

Clearing Session Checklist

Weather Overview

1. Check the tides, waves, weather and winds. Perform this visually.
2. Check the tides, waves, weather and winds using a mobile device as well to confirm the immediate and upcoming conditions
 - a. Tides Near Me – this app gives accurate New Haven harbor tides
 - b. WeatherUnderground – this app gives accurate local weather
3. If the conditions are uncertain, choose safety, and remain on shore.

Tides Overview

1. Outgoing tides are much stronger than incoming tides; keep this in mind when planning your direction of travel
2. Do not proceed southerly, or with the assistance of an outgoing tide; this tide can carry you further than anticipated in a short time, making a return trip difficult or dangerous
3. Be aware that tidal currents tend to move more quickly through bridges; this is especially important for vessels traveling downstream

Float Plan Overview

1. Prior to arrival at the boathouse, reserve equipment online using the TeamUp app and enter the schedule of your outing
2. Upon arrival at the boathouse, enter your float plan in the logbook – date, time, names, boats, direction, return time, etc.
3. Mobile phone – must be carried by each vessel
 - a. Emergencies – dial 911, state that you are a Canal Dock paddler or rower, your location on the harbor or river, and the New Haven Police/Fire boat docked next door at Long Wharf Pier will respond
 - b. Rick Fontana, head of New Haven Emergency Operations indicated that his team is aware of the presence of Canal Dock paddlers and rowers

Life Vest Overview

1. Life vests must be worn properly
 - a. Self-inflate vests require special attention
 - b. Other vests should be snug, but not tight such that breathing is restricted

Rowing Specific Overview

1. Securely adjust foot straps – if foot straps are not secure an oarsperson can fall out of a rowing shell
2. Ship oars – never do this when you are still sitting in the boat!
3. Traffic Pattern – see posted maps
4. Approach the dock at a safe speed