PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL KAYAK ASSOCIATION

TRIP CLASSIFICATION

PIKA applies the classification system described below in its trip schedule to indicate the expected skills/degree of difficulty (1-4) and distance involved and physical effort necessary (A-D) for a PIKA trip.

A trip classification is set by the most difficult and most strenuous part of the trip. It does not take into account changes in sea conditions or weather which may change trip classification unexpectedly.

For the required equipment for a trip, see the *PIKA Paddler Guidelines*.

TRIP CLASSIFICATION and SKILLS PREREQUISITES	**A–Not Strenuous** • Less that 3 hours per day • Less than 6 nmi • Sheltered spots	**B–Moderately Strenuous** • 3 to 5 hours per day • 6 to 10 nmi • Some sheltered spots	**C–Strenuous** • 5 to 6 hours per day • 10 to 15 nmi • Infrequent sheltered spots	**D–Very Strenuous** • More than 6 hours per day • More than 15 nmi • Few or no sheltered spots
1–Easy • Minimal paddling skills • Assisted re-entry skills • Protected inland waters • Moderate wind effects • Weak to moderate current • Easy to moderate landings	**1A**	**1B**	**1C**	**1D**
2–Moderate • Basic paddling, able to brace • Self/assisted re-entry skills • Sheltered/partly-sheltered coastal waters • Moderate wind effects • Weak to moderate current • Easy to moderate landings	**2A**	**2B**	**2C**	**2D**
3–Difficult • Good paddling, sea skills • Self/assisted re-entry skills • Open coast, exposed water, crossings and swells. • Moderate to strong wind effects • Moderate to strong current • Surf and difficult landings	**3A**	**3B**	**3C**	**3D**
4–Very Difficult • Advanced paddling, sea skills • Self/assisted re-entry and rolling skills • Strong individual paddler • Long open crossings • Exposed coast • Turbulent water, chop • Strong wind effects, large swells • Strong current • Surf and difficult landings	**4A**	**4B**	**4C**	**4D**

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 that you are uncomfortable with. Kayaking conditions are variable and contain unpredictable elements that make any attempt to grade inexact.