ferries, parking and lift sharing	Drivers, passengers, juniors, adults at risk and other road users may be affected by fatigue, unsafe loading, ferry/tide pressure, inaccessible warm kit, unclear arrangements or safeguarding issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers remain responsible for licence, insurance, roadworthiness, fatigue, legal loading, seatbelts and secure boat transport • Plan long journeys to avoid fatigue after paddling • Avoid ferry, tide or accommodation pressure driving unsafe travel decisions • Keep lift-sharing details, phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts out of public documents • Apply safeguarding transport guidance where juniors/adults at risk are involved • Recheck boat straps/trailer loads before departure and after an early stop • Prefer enough vehicles at the finish or escape points for tired/cold paddlers • Keep warm kit accessible at finish vehicles where practical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay, change driver, change vehicle, re-secure load, stay over or cancel travel if controls are not met • Replan shuttle or vehicle positioning if warm-kit or escape arrangements are inadequate for the conditions. 	Drivers / Trip Organiser / before and after paddling	Medium
Shared equipment unsuitable, damaged or incorrectly allocated	Participants may be exposed to capsize, loss of control, flooding, failed communication, poor fit or failed rescue equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Equipment Officer is responsible for the club equipment-check process • KCC completes a yearly inventory of club equipment • Club equipment is checked regularly and issues are logged through the equipment process • Sea Kayak Leads/helpers complete pre-launch visual checks of craft, paddles, PPE and route-specific safety equipment being used • Check sea kayak fit, footrests, hatch covers, buoyancy, deck lines, paddle, spare paddle, buoyancy aid, spraydeck, towline, VHF and emergency equipment • Confirm equipment matches sea state, weather, route length and participant competence • Confirm boats have suitable buoyancy and watertight compartments or flotation • Apply clean-check-dry where invasive species transfer is relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove damaged, leaking, poor-fitting, contaminated or unsuitable equipment from use • Log issues through equipment process • Escalate recurring or significant equipment issues to the Equipment Officer • Downgrade/cancel if essential kit is unavailable. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Equipment Lead / Equipment Officer / before launch, after trip, regular checks and annual inventory	Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Safeguarding and welfare	Juniors, adults at risk, volunteers and participants may be affected by unsuitable supervision, residential arrangements, communication, privacy, physical contact, photography or welfare issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow safeguarding, coaches code of conduct, junior code of conduct, parents code of conduct, general member code of conduct, communications, changing-room and photography policies Confirm parental consent and supervision arrangements for juniors Adults working directly with juniors or adults at risk must meet club safeguarding and DBS requirements for their role Avoid inappropriate one-to-one situations and ensure more than one adult is present where juniors are involved Keep welfare, medical, emergency contact and safeguarding details in controlled private channels Physical contact during rescues, equipment fitting, spraydeck help, helmet/buoyancy aid checks, assisted carries or landing support is limited to what is necessary, explained where practicable, and handled with extra care for juniors and adults at risk No unauthorised photography or video is permitted Parent/guardian consent is required for junior photography, and image capture/sharing follows the club photography and communications policies Digital communication involving minors follows club policy and avoids private messaging outside approved routes Participants, parents/guardians and volunteers are told that safeguarding/welfare concerns can be raised during or after the activity through the current club safeguarding and welfare reporting route published in club policies and on the website For residential/multi-day trips, confirm accommodation/privacy and welfare arrangements separately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pause/adapt activity and escalate concerns through the current club safeguarding and welfare reporting route published in club policies and on the website Do not place an adult into a child-facing role if DBS or safeguarding suitability is not confirmed Stop or change support method if physical contact, communication or photography arrangements are not appropriate. 	Sea Kayak Lead / safeguarding and welfare reporting route / before and during trip	Low / Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Lone working, isolated scouting or separated group member	A paddler, Sea Kayak Lead or rescuer may become separated, injured or unable to call for help while scouting a landing, checking access, managing a group split, assisting a participant, recovering kit or dealing with an emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Kayak Leads are trained and assessed to choose appropriate sea kayaking group-management strategies in real time • The Sea Kayak Lead remains responsible for maintaining suitable communication and line of sight with the group as far as reasonably practicable • Avoid deliberate lone scouting, lone landing checks or isolated rescue/kit-recovery work where practical • Keep visual, voice, whistle, radio or phone contact with the group or another competent paddler where practical • Agree a return point, return time and what to do if contact is lost • Use buddy, pair or small-team arrangements for landing checks, carries, kit recovery, group splits and shore tasks where terrain, visibility, remoteness, surf or exposure justifies it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop and regroup if a person becomes isolated without agreed contact • Do not commit to a landing, crossing, feature or route section if it would require unsupported lone working beyond the Sea Kayak Lead's judgement and training • Start lost-contact or emergency procedure if an isolated person does not return as agreed. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Assistant Leaders / Competent Paddlers / before landings, group splits and ongoing	Medium

