



Guide to Client Ratios

Trip Classification	Doubles Only ¹	Singles Only	Singles & Doubles ²	Maximum Group Size
Class 1&2	1:6 or 2:7-12	1:4 or 2:5-8	1:5 or 2:6-10	14
Class 3	1:5 or 2:6-10	1:4 or 2:5-8	1:5 or 2:6-10	12

1 - All guests must use double kayak at all times, guides may be in single kayaks. If a guest is ever in a single kayak then "Singles & Doubles" ratios and group size limits apply.

2 - A minimum of 1 double kayak for trips of 5 or less guests and a minimum of 2 double kayaks with 6 to 10. If fewer double kayaks are used then the "Singles Only" ratio and group size limits apply.

3 - 2:8 when maximum group size of 10 is reached. 1:5 for smaller groups.

4 - 2:7 if only one double is used. The Level Three Guide Must always be in a single

Broken Group Islands and Gwaii Haanas: Minimum of one Level Three Sea Kayak Guide in Broken Group Islands and Gwaii Haanas

Gulf Islands: Minimum of one Level Two Sea Kayak Guide in Gulf Islands for Multi-day trips. Minimum of one Level One Sea Kayak Guide for day trips in Gulf Islands

National Park Guide to Client Ratios

Trip Classification	Doubles Only	Singles Only	Singles & Doubles	Maximum Group Size
Broken Group Islands³	2:8	2:8	2:8	10
Gulf Islands	2:10	2:8	2:10	12
Gwaii Haanas Class 1, 2, 3	2:10	2:6	2:8 ⁴	12
Gwaii Haanas Class 4	2:8	2:4	2:6	10

Water Classification

Guides shall lead trips in waters appropriate to their certification. The trip classification is set by the most difficult part of the trip. Visit www.skgabc.com/water-classifications.php for water classification maps of the BC Coast.

- **Class 1:** Gentle tours in non-challenging protected waters with limited wind effect, little or no current, easy landings, and ready access to land based assistance.
- **Class 2:** Tours in lightly populated areas with short crossings, moderate potential wind effects, gentle to moderate non-turbulent currents, easy to moderate landings and light surf beaches.
- **Class 3:** Exposed water, sparsely populated areas with more committing crossings, moderate to strong currents with turbulence, moderate to strong wind effects, ocean swells, difficult landings, surf-beaches.
- **Class 4:** Long committing crossings, uninhabited, rugged and exposed coast, strong turbulent currents, strong wind effects, large swells, difficult landings, exposed surf beaches.

Operating Procedures

- All members agree to abide by all SKGABC standards, policies, by-laws and constitution.
- All members agree to abide by all pertinent local, provincial and federal laws and regulations
- All member companies agree to employ guides who are certified to lead in waters appropriate to the trip classifications.
- All trips must have a comprehensive emergency and evacuation plan.
- All member companies need to ensure that each trip and/or trip area has a written contingency plan for the guide to refer to in the event of unforeseen circumstances other than an emergency.
- All members agree to the responsible use of our wilderness resources, and will strive to leave areas visited in the same or better condition than when they arrived.
- All members agree to ensure that clients travel together within easy vocal and visual communication range of the guides, and that clear communication protocols are established with all clients prior to travel.
- No guide shall be penalized for adhering strictly to SKGABC standards.

Safety Equipment

It is the responsibility of companies to provide kayaks and equipment in good working order and appropriate fit that meet the requirements of intended use plus meet Canadian Coast Guard Small Vessel Regulations. Visit Transport Canada's website at www.tc.gc.ca for up to date regulations. In **addition** to any equipment required by law, the following are standard equipment for all trips:

- Government approved PFD per person must be worn.
- A minimum of one full spare kayak paddle per guide.
- Each person to carry a sound signalling device (e.g. whistle).
- Bailing device per cockpit (e.g. pump).
- Spray skirt for each cockpit in a closed kayak.
- Towline per guide (readily accessible).
- A complete and appropriate first aid kit (consider emergency response time, first aid training, and anticipated conditions).
- Emergency communication equipment (VHF, HF, cellular phone, satellite phone, waterproofed and easily accessible). It is the responsibility of the company and the trip guides to ensure that this equipment is appropriate and fully operational along the intended route.
- Spare battery pack(s) for communication equipment.
- Capacity to receive marine weather info.
- 3 flares per guide, readily accessible with access to at least two types, (parachute, smoke, multi-star, etc).
- Sufficient buoyancy to allow boats to be re-entered and paddled when awash.
- A comprehensive kayak and equipment repair kit.
- Each guide to carry navigational equipment suitable for dealing with sudden loss of visibility.

Certification Stream

