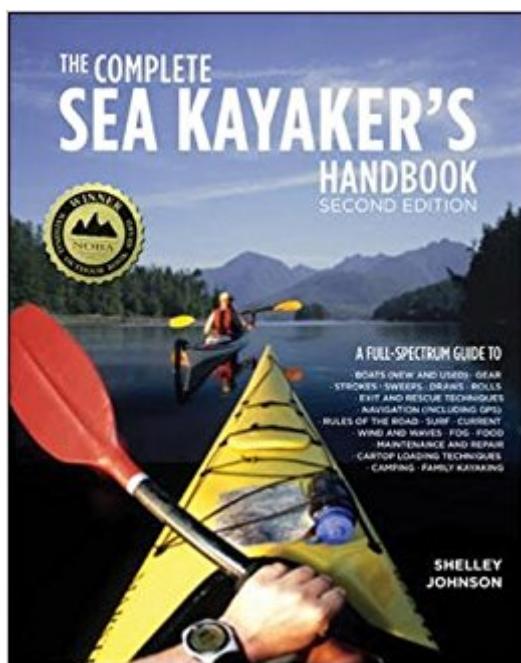


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# The Complete Sea Kayakers Handbook, Second Edition (International Marine-RMP)



## Synopsis

"...Her writing is clear and concise, sprinkled with bits of humor and many tips gleamed from her years working as a kayak instructor, guide and outfitter."--Sea Kayaker Magazine The first edition of The Complete Sea Kayaker's Handbook received immediate acclaim with its selection as the Best Outdoor Instructional Book by the National Outdoor Book Award group. Now this book boasts 352 pages with changes throughout to reflect the growth of kayaking as a sport. This book is your first step to adventure on the water, with everything you need to know, from buying a kayak to dressing for the water. Updates include: New photos throughout showing new boats, equipment, stretching, and repair techniques A new section on used boats and how to shop for them Expanded sections on: boat materials section to include the newer laminates; buying a new kayak; use of GPS for navigation; family paddling; Planning Your Dream Trip; Taking Care of Your Stuff to include more retrofit and repair information on a wider range of boat and paddle material Improvements in materials and more data on hypothermia; Changes in safety technique descriptions reflecting the new equipment on the market information on stretching, proper posture in a kayak, and easy modifications to kayak seats for more comfortable paddling Topics include: Getting Ready; Kayaks; Accessories and Clothing; Getting to Know Your Kayak; Controlling Your Kayak; Getting Into and Out of the Water; Real Life Paddling; Finding Your Way: Kayak Navigation; Trip Logistics; Group safety; Kayak Camping; Planning Your Dream Trip; Taking Care of Your Stuff

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wherever you want your kayak to take you, The Complete Sea Kayaker's Handbook will get you there. What makes this book good is its comprehensiveness, what makes it great is Shelley Johnson's passion for the sport and her ability to share that passion, honed by twelve years of guiding trips and teaching courses throughout the United States and Canada. Shelley's practical advice and clear explanations ring true because she knows they work--she and her students have tested them all for you. Now you can benefit from her hard-won and time-tested experiences, and learn everything from basic paddling strokes and rolling techniques to advanced navigation and trip logistics. "Shelley's approach to sea kayaking is thorough and erudite. It provides an excellent introduction for neophytes as well as abundant reminders for experienced paddlers."--John Dowd, author, *Sea Kayaking: A Manual for Long-Distance Touring* "Shelley's straightforward book will be one of your most important items of kayaking gear."--Lee Moyer, founder and designer, Pacific Water Sports, author, *Sea Kayak Navigation Simplified* "Everything you need to know to get started in sea kayaking is here in Shelley Johnson's new book, from choosing a boat to developing the paddling skills you need, to making field repairs and planning your dream trip, all told in Shelley's knowledgeable and conversational style."--Robin Stanton, managing editor, *Canoe & Kayak* --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Shelley Johnson is well known as both a kayaking instructor and advocate. She is an American Canoe Association certified instructor, a member of the Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors, and a Registered Maine Guide. She is the author of *Sea Kayaker's Pocket Guide* and *Sea Kayaking: A Women's Guide*.

