

I am an ardent sea kayaker who loves to roam about the Chesapeake Bay. While carrying an anchor and ground tackle in my kayak would not necessarily be a handicap, it would be superfluous. I would carry the cheapest anchor I could purchase with minimal ground tackle and would have to carry it wrapped so it would not abrade my fiberglass kayak, probably in one of the compartments inaccessible while on the water.

What use would such a requirement serve in a sea kayak? A sea kayak has a minimal draft and is very maneuverable even under the most adverse conditions. However, many sea kayaks, such as mine, are very tippy; this is a function of its maneuverability and speed. Anchoring my kayak in any kind of wave action or current would make my rig very susceptible to capsizing.

Please exclude sea kayaks from the Commodore's request. He obviously does not know what one is and probably views them as an unnecessary obstruction to his power- or sailboating freedom.

There is also the issue of training. I have witnessed a small boater capsize his skiff while at anchor in a tidal rip which was confusing 2-3 foot waves. The boater's rode was far too short for the conditions, but he didn't know any better. I assisted in the rescue using my hand-held VHF.

I have tried using an anchor in my sea kayak to hold my position while attempting to fish with a short rod and reel on the fringes of the Bay. The conditions were optimal: very little tidal current, wind of about 6-7 knots and waves less than one foot. However, the anchor and its rode made me very unstable, so I soon abandoned the idea. The anchor and its tackle are very difficult to manage even under ideal conditions, let alone when in the dark or near and shore dealing with waves and wind. The first time the kayak snubs up against the anchor line abeam to the current or wind, it will go over.

Where is the safety in that?