Canoe & Kayak Magazine's 2009 Beginner's Guide Issue Featuring the NRS HydroSkin Shirt

SIT-ON-TOP

Pictured: Hitting on the kayak fisherman's trifecta of sit-on-top boating needs—speed, stability and storage space—Cobra's self-bailing Marauder incorporates trucking channels in the hull for vitality paddling and a user-friendly deck ready to be personally customized. COBRA MARAUDER-X® (USED IN ROTOMOLDED PLASTIC, COBRAKAYAKS.COM) L: 14'2", W: 31", $2,195.

SIT-INSIDE / MULTI-USE

Pictured: Manufacturers like Native cater to anglers looking to get the best of both worlds—the stability and maneuverability of a kayak and the high-and-dry, gear-hauling comfort of a canoe, creating hybridized "multisport" boats paddled with either one or two blades, or even none at all. The Ultimate, with its angling accessory options, is also available in versions with pedal and electric drive propulsion systems. NATIVE WATERCRAFT ULTIMATE $1,599 ($599 IN ROTOMOLDED PLASTIC, NATIVEWATERCRAFT.COM) L: 14'7", W: 30", $2,199.

THE ESSENTIALS

Before you hit the water, you need a PFD. Don't get overloaded in bulky pockets for your gear. A clean design that won't catch on the side of your boat if you need to climb back on is paramount. **Pictured:** Stohlquist WaterWare's Fisherman Vest keeps the necessities in mind with two stiff and sleek front pouch pockets packed with tool-mounting locations and a high-back fit with plenty of ventilation and buoyancy. $139, STOHLQUIST.COM

After learning the limits of your craft in shallow water and practicing a few self-rescues (climbing back aboard), it's time to paddle. In general, first-time kayak fishermen need no more than a basic touring paddle. Some manufacturers trick them out with angling extras. **Pictured:** With quiet and non-reflective, carbon-reinforced nylon blades, the Aqua-Bound Fin Stalker is a high-performance, two-piece paddle for silent and efficient strokes with add-ons like a lure-retrieving blade notch and a measuring stick on the blade spine. $245, AQUABOUND.COM) 74 OZ., SIZES: 220, 230, 240 CM

If you're ready for the open-water, you can think about fishing accessories. Start with a custom rod holder, most fishing kayaks came equipped with mounting brackets. **Pictured:** The Scotty Bait Caster/Spinning Rod Holder from Harmony secures a spinning reel and can accommodate trigger grips with a lanyard strap and 360-degree rotation. $89, HARMONYGEAR.COM

A versatile layer for the open water is crucial for any paddling discipline. **Pictured:** The new NRS HydroSkin Shirt provides plenty of core warmth alone or works as an insulating layer, made of 0.5-mm Terraprene®, a petroleum-free substitute for neoprene. ($84, NRSWEB.COM)

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