

## **Managing a Group in the Surf Zone**

The purpose of this training is to provide participants with the knowledge and tools for taking a group of sea kayakers through the surf zone – launch and landings. An invaluable skill for trip leaders and ZIC's that are taking groups out along coastal areas that involve surf launches/landings.

We all love the experience and thrill of sea kayak trips along exposed coastal areas, but all too often this is reserved for experienced "surfers" only, or club trips are restricted to be run from protected bays.

This training is to arm the participants with the knowledge, protocols and skills to manage a trip that entails one or more surf landings safely.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Selection of suitable and safe launch and landing spots (necessary for trip planning)
- "Reading" the surf. Assessing the surf conditions once at the beach or when coming into land
- Managing the group through the surf zone, including briefing the group, preparing boats, signals, position, etc
- The role and responsibilities of the "beach master". Selecting and briefing the beachmaster
- Instructing and encouraging novice participants on how to traverse the surf zone, without surfing the waves
- Injury prevention techniques for participants
- Techniques for the efficient and safe launching of a large group
- Rescues in the surf zone and what to do "in the soup"