

## Heritage Kayaks

Owner's Manual – Redfish

### Welcome to Heritage Kayaks!

Thanks for becoming the owner of a Heritage Kayaks Redfish! We've produced it in Greensboro, North Carolina, USA for your enjoyment, and as paddlers ourselves we're excited about sharing passion for our sport with you.

To get the most from paddling your Redfish, we encourage you to

- familiarize yourself with the waters on which you'll be paddling,
- check the weather conditions that might affect your trip, and
- learn how to use your gear safely.

You can locate, download and print this *Heritage Kayaks Owner's Manual* while you're online at [www.heritagekayaks.com](http://www.heritagekayaks.com), learn how to get the most enjoyment from your Redfish and discover information about other Heritage Kayaks products.

If you have questions that are not answered here or if you have comments about our products, call us at (866) 438-2799. You can also email a message to us at [info@heritagekayaks.com](mailto:info@heritagekayaks.com).

We'll see you ... on the water!

Sincerely,

*The Heritage Kayaks Team*

### **Lifetime Warranty**

**It's yours, when you register your boat at [www.heritagekayaks.com](http://www.heritagekayaks.com)**

Remember to register your Redfish online. We stand behind the our products, so if you've registered your boat and feel that it has failed due to faulty materials or workmanship, you can bring it to your Heritage Kayaks retailer and we will repair or replace it.

Your Heritage Kayaks Redfish is made from the highest quality materials available chosen for durability, reliability and performance. The following tips are intended to help you enjoy it to the fullest extent possible.

### **Superlinear® Kayaks**

Rotationally molded boats are engineered to combine stiffness, impact and abrasion resistance. We use the highest grade Superlinear polyethylene that can endure extended exposure to both ultraviolet light and temperature variation, and can be stored outdoors successfully. When you paddle Heritage Kayaks made with Superlinear polyethylene, you can focus on your paddling experience without concern for your boat's durability.

*Heritage Kayaks are carefully designed with sufficient flotation to insure that they will not sink during if capsized in an unloaded state.*

### **DVC™ Seating System**

Heritage Kayaks DVC seats Drain, Vent, and Cushion using environmentally-friendly materials to offer an extremely comfortable ride. DVC seats utilize HiFlow™ 3-D Mesh (patent pending for watercraft), a 100% recyclable padding material. Unlike many other foam products, chlorofluorocarbons (cfc)\* are not required for its production. The Textilene® solar screen fabric is designed to withstand five (5) years of daily exposure to the sun's rays before it begins to break down. DVC seats are light in color, so they stay much cooler than traditional, black kayak seats.

\* When released during production they destroy ozone in the atmosphere, thereby increasing our exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

### **To get the DVC Seat ready for paddling:**

- Unhook the bungee that holds the seat back in its 'down' position. (on the Redfish 10, remove the the Paddle Park bungee first).
- Adjust the side strap tension buckles until your seat position is comfortable.

### **Drain Plug**

The drain plug installed in the stern end of the boat allows you to empty water easily and quickly. To empty water from your boat using the drain plug, unscrew the plug and pull it away from the boat. Turn the kayak with the cockpit facing the ground, and lift the bow up to allow the water to exit the boat. When you've emptied the boat, don't forget to screw the drain plug back in before your paddling trip begins!

## **Scupper Plugs**

These are included with sit on top models to keep the floor dry when paddling in calm water, or to drain water that has pooled up from waves and splashes. Apply them by simply pressing them into scupper holes, and remove them by pulling on their common attachment cord.

## **Angler Version**

### **Paddle Holder**

This is attached to the boat available to provide a secure resting spot your paddle as you fish, take photos or retrieve / stow gear. To park your paddle simply press the shaft into the clam shell-like paddle holder with the slightest amount of pressure, and the paddles will stay, securely. Remove it by pulling the shaft straight up and out of the paddle holder. *On the Redfish 10, Paddle Park bungees adjacent to the side handles hold paddles in place.*

Additional features of the Redfish Angler:

- two (2) flush-mounted rod holders
- one deck-mounted spin cast rod holder
- an anchor system

## **Gear Storage**

### **Deck Rigging**

Elastic ‘bungee’ cord on the deck of your kayak is installed to hold items you want to reach easily while you’re paddling. Your stored items will be exposed to the elements and splashes from paddling, so choose items that are water resistant or waterproof. Store only items on the deck that are fairly light: heavy items may make the boat feel unstable while you paddle.

