

Safety

A white lighthouse with a red roof and a balcony, situated on a grassy hill overlooking a body of water under a clear blue sky. The lighthouse has a white balcony with a red railing and a red roof. The main building is white with a red roof and a small arched window. The foreground is filled with tall grass and a chain-link fence.

**"When things go wrong, don't follow them."
*Hadley Horodowich***

Safety In Every Course Segment

- Kayak Clothing
- Weather
- Wet Exits & Paddle Floats (Pool)
- Tides & Currents
- Navigation
- Assisted Rescues in Cold/Deep/Open Water

"Safety is no accident" - *Mark Ritchie*

Key Tools for Safety

- Brain
- Training
- The 7 Essentials
 - Kayak w/ flotation at both ends
 - PFD
 - Paddle
 - Paddle Float
 - Skirt
 - Floating Pump
 - Whistle/Horn
- Plus...

"Better to have and not need, then to need and not have. You'll know you need it when you don't have it." - *Craig Sindorf*

Beyond the Basic Gear

- Protection (Basic Physical Needs)
 - Food, Water, Shade, Fire, Wet-wear & Dry-wear
- Direction (Stay Un-Lost)
 - Chart, Compass/GPS, Tide/Current/Weather Info
- Detection (Get Found)
 - Mirror, Flares, Lights, Cell-phone, VHF Radio, ...
- Correction (Fix It)
 - 1st aid, Duct tape, Repair kit, Spare paddle, Tow kit

Priorities on the Water

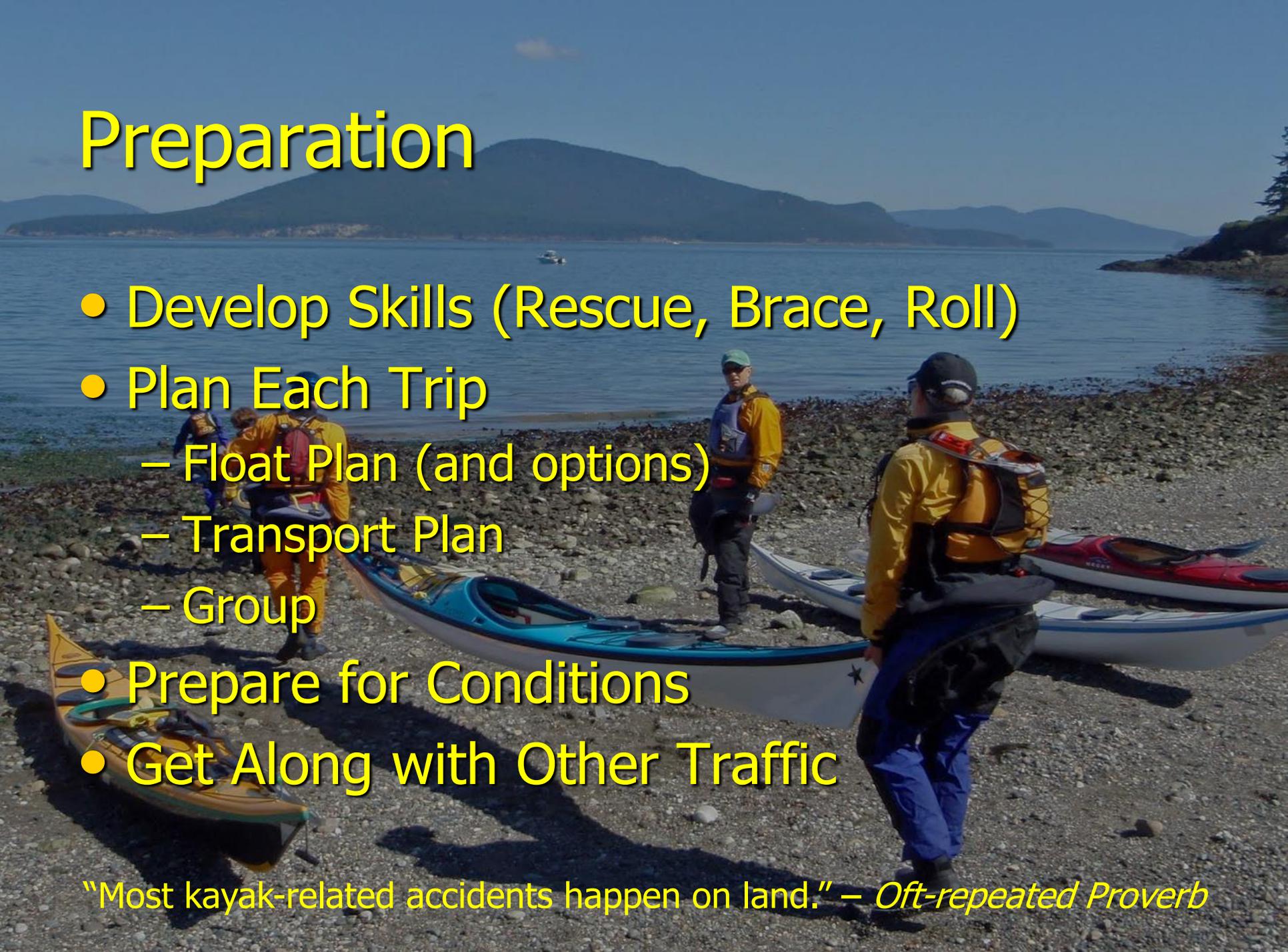
1. Yourself
2. Your Primary Tools: Boat & Paddle
3. Other Paddlers
4. Other Paddlers' Kayaks and Paddles
5. Other Gear