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing controls / mitigations	Further action / dynamic trigger	Owner / timing	Residual risk
Incident response, HM Coastguard interface or delayed emergency access	Whole group may be affected if rescue, HM Coastguard contact, landing/escape options or reporting route are unclear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use emergency action plan for serious incidents • Identify landing/escape points, emergency access, HM Coastguard contact method and nearest suitable medical option • Use VHF, phone, PLB or agreed communication route according to trip plan • Contact HM Coastguard with the trip plan where the Sea Kayak Lead judges it appropriate, especially for rescue practice, night/dark paddling, committing crossings, exposed routes or unusual plans • Carry printed emergency contacts or laminated emergency summary where appropriate • Use incident reporting process after incidents and near misses • Treat reportable examples as including failed rescue, lost paddler/group separation, missed cut-off time, near miss with vessel, emergency landing, equipment failure or HM Coastguard contact • Review relevant risk assessment, location pack, trip planning controls, competency assumptions and follow-up actions after significant incidents or near misses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify off-water contact if group is delayed, route changes or cut-off time is at risk • Update HM Coastguard if a notified trip materially changes or returns later than planned • Use emergency plan early where safety margin reduces • Report and review near misses and incidents after the trip • Update documents, location notes or future controls where the review identifies a learning point. 	Sea Kayak Lead / Off-Water Contact / Safety Officer / ongoing and post-activity	Medium / High

Dynamic Stop Triggers

Trigger	Action
Wind, tide, sea state, surf or visibility exceeds planned threshold	Delay, land, change route, shorten or cancel.
Tide race, rip current, shallow-water wave, shore dump or surf zone exceeds group/rescue margin	Avoid, time, bypass, move to sheltered water, change route or cancel.
Group cannot maintain speed, spacing or communication	Regroup, shorten, land or move to sheltered water.
Rescue capability is below the demands of the environment	Downgrade, move to sheltered water or end activity.
Sea Kayak Lead, Assistant Leader or Safety Cover role is unavailable	Reassign within competence, reduce objective or cancel.
Sea Kayak Lead is incapacitated and no other approved lead is present	Do not continue except as required for immediate safety; land or stabilise the group, start emergency instructions, contact off-water contact, HM Coastguard or emergency services where required.
Pre-launch checks or briefing are incomplete	Complete checks and briefing before launching, or delay, shorten, change route, move to sheltered water or cancel.
Offline/printed route information is not available for a committing trip	Delay launch, source suitable route information, move to sheltered water or cancel.
Off-water contact, cut-off time or emergency contact information is incomplete	Complete the float plan/emergency information before launching.
Relevant medical disclosure or emergency information is incomplete where needed for safe participation	Pause, seek the minimum information needed through the appropriate private route, adapt the activity or keep the participant off the water.

Trigger	Action
Suspected concussion or significant head injury occurs	Remove the paddler from activity, land/evacuate or contact HM Coastguard/emergency services if required, and do not allow return to paddling that day if concussion is suspected.
Helmet-required activity is planned but helmets or suitable safety cover are not available	Do not run that activity; change venue, modify the plan, move to sheltered water or cancel.
Water quality, sewage, algal bloom, fuel contamination or pollution risk is unacceptable	Change launch/landing, reroute, delay, cancel or exit early; clean/quarantine kit if contaminated.
Towlines, fishing gear, ropes, nets, loose straps or debris create entanglement risk	Stop and tidy/remove the hazard, avoid the area, stop towing/rescue activity, land or change route.
Launch, landing, carry route or parking area has unsafe slip/trip/fall hazards	Use alternative access/egress, reorganise carrying/loading, move to sheltered water or cancel.
Lone working, isolated landing check, kit recovery or separated participant risk exceeds the Sea Kayak Lead's judgement and training	Regroup, use a buddy/pair/small-team system, change the route/landing plan or abandon the feature/section.
Boat traffic or navigation risk exceeds group control	Hold, reroute, land or cancel crossing.
Participant shows cold stress, heat illness, sea sickness, fatigue or distress	Land, warm/cool, reduce objective, evacuate or end activity.
First aid provision, group shelter, first aid kit, communication equipment, repair kit, split paddles or emergency kit distribution is inadequate	Add first aid provision, add/distribute kit, reduce group size, move to sheltered water, change route or cancel.
Equipment is damaged, leaking, poor-fitting or unsuitable	Remove the equipment from use, escalate significant issues to the Equipment Officer, move to sheltered water, downgrade or cancel.
Transport or lift-sharing arrangements become unsafe	Delay, change driver, change vehicle, re-secure load or cancel travel.
Warm-kit, finish vehicle or escape vehicle plan is inadequate for conditions/group size	Replan vehicle support, shorten route, move to sheltered water or cancel.
Safeguarding or welfare concern arises	Pause or adapt activity and use safeguarding/welfare reporting route.