When you are on the water, check items stored under the bungee deck rigging periodically to make sure they are snug and secure.

Additional sections of your kayak are available for stowing gear while you paddle. Your Redfish will hold waterproof storage bags or crates that can be secured with pre-installed bungee cords.

### **Hatch Storage**

The Redfish features two waterproof hatches in which you can store gear quickly and easily. Specially molded Heritage Kayaks hatch covers are easy

to manage and tethered to the hatch rim so they won't get lost! We recommend stowing all of your gear in waterproof bags unless it can get wet without harm.

### **Bow Hatch**

**To open:** Find the tab on the hatch cover. Insert fingers under that tab, and work them around the entire edge of the hatch cover, gently lifting pulling it up and away from the boat. When you've lifted the entire hatch edge from the boat, pull it free. Remove the hatch cover and place your gear into the dry storage space, placing heavier items towards bottom of kayak and lighter equipment on top.

**To seal:** Place the hatch cover over the hatch rim and engage an inch or two of the hatch by pressing down with your thumbs, or the heel of your hands. Press down along the sides of the hatch around to the far end.. When you've made your way around, you'll feel the hatch cover drop down and lock onto the hatch rim.

### **Stern Hatch**

Below the smaller hatch cover you'll find a catch bucket that can be moved to store larger items.

Gear should be stowed in such a way that it won't shift or slide while underway, possibly impeding the safe operation of your kayak. Place heavier items towards bottom of kayak and lighter items on top. We recommend stowing gear in waterproof bags unless it can get wet without harm. It is also wise to tether gear stored to the seat or to other stowed items so that if you capsize, the gear will remain with the boat.

### **Footbraces**

Adjustable foot braces allow you to reposition your foot position quickly and easily while ashore or while you're paddling. To adjust your kayak's footbrace position, pinch the footpad and trigger on the bow side between your thumb and fore or middle finger to release the pad from the track. Move it along the track until it finds a position at which your legs are comfortably bent and your feet can apply firm pressure, to provide comfortable control while you're paddling.

## **Carry Handles**

Handles attached to the front and rear ends of your kayak allow you to carry your end of the boat with ease. They also provide tie-down attachment points when you are securing your boat to a roof rack or trailer.

## **Rudder (optional)**

The rudder comes secured to the boat with a bungee cord. When you release this, your rudder will become available to use and your footbraces will be free to direct the rudder position.

### **To lower the rudder:**

- Look for the rope on the deck that is used to raise and lower the rudder. It features two barrel knots.
- Grab the barrel knot that is farthest aft (toward the stern) and pull it forward.

Adjust your footbraces so that your knees are comfortably bent. You should be able to exert a reasonable amount of force on either footbrace before your knee is completely straightened. You should now be able to steer to the right or left by applying pressure on the right or left footbrace, respectively.

### **To retract the rudder:**

- Check to be sure the rudder is centered behind the boat. This will be the case if your footbraces are positioned at the same distance from you.
- Look again to the rope on the deck that features two barrel knots. Choose the knot that is farthest aft, and pull it pull it forward. Your rudder should exit the water easily and land in the 'vee' notch of the rudder holder.
- When you're ready to load your boat on to a vehicle or trailer, re-secure the rudder with the bungee as it was when you started out.

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## **Care and Maintenance**

The ideal environment for storing your kayak is a shaded, dry space.

A **fresh water rinse** for the hull and moving parts is all that is necessary to keep your boat clean. This is heartily recommended after paddling in salt water if it is outfitted with a rudder system. Thoroughly rinse the rudder, rudder cables, and foot braces with fresh water to remove dirt, sand and salt.

We also recommend that you treat your DVC seat with a **mold retardant cleaner** (found at grocery or home improvement stores) if you use it infrequently or if it will be stored in either a moist environment or one in which there is little air circulation.

You should periodically **lubricate** the hatch cover, rim and all moving parts of your kayak (like the footbraces) to keep them in top working order. We recommend using 303 Lubricant, available at outdoor specialty and select home improvement retailers.

Superlinear polyethylene is a tough, resilient material. It can withstand a reasonable amount of impact and usage over rough surfaces. While Superlinear is not indestructible, it is repairable. Contact your local Heritage Kayaks dealer for additional information and assistance.

