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| **HCKC Sea Kayaking Trip Levels** |
|   | **Level 1 - Basic Kayaking** | **Level 2 - Kayak Touring** | **Level 3 - Coastal Kayaking** | **Level 4 - Open Water Coastal Kayaking** |
| **Location/Conditions** |
| **Location Characteristics** | Flat water protected from wind, within swimming distance from shore | Calm and protected water with constant access to safe landing. Within 0.5 miles from shore | Open water with access to safe landing. Within 3 miles from shore, including crossings  | Open water with potentially long distances between safe landings. Greater than 3 miles from shore, including crossings |
| **Expected Conditions: Wind** | < 5 knots (6 mph) | < 10 knots (12 mph) | < 15 knots (17 mph) | Possibly > 15 knots (17 mph) |
| **Expected Conditions: Waves & Surf** | Flat water | < 1 foot, no surf | < 2 foot, possible breaking surf | >2 foot & breaking surf |
| **Strenuousness/ Endurance for Day** | Expect 3 hours and/or 6 miles | Expect 3-4 hours and/or 6-10 miles | Expect 4-6 hours and/or 10-15 miles | Expect more than 6 hours and/or 15 miles or more |
| **Paddler's Expected Ability** |
| **Prerequisites** | *\*Beginner Paddling Class Recommended*  | Demonstrated Performance at previous level. | Demonstrated Performance at previous level. | Demonstrated Performance at previous level. |
| **Performance** | Paddle forward, back turn and stop. Maintain 2-3 mph pace with breaks. | *Developing skills:*  Efficient forward stroke, kayak control & maneuvering in conditions along with edging and bracing. Maintain 3 mph pace with breaks. | *Developing skills:* Can launch/land & paddle in & out of surf zone. Can maneuver kayak, maintain control & pace in conditions. Utilizes edging and bracing for support. | *Developing skills:*  Paddles comfortably and confidently in conditions. Can control kayak and maneuver in surf & around hazards. Well developed bracing skills in breaking waves. |
| **Recues** | Wet Exit | Wet Exit with Spray Skirt Assisted Rescue Reentry | Assisted Rescue Reentry in conditions, ability to solo rescue | Proficient Assisted Rescue Reentry in conditions, reliable ability to solo rescue |