"Kayaking is a solo sport that should never be done alone"
- Zen Kayaker

Gear Labels

- Empty Kayaks on the Water
 1. Cockpit Cover On
 2. Name, Contact Phone Number(s)
- Also for Paddles/Other Major Gear

Preparation

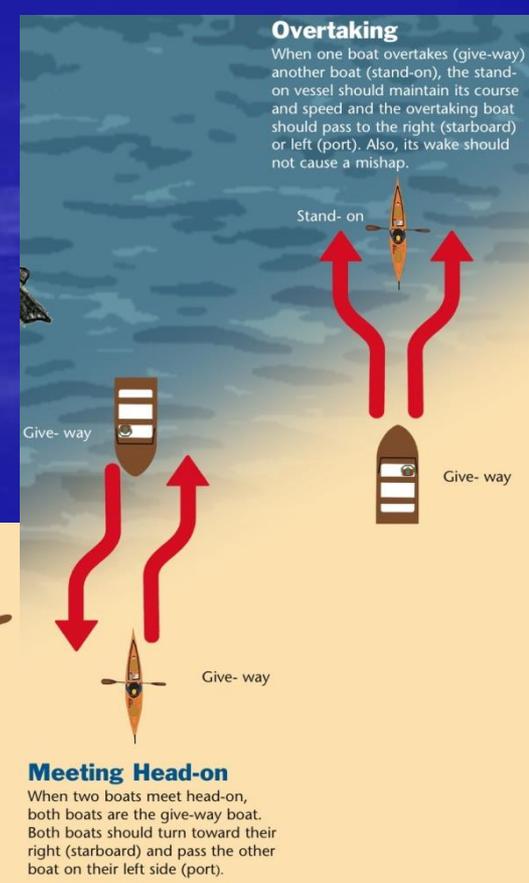
A group of kayakers in yellow jackets and blue pants are on a rocky beach. They are surrounded by several kayaks, including a blue one in the foreground and a red one to the right. The background shows a large body of water and distant mountains under a clear blue sky.

- Develop Skills (Rescue, Brace, Roll)
- Plan Each Trip
 - Float Plan (and options)
 - Transport Plan
 - Group
- Prepare for Conditions
- Get Along with Other Traffic

"Most kayak-related accidents happen on land." – *Of-often-repeated Proverb*

Boat Traffic Guide

- Be Seen
- Be Predictable
- Give Way
- "Pass Right"
- Hold Formations
 - Close enough to be a big visual
 - Spread over wave peaks and troughs
- Stay out of Major Lanes



Conservation Etiquette



"Take time to stop and smell the kelp" - Wayne Horodowich

Leave No Trace Principles

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Marine Mammal Protection Act

- Harassment: pursuit, torment or annoyance which has potential to injure, or cause disruption of behavioral patterns
- Marine mammal: any mammal morphologically adapted to the marine environment or primarily inhabiting the marine environment
- Take: harass, hunt, capture or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill

