

SKABC Trip Classification

- This Trip Classification is a starting point and a **guideline only**. Many factors are in play when determining your suitability for a trip.
- When selecting a trip, read the classification and determine whether you have the skills and strength to successfully and comfortably complete it. Considerations would include the presence or absence of currents, difficulty of the landings and launches, length of crossings, ruggedness of the coastline, general expected water conditions, etc.
- **Winds or currents can dramatically alter our progress**, either in favour, or against us. We can fairly accurately predict the currents by using tide and current tables, but the presence of wind can easily increase the strenuousness of a “B” rated trip to a “C” or a “D”, or even make progress almost impossible.
- **Weather and water conditions on any particular day can make a trip more difficult and strenuous than rated!**
- **Check with Trip Leaders if you have any doubt of the trip rating.** Trip Leaders have the discretion to deny participation if they are unsure of a paddler’s skills or readiness for trips.
- Wet suits or dry suits may be required by Trip Leaders on any trip.

Trip Classification

Degree of Strength and Endurance

Trip Classification System	A: NOT STRENUOUS -Less than 3hrs/day -Less than 6 N. miles -Sheltered spots -Easy Landings	B: MOD STRENUOUS -3-5 hrs/day paddling -6-10 N. miles -Some shelter -Easy Landings	C: STRENUOUS -5-6 hrs/day paddling -10-15 N. miles -infrequent shelter -infreq landings spots	D: VERY STRENUOUS -6 plus hrs/day -15 N. miles or more -few or no shelter -few landing spots
1: EASY -Minimal paddling skills -Protected inland waters -Moderate wind effects -Weak to mod. current -easy to mod. landings	↓ 1A	↓ 1B	↓ 1C	↓ 1D
2: MODERATE -Basic skills: able to brace -Protected inland waters -Moderate wind effects -Weak to mod. current -Easy to mod. landings	↓ 2A	↓ 2B	↓ 2C	↓ 2D
3: DIFFICULT -Good paddling, sea skills -Skilled self/group rescue -Open coast, exposed water, crossings & swells -Mod. to strong wind & current -Surf & difficult landings	↓ 3A	↓ 3B	↓ 3C	↓ 3D
4: VERY DIFFICULT -Advanced skills (can roll) -Long open crossings -Strong individual paddler -Exposed coast -Turbulent water, chop -Strong wind effects, current, large swells -Surf & difficult landings	↓ 4A	↓ 4B	↓ 4C	↓ 4D
*Any trip may change classification unexpectedly due to adverse conditions.				

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY ON ALL TRIPS: Make sure you have the skill level, the physical strength and endurance and the right equipment. Do not go out in conditions you are uncomfortable with. Kayaking conditions are variable and contain unpredictable elements that make any attempt to grade a trip inexact.

Ver.
1.0 March 30, 2014 Bob Salo

Additional Classification information
[Sea Kayak Guide Alliance Water Classification Map](#),