

### HOC Paddling Trip Rating Tool: Conditions and Method

- When planning a trip, any two conditions exceeding the trip's average rating bumps the rating up to the next Grade (for example, a trip where all conditions are Grade B, except Grade C currents and Grade C distance becomes a Grade C trip).
- Night or limited visibility (fog, heavy rain) bumps the rating up at least one Grade.
- Just before a trip, any wind, weather, swell, surf, sea state, or current conditions exceeding the posted Grade of the trip cause the entire trip to be bumped to that Grade (possibly even skipping intermediate Grade) and should trigger a careful re-evaluation of the plan, goals, venue, and participants of that trip.
- There are no half Grades.

Condition	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E
<b>Wind</b>	Light; Less than 7 knots (13 kms/hour)	Light to Moderate: Up to 12 knots (22 kms/hour) – wind noticeably affects movement of paddle	Up to 16 knots (30 kms/hour)	Up to 21 knots (25 mph)	Any Grade D conditions exceeded. Any combination of two or more Grade D conditions present
<b>Waves, Breaking Waves, Swells</b>	Under 1 foot waves; no breaking waves (Waves up to the deck seam; water glassy to rippled; no whitecaps)	Waves up to 2 feet; no breaking waves (Waves up to armpit; light to moderate chop; scattered whitecaps)	Waves to 3 feet; breaking waves to 2' (Waves to paddle tops; numerous whitecaps; waves becoming longer)	Waves up 6 feet'; Breaking Waves up to 4' (Many whitecaps; some spray)	
<b>Landing Type</b>	Frequent easy landing opportunities including gently sloping; sand; gravel or grass	Frequent landing opportunities including docks or moderate sloping banks; brush or overhanging trees	Bad footing; rocky shores; or surf up to 1.5'	Steep rocky shores if sheltered from the waves; or surf up to 4'	
<b>Open Crossings</b>	No open crossings	Short: Less than 1.6 kms (Less than 1 mile)	1.6 to 3.2 kms (1 to 2 miles)	3.2 to 6.4 kms (2 to 4 miles)	
<b>Total Distance</b>	Up to 10 kms (Up to 6 miles)	10 to 18 kms (6 to 11 miles)	18 to 24 kms (11 to 15 miles)	24 to 35 kms (15 to 22 miles)	
<b>Current</b>	None or mild Less than 1 knot; (~2 kms/hour)	Mild currents Up to 2 knots; (~4 kms/hour) current increases / decreases group speed by half	Up to 4 knots (~8 kms/hour) paddlers must sprint to move forward	Up to 6 knots; (~12 kms/hour)	