Salt STRONG Kayak Buyer's Guide

www.SaltStrong.com

SIT-ON VS SIT-IN

- Sit-Inside
  - Lighter than sit-on
  - Dryer ride with skirt
  - Faster to paddle
  - Less stable for fishing
  - Not self-bailing
  - Low storage capacity
  - Tougher in-water re-entry
- Sit-on-Top (SOT)
  - More stable than sit-Inside
  - A lot of storage
  - Higher seating = better view
  - Can be very heavy
  - More difficult to move
  - Easier re-entry than sit-in
  - Self-bailing via scuppers

CONCLUSION

Sit-on-top kayaks are better suited for fishing. More storage, easier re-entry and higher seating are all big advantages. If you can afford one and transport the heavier weight look at SOTs as your first option.

PADDLE/PEDAL/POWER

- Paddle Kayaks
  - Larger fishing yaks are heavy and harder to paddle
  - High energy expenditure
  - Limited control while fishing
  - Much less expensive
- Pedal Drives
  - Rudder helps with tracking
  - Propelled with leg motions
  - Able to fish while moving
  - Heavier than paddle kayaks
  - Mid-range pricing
- Power (Trolling Motor)
  - Typically larger than others
  - Normally the heaviest
  - May be more stable
  - Expensive batteries
  - Most expensive kayaks

CONCLUSION

Paddle vs Pedal vs Power is 100% personal preference. All are great platforms for fishing. Consider your fishing style and choose accordingly.

FINS VS. PROPS

- Fin-Drive Kayaks
  - Flutter motion of legs
  - Kick-up fins allow movement in shallower water
  - Less weed tangles
  - Light-weight propulsion
  - Extremely efficient propulsion
  - No "instant" reverse
- Propeller-Dive Kayaks
  - Bicycle motion of legs
  - Efficient propulsion
  - Needs more water than fins
  - Heavier than fin-drive systems
  - Has "instant" reverse

CONCLUSION

For shallower water or grassy areas the fin-drives are superior. For fishing around structure the prop drives tend to be easier to position. Test both to see which motion you prefer.

STABILITY AND HULLS

- Primary Stability
  - Stability of kayak while at rest.
- Secondary Stability
  - Stability while "on edge" or moving or leaning in motion
- Hulls
  - Flat Bottom - Best primary Stability, poor secondary
  - Pontoon Hull - Two outer hulls with flat center has great primary and limited secondary stability
  - Rounded- Round bottom has less primary and more secondary stability but doesn't track as well as the V bottom
  - V-bottom - Less primary and more secondary stability Tracks well.
  - Modified - Combination of multiple hull styles (eg tri-hull). Limited combined advantages of each

STABILITY AND HULLS

- Important Terms
  - Chine - edge on the hull that helps allows kayak to remain "on plane" while turning
  - Rocker - Curve on bottom of hull from bow to stern
  - Scupper holes - holes in bottom of SOT kayaks for self-bailing water

CONCLUSION

Stability of kayaks is dependent upon many different factors. For those that stay in calm non-moving waters a stable kayak will be different than for those that fish in strong currents. Choose a style of hull that suits your needs and understand the limitations of the hull. Become familiar with the trade-offs that come with the combination of hull designs and when possible test the kayak before buying.

SAFETY & ACCESSORIES

- Key Safety Gear
  - PFD (worn always)
  - Audible signaling device
  - Visual signaling device
  - Waterproof VHF Radio
  - Paddle float or ladder
  - Safety Flag
- Common Accessories
  - Fish finder
  - Camera mounts
  - Waterproof storage bags
  - Anchor trolley

CONCLUSION

Kayak fishing is a fast growing past time that also comes with risks. Once a kayak is purchased you should ensure you are equipped with all appropriate safety gear before hitting the water. It is also recommended you use the kayak for several trips before permanently mounting optional accessories to the kayak (anchor trolley, lights, etc)