

SKCWA BEACH LANDINGS AND LAUNCHING

OUTLINE

Launch

On the beach

Check the wave sets – numbers and size and wave characteristics (spill or dump).

Location of the white water, any gutter or quiet zone where the waves aren't breaking.

Wind and water conditions.

Any rocks on the shore in front of you. Any rocks in the water.

How many paddlers in the group?

Keep your boats back from the water's edge.

Any other beach users.

!!!!!! Do all of this as you are getting yourself ready to leave the beach. !!!!!!!

Getting ready to launch

Sort out the order of launch (so no two launching boats are alongside), try for one in the surf zone, which paddler (experienced paddler) is to be the first and last out there.

The actual launch

All organized to go, (boat checked, all gear on) boat just short of the water, spray deck on, paddle organised and then pick your timing of the wave set. Make sure you know where the safe zones and break zones are. "walk" your boat to the water's edge on your knuckles, not on the palms of your hand. Use this technique to lift and propel your boat into the water. If conditions allow it, you can put your boat further into the water to save scratching your boat. What are you going to do if you get turned by the waves before leaving the shore? Others may be there to help straighten you up or try a swivel. Head straight out through any shore break; wait for the right moment in the safe zone, then go. If you face multiple waves, be prepared to angle across the crest of the wave at 45 degrees. This will enable you to keep moving, whereas a crash through the top of the wave will slow you down.

As you meet any incoming waves, what are the options?

Do

Keep paddling

Head down and paddle pointed straight into the wave

Take the wave on your head and shoulders

Wait in the safe zone until you consider it is right to tackle the break zone.

Roll in front of a wave if necessary.

Be prepared to suffer with a push back to the beach

Broaching? Lean into the wave with a high or low brace

Be prepared

Don't

Sit upright and take the wave on your chest

Have your paddle across the wave

Have your paddle above your head

Panic

Forming up outside the break

Once outside the break zone (allowing for a larger wave) stay together and count numbers of paddlers as they come through the break.

Landing

Approach

Look at the waves (from behind) check out the size of the wave, spray as it breaks and any noise. Look for a non break zone where you can observe the whole scene, observe the wave sets. Check out the beach.

Group location

The group will position themselves at a safe distance from the waves. Two experienced people will approach the break zone – one will land and the other will sit outside the break zone and control the departure point for each paddler. Only one in the surf zone at a time! The rest of group stays together outside the wave zone. As you move into this zone, unleash your paddle from the paddle strap.

First one in/beach master

Finds a safe landing zone and then lands his/her boat. Secure the boat and take his paddle back to the edge of the water. He is then the beach master. As the name implies, he controls the action from there. The beach master is responsible for getting all of the paddlers safely in to shore. He is not to get involved in the landings of the third and subsequent paddlers. He will tell the paddlers when to come in to the shore and where to land their boat. Landings, being non verbal because of distance are controlled by the beach master giving hand signals. He will count the numbers in the group. He will give instructions to those on the water and on the beach, please be aware of him.. Make sure that you do not wave the paddle around as this will give confusing messages to the paddlers still on the water.

Second and subsequent paddlers

Will land under the control of the beach master, secure their boats and then assist others to land. The second to land will become the swimmer. He will leave his spray deck with his boat, but bring his tow rope to the landing site. His role will be to be the first into the water if a paddler gets into difficulty. He will stand alongside of the beach master, ready for action. Naturally, when he is required he will be very conscious of the paddler's boat when assisting the paddler. Stay on the wave side of the boat. The paddler is the first priority. The onshore paddlers should have tow ropes ready for immediate use.

Signals

Signals may be given by arm or by use of the paddle

<i>Come in</i>	One arm/paddle raised vertically
<i>Directional</i>	Left or right arm pointing.
<i>Stop</i>	both arms raised vertically
<i>Danger behind you</i>	both arms pumped vertically

The actual landing

Check the sets for numbers and size of waves.

Pick the last wave in the set

Release your paddle from the paddle leash.

Aim to paddle in on the back of the wave – not too close to the front or back of the wave.

If the wave catches you early, try to stop and let it pass under you. Be prepared for any eventuality.

Try and keep heading straight into the shore.

Line up on the beach master, not the swimmer.

Be prepared to wait in the safe zone for the right conditions to arise.

If you broach (get turned sideways) use a low or high brace, depending on the size of the white water and lean into the wave. Be prepared for the power of the wave to subside. This will require you to vary the pressure on your paddle and the extent of your lean.

As you approach the shore, release your spray deck to enable you exit quickly.

If you have a drop down rudder, be prepared to raise it.

If you get ejected from your boat, be prepared to let it find its way to the beach by itself. Don't get between the boat and the shore.

The on shore paddlers will probably have a system worked out so be prepared to follow instructions.

Stand on the seaward side of your boat.

Position your boat away from the water.

Be prepared to assist others in their landings.