I wish I had gotten the hardcopy version instead of the Kindle version. The Kindle formatting makes it much harder to read when there are diagrams with callouts and photos with captions. The text may be discussing the different body shapes, bow designs, shoulders, etc. and it's impossible to keep flipping around in the Kindle to recall what was what. The diagrams... ugh! You just can't zoom in on the Kindle to see what that little blob of text says! The author talked about learning all the names of the kayak parts and mentioned "coaming". For the life of me I could not get the diagram clear enough to see what the heck the coaming was, and ended up looking up the word from Wikipedia. Not how a book should be. The information is good, lots of common sense, and good things to make sure you pay attention to when you test out a kayak. The info in the book would get 4 stars if it were better formatted for the kindle (and readable!)

After previewing several kayak books in the "handbook" category (those that cover the activity broadly and without specializing in any specific topic), I ultimately decided on Shelley Johnson's Complete Sea Kayaker's Handbook. I was hesitant to go with the title due to its corporate publisher (McGraw Hill imprint) figuring the smaller publishers with more specialization in outdoor activity publishing would offer better books or the more well known authors might have better selections. But the reviews kept leading me back to Johnson's rather inexpensive but very comprehensive Handbook. The most important aspect of this title is Shelley Johnson's writing style. I found most kayak books to read like the author was an outdoors' person trying to be a writer rather than an excellent writer laying out all the key concepts of the activity. That being said, Johnson has impressive credentials and a solid understanding and mastery of kayaking and covered all aspects in respectable detail compared to many of the other "handbooks" that were rather short. Three negatives come to mind and are minor flaws only. Pictures in the book (very good photography, I might add) almost all displayed Current Designs kayaks which seemed odd considering how many different kayakers were photographed. Made me thing there was some underwriting or sponsorship and annoyed me slightly for some odd reason. Number two is Johnson's use of "she" which is a personal pet peeve of mine rather than using a gender neutral "their" to describe an unknown third person. Finally, 10 pages on cooking with 7 of those pages being recipies was just weird. I understand the book should have a small section on cooking and camping while touring. But 10 pages for cooking seemed excessive. Trip planning, navigation, and weather were all sensational additions to my developing knowledge. While I have become well versed though hardly fully proficient in most strokes, the chapter on strokes was very well done with good pictures and illustrations. The sidebars bring up a lot of controversies and issues associated with the activity, gear, etc. This book was even better than I had expected it would be and is an incredible value for the price considering the comprehensive nature and better writing style than other similar titles.

I live on the coast and needed to know how to kayak, this book explains everything perfectly. I especially enjoy the pictures and diagrams. You can't go wrong with all the great information included while you read. The book also adds extra information for those who are experienced too. I would whole heartedly recommend this for anyone considering going out on the water.

Love them

Good beginner information throughout. Perhaps a handy reference for the more experienced

paddler. Most information can be learned online, but it is nice to have it aggregated between two covers.

Not anywhere as scary as some other texts- which makes it easier for a neophyte. I used it with a sea kayaking class in the local community college which has a course offering. The instructors plan to use it for the class in the future. It also covers the same subjects as the other books.

or do as I did and read half of this book then go sea kayaking in hawaii.a HEARTFELT Thank you to the author. Your book didn't save my life, or come in handy as toilet paper, but it did make me feel comfortable tackling some mild to moderate surf and not look like a total newby idiot. It will stay on my bookshelf and get dog-eared and coffee stained like a loved book should. Next step? Lessons! Reading about rolling is one thing, actually doing it feels like another thing entirely. Goal: by summers end Puget Sound here I come, ready, willing and all trained up to rumble or at least roll with the punches.

This is a great book for the beginning kayaker. I have canoed and sailed for close to 40 years and just recently took up kayaking. After several lessons and going out on my own a few times I bought this book. It filled in a lot of the blanks and is a very balanced presentation of the subject matter. The kayaking instructor that I went to is definitely a knowledgeable individual but he is, as I have found many in the sport to be, very opinionated. Had I not read The Complete Sea Kayaker's Handbook I think my knowledge of the sport would have been limited to what I learned by trial and error on my own and the limited presentation I got from the instructor. The book is pretty neutral on subjects that are more personal preference like boat selection, skegs vs. rudders vs. neither, paddle selection, etc. There is good coverage of the safety aspects and equipment, beyond what was in the lessons I took. Overall the book is a really good supplement to lessons and paddling experience. I find myself going back and rereading sections of it after each time I go out paddling. I am sure that will change with experience but it is a great reference.

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