303 Lubricant can be also used to protect the luster of the boat's surface. Over time and with continued use, abrasion can reduce the hull's ability to glide smoothly through the water. You can minimize raised texture on the hull with a sharp knife or sand paper.

**To remove the DVC seat for periodic cleaning:**

- Pinch the quick-release buckles.
- Loosen the two straps at the base of the seat back by lifting the release tab with your finger(s)
- Unthread the straps, through the pad eyes.
- Unhook the rear attachment bungee from the seat tensioning bungee at the intersection of the back and seat pad.

**Reinstalling the DVC seat:**

- Attach the seat webbing straps by threading them through their respective pad eyes and release buckles.
- Attach the side straps via their respective quick-release buckles.
- Attach the rear attachment bungee hook to the seat tensioning bungee in the rear at the intersection of the back and seat pad.

Periodically check the tension in the buckles at the back base of your DVC Seat to keep it from sliding around. This will minimize the wear on all straps and buckles, helping to insure its long, useful life.

### **Storing Your Redfish**

If you store your kayak above the ground or floor on racks: disperse the kayak's load (so the entire weight is not focused on two narrow points, inviting deformation) by effectively widening support bars with attachments such as 1" x 4" wood or closed cell foam (e.g., pipe insulation or foam 'noodles' often sold as pool toys).

Polyethylene softens somewhat when it is exposed to extremely warm conditions. If your kayak is strapped tightly to a roof rack or sitting on a storage rack during a series of hot days, it may deform. You can encourage your boat to remember its original shape by unstrapping it and setting it on a flat or padded surface in the sunlight.

We recommend "burping" the hatches or releasing the hatch covers entirely if the air temperature remains high for extended periods.

### **Transporting Your Redfish**

We suggest that you install a rigid bar sport rack system on the roof of your vehicle to transport your boat securely. In addition, kayak cradle-shaped accessories are available which support the hull's rounded (in cross section) profile.

### **Additional Gear**

When you paddle you should use a paddle that is comfortable to use, wear a PFD's (life vest, life jacket), and carry safety equipment and appropriate personal gear.

### **Paddle**

The choice of a paddle is as personal as the choice of your boat. Factors to consider in selecting your paddle include blade shape, length, weight and material. Synthetic paddles are the most care free. Most paddlers use paddles between 225 and 240 cm in length: you should try different lengths and types of paddles before you make a purchase, just as you'd test paddle your boat.

Take-apart paddles offer the ability to change its blade angle ("feather") to suit your preference, and are easy to store and transport. A spare paddle is

good to have as well. It can be an inexpensive take-apart paddle that can be stowed easily on deck.

### **PFD – Personal Flotation Device**

A comfortable and securely-fitting PFD is an absolutely essential paddling accessory that should be worn when you're in your kayak. Try your PFD on before you make a purchase, to be sure it fits comfortably. Swing your arms and rotate your torso to make sure you can move your arms freely without feeling restricted.

If you have a short torso, try it on while sitting on a boat. It should not ride up more than an inch or two, and someone should be able to pick you up by its shoulders without it riding up over your head. If it does, adjust the outfitting or try another model / size.

### **Safety Equipment**

United States Coast Guard regulations require an audible signal device (horn or whistle) on all watercraft.

Note: Safety equipment is not worth much unless you know how to use it. We recommend that you obtain qualified instruction and practice under controlled, comfortable conditions.

### **Personal Gear**

The following is a list of items that you should keep with you on every trip in a dry storage bags or cases:

- drinking water
- sunscreen
- a brimmed hat and sunglasses
- insect repellent
- compass
- waterproof flashlight
- matches or a lighter, and
- a first aid kit

The following should also be considered:

- A dry set of clothes, if the weather and water will not dry you quickly after a capsize
- Weather radio
- Global positioning device (GPS)

- Cell phone
- Navigation charts
- Repair kit
  - o Duct tape
  - o Screwdriver
  - o Vise grips
  - o Spare cord
  - o Knife

If you have additional questions about your new product from Heritage Kayaks or would like to learn about any of our suggested accessories, please ask your dealer. They will be happy to help you get to your next day on the water safely, and soon!

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[www.heritagekayaks.com](http://www.heritagekayaks.com)  
(866) 438-2799