

Comparison of Flat Water Kayaking and Sea Kayaking

<u>Challenge</u>	<u>Flat Water</u>	<u>Ocean</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Tide (water level)	No	Yes	<i>Don't get stuck in the mud at low tide, know the tide cycle timing.</i>
Wind	Yes	Yes	<i>While there is wind everywhere, you are much more likely to encounter wind on the ocean. It can be calm inland and very breezy out on the ocean.</i>
Current	No	Yes	<i>There is no current on a lake and while it can be found in rivers, you are much more likely to encounter currents in the ocean environment.</i>
Waves & Chop	No	Yes	<i>Because there is more wind on the ocean, you are much more likely to encounter waves and chop on the ocean.</i>
Fog	Yes	Yes	<i>On a perfectly clear day, fog can roll in on the ocean, and often only in certain areas while others remain clear.</i>
Boat Traffic	Yes	Yes	<i>There is commercial boat traffic on the ocean and the size of vessels is generally greater than on a lake.</i>
Navigation	No	Yes	<i>While you could get lost on a large lake, the opportunity to lose your bearings is greater on the ocean and is more dangerous.</i>
Gear/Clothing	Less	More	<i>A flat water only kayak is not suitable for the ocean while a sea kayak can be used in either. A sea kayak has water tight bulkheads, deck lines, an internal cockpit with a spray skirt, etc. The ocean is generally much colder than a lake and the risk of hypothermia from immersion requires appropriate clothing (wet or dry suit).</i>