



- What caused us to use a kayak instead of a boat?
- Why did we pick the kayak we selected?
- How do we fish from it?
- What accessories improve the fishing experience?



Kayak Fishing

Summary of article from Kayak Fishing Magazine

“Choosing a Fishing Kayak”



Kayak Fishing Overview

- Basic Considerations
 - Kayak Types
 - Personal Criteria
 - Transporting
 - Storage
 - Fishing Use
- Fishing Kayak Attributes




Kayak Types

- Ocean going, touring, white water, surf...
 - Not good for fishing
 - Look for a model advertised as a fishing kayak
- Two basic types
 - Sit-inside
 - More traditional / enclosed canoe
 - Water that enters stays inside until removed
 - Less accessible cargo space
 - Sit-on-top
 - Hollow tube design you sit on top off
 - Water drains constantly through scuppers
 - Can access cargo easily
 - Most popular fishing kayak choice





Personal Criteria

- Height / inseam:
 - Legroom must be adequate – legs slightly bent
 - Seatback comfortable – support for upper torso
 - Weight:
 - Heavier you are, fewer models will accommodate
 - Short and heavy – must check kayak width
 - Don't believe manufacturer's weight rating
 - Make sure you have extra capacity to account for your movement
 - Account for gear
 - Bottom line:
 - Do not buy a kayak without sitting in it
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Transporting

- How will you move the kayak?
 - Bed of truck?
 - Bed Extender?
 - Roof rack?
 - Kayak trailer?
- Kayak should be able to be moved by one person given your probable transport mechanism
 - Drives maximum weight you should consider
- Kayak transport systems available for all options






Storage

- Where are you going to put the thing when not in use?
 - Hang from fence?
 - Lean against house?
 - Winch up to ceiling in garage?
- Impacts maximum length of the boat






Fishing Use

- Where are you going to use it?
 - River?
 - Inshore?
 - How are you going to use it?
 - Fly fishing requires clean cockpit
 - Multiple rods requires holders
 - Long trips require storage
 - Strong current requires anchoring system
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Fishing Attributes

- Stability
 - Boat must be stable. Wider is better; minimum 30”
 - Tunnel or flat hull if you intend to stand up
 - Fly fishing kayak should allow you to stand or kneel for more natural casting
 - Speed
 - Wider boat moves slower
 - Length can mitigate to a degree
 - Muscle powers the boat – must rationalize the trade off between stable and speed
 - More effort... takes longer to reach your spot
 - Trolling motor attachment mitigates the issue
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Fishing Attributes

- Length
 - Longer kayaks move faster
 - More “sea worthy” since they will cut through chop
 - Short kayaks get tossed around
 - Get the longest boat you are comfortable with
- Maneuverability
 - Short kayaks turn better
 - Camber (curve from bow to stern) drives maneuverability
 - More camber = easier turn
 - Less camber = faster / ok for smooth conditions
 - What about on land? Handles, wheels...






Fishing Attributes

- Color
 - Not important to fish
 - Is important for visibility to power boaters
 - Most visible colors are orange, lime and yellow
 - Dull color overcome by wearing bright vest or flag
 - Dull an advantage if you do not want to be seen (secret spots...)
 - Accessory Friendly
 - Mounting surface for rod holders, fish finders, etc
 - More “stuff” available for kayaks than you can afford
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Fishing Attributes

- Seating and comfort
 - May end up sitting for hours
 - May need an aftermarket seat
 - Wetness
 - Sit on tops ... your butt will probably be wet unless you have a raised seat
 - Storage
 - Is there room for your gear and can you get to it without tipping?
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Fishing Attributes

- Pedal vs Paddle

- Many models use pedals – generally moves the kayak faster than paddling with less effort
- Pedal allows hands to remain free
- Pedal requires less effort; increasing range
- Pedal not effective in shallow water (1 foot)
- Pick paddle carefully - make sure it accounts for
 - Your height and the width of the boat
 - Your paddle style (low or high angle)

- Motor

- Trolling motor and mount
 - Some kayaks include a motor as an option
 - Greatly increases fishing range and provides power source for other gear
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Fishing Attributes

- Tandem or Single
 - Will you go with others who many not have their own kayak?
 - Tandems good to take a kid along
 - Some tandem models convertible to single
 - Demo Day Dilemma...
 - Demo days allow you to try out a number of kayaks... but...
 - If it is your first kayak, you do not have a point of reference
 - You may end up buying more stability and become frustrated with the lack of speed
 - Still need to try them out.. .but be aware
 - Minimize financial risk by buying a used kayak
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