

HCC Trip Grading



Sea Kayak Trips (including Freshwater Lochs)

The club uses the following definitions as a guide for sea kayak trip grading:

Grade A

Relatively easy landings with escape routes easily available. Offering relative shelter from extreme conditions and little affected by ocean swell. Some tidal movement may be found, but easy to predict with no tidal races or overfalls. Typically single day trips under 20km.

Grade B

Some awkward landings and sections of coastline with no escape routes should be expected. Tidal movement, tidal races, overfalls, crossings, ocean swell and surf may be found on these trips. They will also be exposed to weather and associated conditions. Trips may also be graded B if over a longer distance or multi-day.

Grade C

These trips will have difficult landings and will have no escape routes for long sections of the trip. Fast tidal movement, tidal races, overfalls, extended crossings, ocean swell and surf will be found on all these trips. They will be very exposed to the weather conditions, therefore requiring detailed planning and paddlers to be competent in rough water conditions. With this considered, the journey may require good conditions for the trip to be viable. Trips may also be graded C due to overall length and/or duration.

Note

Reference may also be made to the SCA/BCU Environmental Definitions found [here](#).

The trip leader will determine the appropriate grading. It will not be an automatic right for a person who has completed a particular trip grading before to attend another similarly graded trip as many other factors such as expected weather, tidal states, trip duration and speed required may affect the trip.

The trip leader will be the final arbiter of who can attend a particular trip.

River Grading

River grades are defined in the SCA/BCU Environmental Definitions found [here](#).

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