

Hui Wa'a Kaukahi

INDIVIDUAL PADDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

by Bob Walls

1. **You are solely responsible for your own safety** at all times, and for the decisions you make and actions you take while on a paddle and on land. Please take a moment to think seriously about what you are going to do while paddling.
2. **Familiarize yourself with the planned paddle**, prepare yourself for the conditions according to the rating assigned, and equip yourself with the required and prudent personal safety equipment. (See list of suggested safety equipment on Huiwaa.org website.)
3. **Call the posted paddle leader ahead of time** if you have questions about the paddle and whether it is appropriate for you to participate.
4. **Arrive at the launch site as early as necessary** for you and your kayak to be rigged and ready to launch at the scheduled time and to actively participate in carpooling in advance of launch time.
5. Check in with the designated paddle leader. **Read, understand, and sign the Release and Waiver.**
6. **Inform the paddle leader of any limitations you have**, any intentions to deviate from the paddle plan, or any other special situations related to the day's paddle.
7. **Look out for yourself and your fellow paddlers.** Brief each other on group paddling practices, VHF radio frequency used and any emergency signals to follow.
8. **Stay in sight and in communication** (within hailing distance) of at least one, preferably two other paddlers. If you have a VHF radio, make sure your batteries are good and squelch adjusted, and monitor the correct channel assigned by the paddle leader (usually channel 72).
9. **Fisherpersons:** inform the paddle leader that you are fishing and how you will communicate with the group. **Non-fisherpersons:** don't paddle directly behind a kayaker with fishing lines out, so that you avoid getting caught in their lines and also avoid scaring away the fish.
10. Be aware that by joining in on a group paddle, **you have the moral responsibility to be concerned about the welfare of the other participants** on that paddle.
11. **Upon landing on the beach, check in with the paddle leader.** Do not leave the beach until all paddlers are in or have been accounted for, or the leader agrees. Do not leave the beach without first speaking with the leader.
10. Again, at all times **you are solely responsible for your own safety** and for the decisions you make and actions you take while on a paddle and on land.