

# Waves

Narrow Neck beach is a relatively sheltered beach, although it does have its bad days, which we stay away from. But we do also get wonderful calm days, and off shore days that are perfect, also in the wind shadow, for kayaking. So we start our sessions in this situation.

Be aware that during this session the wind can turn around to onshore, or you could get some unexpected wake waves onto the beach. They can be small, and usually it's only the first 3 or 4 waves that tend to break on the beach, where the sea gets shallower.

**When you are returning to shore in a kayak, opti, or PB, you must remember that you cannot always see if waves are breaking on the beach, or not.**

So if the sea is not total glass, expect the possibility of even small waves.

Here are a few scenarios of right, and wrong ways to approach the shore with small waves, that might help.

## Kayaker returning to shore, the correct way



It is important to approach the shore at right angle to the waves, they are not always parallel to the shore, you must be heading to shore in the same direction as the waves, so line yourself up further from the shore,



Big strong paddle strokes and do not stop...



...till the Kayak is on the sand, and you are safe to get out.

### Kayaker returning to shore the wrong way



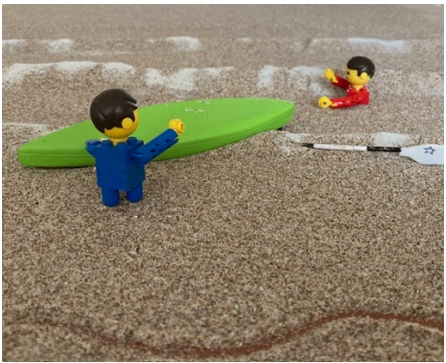
Not lined up with the waves, and not paddling..



This means the next wave will push you sideways on to the waves.



And the next wave could capsize your kayak. Also a danger in this case, is the next wave will push the kayak into the kayaker, so they need to quickly duck under the wave, or move out of the kayaks path..



The kayak has nearly washed ashore, but someone has walked out to help, now they are in danger of having the kayak hit them



Helper moved aside quickly, and wait for the kayak to pass, and is now safely the right side of the kayak. They can safely bring ashore and see saw the upturned kayak to empty it.

Always remember to be on the safe side, behind the kayaks path, not in front of it, or stay well out the way of any equipment being washed ashore.

## Returning Opti to the beach the wrong way



This sailor did not complete the turn, not finishing directly into the waves, or hopping out to hold the bow.



Now someone is going to help. They could get knocked over with the next wave. They must step aside to get out of the way.



To fix this, the sailor must hop out and hold the bow, which brings the opti head to waves and wind.



Now the helper can hold on to the bow as well, as they are both on the safe side of the Opti, and can safely bring it ashore backwards..

**Never underestimate the power of the waves, even when they are knee high.**

**Group going for a little Paddle along the shore, no wind, flat water**



Until crew notices a group of waves from a boat wake, coming towards them on their way to the beach.

With the shipping channel not far off shore from Narrow Neck, wakes are not uncommon. Surprisingly the worst wakes are from the big private launches that don't stay in the channel, so are closer the beach. Not the container ships.



Skipper gives the call for everyone to do a quick turn into the waves, which means, in this case, putting their star paddle blade in the water, and holding until the kayak starts turning towards the oncoming waves.



Until the kayaks and Patrol boat are facing the waves like a capital "T"



....and keep paddling big strong strokes, without stopping  
....through the waves, the first ones will be the biggest



When the waves get small enough..  
Instructor can tell the first paddlers to start turning to the left, hold left paddle in the water...



Paddlers can now continue their trip.