400 yards



200 yards

WHALES' PATH



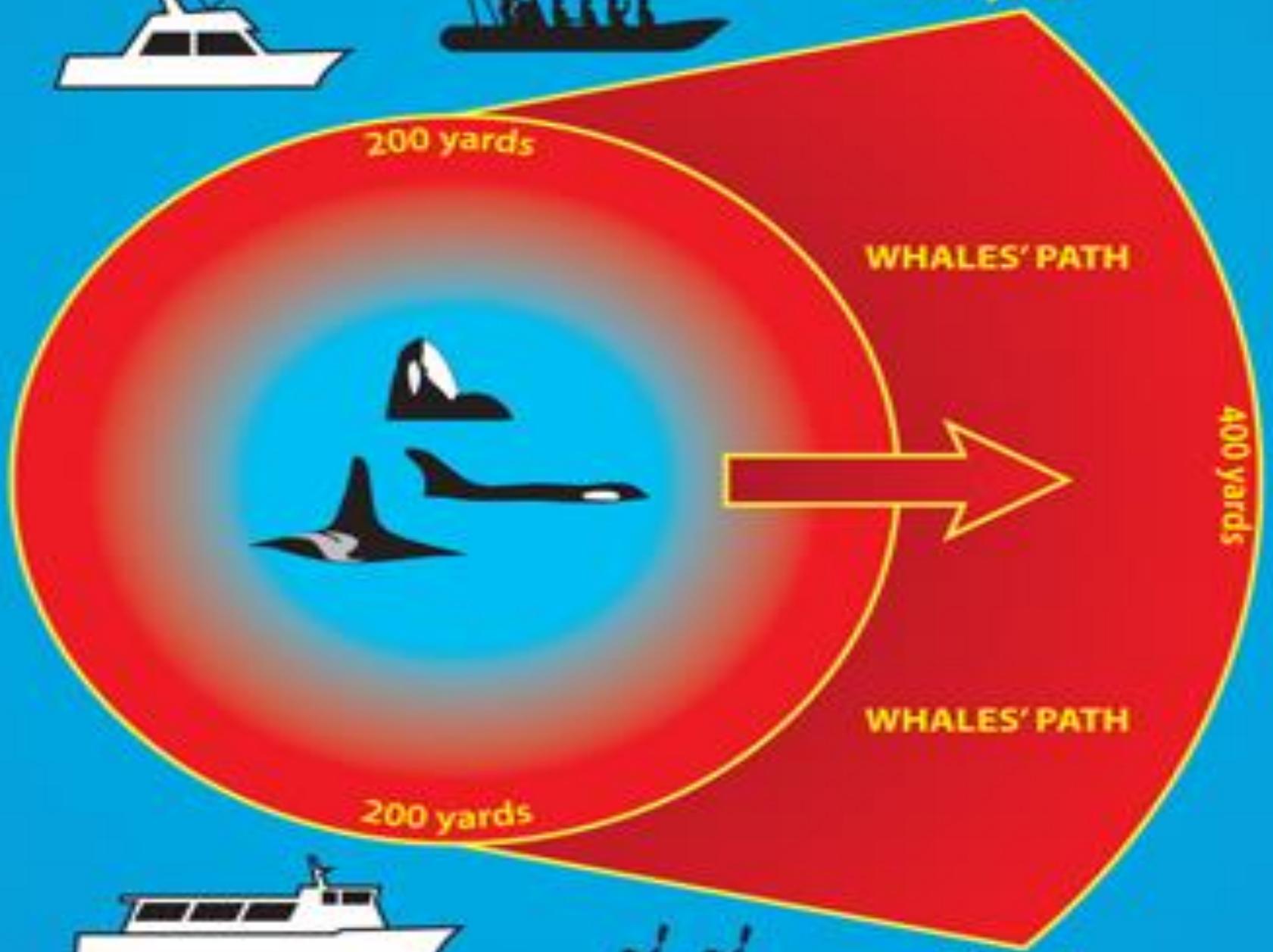
400 yards

WHALES' PATH

200 yards



400 yards



Other considerations

- Endangered Species Act
- Preservation Areas
- Harvesting Rules
- Securing Your Gear
- Dangers to You
- Invasive Species



And Lastly....

- One of the best tools you can bring along on your kayak day trips to make a major positive contribution to the health and environment of the local waters is.....

A Mesh Bag

