



Necky Eliza Series

Kayaks Designed for Women

A little understood phenomenon in our industry is the balance between speed and efficiency. For years smaller women with less physical power have been placed in longer kayaks under the notion that longer hulls are faster. It is true that among hulls of similar design the longer one can be pushed to higher speeds. In fact strong paddlers can benefit from that potential when sprinting to catch waves, fight current etc. But this benefit is lost on smaller paddlers who do not have the strength to drive these longer hulls.

The truth is that longer boats offer little to no advantage at touring speeds, which for the vast majority of sea touring kayakers, rarely exceed 4 knots. In fact drag data among many kayak models illustrates that shorter boats often have less drag at these speeds. Add to this the effect of wind and waves and a small paddler can find themselves struggling with a kayak that is just too much for them to handle. Where's the fun in that?

Enter the Eliza series:

The Eliza series is the culmination of input from many women paddlers of varying skill levels. We even consulted with a women physician paddler on cockpit ergonomics. The data was clear; women want comfort, lightweight, ease of paddling, and attractive looks. These are boats that not only fit women up to 160 lbs., but are designed to be very efficient at touring speeds. The chine and rocker profiles combined with a slight V hull create a balance of stability, straight tracking, maneuverability, and low drag. They have excellent manners in wind and waves from any angle, and surf following seas very well. Add to that, simple cockpit designs shaped for women with CNC cut foam seats and hip pads, a supportive backband, and sensible outfitting, and women have two new options that will help them go farther in comfort, with less effort!

Eliza 15 polyethylene: This is a rudder equipped boat that also performs well with the rudder retracted. This boat has a very quiet entry, along with

excellent glide and tracking. The stability will reassure the novice, and as skills progress paddlers will appreciate the maneuverability on edge. Like the composite version, the deck is designed to shed water while minimizing windage. Two neoprene hatches with cross strapped covers, and simplified outfitting provide function while reducing weight. The cockpit is wider and shorter, and combined with the low rear deck, provides for unrestricted rolling, bracing, and general paddling. A super comfy CNC cut foam seat and hip pads, along with injection molded foam thigh hooks assure supportive comfort and easy re-entry during rescues. Storage capacity allows for weekend outings, and with minimalist packing, longer trips.

Eliza 15 composite: This is one of the lightest production kayaks in the world. Not only is it easy to load solo on your car, but it is a joy to paddle. This boat is narrower than the poly version and is equipped with a skeg. The cockpit is wide and shorter to accommodate women comfortably. No more struggling to attach spray decks. The low profile and cockpit dimensions allow the advanced woman excellent flexibility for rolling, bracing, rotation, surfing and spirited paddling. Subtle edging evokes immediate response and aggressive edging allows the skilled paddler outstanding maneuverability. While not a fast kayak by design this is an exceptionally easy boat to paddle up to 4 knots, which combined with its great manners in heavy seas and high winds, make it far more efficient for smaller women. In testing, when we put women in this kayak they were at the front of the pack. Everything about this kayak was designed to shed weight. Two Valley ovals with composite bulkheads assure water tight compartments, and CNC cut foam seat and hip pads, combined with molded in carbon thigh braces, and reduced deck fittings keep things simple, functional, and light. Even some die-hard powerful long boat guys are paddling this little boat on the outer coast because its ease of paddling and playfulness equate to more fun! Capacity is small, but with careful packing week long trips have been easy.